

Still Buffering 306: "Dogma" (1999)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: So, I wanna tell you all about, um, Charlie; something she told me when she came home from school yesterday.

Rileigh: Oh boy.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: So, she always hops in the car— first of all, when I pick Charlie up from school, she sort of, like, throws herself into the car. She's always, like— she's always carrying what she went in with, like her backpack. Um, but then, like, other things too. Like, she's taken random things out of her backpack and decided to just sort of, like, grasp them in her little hands, like, wadded up.

And, like, her water bottle, and her coat is always sort of either, like, half hanging off or, like, over her arm, and she's dropping things. [laughs quietly] And then, like, the mask is part of it too, so the mask is, like, falling off her face or, like, she's ripping— I don't know.

Anyway. [laughs quietly] She always sort of, like—

Rileigh: Mom describes her as being thrown out of school.

Sydnee: That's how she looks.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: She always sort of just, like, tumbles into the car. And once she gets settled I'm like, "How was your day?" And she's always ready to tell me, like, you know, the tea. Like, the big story.

Raleigh: The entire day.

Sydnee: The, uh, yes. Um, which I love. I hope that never stops. I know at some point you ask kids, like, "How was your day?" And they're like, "[sullenly] Fine."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: So I hope that day never comes. But she said, uh, "Well, at school today there was this club. And it was a wrestling club, and we were all signing up for it, and I signed up for this wrestling club."

And I'm like, "Wait, stop. Hold on."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Is this gonna be a baby Fight Club story?

Sydnee: Oh, hold on. I'm like, "Wait, before we go further. You signed up for wrestling club?"

'Cause I'm thinking, first of all, they don't let first graders just sign up for clubs on their own. Like, they send that stuff to parents.

Raleigh: And do they let first graders just wrestle each other?

Sydnee: They don't let first graders wrestle each other, so already there's some holes in this story. And I'm like, "Where did— hold on. Hold on. What kind of club? Did you say wrestling?"

'Cause I'm thinking I misheard. And she said, "Well, it wasn't just wrestling. It's like, you know, like I know taekwondo, and some kids know karate, or just, like, fighting."

And I'm like, "Wait."

Rileigh: So it's Fight Club.

Sydnee: "Wait. Who is— hold on. It is a club where kids fight each other in various styles?"

And she said, "Well, any martial arts is fine."

And I said, "Well, no, hold on." [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Who organized this club? Is this something your teachers organized?"

And she said, "No, no, no. Olivia."

Taylor: [laughs] Oh.

Sydnee: This is a student. This is a student.

Rileigh: Another first grader.

Sydnee: Another first grader. And I'm like—

Taylor: Now, is Olivia real, or is that the Brad Pitt in this situation?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] And I'm like, "So, hold on. So Olivia, uh, organized a club?"

And she said, "Yes, a wrestling club. Well, but not just wrestling. Wrestling and karate and everything. Wrestling and karate and everything club."

And I said, "Where will this— is this an after-school activity that Olivia is envisioning? Or is this, like, during school?"

And she said, "Yeah, just at recess."

And I said, "So at recess— did this happen today? Like, was this happening?"

And she said, "Well, they wanted to."

And I said, "So, okay. Was there, like, literally a sign-up sheet?"

"Yes."

"You put your name on it?"

"Yes, I put my name on it, but then I decided it was a mistake, and I tried to take my name off of it, but they wouldn't let me. It was too late."

[laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydney: And I said, "Okay. I just— before I ask anything else, did any children actually fight today?"

She said, "No, they didn't fight."

And I said, "Okay, good."

And she said, "Because we got out on the playground and I realized this was not a good idea."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: "And so I said— I stood in between them and I held my arms out like this," and she put her arms out like with stop signs on both sides. You know, like, straight out from her. She was like, "I held my arms out like this, and I said, 'Everyone stop!'"

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: "It doesn't matter if you're a girl or a boy or anything else. We all have the same goodness. Okay?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said, "Was this, like, a girls versus boys fight?"

"Oh yeah, it was that."

"Okay. Well, that was a detail you left out."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "Okay. Uh, then what happened?"

And she said, "Well, only the teachers heard me."

And I said, "Well, the kids didn't hear you?"

And she said, "Well, no, they heard me, but they didn't say a word." Except she spelled "word". "They didn't say a W-O-R-D."

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And I said, "Okay. Did they fight?"

She said, "No. They didn't fight. I'm a peacemaker in my class."

Taylor: Ahh.

Sydnee: "I'm like the peacemaker."

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: And I said, "So, let me rewind. During class today, Olivia established a fight club."

And she said, "It wasn't a fight club, mom."

And I said, "This is a movie reference you don't understand. I'm enjoying it, but not you right now."

Rileigh: A boys versus girls fight club.

Sydnee: It was a boys versus girls fight club. She had sign ups. Charlie signed up. Then regretted, because she realized fighting on the playground is probably not a great idea. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And you attempted to stop the fighting. Nobody really listened to you, but also I don't think anybody ever intended on fighting to begin with. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: No.

Sydnee: She said—

Rileigh: Can you imagine her standing there with her little arms out going, "No! Stop!" [snorts] "Stop the violence!" [laughs]

Taylor: "We all have the same goodness!" Why didn't Edward Norton try that?

[all laugh]

Sydnee: We all have the same goodness. So I got home and I was like, "I need you to tell daddy this story, and I'm not gonna say a word."

So she tells Justin the entire story, and he looks at her and he goes, "Are you telling me there's a fight club at your school?"

And she went, "It's not a fight club! Why do you all keep calling it a fight club?!"

Rileigh: [laughs] Well, it's not a fight club because she was talking about it, so.

Taylor: Well, she was clearly breaking all the rules of this fight club, though, you know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: She was trying to stop the fight club.

Taylor: Talking about it, she was trying to end it.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] So there was a first grade fight club that almost happened.

Raleigh: And your child stopped it.

Sydnee: She's a peacemaker, you see.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: She's the peacemaker.

Sydnee: She's the peacemaker. Then she said later, she said, "You know, actually Jackson is also a peacemaker."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: [laughs] And I said, "Okay. So there's two peacemakers."

Raleigh: Yeah. I would like to see, though, a bunch of tiny little seven-year-olds— like, Charlie doing her taekwondo movements, and some kid doing, like, a karate kick or karate chop. Just kind of, like, in the general vicinity of each other.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: You know? Like, but not ever actually, like, touching, like, hitting each other, but just kind of doing it at each other, like a— like a dance battle almost? [laughs] I would love to see that.

Taylor: Like the montage warm up of that.

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: She does— she has told me before, 'cause there are multiple kids in the class that do take various martial arts, as she said, all the martial arts. And they will do what they call no-contact free fighting.

Rileigh: [snort-laughs]

Sydnee: Um, 'cause they do that in class sometimes. And they— that's the rule. You do not make contact with each other, but it is that. You sort of, like, just punch and kick at the person, but you never actually make contact.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And they do that on the playground. Which part of me is like, "That would be adorable."

But the other part of me is like, "Isn't there somebody stepping in going, 'Listen, this is just too, like...'"

Like— 'cause, like, a kid could get— I mean, you know. They're kids.

Taylor: Someone's gonna—

Rileigh: Yeah, you could get too close.

Taylor: To the head.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And in— in class, like, if they're actually gonna spar, they wear all these— like, they have a chest pad, and they have the helmet, like, a padded

helmet thing. And, I mean, you know? Like, they're protected, so nobody gets hurt. On the playground, they're just, like, in their clothes.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Anyway. [laughs]

Taylor: Syd, I— I think—[laugh quietly] I think that at least Charlie and maybe all these kids need some sort of ethics class on being a dangerous weapon, and having advanced skills, and how to go about the world that way.

Sydnee: We have had this conversation with Charlie. Um...

Rileigh: [snorts] [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like...

Taylor: "Charlie, you are a dangerous weapon, and you have advanced skills."
[laughs]

Rileigh: Just sat her down and had the Spider-Man talk.

Sydnee: Well, we kind of had to. Because, like, we told her, like, you can now— she can now spin kick and break a board in half. So... and, I mean, now the nice thing is, like, Charlie is a peace— Charlie is a peacemaker.

Rileigh: Charlie is the last person that would ever use her powers for bad.

Sydnee: She really— I can't see her—

Rileigh: Cooper doesn't know how to spin kick.

Sydnee: She is so diplomatic. The other day, she said the tea— "I said something on the playground, and the teacher told me it was the best thing she'd heard all day."

And I said, "What did you say?"

And she said, "Two students were fighting, and I walked over and said, 'Let's just agree to disagree, okay?'"

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I just wanna know what first graders are fighting about. [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] I don't know.

Taylor: [laughs] Wow. I just... I mean this with all the love, but I guess when two total nerds have a kid, they make a super nerd. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. Although, you know what? If— that's what I love about both of your kids. If Cooper would've been up in there, not Charlie, Cooper would've been the one, like, organizing the fights. Like, taking bets. Like, "Alright, give me money. Let me organize the fights." [laughs]

Sydnee: [crosstalk] Cooper would've— Cooper would've been, yeah, making money off of it, for sure.

Taylor: Yeah, you're not gonna send Cooper to taekwondo, are you? 'Cause that's just... [laughs]

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I don't think we can.

Raleigh: That she will... that's asking for bad things to happen. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't think we can give her that power.

Taylor: There'll be no board left standing.

Raleigh: If she saw two kids fighting she'd be like, "Alright, guys. What's the issue here? How can we make it worse?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "Let me hop on one side. Let me get some other people to hop on the other side. Let's make this a big battle."

Sydnee: She loves drama.

Raleigh: She loves drama.

Sydnee: Uh... okay. I don't know. *Dogma*. [laughs] I got nothing.

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: Um... first of all, thank you both for watching *Dogma*. I am sorry if it was difficult to find.

Taylor: Uh, well, it's— yeah, 'cause it's not— it has no contracts for streaming anywhere, but it is free on YouTube.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: That's what Justin told me before I watched it. He texted me like, "By the way, you're not gonna find it anywhere else." [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I—I—it—it—we had to— it took us a bit to find it, too. I was— and then I had a moment where I was like, "Well, I have it on DVD. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I'll go upstairs to our expansive DVD collection. That I— I, to be fair, wanted to get rid of. Justin is the one who insisted that all the DVDs we have ever purchased— I mean, literally it's every DVD both of us had bought in our, you know, young adult lives, are upstairs.

Um, it's up there somewhere. But anyway, yes, it was on YouTube. Um, I... okay. We're gonna talk about *Dogma*, which is a Kevin Smith movie, and who— who you probably know of, but if you haven't, made *Mall Rats*, and *Clerks*, and *Chasing Amy*, and *Jay and Silent Bob*, and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*. Like, all those movies.

Um, and for me, back in the day *Dogma* was, like, my favorite. Um, it is the story— it's a religious fable. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, about two former angels who are trapped on Earth because they defied God, and this is their punishment. They have to live in Wisconsin.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then the Catholic church creates a loophole where all of— anybody who walks through this church's arches will be forgiven of all their sins. It's called a plenary indulgence. And these angels are like, "We're gonna do that, and then we'll be forgiven and can go back to heaven." But then that would defy God, which would end existence.

And so there are a lot of, um, figures from Christian mythology who are tapped to come try to stop this from happening. There's the plot. And there's lots of, uh, famous people in it.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um, I feel like, as I watched it— 'cause man, it'd been a long time since I'd seen this movie. I feel like there are parts of it that still hold up, but a lot of it that did not age as well.

Rileigh: Yeah. I had never seen it, so this was my first experience with it. Um, I will say, though, I feel like us maybe especially can have some sort of a particular appreciation and kind of chuckle at some of it, you know, being raised in the Catholic church and no longer being in the Catholic church.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: There are some bits in there that were like, "This is for me. [laughs quietly] I get that. This is for me." [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, even just, like, the central sort of plot device, the idea of an indulgence, is real.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, that i— that is part of Catholicism. I remember, uh, being granted an indulgence at Catholic youth conference.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Like, the whole room was. We were all granted— I forget what kind of indulgence. It wasn't a— it wasn't a "forgive all sins" indulgence. It was one of the lesser indulgences. Like, it forgave a smaller number of sins.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But I remember—

Taylor: Did you get, like, a coupon? [through laughter] Like, five— five cents for each?

Sydnee: Well, it was just like—it just—like, a... like, a Cardinal came to the conference and just granted us all an indulgence. I still remember that moment, 'cause I remember being like, "Oh. This was— I don't—" like, looking at myself like, "Do I feel different?" [laughs]

Raleigh: "What has happened to me?"

Sydnee: Like, I am free of some sins. I wonder which ones. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah, you don't get to pick, I guess.

Sydnee: I don't think you— I think there's just...

Raleigh: [laughs] It just kinda happens, yeah.

Sydnee: Quantity is the issue. It's a quantity issue.

Taylor: Or is it a percentage, maybe? 30% of your sins are now gone. That's it.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Um... yeah. But, uh— okay. First of all... so, this movie come out in what, what was it, '99?

Raleigh: I think '99.

Sydnee: Yeah, I think '99 is right. Uh, it... [laughs quietly] I think— I have a— Justin and I were watching it and he said, "Why did movies used to just have people die in them all the time?"

Like, lots of people are killed in this movie.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, just, like, brutally killed. And it's not treated with, like, much... like, sensitivity or care or consideration. They're just killed. And I really think that there was a cultural shift— and I don't know if this is, like, a 9/11 related cultural shift, maybe. I don't know. Tey, if you have a thought on this— I know that you were so little, Raleigh.

Raleigh: I was one.

Sydnee: But, like, there was a moment, like when I was growing up, where movies— like, people just got killed all the time, and it was no big deal. And now, seeing that, I found a little... like, shocking and unsettling. Is that when the shift happened?

Taylor: Hmm... I feel like movies are still pretty violent. I don't know. I mean, the Marvel movies have a lot of death in them. [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean, that whole movie ended with, like, 50% of the whole world just, like, bloop. Gone.

Sydnee: But it was like— but people were upset about it.

Taylor: You mean, like, the kind of cartoon kind of violence of... yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Just, like, somebody, I mean, like, walking into a boardroom with a gun and shooting everybody, and blood spattering on things. Like, that being played for, like... laughs. You know what I mean?

Taylor: Yeah, I think you're watching different kind of movies now Syd. [laughs]

Sydnee: Maybe that's it. Maybe that— maybe it's me that's changed. Maybe movies are the same.

Taylor: I don't know. I also seek out a lot of violent movies. And like, no, they've been the whole time. Like, I don't know, I just watch a lot of violent films. [laughs]

Raleigh: Maybe there was an era, like, briefly after, you know, like, early 2000's, where that was... not as common. Maybe we've circled back to where that's, you know, accepted again.

Sydnee: Maybe that's it.

Raleigh: 'Cause, I mean, a lot of the adult— not a lot. A good portion of the adult population watching violent or horror movies now is like me, that was barely one at the time of, you know, 9/11, so... didn't experience that shift.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well, and it—

Sydnee: Maybe that's it. I don't know. I... it just— and maybe it's me. Because it does— like, it hits me differently. When I watched this movie when I was young, there was no part of me that was like, "[gasps] Oh no!"

I mean, like, I didn't want to see people die, but it was just like, well, it's just for the plot. Like, well, they're just— you know, that's just part of the plot. Like, I don't know. Now it's like, "Oh. Oh. There's— where's the... sensitivity?" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Taylor: Well, I've noticed that, not just with you but I think, like, as you get older in general. Especially if you suffer real loss. Like, you know, you lose people in your life. Like, there's just that— that kind of, like, disconnect that you have to violence when you're younger if you haven't experienced, goes away. And I guess 9/11 was an event that exposed a lot of us to that all at once, so, you know.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Maybe— maybe that's the shift.

Taylor: It's a combination of things.

Sydnee: But yeah. I— I do— so, in their quest to get back into heaven, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are the two angels. And we learn that Matt Damon, Loki...

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Different Loki.

Sydnee: A different Loki. Was an angel whose job it was to, like, murder people on behalf of God. Like, good—[laughs quietly] good murder.

Raleigh: Angel of death, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Like the kind of murder God wanted.

Taylor: Righteous murder.

Sydnee: And— yeah. [laughs] And, um, he— and so on his way he, like, commits more righteous murders...

Raleigh: That's his job.

Sydnee: ... in the name of God. Um, and so, like, I think the intent is that they're supposed to be a little bit disturbing. Which they are. I mean, because, like, he finds somebody who's committing a sin and he's like, "I'm just gonna murder you now."

Which isn't really our human idea of justice.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Right? Um, but it's weird— I think the whole thing of it— it's weird to me, because it meant so much to me when I was younger because they were saying things about faith and religion that I felt. And, like, Kevin Smith was raised Catholic, which is not in any way shocking if you've seen this movie.

Rileigh: That's not surprising. I didn't know that, but that checks out.

Sydnee: And so— and he went through I think something very similar to a lot of people who were raised Catholic. In his 20's he had this sort of, like, disillusionment, disconnection, like, trying to find, "Where can I fit this into who I'm becoming as an adult?" And, like, sort of explored other faiths to see if maybe there was something that suited him better.

And this movie is the result of all that. Of all that sort of, like, questioning, searching, and... his relationship with the Catholic church. And there are a lot of things that are said in the movie, 'cause Kevin Smith movies are all about those conversations, right? There's lots of scenes with people just sort of working through some stuff together, which I love. It was very 90's. Um, but— and so there's lots of things that I remember going like, "Yeah! Yeah, man! Yeah!"

And now as an adult I'm watching going, "Ugh." All those conversations, I don't feel like they get us to where we need to get at the end. I don't know. That was my complaint, watching it again. Like, at the end I don't feel like we've arrived anywhere.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Hm.

Rileigh: Yeah. I mean, I will say, that— and I guess the only other Kevin Smith movie I've seen is *Mall Rats*, which I saw many years ago at some point with you. Um, so I don't have a ton of experience in his world of movies. But that amount of just kind of sitting down and talking, and just kind of going back and forth for, like, an extended period of time, I was not— I'm not used to that.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: There were moments where I had to, like, pause it. Like, "Hold on." Sometimes I just kind of tune out movies, 'cause I assume, like, the actual conversations between people aren't gonna last more than, like, three minutes, and then something else is gonna happen. I was like, "I gotta readjust my focus, 'cause it's late, and I need to listen to these [laughs] conversations."

Sydnee: The conversations are the movie, yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, that's the whole movie! I mean, it's like when you watch, like, uh... I don't know. I was gonna say, like, a play as opposed to a musical. Like, you know, like Hamilton's just music the entire time, no dialogue. It's like, let me get into all of these songs. But then you watch, like, I don't know, *Romeo and Juliet*. It's like, you gotta listen to all those words.

Sydnee: [laughs] There are no songs.

Rileigh: It's just the words! There's no songs in here. It's just the words.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [through laughter] Kevin Smith movies are like— they're like—[laughs]

Sydnee: They're like the Shakespeare?!

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] It's modern Shakespeare, Kevin Smith.

Rileigh: [high-pitched laughter]

Taylor: The other bard.

Sydnee: He did a— he did a Shakespeare movie, didn't he?

Taylor: Did he?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, he did a modern... adaptation of... hmm. *Taming of the Shrew*, I wanna say? I know I'm not making this up.

Taylor: Wasn't that *10 Things I Hate About You*? That was not Kevin Smith.

Sydnee: No— well, there was that, but there was, like, another... oh. I know he actually did do this at some point. I swear I'm not making this up, or I might be making this up. I don't think I'm making it up.

Taylor: So perhaps he himself has thought of himself as a modern-day Shakespeare. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [snort-laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know. [laughs] I mean, I definitely— it definitely is— and Tey, you can probably attest to this, too. There— that was very much of the time. Like, the idea of these, like, hypervocal sort of nerdy— like, in his mind it was a guy but, like, the rest of us were out there too, who aren't guys. [laughs quietly] Who, like, just wanted to have all these... sort of nerdy, deep, philosophical conversations, and thought, like, what we were saying was really important. And then, like, those are the movies.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. I feel like that was very much of the time.

Taylor: Oh, that's absolutely true.

Raleigh: I just looked— I just typed into google "Kevin Smith Shakespeare", just figured something would come up there. That's not... he didn't.

Sydnee: He didn't?

Raleigh: He didn't.

Sydnee: Did I make that up?

Raleigh: Um...

[pause]

Raleigh: I think you did.

Sydnee: I'm— I'm almost positive I didn't.

Taylor: Well, there is a lot of crude humor in both Shakespeare and, uh, Kevin Smith.

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah. There you go.

Sydnee: Maybe that's all I'm thinking.

Taylor: The Kevin Smith dialogue hits a little different, though. 'Cause it's not like you decode a bunch of things and go, "Oh, haha, that person told that person to, you know, eff off."

Like, no, they just say it. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, whatever it was, I made it up.

Raleigh: You just created that in your head.

Sydnee: No, I swear to you!

Raleigh: Is that something you are—

Sydnee: Well, anyway.

Raleigh: —trying to manifest? That you subconsciously want to exist?

Sydnee: I'm not— no, I'm not trying to manifest anything! [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: You want— you want a Kevin Smith Shakespeare?

Taylor: Maybe.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: Maybe he did it.

Sydnee: He didn't, apparently.

Raleigh: I mean... the only thing I can find is... yeah. He— no.

Sydnee: I swear to you, I thought there was something. Um, okay. I want to talk more about actual, like, stuff from this movie.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, okay. I'm hungry.

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: I'm always hungry.

Raleigh: [yawning] Me too.

Sydnee: And the problem is, I'm also really busy. I've got tons of stuff to do. I got kids, I've got jobs, I've got volunteer work, I've got... podcasts. I've got so much to do, and I don't always have time to cook. Uh, and sometimes I don't feel like getting dressed and going out to a restaurant, especially with two kids. And that's why I love DoorDash. Uh, because DoorDash takes one thing off of my to-do list, which is eating, and that's a big thing.

It's an app. All you do is open it up. You pick from a selection of local restaurants. Um, I like— it's been a great way to support some of my favorite local places who, uh, I would love to go to, but maybe I couldn't, and so instead DoorDash will bring their delicious food straight to my door, contactless delivery, just drops it off right there on your porch. Um, again, many of your favorite local restaurants are on there.

Also, um, if you need some just, like, incidentals, some stuff from, like, the local, you know, convenience store or something like that, DoorDash has got your back there too. Anything you need, DoorDash will— you open the app, you pick what you want, they go and grab it for you, and one of their wonderful delivery drivers drops it off on your front porch.

So, Teylor, if our listeners wanna check out DoorDash, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, right now our listeners can get \$5 off their first order of \$15 or more and zero delivery fees for their first month when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "buffering". That's \$5 off your first order and zero delivery fees for a month when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code "buffering". Don't forget, that's code "buffering" for \$5 off your first order with DoorDash.

Rileigh: So, I'm also hungry. Um, and we're doing a pretty early morning recording sesh right now, so it's about breakfast time. And I usually am pretty bad about remembering to eat breakfast, because I like to sleep in and don't leave a lot of time for myself to grab a good breakfast in the morning. Um, but that is why I have turned to Magic Spoon to fulfill my breakfast needs, and my other snacking needs and food needs as well, but mostly breakfast.

Um, because it gives that good boost of protein to start my day. It fills me up, it keeps me energized. Um, and that's why you also should think about Magic Spoon when you're thinking about cereal, and you're thinking about maybe having breakfast, maybe having a midnight snack.

It's got zero grams of sugar and 13 to 14 grams of protein in each serving, so you're not adding extra sugar, uh, which sometimes can give me headaches, can upset my tummy. Don't have to worry about that. And you're getting protein, which is something I know I don't get enough of, and now you can get it in delicious cereals. And it's gluten free, grain free, and soy free.

And you can build your own box with all of their flavors, and build your own custom bundle out of all of their flavor options of cocoa, fruity, frosted, peanut butter, cookies and cream, maple waffle, blueberry, cinnamon, plus the newly reformulated honey nut flavor that is now added to their permanent collection. And it is so delicious, they brought it back permanently, because everyone loves it so much, so that's one you've gotta add to your bundle. Check it out.

Got lots of good flavor combos. Um, my personal favorite is the fruity, although maple waffle, blueberry, and cinnamon, all also sound delicious, and sound like you could probably put them all in one bowl, and it would be a great combo. Um, so Magic Spoon's got you covered on the flavor front, and you feel good about

eating it, and it fills you up, keeps you going throughout the day, and also good for a little midnight snack, maybe, if you're still looking to munch.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Magic Spoon, what should they do?

Taylor: They should go to magicspoon.com/buffering to grab a custom bundle of cereal, and be sure to use our promo code "buffering" at checkout to save \$5 off your order. And Magic Spoon is so confident in their product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee. Again, that's magicspoon.com/buffering, and use code "buffering".

Sydnee: Um, yeah, I totally made that up. I double checked while you were talking.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I just don't... and you know what also would happen, uh, in the 90's, is there would definitely be somebody who was like, um... an amateur Kevin Smith biographer who would be very quick to correct me on all of this, and challenge me. You know, but, um, yes, I am wrong. I made that up somehow.

Raleigh: Wow!

Sydnee: I don't know. It just felt like it happened. I dreamed it.

Taylor: That's alright.

Raleigh: Sydnee said "I am wrong."

Sydnee: Yeah. But it— but I mean, that is— I—I don't know that I would compare it to Shakespeare, but it is very talky.

Raleigh: No, no, I—

Sydnee: There is a lot of talky. [laughs]

Raleigh: That immediately popped into my head, and I was like, "That's not a valid comparison." But then it just— it was too funny not to say it.

Sydnee: I wish I would've made you watch *Clerks*. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Well, I mean, we got this whole show for that reason, so.

Sydnee: That's just lots of talking.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: I don't remember *Mall Rats*— I didn't get that impression from *Mall Rats* when I watched it. At least I don't remember.

Sydnee: It has more, um... well, I mean, this movie has tons of plot. Like, lots of things are happening.

Raleigh: That's true, that's true.

Sydnee: But, I mean, the— I don't know. The hallmark of a Kevin Smith movie was what was the dialogue. I mean, like, that was the... that was the thing, were the conversations and the commentary, and the ideas being presented. I mean, don't you think, Tey? Like, that is the thing.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, that's your— you're pick— he's picking a topic to have lots of thoughts about, and just put those thoughts in that character's words.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And mouths.

Sydnee: The thing— the analogy he gives about, um, faith being like a glass, and that as you get older the glass gets bigger and it gets harder to fill up, that was something that he was told by a priest or somebody that he was trying to talk to to figure things out. Like, he was told that himself, and so that's why it's in the film, is that is something he was told.

Raleigh: Yeah. There were a lot of, um— you said a lot of plot. It felt like there was a lot going on that, like, I don't know if now... I don't wanna say all filmmakers, 'cause obviously this isn't true, but maybe a lot of mainstream

movies, um— I don't know if they assume we don't have the attention span for all of those different ideas and plots and things happening. That might be true, because again, I was like, "Hold on. I gotta readjust my focus. I gotta keep track of everything happening."

Definitely not— I guess an easier way to say it is, definitely not one of the movies you can turn on and watch *at*, and get what's going on.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: You gotta, like, decide, "This is what I'm doing." 'Cause I usually will turn on movies or TV, like, while I'm doing something else. You know, doing laundry, or cleaning or whatever. Um, cannot do that with Kevin Smith movies.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: But I do think it's really, uh— I mean, the amount of sort of ideas introduced in this movie are handled really well. Like, you know, you have characters like, you know, like Serendipity entering in. And, like, having a very co— like, that's a complex idea to get across as a character. Like, "Oh, this was a muse who's now in human form."

And, like, just kind of has one well written conversation, and now we understand everything about her, you know? There's not, like, a... yeah. I mean, maybe it assumes a higher level of, like— of retention of information this movie, but it works.

Raleigh: That's true, though. You don't— they don't take as long to get across an idea as maybe you would in another kind of movie, which I do appreciate, because you can get more in that you can process and take in in the same, you know, length of a movie.

Sydnee: Justin made the point that if this was made today— I mean, lots of things would be different. But if it was made today, it would work better, he thinks— and I think this is probably true— as, like, a TV show. Because you have all these great characters that are introduced, and it really— it rings of something like— and, I mean, Kevin Smith loves comic books. That's part of the whole thing.

It rings of something from, like, a graphic novel series, or even, like, an animated series. The idea of introducing all of these very interesting characters, making

sure you kind of get who they are right up front. Like, right up front you know their deal. Um, and they're each on a different journey, and the rest of the series will explore all of these journeys slowly over time, but instead it's all compacted into a movie. But it would be really cool to see, like, what happens with the muse character over time. What happens with Rufus, the 13th apostle, over time. Like, let's see those stories.

For me, the thing that, like, watching the movie again— I guess I must've been really invested in the story of the last Zion. You know, this descendant of... Jesus, in the sense that Jesus had brothers and sisters that we weren't told about, and so she's a great-niece of Jesus, or whatever she is.

Um, but now watching it, I really— the story of the two angels was much more compelling to me. Like, I want— I want more of that. I wanna know what happened to them. I wanna know if they get forgiveness. I wanna know if they get to go to hea— like, I wanna know about them, 'cause they made me really— I actually found them more sympathetic than the other characters. I don't know.

Rileigh: Interesting.

Taylor: Well, I do think— I mean, I think for as much as there's so much— you know, there's dialogue and humor in here that definitely roots the movie in when it was made. There is a lot of, like, I don't know, stuff that is ahead of its time. And I think the idea that there is really— there's no bad guy, really. Like, everybody has a reason for doing what they're doing. Even, like, the demon who, you know, didn't want to fight. He was an artist, and now he's been punished horribly.

Like, there is that side of very fair questioning of, like, all of these people that might bring about the end of the world are doing so because they were punished so harshly by God. So, who's really to blame? Which... it remind— you mentioned that it's a lot like comic books, and it reminded me of, like, both sort of *Sandman*-esque with all the very eccentric characters just being very, like, calmly introduced, and also *Preacher*, in sort of, like, casual take on, like, heaven and hell dynamics. So...

Sydnee: Yeah. No, it is— it is really interesting to see all that play out. And like you said, to see— I mean, when Asriel says "I was an artist. I didn't want to fight." I find that a very reasonable, like, "Oh, okay." I mean, I can totally

empathize with that statement. And when the muse is like— Serendipity is like, "Yeah, but even Elvis went to war when his country asked him to."

And I'm thinking, like, "Well, I don't— I actually don't agree with that point that you're making on that. Like, that— you know what? I don't— I don't— on this particular argument, I think I'm siding with the demon." [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, I don't know that I agree with that, but I mean, I really think that that was an interesting... it is, because I... Matt Damon's character, Loki... I mean, he— he talks about committing genocide, you know? And— but it's in the name of God, so it was supposed to be, you know, quote, unquote, "good." But as a human I'm thinking, "That's... "

Raleigh: That's bad.

Sydnee: "That's bad."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But then Ben Affleck is the really bad guy, Bartleby, because at the end— I mean, that's what we're supposed to follow. I don't mean me. You know what I mean. Because he's the one who starts to go on a rant, like Lucifer, questioning God's plan. I don't know. Like, all of it I'm like, "I don't know whose side I'm on of any of this."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, but even, like, in his case, he seemed to be very heartbroken over being cast out of heaven and, you know, like that he loved God and now is, you know... is out of her life. Like, I don't know. It felt like... nobody felt like, you know, the plotting, like, "I'm evil because I want to do evil."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Um, can I ask about a trope that is, I mean, central to this movie, but also as I was thinking about it watching this movie, seems prevalent in a lot of very popular 90's, early 2000's movies. And that is the dude duo.

Sydnee: The du—[laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] The dude duo.

Raleigh: Like, I mean, *Jay and Silent Bob*, you've got *Loki and Bartleby*, *Wayne's World*, *Bill and Ted*. All of these popular movies from this era that, like, center of the plot you've got all these characters moving around them that are also important but, like, central to the movie are two dudes.

Sydnee: Well... it—

Raleigh: Like, that just—[stammers]—that seems like that was very common, I don't know if that was just we were still in an era where it was like, most movies were very male, like, heterocentric, so that's who was writing them, and...

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Yeah, well, that's who got to write 'em, and make 'em, and yeah.

Taylor: Also, in all the other Kevin Smith movies that's present.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: *Chasing Amy*, and *Mall Rats*, yeah.

Sydnee: It's all— yeah. I mean, there— that's who was making the movies. And the idea of, like, um... I mean, it was still revolutionary to say that, like, well, sometimes women are friends, and there's no drama there. Like, the idea that, like, two women could go on this sort of adventure and just be friends, and that kind of thing, would have— like, that— "Well, no, of course they'd probably, like, fight or something over a boy at some point." It would be like that— and I'm not saying that's t— but, like, you know what I mean?

Raleigh: I guess that's why when they did the new *Bill and Ted* then it was, you know, their two daughters.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Not, you know, Bill and Ted.

Taylor: Flipping the script.

Rileigh: Yeah. That makes sense. It's hard for me to think about things from that perspective because I can know, like, what you all have told me about what, you know, film culture and culture in general was like in that era. I wasn't alive for a lot of it so, like, I can't actually know.

Sydnee: It's very much— so, like... m— boys is what I was gonna say. I should say men.

[all laugh quietly]

Sydnee: Me—

Rileigh: Boys to men.

Sydnee: Boy— b— men. Guys.

Taylor: Boys to men. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Guys made the movie. And guys were like—

Rileigh: Guy made movie. [laughs]

Sydnee: "I know what—" guy made movie. "I know what it's like when me and guy are together, and me and other guy, and multiple guy. Like, I know multiple guy situations and what that's like."

And then sometimes you'll see in a movie a girl gets to be there because she's cool. Like, she's the cool girl. She can hang. She's— I believe it's what your generation calls the "pick-me" girl?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah. That was— so there was the cool girl, the girl that could hang.

Raleigh: Not like other girls.

Sydnee: Not like other girls.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She's like a guy. But she's a girl.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: So, like, that girl would be in a movie sometimes. And it was because, like, guy would be like, "I know girl that can hang. Here's girl— I'll put her in movie, because she's girl that can hang."

But what happens in the room when there are just girls? Well, we see the movies, what guys think happen in room when just girls. Like... [laughs] so I think— I really think that that's— it sounds simplistic, but that's what a lot of movies were. Like, "We don't know what happens when there's only girls around, 'cause we're all guys. But we imagine that they fight, and maybe sometimes they throw pillows at each other, and they're probably usually wearing underwear."

Raleigh: Yeah. That makes sense.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm just thinking about the—

Sydnee: "And they talk about us, right? Like, that's all they talk about are guys." [laughs]

Raleigh: I was thinking about the dude duo. I was like, "Man. It's, like, all these movies." That makes sense.

Taylor: This is sort of an aside, but this specific dude duo... well, as in the two angels, um, the way that they costume them— sort of all the angels have the same costuming that they— the pea coat with the hoodie underneath. And that became such a fashion thing in our family specifically.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Yes.

Taylor: Like, all of our cousins—

Raleigh: Did it really?

Taylor: Yeah. Everybody, like, just—oh yeah. Like, that— that angel from *Dogma* style, for the hoodie underneath the pea coat.

Sydney: [holding back laughter] I still wear that sometimes! [wheezes]

Raleigh: I was gonna say, it reminded me of a Sydney fit.

Taylor: [simultaneously] I do too. I s— I do too. [laughs]

Sydney: It— it was. It was— I remember watching and being like, "Now that is cool." Like...

Taylor: It's a good like.

Sydney: "That is a look." Like, I wanted that look so much.

Taylor: It's a nice outer jacket, but then you kind of, you know, make it more casual with the hood.

Sydney: It— I mean, there are a million things— like, and I'm sure there are lots of thinkpieces written about Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, so I don't have much to say about all of that, as their evolution as people and actors and whatnot. Together in this movie, they're very good.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydney: They're very engaging, charismatic, I'm interested in what they're doing and saying. Um, those characters— really, like, to me, the whole story is so sad. The idea that they were trying to serve God, they asked if they could not do this anymore, they're thrown out of heaven, they're trying to get back. It's all a very sad story in that sense.

Um, I, uh... I also think— it's funny, because the concept of the 13th apostle who was written out of the Bible because he was Black, and then this, like, supposedly secret revelation that Jesus was Black, now is not at all... like, shocking. Well, like, I think we've all— I mean, hopefully by now we've all realized that, like, Jesus and all of the apostles were not white. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think we all should know that by now. Um, but in the 90's, to say that...

Rileigh: I imagine that was a thing.

Sydnee: And it's funny, because even in the 90's they couch it with, "Now all these other apostles were white, though."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Which, like, no, obviously they weren't! Like, we're in the Middle East! No, they weren't— they weren't a bunch of white guys!" [laughs quietly] But... I don't know. But at the time that was, like, "[gasps loudly]"

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So I think that's interesting to see now. 'Cause it's like— well, that would— yes, that's not shocking. Yeah.

Rileigh: That wasn't shocking to me, watching it. But again, I... when you look at it through the lens of 1999, then I can imagine it was.

Taylor: I mean, I— you know, I forgot the sort of— the warnings at the beginning of the movie that are kind of like, "This is just for fun." You know, like...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: It seemed actually concerned that questioning religion, specifically Catholicism, might be met with some sort of push back or hatred. And I can't remember if there was any outrage when this movie came out. But, like, for things like that it's like, yeah, it was... it was a different time. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: No, Wikipedia told me that— and again, it's Wikipedia— told me that the Catholic church, like, denounced this movie as blasphemy when it came out.

Taylor: Ah.

Sydnee: Yes, they did.

Rileigh: The— I mean, like, among the general public it was not considered, like, an outrage, but the Catholic church was like, "No, don't. No, no, no."

Sydnee: No. No, they were furious about it.

Rileigh: Makes sense.

Sydnee: Um, yes. They were very upset. 'Cause it— I mean—

Rileigh: I mean, it still did well. I was looking. It was like, it still, you know, was a well-recepted movie. But...

Sydnee: I think that was part of it.

Rileigh: Received movie, yeah.

Sydnee: Like, the controversy around it certainly drove... I mean, I had the buddy Christ. I had one of those in my car. They made these little, like—

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —buddy Christs that you could put on your dashboard, and I had one up.

Rileigh: God, that's good.

Sydnee: In my car all the time, I had a little buddy Christ. Like, it was— it was— but it was seen as like, "Ooh, you saw *Dogma*? Uh-oh. Oh, you're so bad. You saw *Dogma*."

Which it doesn't feel that way by today's standards, but...

Rileigh: I could guess. I mean, especially here, where there are many Catholic families and people, and growing up in the Catholic church, knowing people that would be like, "[gasps] Ooh." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: What did you think of God?

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Alanis Morissette? [laughs]

Sydnee: If you could live in 1999 and see the reveal of Alanis Morissette as God... I don't— I don't know how to explain it to you now. [laughs]

Rileigh: I mean, it took— I will say, it took me a minute to be like, "Alanis Morissette."

'Cause, I mean, that's not, like, a figure that I'm, like, immediately I'm like, "[gasps] Oh my gosh, that's her!"

Um, that was very good. I did like that. I imagine that reveal was...

Sydnee: Huge!

Rileigh: Yeah. A lot bigger of a deal.

Sydnee: It really meant something. Like, "Oh, and Alanis Morissette is God?! Like, not only is God a woman, but it's Alanis Morissette!" [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And I love the way that she portrays God. Like, just when, you know, they're having a conversation as she's just over to the side doing headstands. [laughs] And rolling around on the grass.

Sydnee: With her plaid boxers under her tutu, there.

Rileigh: There was some part of it that reminded me of— it's very different, but in the sense that, like, in *The Good Place*, when Maya Rudolph is, like, the judge, and that's kind of how she acts as, like, quote, unquote, "God," kind of just, like,

"Eh, whatever." nonchalant. Just, like, "You all figure it out." Like, that was... very reminiscent of that.

Sydnee: Yeah. It was—

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I really loved that. I remember that being a big deal to me at the time, too. Like, that whole idea of God, and... [sighs] I mean, I don't know. I don't think— I should say, too, so obviously, like many movies of this era and TV shows that we talk about, there are moments that are definitely homophobic. And, like, I feel like that was a common thing back then. Especially, like, Jay having to adamantly assert that he's not gay. Um, there are a couple moments that are transphobic.

There are... I mean, I think also, like, some portrayal of when they're hanging out in the strip club and they have the other group of guys who are hanging out, and they're all Black men, and that whole interaction I found to be racist. I mean, 'cause there was, like, an insinuation, like, "Now we're all in a gang." I don't know. I— I— so I think, like, there are some problematic things about the movie that are very typical to the time. I feel like that's always important to say. Like, if you're gonna watch it. And there's obviously gun violence. There's lots of shooting with guns.

Rileigh: Well, I mean, I feel like that ties into the dude duo, right? I mean, they were being written by white cishet men.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: So anyone else who's not in that category kind of gets treated as not... not good.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Secondary.

Taylor: And I think Kevin Smith was trying to start conversations that needed to be had, and we have— you know, the right people have found more nuanced ways to have them in, you know, time after this movie. But I still did think it was— you know. There is that element of it that I do respect. That, you know,

like movies like this and *Chasing Amy* were kind of confronting difficult or taboo subjects long before we— it was popular to do so.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I think that's definitely true. He was trying to bring other people into the conversation. And this was, I think, before the— it shouldn't have been a revelation, but it was— actually, if you want to bring other people into the conversation, why don't you let them talk?

Rileigh: Sure.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: So.

Rileigh: At least, you know, I— I know— yes, it— let them write the movies. Let them be in the room. This was a time where I guess it probably was not as easy to get people that weren't straight white men in the room. Um, I guess at least he was one that was using his platform— position, to be able to start those conversations, before it was as easy for other people to be... and it's like what Tey said. I mean, he was doing that before it was popular to do so. It would've been easier to make, like, you know, a *Bill and Ted*. [laughs]

Sydnee: And there is something, like... I don't know, genuine in this movie. There is something about it that is not 90's, in the sense that it's not all cynical. There's something kind of inherently hopeful and, like, innocent about it, this longing for a faith that does make sense, or a worldview that is kind, or something.

Like, so— it's, like, grasping for something that I can— I don't know. I found it very, like— by the end, I found myself kind of moved by it, and I think that's what I'm sensing, is his longing for answers, his search, making the film. I think that comes through, and I think that's something— whatever your faith or lack of faith or anything is, I think that sort of search for, like, a better understanding of your place in the world is something we can all kind of connect to.

Rileigh: I mean, especially with the Catholic church, and being ex-members of the Catholic church. It feels especially prevalent to not want to denounce, like, the... the idea of faith entirely, 'cause you were raised in a church like the

Catholic church, but also you don't really know what you believe, so it is, like, that kind of... it felt like a movie that was talking about religion in a way that was not treating it like it was this, like, perfect system, obviously. But also in a way that was still, like... acknowledging it.

I think that's why I enjoyed it, because it was, like, very similar to how I feel about our whole upbringing in faith, and how I feel about it now as very much, like, I'm not gonna denounce all of it entirely, but I don't agree with most of it, and I don't really know what I believe. So that... you know. That felt very true.

Taylor: I think that speech that Rufus gives, and they come back to it there at the end, about the difference between beliefs and ideas, is really kind of the core message of what's going on, you know? That you can change— you can change your ideas. It's hard to change a belief, so. It's better to have ideas. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, thank you all for watching it.

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: I know it is— I know it was a ride. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: It was not what I was expecting. I don't know what I was expecting. It wasn't that. But I enjoyed it.

Taylor: But it ends with— is that an original song that Alanis wrote for this movie, at the end there? Over the credits?

Sydnee: I don't know if it was original or if it was part of that. 'Cause, you know, after her original album she sort of went on, like, a spiritual journey of her own, and released a lot of songs about that. 'Cause "Thank You" is all about that spiritual journey, the song "Thank You". 'Cause, she, like, she went to India for a while, and... I don't know. She studied some Eastern religions, and... anyway. So, she... [laughs quietly] this may have been part of her spiritual journey too, I don't know.

But thank you all. What's next, Tey?

Taylor: Uh, next, I wanna talk about, uh— I wanna talk about the band Against Me! But I specifically wanna talk about the album *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*, which came out in 2014. It's a little bit more recent. The band's been around for a while, so.

Sydnee: Alright.

Raleigh: Alright.

Sydnee: Well, we will check that out.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That sounds good. Thank you, listeners. Um, with all those warnings, I think it's important to know about *Dogma* if you wanted to watch it, if you've never seen it before. It does— it is, as many of the movies of the 90's, it is, I think, offensive, sometimes racially and sometimes to the LGBTQ community. And, again, gun violence, and they use one R slur in there too, I should throw in there. So, um, with all those sort of content warnings in mind, it is available on YouTube. [laughs quietly] Um, and no— and unless you have it in your DVD collection like I do.

Raleigh: Yes.

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

Raleigh: This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: Really a star-studded cast.

Rileigh: It really is.

Sydnee: A lot of famous people up in there. George Carlin.

Rileigh: Chris Rock.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. All those people.

Rileigh: All those people.

[music plays]

Speaker One: Hey. Were you a reader as a kid? Like, maybe you read a lot of fantasy novels?

Speaker Two: Or horse girl books. We know how it is.

Speaker One: But now you're an adult, and you miss reading. You're so busy, and you can't figure out how to get back into books.

Speaker Two: We are *Reading Glasses*, and we're here to help.

Speaker One: Yeah. We'll give you advice to figure out what books you love, or learn to stop reading books you don't even like.

Speaker Two: We're really big proponents of dumping that book.

Speaker One: Dump that book!

Speaker Two: But most importantly, we'll help you fall back in love with reading. *Reading Glasses*, every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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