

## Still Buffering 307: Against Me! “Transgender Dysphoria Blues”

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**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 Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so I know it's always on me to come up with something to talk about at the beginning—

**Raleigh:** That's your thing.

**Sydnee:** I know. But you found on...

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** ... the internet, a better story, I think.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** To start us off.

**Raleigh:** Um, I wanna preface this by saying, they're all fine now.

**Sydnee:** They're all fine now.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** You'll know what I mean. I just want you to know that going into this. Um, a local news anchor posted on Facebook that the local animal control had gotten a call about, quote, "dozens of guinea pigs" that had been released in front—[laughs quietly] in front of the adult bookstore. Uh, in the surrounding woods and greenery, and were running around free, and they needed them to come pick them up.

**Sydnee:** Y'all know the adult bookstore on Route 60.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] The adult bookstore on Route 60.

**Sydnee:** You know what we're talking about. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Sure.

**Rileigh:** Um, so they did indeed come pick them up, and there were dozens. If you look, there are dozens of them. And, uh, I don't really— the best picture, if you look at local news anchor Tim Irr's Facebook page, um, there just— there's a picture of them running around in the woods. [laughs] And it just, like— if you were, like, just walking, you know, down, like, a little dirt path and you looked down and there just happened to be, like, 20 guinea pigs just kind of roaming around in front of you... [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I love— they're all fine.

**Rileigh:** But again, they're all fine. They—

**Sydnee:** They were all rescued.

**Rileigh:** They were rescued and taken to a guinea pig-specific rescue not far from here, in Pennsylvania. So they're all fine now.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I mean, are we sure that they were released there? Or were they just— did they just make a united effort to seek out some spicy literature?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, maybe they—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] They made a— they made a group trip.

**Sydnee:** Maybe there was a field trip.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** We just interrupted the plot of some children's movie.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Taylor:** Oh, I don't know if it's a children's movie.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** [laughs loudly]

**Rileigh:** Oh, that's true. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Who is the movie for? [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's an adult cartoon.

**Taylor:** Yeah, this was one of those edgy adult cartoons.

**Sydnee:** I— you also— we— Tim Irr, by the way, shared this, you said. Local news anchor. Who is wonderful. I love Tim Irr. Tim Irr did a— this is my pitch for Tim Irr. He did a profile in a local magazine once. They asked him what he was afraid of, and he said "Nothing."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's good.

**Sydnee:** I know. Tim Irr has no fear. I love Tim Irr.

**Rileigh:** So, yeah, Tim Irr, Tim I-R-R is how you spell Irr, go look him up on Facebook and look at those pictures of those guinea pigs! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** He's a cool dude, and you can check out all these guinea pigs, which are safe.

**Rileigh:** And if you're in Pennsylvania in that area and you want to adopt 'em, they... they need adopted.

**Taylor:** Adopt a spicy guinea pig.

**Raleigh:** Adopt a spicy guinea pig.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, they, uh—[laughs] did this inspire you though, Raleigh, to abandon your career in law and instead establish a guinea pig rescue here in West Virginia?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Because obviously we don't have one, if we're sending our [through laughter] rescued guinea pigs to Pennsylvania.

**Raleigh:** Yes. Well, I encountered this problem when I wanted to get a guinea pig, because I wanted to rescue one and not, you know, buy one. I wanted to adopt one. Um, there are no animal shelters or rescues within, like, three and a half or four hours of here that even take guinea pigs. Like, they're all just dogs and cats. And I think, like, a few ferrets or bunnies or something like that. No guinea pigs.

**Sydnee:** It never occurred to me that there— I mean, I guess that makes sense. But, like, when I think of stray animals, guinea pigs don't—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —you know? [through laughter] I don't—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, I understand— like, I see dogs and cats out in the world.

**Raleigh:** It's an adorable image.

**Sydnee:** And feel the need, like, they should be adopted. Like, I— you know, my cats have all been rescues. Like, I understand that. But I never occur— it never— I never thought about guinea pigs wandering the woods of West Virginia and needing rescued. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** See, that's— it's the same thing with, uh— with birds in my area, because they don't— they aren't often up for adoption in, like, rescue centers. So I just have, like, an alert turned on when a bird is available in my vicinity. I haven't acted on it yet, but every now and then I'll get a notification in my email. Like, "Oh. Oh. There's a— there's a bird in the—"

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** "—in the Bronx that needs a home."

**Raleigh:** A Bronx bird.

**Taylor:** Think about it. It's a bird in the Bronx.

**Sydnee:** Are you— are you— are you gonna go get a bird?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I want a bird at some point. I just— the right bird. It'll be the right bird.

**Sydnee:** [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** So, how does that work? Does that mean, like, if you have to, like, take the subway or something, or like an Uber, um, to go get it, like, you're just gonna be coming back on the subway with, like, a bird on your shoulder?

**Taylor:** Well, I'll probably have a cage, but yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I was gonna say, I assume you'd get a cage.

**Raleigh:** Like, free riding, like, on your arm. That'd be pretty cool.

**Taylor:** I mean, that—

**Sydnee:** Like a falcon?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** It'll probably take a while till we're at that stage. Till I'm— I'm full pirate, you know? I gotta get it to trust me and, like, we have to bond.

**Raleigh:** Or it is like a children's movie, and you're just immediately, you know, best buds.

**Sydnee:** Listen. I— Taylor, you would know better than me. I suspect that if you rode the subway with a bird on your shoulder, you would not be the first person to do that in New York.

**Taylor:** No, absolutely not. I have already seen people. That's passe. Now, the people with the cats on their heads, that's pretty cool.

**Raleigh:** Mmm.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** Cat heads.

**Taylor:** Yeah. A lot of those people.

**Sydnee:** I didn't know that was a thing.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Why— like, specifically on your head?

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. There was a guy that used to, when I worked on Soho, he'd walk by the bar every day. And it's the way that our windows were [through laughter] oriented, you could just see, they were kinda high windows on one side, so you could really only see people from, like— like, the neck up. So I would see this head with this whole— the whole view of a black cat just walk by, just sitting upright on its owner's head. And it was a big cat.

**Raleigh:** Oh my gosh.

**Taylor:** I'd just see the cat walk by. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I didn't know that was a thing. I mean, like, I could see somebody sitting on the subway with a cat on their lap.

**Raleigh:** Even on their shoulder.

**Taylor:** Sure, yeah. But— but on their head.

**Raleigh:** [quietly] On their head.

**Taylor:** But I thought there was just the one guy that had a cat on his head, but apparently it's a— it's a genre of New Yorker. There are— there are at least a—

**Raleigh:** A genre. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** —there are a few. [laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Um, I do— I do encourage you all— sometimes I'll go on, like, Petfinder, that website that shows you, like, any pets that, you know, people are surrendering, or need rescuing or adopting in your surrounding area. Again, usually there are not many guinea pigs within several hours of here. But every once in a while, there's someone in West Virginia who's trying to get rid of some.

And they always, 'cause usually they're being given away in pairs, because that's how you would, um, the names of them that they often name them to, like, be together... like, last night I was looking, 'cause looking at the guinea pigs on Facebook inspired me to see if any of them would be available near me, um, I saw Spaghetti and Meatball.

**Sydney:** [through laughter] Aww.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That both were two guinea pigs, brother guinea pigs. I can't get boys, 'cause I have two girls, and I don't wanna be the one ending up with, like, you know, dozens of guinea pigs running around in my room. [laughs]

**Sydney:** But you wouldn't release them at the dul— at the adult bookstore.

**Raleigh:** Not at the adult bookstore. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know. Now you know it's a good place for it.

**Sydnee:** Take 'em to the children's bookstore.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Uh... well, hey. On that note, did you know that they're releasing kangaroos in West Virginia?

**Taylor:** What?

**Raleigh:** Is that real?

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** I believe it's real.

**Raleigh:** Is that— would that have been— was that a goof?

**Sydnee:** It wasn't on an April Fools Day. I checked.

**Raleigh:** I thought it was on April Fools Day.

**Sydnee:** I am almost positive that they are—

**Raleigh:** Did you get April fooled?

**Sydnee:** I don't think so.

**Raleigh:** Are you an April Fool?

**Taylor:** You've gotta fact check things like this. If there are kangaroos involved in the story in general, that is a— that is an instant fact check.

**Raleigh:** Now, I know that West Virginia is one of the states where you can have a pet kangaroo—

**Sydnee:** Yes, you can.



**Rileigh:** —and you don't need a permit. You can just have one. So, I mean, that checks out.

**Sydnee:** No, I mean, you can have kangaroos.

**Rileigh:** But how'd they get here?

**Sydnee:** I thought we introdu— I read a whole thing about it, that we were gonna...

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Did you get pranked?

**Sydnee:** Did I?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I know— I know West Virginia is trying to revitalize its economy, but I don't think kangaroos is the way to go. But what do I know?

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** I don't know. I'm not great with money, but... [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well, Taylor, no— okay. [laughs] No one—

**Taylor:** Gonna have a thriving kangaroo... what? Element? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] If you— if you, uh— if you, you know, as I did, followed all of our last legislation, releasing kangaroos in West Virginia is not the worst idea [laughs]—

**Taylor:** Ohh.

**Sydnee:** —that someone's come up with to revitalize the economy. Um... maybe— maybe I did.

**Rileigh:** Okay, wait. Is a wallaby a kangaroo?

**Sydnee:** "Local wallaby now home after hopping around St. Albans."

**Rileigh:** That's what— yeah, that's what I was just looking at. It wasn't released.

**Sydnee:** No, it wasn't a kangaroo, it was a wallaby.

**Rileigh:** But it looks like a... wallabies look like tiny kangaroos.

**Sydnee:** But they're— yeah, they do look— aww!

**Rileigh:** Look at him wear— he's wearing a sweater!

**Sydnee:** He's wearing a sweater!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** There's a picture of a wallaby in a little red sweater, a little red turtleneck sweater!

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I'm gonna send this to Teylor.

**Sydnee:** Oh my God. This is adorable. His name is Pantel— Pantoufle?

**Rileigh:** [French accent] Pantoufle?

**Sydnee:** [French accent] Pantoufle?

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] I don't know how you say— that's how it looks. Um, sorry guys, that's the end of the podcast. We're all too distracted by this wallaby wearing a sweater.

**Teylor:** That's a very respectable-looking wallaby.

**Sydnee:** So— okay.

**Rileigh:** I know!

**Sydnee:** So there are—

**Rileigh:** In a turtleneck!

**Sydnee:** —so they didn't release kangaroos into West Virginia.

**Raleigh:** I did see the headline, but I assumed it was an April Fools.

**Sydnee:** I thought it was too, but then I saw all these articles about kangaroos in West Virginia and I thought, "Well, that's kind of cool."

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** That we have kanga—

**Taylor:** You just saw that and you accepted it as reality?!

**Sydnee:** I googled it, and I—

**Taylor:** Syd!

**Sydnee:** —saw all these articles about kangaroo— anyway. There are kangaroos here, apparently, 'cause you can own them.

**Raleigh:** Someone's got a wallaby in St. Albans, so. That's not even that far from here.

**Sydnee:** That article must've been fake. I can't even find it now.

**Raleigh:** I know, I looked! I looked up "kangaroos being released in West Virginia". Nothing.

**Taylor:** That's pretty direct. Well, alright.

**Sydnee:** There are— I mean, there's truth in that there are kangaroos and wallabies in West Virginia, apparently.

**Raleigh:** They were not being freely released, though.

**Taylor:** Added to the ecosystem. Like, whoops, just... put some kangaroos here. See what happens.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Who would be responsible for doing that? What organization or governmental body is the one that's like, "This. Go free, my friends!"

**Sydnee:** Department of—

**Rileigh:** "This is your home."

**Sydnee:** —National Resources. Or Wildlife.

**Taylor:** I don't think we often—

**Sydnee:** Department of Wildlife.

**Taylor:** —import species to places that they aren't naturally, and just let 'em loose.

**Rileigh:** See what happens.

**Sydnee:** We've done it with plants forever!

**Taylor:** Well, sure, but—

**Rileigh:** But not kangaroos.

**Sydnee:** And we dropped bugs. That's why we dro— remember? We dropped the ladybugs and the stinkbugs, and the...

**Rileigh:** Ladybugs are different from kangaroos, Sydnee.

**Taylor:** Kangaroos I think are far more... noticeable. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Big size difference.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying. Well, no, I'm not saying that they were gonna drop kangaroos.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just airdrop kangaroos.

**Sydnee:** From planes. Like, I'm— did they drop the stinkbugs from planes?

**Raleigh:** I assume so. Like—

**Sydnee:** [wheezy laughter]

**Raleigh:** Like the planes that, like, fly over, like, the fields with, like, the... you know.

**Sydnee:** They crop dusted us with stinkbugs?! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] How did the—

**Raleigh:** I like that image.

**Sydnee:** —how did they drop the stinkbugs?

**Taylor:** I mean, they can fly. I feel like that would work.

**Raleigh:** They had a box of 'em and they just kind of, like, opened up the back and just kind of...

**Taylor:** Pshew.

**Sydnee:** Well, but, like, you can't be too high! Surely they can't [wheezes] survive.

**Raleigh:** Well, when you crop dust something, you're not that high.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, I don't know if they d— I'm just ask— that's what I'm saying. I don't know how they did it.

**Raleigh:** Low flying over the— over the neighborhoods of homes.

**Sydnee:** Was it a low flying plane? Or was it, like, more like they just took trucks out and delivered boxes of stinkbugs around?

**Rileigh:** Well, I don't think that was it.

**Sydnee:** Well—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Why not?!

**Rileigh:** Who were they bringing these boxes to?!

**Taylor:** "Here's your box of stinkbugs."

**Sydnee:** They dumped 'em in the woods around the adult bookstores, and here we are!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** That is the distribution point for new— new wildlife in West Virginia.

**Rileigh:** Now we have a new breed of guinea pig. It's the West Virginia guinea pig.

**Taylor:** Oh, man. There's gonna be— there's gonna be kangaroos at the adult bookstore, next thing you know.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Or wallabies. We can't— we can't tell.

**Rileigh:** Still don't know the difference.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Can wallabies be muscular like kangaroos can be muscular?

**Sydnee:** This little guy does not look muscular. He looks like a little guy.

**Rileigh:** He's very proper.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** He is very proper. He's not gonna punch anybody.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** No, he's a sweetie.

**Raleigh:** Anyways, his name is Pantoufle.

**Sydnee:** He would never go to the adult bookstore. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Hey, now. Let's not— don't— don't shame Pantoufle. That's— you know.

**Sydnee:** No! I'm just saying, that's not the kind of guy he is.

**Raleigh:** Not that kind of gent.

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Anyways...

**Sydnee:** That's too— that's too spicy for him.

**Raleigh:** We've talked about this for far too long.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** He sti— he sticks to the Inner Geek. That's a bookstore here. That's not a joke. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** This is— we're not talking about Pantoufle. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, we're not.

**Raleigh:** Taylor, what are we talking about?

**Taylor:** Um, we are talking about the band Against Me! Specifically the 2014 album, *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*, which is lead singer Laura Jane Grace's sort of, uh, album processing her experience as a transgender woman, which is really an amazing, important album to me.

**Sydney:** Well, um, first of all, I really enjoyed it. I don't know that I'd ever listened to this, like... sought out— I think you have played this band around me, you know what I mean? Like, I think this music has been playing when I have been in the vicinity of it. But I don't think I had ever, like... I didn't associate any songs with this band. I didn't know this. You know what I mean? This was my first introduction to Against Me! really.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, me too.

**Taylor:** Well, that would make sense, 'cause I never really listened to Against Me! like, back in high school. Um, it really wasn't until I had a roommate, uh, after I graduated college that I lived with for a while, and he was the biggest Against Me! fan, so it was always playing in the apartment, and that's really where I was introduced to the band and started, like, recognizing some of the songs. So it was a later-in-life musical interest for me.

**Sydney:** Is this album representative of some of the older work? Because I didn't— I just listened to the one that we talked about.

**Taylor:** It has elements. Certain songs, yes, I feel like— and, I mean, you know, there's a lot of— there's a lot of previous— I think this is the sixth studio album, so there are five albums before that. But there's a lot of difference within those. Uh, but it is usually very, like, loud, driving, a lot of, like, you know, strong, striking lyrics. A lot of politics. Uh, so— and those— that's all present in this album.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** Well, I really— just to start us off, I really enjoyed it.



**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um, especially— what did you say the lead singer's voice is again— er, voice. Lead singer's name is again? I was gonna say. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Laura Jane Grace.

**Sydnee:** Uh, Laura Jane Grace's voice is incredible.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Very, like... provocative and, like, attention-grab— I mean, beautiful, but also just, like, such a, like— you hear that and you immediately stop what you're doing and listen. I don't know. Just a very great voice.

**Rileigh:** It fits the tone of the lyrics and the music very well.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Like, it makes sense.

**Taylor:** She's got a very— I don't know if "confrontational" is the word. And not, I mean, in a glorious way, but that's kind of also what I love about the content of the album, is it's— it's not like some shy, like, "I wrote some flowery metaphors for what it is to be transgender."

It's like, "No, no. I'm singing about every element of it in a very clear and honest way that is very purposeful and direct," and I think that melodically, vocally, lyrically, is all there.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's very, um— it's very punk, I feel like.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And it's also— but there's also, like— her voice reminds me of, like— like you said, confrontational is not a bad word for it. And again, I don't mean that in a bad way. I mean, like, when you think of some of the, like, punk music that was written that was very, like, angry, anti-government, anarchy, like, that kind of stuff. It— even though that's not what she's singing about, it feels that way. I mean, it's— it, like, gets you excited. You know what I mean? You're, like, ready to start the revolution. You know? [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, and I mean, and she's done that on previous albums so, you know, that reads. Like, she definitely has some very powerful songs specifically about politics. And, you know, this just kind of— that's why this kind of fits, is just it's a more personal experience for her.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I— that— that— it was immediately the first thing I noticed about the album was her voice, and how, um, I liked it, and it— I don't know. It makes you—I think that's cool, though, 'cause it makes you pay attention more. Not just to the music, to the songs, but to the lyrics, when you have a voice like that. And if what you're trying to do with your music is obviously entertain people, people like to listen to music, but also call attention to issues, then she's got a great voice to do that.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It makes it very clear that the point of the music is the words. I don't wanna say the point. Like, obviously it's to sound good also, but it's not the kind of thing you'd listen to put on in the background just as, like... ambiance. You know what I mean? Like, you listen to it to *listen* to it. Like a— I mean, it's like—

**Taylor:** [laughs] Absolutely.

**Raleigh:** I don't wanna say it's like a musical, 'cause it's not like a music. But you know what I mean? Like, you don't put on stuff from a musical just to, like, have on in the— I mean, I do. But usually you don't just put it on to, like, have it in the background. You put it on to listen to it and, like, hear what it's saying.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, there's a narrative to this album. I mean, clearly.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, exactly.

**Taylor:** Like, you know. The cover and title and everything. But there's a very strong narrative that you want to get every bit of.

**Raleigh:** That's a much better way of putting it than me saying [through laughter] it's like a musical.

**Taylor:** Like a musical. [laughs] Transgender: The Musical.

**Raleigh:** As a narrative. Obviously there are albums other than musicals that have narratives.

**Taylor:** You know what?

**Raleigh:** Anyways. I'm sorry. [laughs]

**Taylor:** If she wanted to link up with Green Day and make a Broadway musical out of this, absolutely. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I— well, it— you know, it's funny you draw that comparison, 'cause there was something about it that—now, does... [sighs] does this pre— not this album, but like, does Against Me! predate Green Day? Who was first?

**Taylor:** Uh, Against Me! was formed in '97, so Green Day was around before that.

**Sydnee:** Okay. There's something about it that— and maybe it's that— maybe it's also, like, a lead singer with a powerful voice that is, you know, memorable and immediately recognizable. Maybe that's what I'm catching onto. But, like, you know. I felt at moments like, "Ah, this feels a little Green Day."

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, in that— in that— you understand why they're both iconic. They're, like, a— a recognizable, powerful voice, catchy hooks, really powerful lyrics. Like, there's DNA there.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Telling a story, which, you know, like a musical.

**Raleigh:** Like a musical.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I like how we're processing things through the filters we understand. That's fine. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I'm— I— it's just how I think of things.

**Taylor:** That's fine!

**Raleigh:** I don't know why in my head I'm like, "There's music-music, and then there's, like, music that's, like, from a musical." [laughs] I was— I said the same thing about Green Day when we talked about Green Day.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Raleigh:** Like, and it makes sense, because they made a jukebox musical. Like, it tells a story! There's a narrative!

**Sydnee:** Raleigh's like, "Hmm. This reminds me of Sondheim." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Taylor just gave me the words to better describe what I was thinking.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** But same idea.

**Taylor:** Well, I do. 'Cause I— there's a lot of, like... I don't know. There's a lot of punk music that I will enjoy putting on if I'm, like, working. But it's kind of like the screaming overtakes the meaning, and I think that the spot for me in punk is always when the— the— you know, the powerful vocals are working in tandem with the powerful lyrics. And, you know, you're meant to listen. You're meant to

process. Uh, some people— some people just like the screaming. Some people just like the noise. You know. But this is... that's always— those were always the ones that appealed to me.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** I agree. I mean, I've always—[laughs] I joke that I only like music with words. Um...

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Which is not— I mean, this— well, it—

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Get outta here, Beethoven!

**Rileigh:** I was gonna say, you don't like classical music?

**Sydnee:** No! Well, I joke that, but, like—

**Rileigh:** Or jazz?

**Taylor:** Forget you. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I— okay. Let's not go down the jazz road again. We know how I feel about jazz. [wheezes]

**Rileigh:** I know. I'm sorry. We talked about *La La Land* already.

**Sydnee:** It's too busy. It upsets my brain. My neurons get too excited. Um...

**Rileigh:** [snort-laugh]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I— but I do prefer music with lyrics. It's not that I can't appreciate classical music. I do. I'm just saying, I like music with words. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And—

**Rileigh:** See, you're just as good at describing music as I am.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I like— I'm not a music critic. I do appreciate when— I mean, for me that's a lot of what I pay attention to when I first hear a song, or a new artist or a band or anything. One of the first things I'm listening for, is this lyrically interesting? That's— that is my personal thing that appeals to me about music. It is rare that I will get really into an artist because of, like, the soundscape they're creating. It's a lot more about, what are they literally saying? Not with the sound, but with the words. That is what pulls me to something.

I want to connect to that, and then I can enjoy the music around it, and so I do appreciate that. Like, I feel that in this music. And it is different from a lot of, um, like, my experience with, like you said, Tey, punk music where people are yelling a lot. Which I think can be fun if you're, like, in a club or dancing. But if I'm at home, I want something where I'm listening to the words.

**Taylor:** Well, and I feel like on this album specifically, Laura Jane Grace sets out with an idea for each song. This is the story that this song tells.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** You know, there's no really, like, sorting through, like, what could the meaning be? Like, no, it's very direct, you know? Like... and she's, you know, very straightforward about it. Like, you know, "Unconditional Love" is about this, you know? Like, "Drinking With The Jocks" is about this. Like, it's very clear.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I want to talk more about the particular songs, and why this album means so much to you. But before we do that...

**Rileigh:** Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:** Hm... alright. Some of us own cats. And not guinea pigs.

**Rileigh:** I'm sorry.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** You all have cats.

**Sydnee:** Taylor and I both have cats.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And, uh, we can both attest that you spend a lot of time, even if you just have one cat, cleaning out your cat's litter box. Worrying, do I need to add more litter? Does it need to be scooped again? Am I running out of litter? Uh, what do I do with this kind of—I mean, it gets kind of yucky after a while, your—your litter box. And no matter how clean you try to keep it.

Um, and that is why Kitty Poo Club— that's right, Kitty Poo Club— has come to the rescue, uh, by delivering to you every month an affordable and recyclable litter box. that is prefilled with the litter of your choice. So, it's that simple. It shows up at your door. The box is there, the litter is in it, you open the top, there it is. Your cat can, you know, do the things that cat do in litter boxes. I don't need to break that down for you. I think you know.

**Raleigh:** It's in the name.

**Sydnee:** It's called Kitty Poo Club. Come on.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and when the month is up you just recycle the used litter box, and Kitty Poo Club will automatically deliver a new one to you. So it's a way to keep a fresher, cleaner litter box. overall, but not feel bad about throwing away, like, a plastic box every month. Nobody would want to do that, so you get a recyclable box, so you're still doing something good for the Earth. You've got clean litter, you've got a clean box, your cat's happy, you're happy, Justin's happy, 'cause I usually make him scoop our litter box, so he's happier. [laughs quietly] And you can easily customize your subscription with things like toys or treats or accessories. Whatever you and your kitty want.

So, 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](http://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](http://kittypooclub.com).

**Rileigh:** So, you know, speaking of smells, another, you know, [laughs quietly] important personal smell that I like to be in charge of is my smell of my pits.

**Sydnee:** Well, me too.

**Rileigh:** That's a good way to put that, I think. [through laughter] And that's why I use Native Deodorant, because Native understands it's not just what's on the inside that counts, but also the outside, which is why they're releasing their deodorant in new, plastic-free packaging.

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's great.

**Rileigh:** Isn't that great? You feel good about it. Um, 'cause you and Native are doing your part to your Ear— the— our Earth, not your Earth. Our Earth.

**Sydnee:** It's everyone's Earth.

**Rileigh:** Everyone's Earth. With their new 100% plastic-free and recyclable packaging. And when you buy this new plastic-free recyclable packaged deodorant, you're saving 37 grams of plastic. That's a lot of plastic!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I go through a lot of deodorant.

**Sydnee:** If we're all doing it, that really adds up.

**Rileigh:** It really adds up. And not only do you feel good about it, but you smell good, because you can choose from their ten scents, including the classic coconut and vanilla. They have sensitive formulas that are formulated without baking soda, and if you prefer not to have a scent, they have unscented options as well. So, if you're ready to try a plastic-free deodorant, go to [nativideo.com/buffering](https://nativideo.com/buffering), or use promo code "buffering" at checkout and get 20% off your first order. That's native [D-E-O.com/buffering](https://D-E-O.com/buffering), or use promo code "buffering" at checkout for 20% off your first order.

**Taylor:** Uh, well, hey. I have a cool podcast to tell y'all about.

**Sydnee and Rileigh:** Ooh!



**Taylor:** First I have some questions. Uh, are you a fan of horror movies?

**Sydnee and Raleigh:** Yes!

**Taylor:** Spooky TV shows?

**Sydnee and Raleigh:** Yes!

**Taylor:** *Finding Bigfoot?*

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Yes!

**Taylor:** Well, then on *All Things Spooky*, Will and Sarah Steadman are always learning and talking about all things horror and horror-adjacent. From B horror movies to horrorcore albums, and even some traumatizing children's movies, they've got you covered. They also say thank you to the Smirls and their in-laws for all the joy we bring to them, so thank you all. But I think you all should search *All Things Spooky* wherever you find podcasts. Look for the silly raccoons and check it out, 'cause that sounds awesome. I'm gonna check that out today.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That does sound awesome. *All Things Spooky*.

**Raleigh:** Love that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Uh, so Tey, first of all, um, I was gonna ask you what your favorite song is.

**Taylor:** Uh, the name of my favorite song has a bad word in it, but, uh, "F My Life 666" is pro— that one and "Black Me Out" are probably my two favorite, [through laughter] for very different reasons on this album.

**Sydnee:** I liked "Black Me Out" a lot. I think "True Trans Soul Rebel" was my favorite. I really liked that one.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I was between that one and "Unconditional Love". Um, they both had a somewhat similar vibe to me. Those were my two favorites, I think.

**Taylor:** I think the story behind "Unconditional Love" is really beautiful, 'cause that's one that she wrote sort of for her wife. They remarried after she transitioned, I believe, but it was about the idea that, like, no matter how much you love me, I've gotta figure myself out. Like, you can't love me enough for me to heal myself. And, like, that's on me.

And I think that's a really— that's a very true and powerful message, you know? That, like— and I feel like there are just so many— even in the songs that aren't directly about being trans, I think that there's still a lot of the— the thought processes and the struggles that you go through are present in this song, you know? Where you hope, like, if I can just get into a situation that's good and healthy enough, these thoughts will go away. If my life is worth enough in the closet, then I won't want to be out of the closet, and I feel like that song kind of confronts that idea. Like, there's not enough. There's not a life good enough that can— that can make life livable, you know, denying myself.

**Sydnee:** Hmm. You know, as you're saying this, I feel like it would be nice if this was made into some sort of...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't wanna say stage musical, but—

**Rileigh:** A musical!

**Taylor:** I mean, I— look. I think— I think, like, Laura Jane is too punk for that. But, you know, [laughs] Like, the kids could benefit from it.

**Rileigh:** Well, I mean, yeah. It very much is something that needs a larger platform, the story, not just in the sense that, like, it— you know, it's music that needs a bigger audience, but I think it— it could be made into something more than, you know, just an album.

**Sydnee:** What about one of those Taylor Swift short films?

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** There you go make a [holding back laughter] Taylor Swift short film.

**Taylor:** This is— this is not very punk rock of you guys. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Hey, that was Sydnee. You're the one that brought up Taylor Swift this time.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** What's happened to you?

**Sydnee:** Well, I was trying to think, like, what other way? Like, there are music videos, you can turn 'em into musicals, there are, like— I mean, you can do, like, a Beyonce-style, like, movie or, like, stage show that is the music but is beyo— is bigger, you know?

**Taylor:** Okay. A— alright.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Taylor's offended that we're comparing Against Me! to Beyonce—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] I think the album pretty much speaks for itself, alright?

**Raleigh:** —and Taylor Swift.

**Taylor:** I don't think it needs all that.

**Sydnee:** Well, I just mean that these are impor— I think Raleigh said it.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] They're important.

**Sydnee:** They're important.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** This is important. And I had never heard of this album. I— and I— as I'm listening to it, and you're talking about what it means to you and what, you know, kind of what it helped you sort of put into words and understand, um, those are really important things, you know? And there's lots of— and you could talk about this with any, you know, any group of people that gets marginalized. There isn't enough media that speaks to your individual experience, and it can be hard to find it when it does exist.

Like, I just think about, like, some of the patients I take care of would probably really love listening to this, and being able to hear their experience, you know? And it's just— I don't know. I was thinking, like, how could— how could we get that out [laughs quietly] more? I think that's really important.

**Taylor:** Yeah, no, I agree. Well, and that's— you know. I mean, I know for me, um... uh, you know, I mentioned a friend, a roommate introduced me to Against Me! Um, it's a bit of a sad story, so I'm gonna try to be brief. Uh, but it was an old roommate who just— he was— he was from Florida, which is where Against Me! comes from, so Against Me! was, like, his band.

Uh, and I remember when I saw the news article about Laura Jane Grace coming out, and my buddy had just gotten home from work. And I remember feeling kind of... afraid of telling him. 'Cause I think even then— I mean, this was over a decade ago. And just being like, I'm really terrified of how he's gonna react to this, and it's not just about I don't want my buddy to be a jerk. It's that this— this matters to me personally.

And I was like, "Oh, you know, I know you're a big fan of Against Me! The lead singer is a trans woman, Laura Jane Grace."

You know, and he leaned over my shoulder and he read the article. And he was like, "Huh. My favorite band is a chick band."

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** He was just like, "Okay. Alright. Huh." And then he just, like, went in the other room and put Against Me! on. And I just remember feeling this immense sense of relief. This, you know, this kind of, uh... this sort of little nugget that I held with me for years after that, you know? Some people will write you off, some people will exit your life. But some people are just gonna be fine. For some people it'll just be like, "Oh, okay. Cool." Like, you know.

And that— that friend, uh, passed away, unfortunately, a few years back. And not— and, you know, before I had come out. But I just am always so, so appreciative of that moment that, you know, happened. He's the one that introduced me to the band, and sort of handed it off to me. And then, you know, when this album came out, I wish he'd been around to hear it with me.

So the song— there's a song, "Dead Friends", on this, which is about one of Laura Jane Grace's friends who passed away, and that song always reminds me of him.

**Sydnee:** Damn. Sorry.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, no, I just— you know. It's, uh... just— it's very, like... it's— I think that, you know, for when this album came into my life, it really, like— it was a... a lifeline. Just as much as that little, you know, comment from my buddy, who didn't even know what he was saying at the time, didn't know who he was talking to at the time. That, you know, you just have those little things that you cling to, you know? You kind of piece together, try to build a raft.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Thank you for sharing that story.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It's a great story.

**Taylor:** He was a good buddy.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, and I think that it's nice that you are memorializing your friend this way, and that, like, carrying on— he shared this music with you, and now it's become part of your life and your story, and he's part of your life and your story, and I think that's really lovely.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I will say, I wouldn't have known of this band, and certainly this album, if it wouldn't have been for you introducing it to us.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Um, it's just another one of those that's from before my time—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —that even if they continued to make music into— like, as I was listening to music, you know, I wasn't aware of them before I was born, so I just continued [laughs] to be unaware of. To be fair, in 2014 when this came out I was listening to, like... well, Taylor Swift.

**Sydnee:** Taylor Swift, yeah.

**Rileigh:** So... you know. Very different.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well, and there was a lot of, like... I feel— there was always sort of an isolating element to the punk scene. Because while it can be very, like, queer friendly, very, you know, friendly to women, there's those elements there. A lot of it is also incredibly the opposite. [laughs quietly] You never really know what you're gonna get.

So being, like, a fan of punk music and, like, going to shows, and you don't know if you're gonna get into a pit and it's gonna be just, like, you know, they're— I'm not gonna say them on the show, but they're a chance that you'd hear about, you know, specifically women in the pit— there's a word that rhymes with pit that they'd so "No... in the pit." Uh... yeah.

**Rileigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Taylor:** Uh... and, like, that— that was so, uh, you know, you just didn't feel welcome there. Like, oh, this is supposed to be, like, revolutionary, and we're, you know, moving conversations forwards, and we're fighting back against the man. But we're insisting on the same exact, like, ideals that mainstream follows.

And so it was always really, like, special when you found something in the punk realm that felt like it was for you, 'cause most of it didn't feel like that, and that was something that, you know, I think this is— it's what punk should be. It's what

the ideals behind it are, and this is one of the few albums that I think is that. Like, this is... you know, that, like, "True Trans Soul Rebel". This is— this is what punk should do. It's advancing a conversation that needs to happen. It's saying hard things that people don't want to hear. It's, you know... I mean... what's more punk rock than being trans? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I mean, I think— I think you're— that's exactly it. It's similar to the conversation I think we had around *Jackass*, you know?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Around the idea that, like, you know, we just— we're kind of like— we accept that society thinks what we're doing is ridiculous and, you know, that they look down on this. Like, "Oh my gosh, like, dumb kids doing dumb stunts," and that kind of thing. And part of that is like, forget your gender norms, forget your, you know, heteronormative, alpha male, toxic masculinity stuff. Forget all of that. We don't care about any of it. Like, that is— that's also part of why we're in your face, and if it makes you uncomfortable to see, like, naked dudes close to each other, that's really on you. That's really something you need to reckon with, and not me. And, yeah, I mean, it is very punk rock.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I can't understate the importance. Like, I don't know, the— I— I just— I just got the tattoo the other day, but the— in "F My Life 666" there's a lyric, "Don't wanna live without teeth, don't wanna die without bite, never wanna say that I regret it."

And that phrase I think just haunted me for years. 'Cause I think— and there's a lot of elements on this album about mortality, which I think is something that I thought a lot about, you know, especially as I got older. And, you know, I guess you realize, like, there's no life that I can seek out for myself that's gonna fix this, that's gonna make these feelings go away. And, you know, you sort of begin to face this fear of, like, am I gonna die never making eye contact with myself in the mirror? Like, am I gonna die having not really... not to sound maudlin, but not having lived?

Like, is that— is that— and at some point it's like, what do I have to lose? Like, I don't— I can't have a good life like this, so even if my life is weird and hard and people think I'm a freak, that is better than being the walking dead. And I think that, you know, that— that phrase [through laughter] is sort of the— the— the... encapsulation of that feeling.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I mean, I think— I think what you're expressing— and I think that was my [laughs quietly] my inclination. "Let's turn this into a stage musical." Was—

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** It was you, not me!

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I love this.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Is that those are just such important things to— I mean, as we're growing up, um, especially when we're younger, but I think what you're talking about is having to find some of these inspirations and, like, people putting the way you feel into words as you were older, you know? Things that you couldn't, because of, you know, the way our society is, the way our society specifically treats trans people. You couldn't find these things when you were going through those formative teenage years. You had to find them as an adult.

Um, and it shouldn't— like, surely we can break that. Like, surely we don't have to perpetuate that. Like, teenagers of today should have access to these sorts of voices and stories and role models and inspirations easily. And I know that some do. I mean, I know that there are some parts of the world and of the country where it's not hard to find that. Um, but then there's places like here.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Where it's incredibly hard to find people you can talk to, and stuff you can read and watch and listen to. I don't know. Maybe with the internet and stuff like TikTok, maybe it's easier now?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.



**Sydnee:** I— I don't— well, I mean, seriously! Like, maybe— you know what I mean? Like, maybe you can... I have some young patients who tell me that. Like, "It's easier to find things that help me understand myself, because of YouTube and TikTok."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, all this, you know, panic over "Oh no, there are so many trans people now!" I don't think— if this album had— if I had heard this album in 2004 instead of 2014, I think I would be in a very different place in my life, honestly. Like, the concept, I mean, specifically of, like, trans men, transmasculine people, like, that's something that I don't... it was sort of unheard of to me, definitely growing up as, like, a teenager. Like, we just didn't talk about trans people. Like, that was just not... you know, not a thing that you even considered.

Uh, you know, even— I mean, at that point, like, being gay was something you sort of whispered under your breath. But the idea of being trans was just... you didn't. You didn't contemplate that. You shoved those thoughts down as deep as you could bury them, because you just couldn't have that thought.

And I think that it's... it's so important that there are people growing up that never shove it down, and we're gonna have to contend with that. Like, that's— that's what we're experiencing. These people are not burying their identities as soon as they start to bloom within them. They're— they're letting them... I don't know, prosper, and blossom, and that's great.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, there's—

**Taylor:** I mean, that's— no, please.

**Raleigh:** I was just gonna say, there's so much internet now.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There's, I mean, an area for everyone where you're going to find someone that feels or has lived or thinks the same way that you have or you do, even if you think that you won't. And I think that's what makes finding things like this more possible for people that need them, because there's so much better of a

chance that you will encounter someone who is like you, and who's saying "I recognize what you're saying and what you're thinking. Listen to this."

With lots of things, you know? This album, other shows, movies, whatever. I think— you said TikTok but, I mean, it's true. Like, if a song from an album that came out before most of Gen Z was born starts trending on TikTok, which has happened a lot, where people are like, "This is the new TikTok song!" Well, no, that's from an album that came out in, like, '98. I mean, that could— that—

**Sydnee:** I have seen that. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —that happens a lot. Um, and is— I mean, it creates a lot of, you know, silly dance trends, but also is important in helping people find music and, you know, find things that they need. So I think that, um... I don't know. I think that you're right that it creates a whole different generation of people who grow up knowing they can be what they want to be, because there are lots of other people that are doing that also.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, no, that's exactly it. I mean, and I think that's an important... sort of in, like, the... we're kind of talking as, like, growing up and learning things, and sort of our experience with media and art and stuff. But from, like, a very, like... medical, scientific, professional standpoint—

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** —I— it's really important to reinforce that idea, exactly what you're saying. This isn't new. It was just really— there was, for a long time, the absence of the idea that this is something you could be, you know? It wasn't even a positive or negative. It was like, this isn't a— like, no— you would grow up not knowing this was an option. [laughs] That this was a thing. And then there is the negative. You grew up knowing it was a thing, but that it, you know, you would be shunned, and it was bad.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Um, and now we are moving into a time where hopefully that is changing. But that's not— that doesn't mean that all the sudden people who wouldn't have been trans 50 years ago are, it just means they can be open about it.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And across cultures and throughout history, gender expression has never— like, this idea that it's always been this binary and it was connected to chromosomes and genitals, that's not true. It's unscientific. It's not true. It's not true from a, like, an anthropological standpoint. It's not true from a biological standpoint. It's not true from an evolutionary standpoint. It's never been true. There are lots of different gender expressions across different cultures. There are cultures that have, like, four different genders, and that's just... part of— you know. And you can be in between those, too. Like, there are also variations on those, but that's just a normal part of humanity.

**Taylor:** Well, and I— I mean, it makes me— I wish— I mean... [laughs] oh. With all the legislation going out, it feels like a, you know, like a... just laying land mines for especially trans children all around this country. And I wish the people making these rules would listen to doctors, would listen to people that know this stuff, but would also listen to, like, older trans people, you know? 'Cause it's— you know, the sphere of, like, irreversible damage. It's like, irreversible damage is not— is not living through your 20's because you're miserable, you know? Irreversible damage is probably the sort of behavior that I engaged with to try to numb myself to the feelings that I was experiencing.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I think that's the— that's the damage that I have to work really hard to undo. It's not— it's not how I feel about my gender. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You are exactly right. Well, that's— I mean, and that— people will connect, like— and this is not just true of trans people. All LGBTQ people, they'll connect with, like, higher rates of anxiety or depression or substance use, or that kind of thing. That is not because being any of those things makes you depressed. [laughs quietly] It is because of the way you are forced to exist in society, because of society and the way that we treat people, and the way that we legislate people's, you know, lives and bodies and behaviors.

That is what makes people depressed. That is what makes people, you know, engage in self-harm. The outside is the problem. The inside, the person is not the

problem. Um, but that— I mean, you have— I don't know. We just need to talk about it more.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** We're doing a conference this— there's a co— there's a great resource fair happening in Huntington, West Virginia this weekend. As— I mean, you're not gonna hear this in time to come. It's not my plug.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** But just as an example. I'm not getting paid for anything. I'm voluntarily giving a talk at it. But, um— but there's a United for Love event that they're doing for specifically, like, teens and young adults in the LGBTQ community here in Huntington, to come see all of these organizations are tabling to show you that, like, we have support, resources, we love you, we support you, we want to help families who are struggling to figure out all this stuff. And there'll be talks, and a fashion show, and dancing, and... the mayor'll be there.

**Raleigh:** [snort-laughs]

**Taylor:** That's awesome.

**Raleigh:** The mayor?!

**Sydney:** [laughs] I know, but it's great. But I'm very excited about it, so.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, that makes me so happy. You know, I can't... that's— I feel like that— that— that's gonna change lives, you know? That's— that's going to help people get on the path that they should be on, and that's so important.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydney:** Yeah. Ally Layman put it all together. I should mention Ally. She did all this.

**Taylor:** Well, just—

**Sydnee:** While she's running for office. She's, like, a powerhouse.

**Taylor:** Well, at the end of your speech you should tell people to, uh... to listen to this album.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** If they have further questions. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna— I'm actually— we have a DJ at the event.

**Raleigh:** You should—

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna, like, send— yeah. Say like, "Hey, I don't— I don't wanna tell you your business, [laughs] I don't kn—[wheezes] I don't— I don't listen to music without words, so I am not the music expert."

**Raleigh:** "I don't DJ."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Like, "This is so far from any expertise. Here is an album I think you may want to play some of during this event." There. That is my entire, like— I am humbly suggesting this may be helpful. I am not telling you your business. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I feel like one of the most important albums by a trans woman is probably a good thing to play. [laughs] I think that should be a pretty easy ask.

**Sydnee:** Well, Taylor, I really appreciate you sharing this with us.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, thank you, Tey.

**Sydnee:** We— not just—

**Taylor:** Thank you for listening.

**Sydnee:** Well, it was great. I enjoyed it. Um, and it was very meaningful. It was nice to hear this— I know that this must have been sort of vulnerable for you, made you feel vulnerable, and I appreciate you.

**Taylor:** I appreciate you both.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** What's next?

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** Well... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Oh no!

**Taylor:** Speaking of musical theater...

**Raleigh:** Speaking of musical theater, um, we've talked about a few musicals on here before and I was thinking, like, talking about musicals is fun. We get to talk about music and stories and all that stuff, and I love musicals obviously. I've brought 'em up, like, a dozen times just in this episode, not about musicals. Um, and I'm currently in *Into the Woods*, which is one of the few musicals where you can watch a movie version and the original stage version legally. Not a bootleg. So... let's talk about *Into the Woods*.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** So, *Into the Woods*.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Here we go.

**Sydnee:** Perfect.

**Raleigh:** Hey, there's a lot of good stuff in there, too.

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Perfect.

**Raleigh:** Not— not to say—

**Taylor:** I like *Into the Woods*.

**Raleigh:** I know it's not— it's not as... meaningful. But...

**Taylor:** We— no, no.

**Raleigh:** It's— it's got something.

**Taylor:** We contain multitudes. It's alright.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Alright. *Into the Woods* for next week.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It will be... we're going— we're going 180.

**Raleigh:** Yeah we are.

**Sydnee:** Um... [laughs] uh, well, thank you again, Taylor, for sharing with us. The album is *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*. The band is Against Me! I would highly recommend it. It was thoroughly enjoyable. Um, thank you.

**Taylor:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and thank you, listeners. Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) and check out all the great podcasts there. Um, you can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto: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 Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

**Taylor:** I'm thinking about those guinea pigs.

**Raleigh:** I'm still thinking about those guinea pigs.

**Sydnee:** I know. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just like the—

**Sydnee:** You missed your chance.

**Raleigh:** Those little guys.

**Taylor:** Those guinea pigs just wanted some smut. Just let 'em get their—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Get their— let 'em get their— their racy novels!

**Raleigh:** Don't—

**Sydnee:** Don't shame 'em.

**Taylor:** They just wanted a good bodice ripper.

[all laugh quietly]

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Max Fun Drive is just around the corner.



**Speaker Two:** [echoing] 2022.

**Speaker One:** Starting April 25th, it's the best time of the year to support your favorite shows by becoming a Max Fun member, or upgrading your membership.

**Speaker Two:** [echoing] In just two weeks.

**Speaker One:** We've got some great episodes, and amazing thank you gifts in store. And who knows? Maybe a few surprises.

**Speaker Two:** [echoing] Don't forget bonus content!

**Speaker One:** So make sure to tune in, starting Monday, April 25th, to get all the juicy details on what each show has in store.

**Speaker Two:** [echoing] Actually, wait. What are the details anyway? Why are they juicy? [fading away] That's kind of a strange adjective to describe details...

[chord]

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