

Still Buffering 305: Katy Perry

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[theme music plays]

Raleigh: Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*: a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Well, um... here we are, early in the morning. Sorry, it's much earlier than we usually record.

Raleigh: Yes. That's why my voice sounds like this. I'm so sorry. I'm not sick, I just woke up.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Hmm. I don't— I have been up for two hours.

Taylor: I was gonna say, this is— this isn't early for you, Syd.

Sydnee: No. But you— you all—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Well, I mean, now I've been up—

Sydnee: —you both seem to really be [through laughter] suffering the effects of the early morning hours. [laughs]

Raleigh: Well, now I've been up for an hour and a half. You've only been up for 30 minutes longer than me.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. Well, then why are you— why you think you're struggling so much, there?

Raleigh: Have I finished this coffee yet? No. So there we go.

Sydnee: I'm just saying, I'm pushing 40 and I'm doing okay.

Raleigh: How late did you stay up last night, Sydnee?

Sydnee: Hmm, 11:30.

Raleigh: Okay, there we go.

Taylor: Ooh.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] That was late for me.

Taylor: See, I have this thing where I didn't have anything to do late last night, so I could've gotten a full, like, eight hours, but if I know I have to wake up, for some reason I get nervous that I'm not gonna wake up, and then I can't sleep, so... that's a fun thing. That's a fun little game my brain plays.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Stayed up till three 'cause, like, "Well, I gotta wake up early tomorrow."

And then there's that moment where you're like, "What if I just stay up all night?"

You're like, "No! That's absolutely not a good idea. But maybe... no! But... what if I did?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh, man. No, I don't have that voice anymore. That's not possible.

Raleigh: No, I just have another capstone to write, and have 25 pages of it due in, like, eight days. So... I was trying to be responsible and get it done early, since I won't be here for about two days.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Raleigh: So that was fun.

Sydnee: I, uh— I laid in bed thinking about— it got warmer overnight, and I always think it's weird when it gets warmer through the night. And I kept thinking about going outside and taking the sheets off my plants, but there was no reason

I needed to, but I did lay there for a while thinking about, "Do you think it's warm enough to go take the sheets off my plants?"

Taylor: You don't want 'em to get sweaty.

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, it didn't get that warm. It was, like, 47 when I woke up, so it wasn't... you know. But it's gonna get to 80 today, so that's... uh, actually it's gonna be something called fire weather.

Raleigh: Oh, I love that. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I didn't know—

Taylor: That sounds dangerous.

Sydnee: Yeah, so I didn't know— I didn't know this was a thing, um, because— so, over the weekend and yesterday it was in the 20's.

Raleigh: Yeah. Like, high of, like, 35.

Sydnee: Yes, it was quite cold. That's why there were sheets on my plants is I didn't want them to die. And, uh, I— we got this warning, weather warning yesterday, for fire weather. And I'm sitting there thinking, "It's quite cold out. [laughs] What are they talking about? What do you mean, fire— what does that mean?"

I had never gotten that warning here in Huntington, West Virginia. And apparently fire weather is when it's, like, really hot and dry and windy. Because, um, if somebody, like, decides to burn some trash or something, which people do, it is the perfect condition for that to spread very quickly, because it's a dry heat, and it's windy, so a piece of burning trash goes into the woods and there we go.

So, that is what fire weather is. I was not familiar with this. I'm certain there are people in some parts of the country who are very familiar with it. Uh, but we went from below freezing to 80 degrees fire weather warnings in less than 24 hours. So, sleep well tonight. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, it's been really—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I know we're talking about the weather, but I just needed to share with everyone that we don't have tornadoes here, like, in Huntington. That is not something that, like, we typically worry about.

Sydnee: No, we're sort of nestled in the mountains here in West Virginia, so you don't get a lot of tornadoes around here.

Raleigh: No. Like, I can honestly— there's never been one in my lifetime, and I can't think of one being talked about at all before that, even.

Sydnee: Mm-mm, no.

Raleigh: Um, anyways, we had a tornado warning about a week and a half ago, and I had driven out to the— the Kroger, the fancy Kroger, um, because mom and I both wanted sushi from the fancy Kroger. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: So I was driving back—

Sydnee: You know, everybody has a fancy Kroger, right?

Raleigh: Yeah, we have a—

Taylor: It's the Kroger with the sushi, yeah.

Raleigh: We call it—

Sydnee: Yeah, the fancy—

Raleigh: —we call it Gucci Kroger. We have a fancy Kroger. [laughs] Um—

Taylor: They have a nice wine section.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They do, and a good craft beer section.

Raleigh: And cheese.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, and cheese.

Raleigh: Anyways, I was driving back [laughs] and, uh, I— where I was coming from was very, very bright and sunny, and I was driving towards Huntington and it just kept getting darker and darker and darker.

And it was, like, two o' clock in the afternoon, so it shouldn't have been that dark. And then cars in front of me just started pulling over to the side of the road. And then I get a call from mom saying "Hey, there's a tornado warning."

So there I am, just one of the only cars on the highway, just looking around like, "Hm."

Sydnee: Did you get hit with the hail?

Raleigh: "Okay." I did.

Sydnee: The hail was intense.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I was driving back from Harmony House and it— I mean, like— it was, like, I walked outside and it was sunny, and then... I live ten minutes from Harmony House. By about halfway home it was, like, drilling hail on my car [laughs] and I couldn't see. Of course I'm like dad so I was like, "I'm just gonna drive real slow, and lean over—"

Raleigh: Yeah, not gonna pull over.

Sydnee: "—I'm gonna lean over the wheel as if I can see better if I lean closer to my windshield." What is that— what is that move? I do that too. [laughs]

Taylor: That's the safety stance, you know? Since you're assuming the position. If anything happens, that's how you gotta be.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I do that. And also when, like, I'm getting into a congested traffic area or, like, I'm trying to park or something, I turn my music down. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like I can— I can see better if I can hear. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I do that too.

Taylor: You never stop and pull over. You just turn down the music and lean really close to the windshield, and then you're safe. You can drive through anything.

Sydnee: And then you're ready. [laughs] Then you— then you can handle the hail that fell for, like, all of ten minutes, and then was gone.

Raleigh: That's what the weather's been like here for about ten days now.

Sydnee: It's fine. It's fine.

Taylor: I thought it was hailing here the other day, but it was actually just— there's some construction site up the street from me, and I guess it's— they're not really— they're not doing that old by-the-book construction. They're just kind of doing their own thing, 'cause they're using a lot of styrofoam or something. And they were not, uh... they were... drilling it, or something? It was a— it looked like it was hailing, but it was actually just a styrofoam... storm.

Sydnee: Oh!

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: Just pieces of styrofoam, little pieces just blowing through the air for, like, a couple hours. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't think that's okay.

Taylor: No, it's definitely not. And, like, it collected on the street. Like, it looked like it had snowed. And, I mean, it was for, like, the whole block. Uh, and then, like, the next day somebody had put, like, fliers on our door that was like, "If you

were affected by the styrofoam, like, uh, you know... mess, call 3— 3— 301," or whatever. And I was like, "I'm not gonna do that."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh no. [laughs] If anything is done to me, I think it's already done.

Sydnee: [laughs breathlessly] I would enjoy, like, when I see people who know you be like, "How's Tey doing these days?" And me being like, "Well, they're involved in a [through laughter] class action styrofoam lawsuit!" So that's pretty wild. [laughs]

Taylor: Like, I'm sure, like, it's not good for the environment. I'm sure that it's bad. But, like, I don't really know what... like... did it affect me personally? I don't know.

Sydnee: I don't...

Taylor: I breathed some in probably. But, like, not too much.

Sydnee: [snorts] I don't— I— I'd have to look it up. I can't say off the top of my head I know the effect of, like, aerosolized styrofoam? I mean, bad.

Rileigh: You don't know that, Sydnee? Doctor?

Sydnee: I can't say I've encountered that.

Taylor: Well, I just kinda— I walked down to get my mail and I looked out and, like, wow, this is— this is a weird snow. And I was like, "Oh, that's not snow. That's, uh— that's styrofoam. Huh. I'm gonna stay inside. I'm not gonna question this. [through laughter] Just gonna stay inside till it's over."

Sydnee: Goodness gracious.

Taylor: Weather. What can you do? Tornadoes, hail, styrofoam.

Sydnee: Sometimes it's styrofoam.

Taylor: And we wonder why global warming is happening. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's fine, it's fine. We're just gonna have some fire weather today.

Taylor: Hmm. Now, if you had fire weather with a styrofoam storm...

Sydnee: Ooh.

Taylor: ... that would be bad, right?

Sydnee: I assume—

Taylor: Is that napalm? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I think so! I mean, I assume that would be very bad.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: Anyway.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Um...

Sydnee: Ah...

Raleigh: I don't...

Taylor: And then it gets sucked up into a tornado, and then it gets a shark, and then it's sharkn— napalmnado... somewhere— there's a word there.

Sydnee: There is.

Raleigh: And—

Sydnee: That movie is being made now that you've incepted it.

Rileigh: And then that shark, um, gets onstage and dances with Katy Perry.
[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Ah, there you go.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: You remember that? When she had the two guys in shark costumes, and it was left shark that was... everyone— everyone loved.

Sydnee: Yep, I remember this.

Rileigh: Yeah, we're talking about Katy Perry. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I, uh... I was very, very into Katy Perry's pop music when I was a young tween, preteen. Um, and I— I realized recently that I really hadn't listened to her in a very long time. Like, not that she stopped making music, but she didn't— she didn't do, like, a— like a Taylor Swift and continue aging her music, I think, to her audience. Like, it was very different music as to what she was making.

So all, like, my sort of age fan base kind of dropped off a bit. Um, so I hadn't listened to her in a while, so I went back and relistened to some of her old music that I used to love, and realized we hadn't talked about it, so... I made you all listen to Katy Perry.

Sydnee: That's true, it is— especially some of the early stuff, like, Charlie and Cooper love it.

Rileigh: Yeah, of course.

Sydnee: We listen to it on a loop here. "Firework."

Rileigh: "Firework," yes.

Sydnee: Yeah. "Roar."

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, and "Roar" actually is a little bit more recent. Slightly. Um, but, uh, *Teenage Dream* was the album I had you all listen to specifically, 'cause that was, like, her first— I won't say it was her— it wasn't her first album, but it was her first, like, big pop hit that kind of put her on the map.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Um, very, like, mainstream pop feel. Very bright, kind of, you know... upbeat music.

Sydnee: It was, what? Like, five singles came from that album?

Rileigh: Um, yes. Five singles. "California Girls", "Teenage Dream", "Firework", "ET", and "Last Friday Night".

Sydnee: Which, you know what's funny? Okay, first of all, I know that song, "ET". If you had, like, a million dollars, what is the title of that song? I never would have known it was ET. I've heard the song. Never connected it with the title "ET". Also, 100% no clue that was Katy Perry.

Rileigh: Really?

Sydnee: Didn't know who it was. Didn't have, like, a better clue. But none of those things connected until [laughs] I listened to— I've never listened to the album. I've heard all these singles, but I've never listened to the album. I was like, "Oh, that's Katy Perry? That song is called "ET"?" Never knew.

Rileigh: Yeah, she actually was the first— apparently the first female solo artist to release five singles for an album like that.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um, I was looking back. I realized "I Kissed A Girl" and "Hot And Cold" were her first two big hits. Those were from her first album, um, *One of the Boys*, which was before *Teenage Dream*. But...

Taylor: Well, that—

Rileigh: ... that entire album was not as big. It was like those two singles really blew up, and then because of that everyone, you know, like, stayed tuned for whatever she did next, and that was what *Teenage Dream* became.

Taylor: I was gonna say, 'cause that was the album that I remember people in my generation having was *One of the Boys*, so it's funny that to you the big album— I mean, and it's the bigger album is *Teenage Dream*, but that felt like it was after Katy Perry was big to me, and that's not true, but that was— just as much as your generation eventually fell off, I think that is that— she makes music for a very specific age, and you just age out of it at some point. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and that— I mean, that makes sense too, because all of it came along sort of right after I would've been... I don't know. Like, just, like, consuming—

Rileigh: Yeah, I mean, *One of the Boys* came out in 2008, so.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, yeah. Like, by then... I was... what was I doing with my life? I was in med school.

Rileigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: You weren't listening to [laughs] "I Kissed A Girl" when you were, you know, doing rounds?

Sydnee: Well, no. And that's— I mean, like, really, like, there's this four-year hole of my life— hole— I mean, like, hole, like... like, empty space where [laughs]—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —it's all filled with medical school, and there's nothing. Like, anything culturally, anything that would've come out. Like, I have no awareness. So for me, Katy Perry was, like... "Oh, that pop music. Some of it may be by someone

named Katy Perry. I'm not really familiar with her. But I know those— I've heard that song on the radi—" you know what I mean? Like, she wasn't... I never had, like, a moment where I loved Katy Perry, because it was just sort of music that existed around by the time I was aware of her.

Raleigh: Sure. Um, yeah. So, uh, *Teenage Dream* came out in 2010. I was 10. Um, which I realize is kind of wild, listening back to some of these songs, that I knew every word to when I was 10 years old.

Sydnee: Did you used to sing "Peacock"?

Raleigh: I knew it. It wasn't one of my— it wasn't one of the big ones.

Sydnee: That would've freaked my right out if I heard you singing that when you were 10.

Raleigh: But "Last Friday Night"...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I— I loved that song. I was like, "I can't wait to party! I'm gonna be a teenager, and I'm gonna party! And this is just exactly what it's gonna be like!"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: It was not. Um... but I thought it was.

Sydnee: You never had any parties like that?

Raleigh: No. Um, I do— I don't know if you all watched any of her music videos, but that music video was one of the first ones that I ever watched, like, on a loop. Like, I repeatedly watched it. Did just, like, "Oh, I should check out that video." Like, I loved that music video.

First, there were several guys from *Glee* in it, so that was, like, when *Glee* was a thing. Um, but it also, it just—[whispering] God, it was so good.

Sydnee: It was like your classic party movie, but...

Raleigh: Yeah. It was, like, set in the 80's too, so, like, all the bright clothes and all that stuff, and then out of nowhere there's Kenny G on the roof playing the saxophone. Um... [laughs quietly] it was great. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I think it's definitely part of her success, is her music videos all have a very strong kind of aesthetic viewpoint. Like, they're very kitschy, kind of campy, uh, very stylish. Like, kind of cartoonish. I get, like— those were always appealing to me. Like, I always liked to— even if the music was never really my style, I always loved the videos.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Mm-hmm, yeah. I mean, I had seen "California Girls", even though, like, I wouldn't say it's one of my favorite songs ever. Like, everybody saw that video.

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Sydney: The inclusion of Snoop Dog helps with that.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs quietly]

Sydney: I— I am always interested to see whate— what is Snoop doing now? I'll see that. I'll check that out. What is it now? Yep. Uh, anything. [laughs] What with Martha Stewart? Yeah, I'll check that out. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: They're buds.

Raleigh: I, uh— I thought it was interesting. I know of a lot of artists that will release, like, deluxe versions of albums with, like, a bonus track or something. Like, Taylor Swift does that. Like, release a deluxe version within a few weeks of the actual album that has, like, two bonus songs on it.

Um, Katy Perry released *Teenage Dream* in 2010, and then released *Teenage Dream: The Complete Confection* in 2012, so a full two years later. That was the

album, but with some new songs. Um, and all that happened in that— all that happened.

She married Russel Brand in 2010 when it came out, and then they got divorced in 2012, so she added songs like "Part Of Me", which is about, you know, a breakup, and is supposedly written about him. Um, which I thought that two-year gap, instead of writing a new album she was like, "You know what? I'm just gonna... I'm just gonna add on to that one and re-release it."

And all those songs became super popular again, so.

Sydnee: Huh. That was a good idea.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, I wondered that as I was listening, how many songs are about Russel Brand.

Raleigh: Yeah. I— I remember at one point she had a movie, um, about her tour, her *Teenage Dream* tour. Um, and it was all— it was supposed to be all about, like, all these wild costumes and changes and the sets and everything she had, 'cause I never went to a Katy Perry concert but she always had, like, these insane, giant sets that had, like, big cupcakes and rainbows and clouds, and she had a dozen costumes in, like, one song that spun and had fireworks and lights, whatever.

Um, a lot of things, like, on her chest. Like two big peppermints, you know, that, like, spun. I always thought that was fun.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Um, but...

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Did you say on her chest?

Raleigh: On her chest, her boobs.

Sydnee: You mean her boobs, right? [laughs]

Raleigh: Her boobs. I didn't know— I— her boobs. Um...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: But then I remember it ended up becoming how she was finishing this tour while Russel Brand was divorcing her. And I just remember thinking, like, "This guy." I didn't know who Russel Brand was. [laughs] I was like, 12. I was like, "This guy! I can't b— I can't believe he would do that. What a bad guy.'

Sydnee: Was there— I didn't know there was dra— I mean, I guess I assume there's— there is often drama in a breakup or divorce.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, I don't... I don't know exactly what— I mean, we weren't close, you know, at the time, so...

Sydnee: They weren't consciously uncoupling, though.

Raleigh: Yeah. I guess. I guess that's probably... that's probably right. Um, and now she's with Orlando Bloom, so, you know.

Sydnee: Oh!

Raleigh: They have a baby.

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: I don't keep up with Katy Perry's [laughs quietly] love life, apparently.

Raleigh: [laughs] Well, you, uh, should.

Taylor: Do you—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Raleigh, do you have the— do you have the inside track on the— the Katy Perry, Taylor Swift drama? I feel like this is a conflict of interest for you,

bringing Katy Perry to the table when they famously were... enemies? I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah, why were they enemies? I know that they made up in the video where they were dressed as food, but why were they enemies?

Rileigh: So, I'm gonna...

Sydnee: 'Cause that— when I first saw that video, that music video of Taylor Swift's, by the way, where, you know, like, they squashed the beef...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I didn't know they had beef, and so I was like, "Why are Katy Perry and Taylor Swift dressed as fast food items and hugging?" Like, what is the significance of this?

Taylor: Well, especially 'cause that was on, uh, "You Need To Calm Down," which wasn't entirely just about, like, being gay, but that was part of it. And so then that ending I'm like, "Wait. Is this... is this Taylor Swift coming out, and she's dating Katy Perry? That's what they're telling us. Wow!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And, well— and I didn't know why the dressing like food was part of it. That was another weird thing for me. Like, is this supposed to be part of the community? [laughs] Like, what are we— what are we— I mean, I'm not against dressing like food. I'm just wondering what the significance... [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, I can't explain the food.

Taylor: [laughs] In every gay relationship, there's a burger and a french fry. Are you the burger or the french fry?

Sydnee: You— you know. That's how— yeah.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: That's how it works. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Um, so...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I guess Taylor Swift and Katy Perry were friends. In 2009, Taylor tweeted about, um, watching the "Waking Up In Vegas" video and how much she loved Katy Perry, and Katy Perry responded and said, like, "Let's write a song together, you're so sweet!"

Then in 2014 Taylor released "Bad Blood". Which is about a girl feud. 'Cause the music video, she has, like, her girl squad, all of her friends in it, but then there was, like, the other girl squad that's, like, actors, but it was supposed to be, like, Katy Perry.

Um, I guess she did an interview and didn't name her exactly, but said— this is Taylor Swift— "For years, I was never sure if we were friends or not. She would come up to me at awards shows and say something and walk away, and I would think, are we friends, or did she just give me the harshest insult of my life?" And then said she did something so horrible, and called her relationship with the unnamed singer akin to straight up enemies. Said it wasn't even about a guy, it had to do with business.

So from what I remember, Katy Perry hired some dancers for her tour, um, that Taylor Swift had already hired for her arena tour. 'Cause it was like a— like a... I guess that would've been... *1989* tour. And then Katy Perry's *Teenage Dream* tour, both in, like, 2012, around that time. Um, I guess Katy Perry tried to steal some dancers, and then it was a whole thing. She was like, "Hey, these were mine and I had my whole tour, like, choreographed and planned, and then they ended up working for Katy Perry instead."

It was, like, a whole business thing. It wasn't like typical celebrity drama, like to do with guys or gossip or anything. It was literally just about, like, stealing dancers. Um, and then did "Bad Blood", and then Katy Perry tweeted about Taylor Swift being a Regina George in sheep's clothing. Didn't name her, but... it was about her. Um...

Sydnee: [snorts] [laughs] I can't—

Rileigh: And then they were a burger and fries, and then they hugged. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I guess the thing that surprises me most is, like, when you reach the level of money and fame... that either of them, but especially Taylor Swift, who imagine is probably the bigger of the two artists if we're just...

Rileigh: I mean, at this point, yeah. I think there was a brief moment there were they were actually probably about equal, but now, yeah.

Sydnee: But both— both, like, very famous people. Um, I am surprised that they are responsible for hiring their own dancers! Like, I'm— it surprises me that they're that involved with the process. I would assume you would hire, like, a professional choreographer who will work with a team to find the best dance— like, I am surprised that that is the job of the singer.

Rileigh: I guess that's why it was such a personal thing? 'Cause I don't know if that typically would be something that they would personally do. But it was the fact that then Katy had selected her dancers that it... I don't know.

Sydnee: Interesting. I mean, I don't know anything about that world. I just— I would assume you would want someone who had the expertise in dancing, you know what I mean?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Was one of the dancers that Katy Perry hired away the shark? 'Cause that was a— that was a get.

Rileigh: [gasps] Ohhh.

Sydnee: Hmmm.

Taylor: That was a win.

Rileigh: The shark. That was a big get.

Sydnee: Maybe that's what it was all about—[wheezes]

Taylor: [laughs] She got the— the good shark dancing guy. That was gonna be my bit, and now it's yours. I'll never forgive you.

Sydnee: Alright. We— we can't talk about Taylor Swift, 'cause this is about Katy Perry.

Rileigh: I know.

Sydnee: But— so we're gonna talk about her more. But before we do that...

Rileigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Hey, Tey. You love your cat.

Taylor: I do.

Sydnee: I like mine.

Taylor: Just like?!

Sydnee: No, I'm kidding. I love my cat. Of course I love my cat. She doesn't let me pet her or touch her, but sometimes she'll sit near me, and I appreciate that. Either way, no matter how close and loving your relationship is with your cat... [laughs] whether it involves pets or not, you do love your cat, and you wanna take great care of your cat, but you don't— you don't wanna have, like, a stinky home, either.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: You wanna have a fresh-smelling home for you and your lovable furry friend. Um, Kitty Poo Club... that's right, Kitty Poo Club, can help you achieve both: have a wonderful smelling home, and a fresh litter box for your cat. Every month, Kitty Poo Club delivers an affordable and recyclable litter box. It's already pre-filled. You get to pick your litter.

Uh, so they fill it up, they ship it to you, you open it up, your, you know, your little buddy can do their business. Uh, and when the month is up, you dispose of the litter and everything in it, uh, and then you recycle your used litter box. So it's that simple.

So you don't have to worry about the box itself getting— you know, they can get kind of grody. That's just the truth. Um, Kitty Poo Club will bring you a brand new

one, and you don't have to worry about all that waste, because again, it's recyclable.

Uh, you can easily customize your subscription at any time, too. There are some toys, treats, accessories, whatever you need for you and your kitty, Kitty Poo Club has you covered. So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Kitty Poo Club, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, right now Kitty Poo Club is offering an awesome discount on your first litter box. order, and free shipping when you set up an autoship. Just go to www.kittypooclub.com to save on your first autoship order of litter boxes with free shipping, and be sure to let them know *Still Buffering* sent you, after you check out, that's kittypooclub.com.

Raleigh: You know what I love? Taking online quizzes. You know what I love more than taking online quizzes is getting something for me, something real in the mail, a little gift for myself, because I took an online quiz.

Sydnee: Ooh.

Raleigh: And that's why I love Function of Beauty, because Function of Beauty not only lets me take a fun online quiz, but they are the world's first fully customizable hair care that creates individually-filled shampoos, conditioners, styling, and treatment formulas, based on your hair now, and where you want it to go.

So you get to take a quiz about your hair on Function of Beauty. You pick out what your hair's got going on now, whether you've got, you know, maybe oily hair, dry hair, or dry scalp, you want to lengthen your hair or whatever.

Um, then you fill out what kind of hair you have, then you fill out what you want to do with your hair in the future, if you want to— I think mine is, uh, volumize, and lengthen, and strengthen, and all those good things to make your hair look good and nice and shiny, and continue to grow my hair.

Um, and then you get to do the fun part of picking out a color and a fragrance. So mine is purple and lavender, or if you prefer not to have a fragrance, you can go dye and fragrance free, so it can just be conditioner and shampoo scented.

Sydnee: Hey, I love that.

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, and because you get all these options, they have over 54 trillion possible formulations. That's so many. And every single one of them is vegan and cruelty free, and they never use sulfates or parabens. So you can feel good about what you're putting on your hair, and you know it is made just for you. They even put your little name on the bottle. Um, so Tey, if our listeners wanna check out Function of Beauty, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, say goodbye to generic hair care for good today. Go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your hair goals quiz, and you'll save 25% on your first order. Once again, go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to let them know you heard about it from our show, and to get 25% off your first order. One more time, that's functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your hair quiz and save 25% on your first order.

Rileigh: So I needed to look up exactly what happened with Russel Brand and Katy Perry, and then as I was looking through this timeline, I realized so many things happened, and Katy Perry was so famous for, like, a few years there.

Um, first, they were only married for about 14 months, and she said that they had conflicting schedules, and he wanted to have children before she was ready. But the big thing was he never spoke to her again after sending her a text message while she was on tour saying that he was divorcing her.

Taylor: Whoa!

Rileigh: So...

Sydnee: He divorced her... by text?

Rileigh: Well, texted her and said "I'm going to," and then never spoke to her again, I guess.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Just, like, sent papers and, you know.

Taylor: Yikes!

Rileigh: Yeah. So that's why she was—

Sydnee: That's not— that's not okay.

Taylor: No.

Rileigh: That's why she was very, very upset. Um, also I— this is not—

Taylor: That's devastating.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: This is not officially part of the Taylor Swift drama, but in August of 2012, after they had divorced, you know who she started dating? John Mayer.

Sydnee: Oh no.

Rileigh: Who, as we all know, whole album written about him by Taylor Swift, so that has to be part of it. 'Cause that was— Taylor Swift had already dated him at this point, so...

Sydnee: Can we, for a second—

Rileigh: There's a lot going on there.

Sydnee: —unpack... what— okay. When you are up onstage, singing and playing music, I assume, like, you're— you're putting, like, your best self out there. Like, "I like the way I look right now. I put together this image. I'm trying to sing well. I'm playing my guitar. This is the best of me. Here I am."

I still, in those moments, have never once looked at John Mayer and thought...

Rileigh: [wheeze-laughs]

Sydnee: ... "Yeah." What— what is his— what is he doing? Like, he gives me a vibe. Like, eesh. No. Not that one. Mmm, no. Not that guy. What is— and this is not a physical thing. It's not a look. It's just a vibe I get from John Mayer where I'm like, "Ooh, ooh. Let's not. Let's— you stay over there." I don't know.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: There's just—[wheezes] there's just something— something kinda...

Raleigh: I get it.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know! I just— I don't get it! I don't—

Raleigh: I agree.

Sydnee: What is it— what is it— like, he seems— he seems like the kind of guy who would try to, like, quote Shakespeare to you and get it wrong, and then you'd be like, "Ugh. God. Ugh. I'm just— I'm just—"

Raleigh: I mean, that's probably why he—

Sydnee: Like, you'd have to say, like, "I'm actually just here tonight with my friends. If you— I really appreciate— I'm actually just— I wanna hang with my girls tonight. If we could just, like... [uncomfortably] thanks."

Raleigh: I mean, that's probably why he was so popular among so many, like, famous women in this early 2010's time frame, right?

Sydnee: But why?! Why?! Why?!

Raleigh: Because he was the guy with the swoopy hair playing the guitar and singing, like, the ballad-y songs, and was, like, deep, and... I don't know. Different.

Sydnee: I know, but you know as soon as you talk to that guy it all falls apart!
[laughs]

Raleigh: Well, now we know that.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Ten years later.

[all laugh quietly]

Sydnee: I don't know. I just— I ne— I don't get it. I don't know what John Mayer is doing that he's landing these women. I don't understand it.

Raleigh: Uh...

Sydnee: I don't get it. [laughs] That's all I'm saying.

Raleigh: I don't, either. I could not tell you. Um...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I do— I did want to note, though, she did come out with two perfumes in this time period. The first one was called Purr, and the second one was called Meow.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Hmm.

Raleigh: Her cat is named Kitty Purry, or was named Kitty Purry. I'm pretty sure.

Taylor: That's pretty good. Well, she calls her fans K—K—Ka—Katy Cats, right?

Raleigh: Katy Cats, yes. Yeah, you're right.

Sydnee: Oh, that's cute.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, but she had an expansion pack for *The Sims*.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That was her.

Sydnee: [through laughter] What?!

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That's a weird collab, there.

Rileigh: 'Cause first they had, like, a little separate expansion pack that had, like, some celebrities in it, and she was one of 'em. Then they did *The Sims 3 Katy Perry's Sweet Treats*, a full expansion pack just dedicated to Katy Perry, that I definitely had. Um...

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: ... that I remember being fully obsessed with and playing all of the time. So anyways, she was, like, big. Like, she was, like, the female pop star.

Sydnee: Oh yeah. I mean, what you said, like, having five singles off one album.

Rileigh: Yeah. And they all were—

Sydnee: No— I mean, she was the first woman to do that.

Rileigh: And they all were number one.

Sydnee: She's, like, the second artist to ever do that.

Rileigh: Yeah. They all were number one. Um, when they came out, on the Billboard Hot 100.

Sydnee: Which, I mean, I think that's a whole other, like, companion conversation, and we've talked about it with Taylor Swift, and I think you could say many of the same things with Katy Perry. Maybe even in some ways more so, because sexuality has always been so much of her, like, thing. I mean, you know, like you talked about, putting things on her boobs and spin around and shoot fireworks and whatever.

Rileigh: I mean, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] I mean... [laughs]

Rileigh: They did— I'm pretty sure she had, like, sparklers that, like, shot fireworks out of her boobs when she sang "Firework".

Sydnee: Yes. Like, and I— so I mean when I say, like, I think that sexy is part of her brand. I think that she's putting that out there, and that's fine. But I think

because of that, even more so, she suffers that sort of like, people just kind of write her off. Like, "Well, she's just a girl playing pop music."

And it's like, well, I mean, she's an incredibly successful recording artist who has done all this stuff. And, like, yes, these sort of goofy, sexy, silly kind of imagery, like the "California Girls" video, like, yes, that's part of it. But that's... she's still really talented.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, you know. But I do think that she is often sort of disregarded as, like, "Well, you know, Katy Perry."

Like, well, no, she's incredibly successful.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I always think it's interesting, the artists that we write off because they're very commercially successful. And especially when they do a lot of, like—you know, you're describing *The Sims*— like, a lot of marketing and merchandising with their image as, like, that somehow makes them less authentic. It just— it's interesting, 'cause I—you know, once— I don't know. You— you get older, and sort of get some perspective. It's like, some bands, as part of their image, include, you know, like, authenticity, but it's all part of the image. It's all part of what they want you to perceive.

Sydnee: Yes, mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know. So I almost have more respect for artists that just don't try to cultivate the, like, "No, we're still super indie. Just working from the, you know, ground up."

Like, no, you've got a massive recording label behind you, and money. Like, at least— at least Katy Perry does fun stuff with it. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and that's— that has always bothered me too. About, like... pop music is popular music.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like why is it inherently bad if a lot of people like it? Which is a very— I mean, that's, I think, a dying sort of aesthetic is like, "Well, if other people like it, then I can't like it, 'cause I'm cool."

That was very much— Teylor, I feel like when we grew up, that was the thing.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I've never understood that about pop music. 'Cause it's like, it's popular... 'cause people—

Rileigh: Popular.

Sydnee: —people like it! Like, 'cause a lot of people like it, 'cause it's appealing. Like, most of the time if a lot of people like something, it's like, "Hmm, must be good." You know?

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: A lot of people like french fries, 'cause they're delicious. [laughs quietly]

Teylor: I really like being not— not trying to be— like, I'm too old to be cool, so I don't even have to try anymore. 'Cause, like, I can listen to music like Katy Perry. You know, when I'm, like, cleaning the house and put on, like, *Teenage Dream*. It's like, this is just nice. It's silly, fun music that's, you know, just pleasant to have on.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's, you know, like, the— uh, Charlie and Cooper love "Firework". And that's not a— I mean, like, I appreciate that message for them. I like the positivity.

Rileigh: Baby, you're a firework!

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: The celebration of who you are. I love that. Uh, they love "Roar". They've watched the music video I can't tell you how many times. They're obsessed with it.

Raleigh: Charlie had a whole birthday party themed after that song.

Taylor: I was gonna say.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Charlie had a "Roar" themed party when she turned five where mom... [laughs quietly] I had to— mom was like, "Let's make her a costume like in the video."

And I said, "Let's make an appropriate costume for a five-year-old." [laughs] Based on the costume she wears in the video. Which she did. She did. She had a little— a little kid's bathing suit that was leopard print, and the little skirt, and she looked like a little, you know.

Raleigh: Little Katy Perry.

Sydnee: Little Katy Perry. It was adorable. We did not have a tiger.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: But, um— but I have no problem with that. Like, that's a— that's a very empowering message for them. They can celebrate Katy Perry and her music. I like that. I don't... I don't have a problem with that. I have not shown them the "California Girls" video.

Taylor: Hmm.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: That would be a lot to understand. They also don't— they still don't understand boobs as anything other than where milk comes from, so there's a

whole conversation around boobs that we're gonna have to have at some point. Like, culturally, boobs mean other things to some people.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I know what boobs mean in this house, but outside of this house there are other interpretations of boobs.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Um, I do think, though— I mean, yes, that is a very, like, empowering message. That was from, you know, just two years later. It wasn't, like, that much later. So, you know, pretty much the same time period in their career. Um, but songs like "Last Friday Night", like, that was 2012, a woman singing about going out and... just completely going all out partying.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, I don't know, I feel like for the time, like, for a young woman to be singing about doing all these things, like drinking a lot and making out with people and, you know, not remembering it and not, you know, caring about all that kind of stuff. Just wanting to have fun. Like, that... I don't know. It's a little bit Kesha, but, like, pop.

[all laugh]

Taylor: But I mean, that was part of what put her on the map though, right? I mean, like, however you feel about the song "I Kissed A Girl And I Liked It", like, that was kind of... you know. "Oh, she's— she's not, like, a— like a squeaky-clean pop queen. She's... she's, like, a bad girl."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Which... I don't know. I know in retrospect that song is a little bit, like, gay baiting, and a little... it makes it like, "Oh, only bad girls make out with other girls." It's not great. But for its time, even just to talk about, like, a— like, something that's kind of gay, I think was...

Rileigh: Oh yeah.

Taylor: ... pretty... I don't know. Moved things forward.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It— I mean, it's really true. I was thinking about that song a lot when you said you wanted to talk about Katy Perry. 'Cause, like, it's hard to know— like, by today's standards the song would not be...

Raleigh: Well, that song wouldn't get written now.

Sydnee: Right. You wouldn't write it now. 'Cause it's, like, so?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Okay. [laughs] I mean, like, you know. What— okay, what's the big deal? Um, and— but I think that there was, like, this sort of... there was this moment where, kind of like what you're talking about with the idea that a woman could go out and party. Sort of, um— I mean, I think the implication is "Like a guy would."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Right? Like, that's, like, the... the thing that's in parentheses. (Like a guy). Um, I kissed a girl (like a guy).

Raleigh: Like a guy.

Sydnee: Like, these are all things that you expect—

Raleigh: Her first album was called *One of the Boys*.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: And I think, like, this idea of sort of pushing all of these limits of what a girl can be, what a woman can be, what is okay for somebody who's not a guy to do. Um, it didn't always look pretty or perfect, certainly by today's standards. Like, we would not say, like... well, I mean, you don't have to... like, we don't have to

buy into certain aspects of, like, toxic male culture to say, like, "See? I can do that too."

It's like, well, maybe nobody should do whatever that is. But all of that was important at the time, you know? To see women doing things that women... you know, quote, unquote, "shouldn't" do.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it didn't always look pretty. [laughs] You know? It wasn't always like something that now in 2022 would be like, "I wanna celebrate that. I have the right to party until I black out."

Well... er...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Maybe— maybe none of us should party till we black out. Maybe we just shouldn't do that.

But, like, at the time it was— it mattered.

Taylor: Well, it's funny, 'cause it's, like... it, uh, appeals to sort of that sort of things that women couldn't really— wouldn't be comfortable with like, you know, having songs about. But then it also kind of has, like, a male gaze overlay to it. Like, "I kissed a girl, but in that hot way that two girls make out." You know?

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, "Oh, I'm a hot girl who can party and drink beer with you." Like, that [through laughter] kind of, like, "Oh, wow. She's super hot, but then she does dude stuff. That's great." I don't know. But once again, I think it's just... she— she made an image that sells, so you can't knock it. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... I also was looking back through this full version of *Teenage Dream*, and this was the first album that I remember listening to an acoustic

version of a pop song that I then from then on out only listened to the acoustic version instead of the regular one, um, and that was "The One That Got Away".

Sydnee: Oh, yeah?

Rileigh: Man. I still love that song. Still love that song. The acoustic version, though. Um, but I— that was another one that got added to, you know, this full version. Um, and I was looking— I didn't really listen to much of her music after this, except her next album had "Roar", and it had "Dark Horse", and those were her two singles. I think there were other singles, but those were the two that hit number one.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Um, and after that, I mean, this album had five that hit number one, and it stayed at number one. Like, the album itself, for a long time. And after that, you know, she had those two. And that was *Prism* was her next album, and then... I don't know.

Sydnee: She has a, um... I was thinking about her. She has a bit of, like, a Madonna thing going on, in that I feel like she... she knew what she was trying to put out there. It's smart. It's marketable. Um, and she was heavily criticized for a lot of it. Or, like, tossed off, which is very similar to Madonna, too. Like, Madonna was very intentional. She knew what she was doing. And, I mean, I think again that is more of a criticism of the industry itself. Where, like, male artists do that all the time.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: And they're just really smart. But a female artist does it and it's like... fake, or whatever. But...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know. She knew how to package her brand.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. It was very identifiable. She had the brightly colored wigs with the bangs and, like, the curls at the ends, and, you know. Like we said, stuff on her boobs.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: I just can't— that was, like, all of her co— that's the thing! I know I keep saying it but, like, all of her, like, big great costumes that, like, everyone talked about after she did, like, award shows performances or tours. Like, she always had something going on on her boobs.

Sydnee: Which...

Raleigh: I mean, that's part of it.

Sydnee: Well, you know, it is. And, I mean, none of it would work if she wasn't talented.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Right? Like, if the music wasn't good, if she couldn't sing well, if she didn't have songs that were catchy. You know, like, none of it works if she's not talented. But also, it's funny. It kind of reminds me of— you know, Tey, when we talked about *Jackass*, you talked about, like, the idea of them sort of, um... disrespecting the, like, genitalia. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: To the point that, like, it, you know, undermines the importance of it, sort of calls into question, like, that kind of thing. She d— there's something about putting, like, giant spinning peppermints...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... on your breasts, that isn't, like— there is nobody looking at that going, "Oh yeah." You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, it is, like, this comical elevation of, like, "You want me to draw attention to my boobs? Okay, here. I'm shooting fireworks out of them." You know? I mean, there is something about it that's kind of, like, iconoclastic. I like

that. Because this is not— I feel like there was some dude watching going "Well, I didn't mean that." Like... [laughs]

Taylor: Well... I mean, it's—

Sydnee: "Not that!" [laughs]

Taylor: I do think that there is a certain amount of, like, power in, you know, like, the hyper femme, like, "I'm going to sexualize myself purposefully and with intent," and it kind of goes against that, like, "Oh, I don't—" like, you know, the girl that's supposed to be really hot, but not know it. It's like, I feel like that kind of intimidates a certain kind of dude. And it's— it's powerful. It's almost like a level of drag, at some point.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: There is a hyperfeminine, like, you know, fantasy. And at some point it just becomes for the ladies. [laughs]

Raleigh: Exactly. That was for the girls.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. And that is why, like, you can do something like that, and you have, like, people who are not sexually attracted to you, listeners who are not going to, like, find that attractive, but, like, love the whole imagery, and the song, and the message, and the whole performance, because there's another level to it.

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, I loved it. I mean, I was 12, so there was no part of me that was attracted to anyone at that point. I just saw the bright colors and the fireworks and I was like, "Yes. Give me more of that."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [laughs]

Raleigh: You're gonna put a giant cherry on top of your head? Yes, please.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Please do that more. I love that. Um, I just wanted to wear everything she had... all the time. So now— I mean, now she's on *American Idol*, so. [laughs quietly]

Sydney: And, I mean, you know, to this day, like, Charlie and Cooper will request Katy Perry songs. So, like, the music lives on.

Raleigh: Yeah. That is one of those albums that I think— I mean, it even has already now... only ten years later, literally a full decade later, which feels wild to say. Um, but that is an album that, like, defines a whole era, like, period of music. That you don't get a lot of, like, pure pop music like that anymore. Um, that— that, like, defined that whole era. 'Cause, I mean, Taylor Swift wasn't even doing pop at that point. She was still country. So...

Sydney: That's true.

Raleigh: Um, also if you all haven't listened, Blaine from *Glee* did do a piano cover of "Teenage Dream" in an episode once.

Sydney: Oh.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: That is just beautiful. It's wonderful.

Taylor: Good to know.

Sydney: Well, as soon as we're done here, that's what I'm gonna go do.

Raleigh: It was Darren Criss, and he was in the "TGIF" music video. So, you know. There you go.

Sydney: Well, thank you, Raleigh.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Thanks for listening to Katy Perry with me.

Sydnee: Anytime.

Raleigh: It was fun to just kind of... it's the music you don't have to think too hard. You can just kind of have it on, and you just feel like, "This is good." So I appreciate that.

Sydnee: No. I enjoyed listening to it. And the girls did.

Raleigh: Well, good. Um, what's next, Syd?

Sydnee: Uh, you know, I realized we had never, I don't believe, talked about a Kevin Smith movie.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, my personal favorite was *Dogma*. I don't know that it was the most popular, but it was my favorite. Um, and I watched it a lot, so now I'm gonna make you watch it. I know you've watched it, Tey. But I'm gonna make you watch it, Raleigh.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah, I have not watched it.

Taylor: I'm excited to rewatch it. I don't think I've seen it since it came out.

Sydnee: It's been a long time. I'm curious to see how it's gonna hold up.
[laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] This is always fun. [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh boy.

Sydnee: I know. I'm a little nervous. [laughs] Uh, but we'll watch *Dogma*. Uh, listeners, you should check out— there's this little artist named Katy Perry. Um...
[laughs]

Taylor: Super indie, underground.

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, *Teenage Dream*.

Rileigh: Especially her recent song "Swish Swish". That one's a... [laughs] that one's a fun one to check out if you haven't.

Sydnee: Oh, I haven't heard that one.

Taylor: What?

Sydnee: No.

Rileigh: Pretty sure she had, like, a full, like, *Space Jam*-type music video for that, too.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh!

Taylor: I've seen that music video.

Sydnee: Well, there we go.

Rileigh: There you go.

Sydnee: Um, thank you, listeners. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

Rileigh: This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I'm Rileigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

Sydnee and Taylor: And I... am... too.

[theme music plays]

Rileigh: What do you think left shark's doing now?

Sydnee: Dancing.

Taylor: Doing well. Retiring on that shark success.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Hopefully not part of a sharknado.

Taylor: I don't know. Maybe.

Rileigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Full of styrofoam.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] It's either a movie, or the next Katy Perry music video.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

[music plays]

Tre'vell: Hey there, beautiful people! I'm Tre'vell Anderson.

Jarrett: And I'm Jarrett Hill. We are the hosts of *FANTI*, the show where we have complex and complicado conversations about the grey areas in our lives; the things that we really, really love sometimes, but also have some problematic feelings about.

Tre'vell: Yes. We get into it all! You wanna know our thoughts about Nicki Minaj and all her foolishness? We got you. You wanna know our thoughts about gentrification? Perhaps some positive, question mark?

Jarrett: Uh-oh.

Tre'vell: Aspects of gentrification? We get into that too. Every single Thursday, you can check us out at Maximumfun.org. Listen, you know you want it honey, so come on and get it!

Jarrett: [laughs]

Tre'vell: Period.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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