

Still Buffering 309: "Mermaids" (1990)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: And it's a special time of year!

Raleigh: It's... what is it?

Taylor: Uh... spri— spring.

Raleigh: Spring?

Sydnee: No! It's the Max Fun Drive!

Raleigh: Oh, of course.

Sydnee: They knew— they both knew this.

Raleigh: This is news to me.

Sydnee: This was a bit that they did.

Raleigh: I'm so surprised.

Sydnee: That you two— you two just did a bit.

Taylor: Yeah, it was a bit. I definitely am aware of my surroundings, and the things going on.

Sydnee: Do you—[laughs] do you like bits?

Raleigh: I love bits.

Sydnee: Because if you like bits, and you like our show, and you're listening to our show, this is the time of year where we come to you, our beloved listening audience, and say hey, if you can, we would appreciate your support.

Uh, we are a listener-supported network, family, and that's how we continue to make the shows that you love, the shows that you share and listen to. Um, we need your help to do it, and we would greatly appreciate it if right now, during the Max Fun Drive, you could, you know, see if you have a few bucks to throw our way.

Or if you already are a member of the Max Fun family, if you're already, uh, you know, giving a little bit of money to us, and you're in a position to maybe upgrade your membership, this is the best time to do it.

Because, if you can join us now, you get gifts!

Raleigh: You get stuff.

Sydnee: You get stuff now! This is the best time to do it, because right now, at whatever level, whether you're joining or upgrading, you get some sort of prize.

Raleigh: A prize!

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] A prize.

Raleigh: Hmm!

Sydnee: Uh, at \$5 a month you get all the bonus content from all the shows from all the years. Um, hours and hours, endless hours— well, I mean, not endless.

Raleigh: Endless hours.

Sydnee: No. All things must end.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: But—[laughs]

Raleigh: Infinite.

Sydnee: Finite, but— but much. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Multitude.

Raleigh: But much hours?

Sydnee: Much hour— much— much finite— anyway. The point is [laughs] you get the— but not just from our show. From all the shows on the network. You get all the bonus content.

Raleigh: From every year.

Sydnee: There are other gifts at \$10, \$20. There are all kinds of levels. We're gonna tell you more about all those, uh, later in the show. Um, but the important thing to know is that right now, Maximumfun.org/join, this is the time. This is the moment. Don't hesitate.

I mean, we are gonna tell you more about the prizes. But, Maximumfun.org/join. This is your moment. Join the Max Fun family. Help us make stuff for you. Because we love doing it. We hope you love it. Um, and it's important to support the stuff you love. So, Maximumfun.org/join.

How are you both?

Raleigh: I... am a college graduate.

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: I mean, I am too. That's, you know...

Raleigh: Well...

Sydnee: Yeah. Actually, me too.

Raleigh: I wasn't 24 hours ago.

Taylor: Okay. Okay.

Rileigh: Now I am.

Sydnee: It was such a special ceremony. Griffin spoke at your ceremony.

Rileigh: Griffin spoke at my ceremony. Um, that was obviously entirely intentional that he would speak at my commencement. It wasn't just, you know, a coincidence that happened randomly, and obviously his entire speech was about me.

Sydnee: It was sort of the life and times of Rileigh.

Rileigh: Right. In front of the entire graduating student body. It was great. They all were very confused, because of course there were about 400 people that are graduation, so about 99% of them were like, "Who is he talking about?" And I sat there in middle like, "That's me!"

Sydnee: He was basically like, "I know that we are acting like the rest of you are graduating, but for today, it's really just Rileigh."

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "It's just Rileigh's day."

Rileigh: I mean, to be fair, he did, as we were walking across the stage... he was sitting— 'cause he was sitting up there after he'd given his speech with all the other Deans and everyone that were sitting up there to watch everyone walk across the stage. And he was sitting right behind the woman who was reading our names for us to walk across, so he was right there next to me as I was waiting to walk across the stage.

And as soon as they say my name, I didn't know he was back there, 'cause he was out of my line of sight. He just starts screaming my name so loudly, and clapping so loud that every person on the stage, including the President of the university and all of the Deans, like, turned around like they were scared.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: And just looked. And it put the entire ceremony on pause for about ten seconds. [laughs]

Sydnee: It was great, though.

Raleigh: It was great.

Taylor: That's very special. Well, congratulations, Raleigh. You did it.

Raleigh: Thanks. I did it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Did the thing.

Sydnee: And you had a pink hat.

Raleigh: I had a pink hat. Made it all myself.

Sydnee: They're not supposed to be pink. You made it pink.

Raleigh: Hey there.

Taylor: They're not gonna, like, hold back your degree for that, right?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: "Actually, sorry. That hat is pink. No more college for you!"

Raleigh: Now, they tried to— they tried to do that in high school. My high school graduation they said, "If any of you decorate your caps... you will be not allowed to graduate. We will take away your diploma. You will not be allowed to walk in the ceremony, because when you get to college it will be a professional environment, and you will not be allowed to do things like [scornfully] decorate your caps."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And then of course you get to college and they're like, "Yeah, we don't really care. You paid money for it so, like... go ahead."

Sydnee: "Whatever."

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] "We don't care."

Sydnee: This is the world now. We don't care about the color of your hat, actually.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: We, uh— when I graduated, my class was the first class— I graduated from an art school— that had to wear caps and gowns. I guess before it had always been an option, but instead people would just dress up really fancy, or extravagantly, or in costumes and stuff. And my year was the year that they were like, "No, no. None of that. We're taking ourselves seriously now as an art school. [through laughter] So you have to wear caps and gowns."

Everybody was so upset about it. And they threatened us that if anybody wasn't in dress code that they would not let us walk across the stage.

Raleigh: Gosh.

Taylor: You could still get your degree, but you just couldn't walk. So there was a whole bunch of kids that showed up dressed really cool, and they just didn't walk across the stage. They just sat there and got their degrees later.

Sydnee: Huh.

Raleigh: I always love those videos with those kids that go viral on the internet, that usually are graduating from high school, that they have some sort of, like, bad dress code that's like "You can't have colored hair," or anything, I don't know, expressive. And then they'll walk up onstage and, like, do a wig reveal or something as they're walking across the stage to show their real colored hair that they have despite the dress code. I always think those are good.

Sydnee: I like that. Yeah. I mean, I kind of like the robe, just because then you don't have to think about what you're wearing? [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And that's sort of my— like, I just put this robe on, and... no one knows. Like, I could be super comfy under here, and nobody has—

Taylor: Sydnee wishes there were more robes in life.

Sydnee: I do.

Raleigh: More robes.

Sydnee: I really— like— [laughs] it would make life easier for me. I don't like to think about— I don't like to have to think about what I'm gonna wear, so.

Taylor: That's why you're a doctor. You get to wear a lab coat, and then that's— that's it.

Raleigh: It's kind of like a robe.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Scrubs.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just scrubs all the time.

Raleigh: It also provided me with some assistance yesterday. I had a bit of an emergency. [laughs] As we were preparing to walk across the stage... [laughs]

Sydnee: Raleigh was texting us this, by the way.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: As this was happening in real time.

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah. So it was the same place I graduated high school from, was this big arena. And when we graduated high school we all had our stuff, like our phones or our purses with, like, our keys or whatever, in the seats with us as we were waiting to walk across the stage, because then we all had to file back in and sit back in our seats.

So, like, we could leave it there as we were walking across the stage, and then grab it on our way out, and it wouldn't be a big deal. 'Cause we all wanted our

phones with us throughout the ceremony and, like, some people didn't have parents there to hold their stuff or whatever.

Um, so I did the same thing yesterday, thinking, like, "We'll all file back to our seats. I'll be able to grab it. I'll bring my purse down here, because I don't want to have to leave it with Mom and Dad, and I want my phone, so... take it with me."

And then as soon as we're about to start walking the President says, "And as soon as you walk across the stage, you will immediately exit the arena."

I was like, "Oh. Well, I mean, he wants us to, but I'll be able to run back and grab my stuff."

No. As soon as you walked off that stage there were people ushering you, like, out the door. Like "Get outta here!"

Sydnee: Yeah, I thought that was odd. I know that's an option, but I was surprised that it was mandated. 'Cause it had this weird vibe where, like, by the time the last people were walking, there was nobody in the arena.

Raleigh: It was empty!

Taylor: [laughs] You're immediately out in the real world. You're just shoved out into the cold. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It really was.

Raleigh: Well, and they used the excuse of local health and safety guidelines. And I was like, "Hey, bud? We all were just sitting in this room together."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: "Close to each other in chairs. What—"

Sydnee: For hours.

Raleigh: "For— yeah, hours. Why can't we go back to sitting there? Because now it's unsafe once we've gotten up and walked a little bit." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It was strange.

Raleigh: Um, but anyways, of course that presented an issue. 'Cause it's like, well, now I have this whole purse. Not big, you know, just a little cross body purse. I was like, "Well, what do I do with this now?" 'Cause can't come back and get it. Can't leave it here. It's got, like, all my important stuff in it. So I started texting Mom like, "Hey. What do I do?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Mom— Mom was about to make Dad go get it from you.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I was like, "Dad can't walk down there, Mom." And she was like, "But she can't— what is she gonna do?"

And I was like, "Just tell her to put it on under her robe."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just, like, sneak it on up under the robe. And she was like, "She's saying she can't. She's saying she can't."

And I was like, "Listen, Mom. Raleigh's about to go to law school and live in DC on her own. She— this is her first challenge. She's gonna have to navigate this hurdle on her own." [laughs]

Raleigh: You're making me sound a lot more incapable than I actually was in this moment.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: It was just very stressful, because I was sitting very, very close to two people, so any movement I made to try to move my arms was also bumping into these people next to me. Um, and I had on my robe with two giant heavy medals around my neck, one big stole, and a bunch of little cords, and my hat on my head. So getting anything over my head was out of the question, and to get anything just, like, over my neck and slide it under, I would've had to take off all of the stuff that was around my neck.

So there was a lot of things going on to deal with, and they were very rapidly coming up on my row. In case you were curious, I did just end up sticking it under my robe, and then taking one arm out and slipping it up and around my shoulder.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And leaving it under my robe as I walked across the stage.

Sydnee: But look, you did it!

Raleigh: And the robes provided enough cover that, I mean, you couldn't tell there was a bag on my hip, so.

Taylor: I like that this is, like, a personal escape room from awkwardness.
[laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. 'Cause—

Taylor: There's one pu— just one puzzle to solve, but oh, you really gotta solve it.

Raleigh: Yeah. 'Cause if I would've been a more confident, less anxious person, I would've been like, "Well, it doesn't matter if I sit here and I take off this stuff. Like, one of my friends is sitting next to me on this side. I'll just give her my stuff and unzip my robe real quick and just... get it all taken care of."

But my brain was like, "Oh, no, no. You will draw attention to yourself, ma'am." So.

Sydnee: But I'm proud of you! You did it!

Raleigh: I did it.

Sydnee: You solved it.

Raleigh: Almost as impressive as graduating college. It was the true final exam.

Sydnee: That's what Justin asked me. We were sitting there waiting, 'cause you stopped texting Mom at one point and he was like, "Where's my update? What's going on with the purse situation?"

And I said, "I don't know. She stopped responding."

Raleigh: That was your answer. My phone was under my robe, in my purse.
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I said, "I'm hopeful that she's figured this one out." [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Um, but we are not—

Sydnee: We're gonna talk about *Mermaids*. [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay, yeah.

Sydnee: Not mermaids the... mythical being.

Raleigh: The real life creature.

Sydnee: Yeah. The real life creature?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Sure, yeah.

Sydnee: Charlie and Cooper keep asking me, by the way, if mermaids and unicorns and, like, these things are real. And, like— like, looking at me like, "Just give me this... "

Raleigh: "Give it to me straight."

Sydnee: "Give it to me straight, Mom. Are they real?"

Raleigh: And you say yes, right?

Sydnee: I say "I've never seen one. But... "

Rileigh: It's not a lie.

Taylor: I think this is just a good intro into educating them on the existence of cryptids.

Rileigh: Hmm.

Taylor: Because really they're all the same category, you know? "I haven't seen 'em, but some people have, so who knows?"

Sydney: That's kind of— I'm like, "But there are— there are many things that I know, or I am certain are real, and I've never seen."

Rileigh: Like what?

Sydney: Like I've never seen Australia, like, for myself. Like, I've never been—

Taylor: Well...

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydney: —I've never been to Australia, but I believe that Australia is there, and that there are people living there, and that it is a real place, but I've never seen it with my own eyes. Right?

Taylor: I don't know if that's the best argument to make for that.

Sydney: [laughs quietly] Well, I'm just saying. I don't want to take away their sense of wonder. You know, we discover new species of things all the time. There can be things that we don't know about. Do I think it's likely that there are unicorns or mermaids? No, I do not think it is likely.

Rileigh: What if there— what if there are things that we all think are real, but no one's actually seen them, we're just all taking each other's word for it that someone has seen them?

Taylor: I'm... are— are we still talking about Australia? 'cause I'm pretty sure some people have seen Australia.

Sydney: [laughs]

Rileigh: What if— what if we're all being fooled, and Australia's never existed? It's just been, like, an eternal con that someone along the way, someone in history was like "I wonder if people would buy on— would buy this if I told them about some other piece of land out there?"

Sydnee: It was originally entirely peopled with criminals.

Rileigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: That's not true. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: With the kind of, like—

Sydnee: There were people there. They just sent other people there, too.

Taylor: Uh, but with the kind of, like, uh, scary animals and insects that live there, it could be somebody just writing really good creepy fanfiction. Like, "There's a spider! And he's as big as a dinner plate! And he's got venom that will dissolve your eyeballs. Sure, yeah! Send!"

Rileigh: Works. See, I don't wanna think about a place where that really exists.

Taylor: It might be true, honestly.

Rileigh: It's Australia.

Sydnee: I feel like we're gonna insult any Australian listeners we may have. We know Australia's real. We are not doubting the existence of Australia, and I would very much like to go there and see it for myself someday.

Rileigh: Well. If it's there.

Taylor: Well, you're the one that proposed that Australia was maybe [through laughter] comparable to unicorns!

Sydnee: No! I didn't. No, I just said, like—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] That was your example.

Sydnee: Well, I just meant, like, I believe that— I know that—[stammers]—okay. We're gonna talk about movie *Mermaids*.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [sighs] It was a bad example, maybe.

Raleigh: Just a disclaimer, apparently for all of our future episodes: we know Australia is real.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um... yeah.

Taylor: But— but Sydnee's kids? Maybe not.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: They might not know that, 'cause Sydnee equated Australia to unicorns, and because your children probably really believe in unicorns, they now have the same question mark [through laughter] between Australia and mermaids.

Sydnee: That's not what I meant. I'm sorry if the *Princess Bride* quote about criminals offended you. I don't think that.

Raleigh: It was a *Princess Bride* quote.

Sydnee: Yeah. That's what—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was just quoting *The Princess Bride*. Anyway, *Mermaids*. The movie *Mermaids*.

Taylor: Good start.

Sydnee: 1990.

Raleigh: Cher.

Sydnee: Uh, Cher. Cher, Winona Ryder, Cristina Ricci, Bob Hoskins. I mean, star studded. Star studded cast. Um, I wonder if this movie— like, if people love it outside of our family the way that we do.

Taylor: I was wondering that too, because it seemed like such a big— but there were lots of things like this, that seem like a big deal in our childhood and then as you got older it's like, wait. Not everybody has watched *Practical Magic* 100 times?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, similar vein with *Mermaids*.

Sydnee: Mom, uh, related to it a lot.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause Cher was sort of like the kind of mom that Mom... is, or at least saw herself to be.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, I— I could— there were definitely some things that I thought were like Mom, but, like, Mom also was... married to Dad, and wasn't, like, dating other people, so. [laughs quietly] That part wasn't true.

Taylor: Well, Dad was the Bob Hoskins in this scenario.

Raleigh: That's what I was gonna say.

Sydnee: [laughs] Dad was Bob Hoskins.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's about right. Um... yeah. But, like, okay. So, the movie... [laughs] the basic idea— as far as a plot, it's just sort of like a... little family story, you know? Like, it's not like—

Raleigh: A slice of life.

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, it's not like there's a big, giant thing that happens, really. There are multiple things that happen. You know what I mean?

Raleigh: I mean, there are some kind of odd things that happen.

Sydnee: Okay. So, Cher's the mom. She's got her two daughters, um, Kate and, uh... what is— Charlotte. And, uh, they live somewhere in Massachusetts now. They've moved around a lot. And basically, Charlotte wants them to stay in one place, but Cher keeps movin'. She's just like that.

Raleigh: She can't be held down.

Sydnee: And eventually she falls in love with Bob Hoskins, and they decide to maybe hang around this town. And meanwhile, Charlotte falls in love with this... really cute... sort of...

Raleigh: Older guy, right?

Sydnee: Older guy.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. And then Kate almost drowns.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: But doesn't. I mean, that— you know? I mean, like, it's not—

Raleigh: There you go. That's the film.

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, I mean, like I said, it's not like there's one— it's just more of— it's like a— it's just about the people, you know? We're just learning about this sort of weird family.

Raleigh: Well, and you get to see Winona Ryder once again playing a slightly odd teen daughter, who no one understands.

Taylor: That was her thing for a while. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah [laughs]

Sydnee: And she's, like, obsessed with death, and...

Raleigh: Also her thing.

Sydnee: Yeah. And then, like, she's super religious.

Raleigh: She's really into Catholicism.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: But...

Taylor: Despite her family being Jewish.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: She's terrified that— like, she kisses a boy and then is terrified that she'll get pregnant from it.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: And then is amazed when she's not, in fact, pregnant from it. [laughs]

Sydnee: Has to go to a gynecologist and learn how babies are made. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Which you'd think... with the kind of mom Cher is in this film, you would've thought she would've been one of those moms that, like, was very open about the birds and the bees talk. You know what I mean?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like "Here, let me lay it out for you."

Sydnee: No, it's true. It is an interesting thing, 'cause, like, obviously she's very sex positive, in the sense that she's having a lot of it. You get the impression— [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Well...

Sydnee: Well, and she's like— she doesn't feel like you have to— like, for the time, 'cause the movie's set in, like, the 50's, right? It was like... I don't remember what year it was set in.

Taylor: The 60's, I think.

Sydnee: Is it the 60's?

Raleigh: I think the 60's.

Sydnee: Anyway, it would've been a time where, to— you know, to be a single woman traveling around, sleeping with men, not necessarily in a relationship or getting married or anything, that would've been very scandalous at the time. So, she's fine with all that, and she's fine with being... sort of having a reputation of being, like, wild. But she's not okay with her daughter doing that.

Raleigh: Right. I guess that makes sense, when you remember when it's set. It's difficult to remember that, especially when you're watching a movie from 30 years ago. But that movie was set 30 years before that.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And you have to remember, like, hold on. [laughs quietly] This is in the past for me, yes, but it was also in the past for them.

Sydnee: Uh, Mom, I think, connected it to us so much, and why it meant so much to us is that... so the older daughter is very serious, and kind of obsessed with mortality. And then the younger daughter, Kate...

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: She's a little weirdo! [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Uh-huh. Like, I think the scene that really clinched it is the one where she puts a pumpkin on her head and is running around the house, running into things with a pumpkin on her head?

Taylor: Yeah. You know, I...

Sydnee: And that was kind of like you, Tey. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, that's, like— you know, I was always, like— that's— you know, what I always was told. Like, "Oh, this character is like you." And I got it. But, like, on rewatch, like, that scene, but I think more so where— there's a scene where Kate and Charlotte are having a conversation, and Kate has just dragged in a— a bag of rocks and started polishing the rocks by the tub, and nobody comments on the fact that she's just polishing giant rocks! [laughs]

Raleigh: And she's, like, eight. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, that's— that's me!

[all laugh]

Taylor: Just like, I don't know. I don't know what Kate's doing, but always up to something in the background. Not part of the main plot, really. Just there doing weird stuff. Yeah, that's me. [laughs]

Raleigh: It does also remind me of your two kids.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Cooper would be running around the house with the pumpkin on her head, running into things. [laughs]

Sydnee: I actually showed her that scene.

Raleigh: I'm sure she loved it.

Sydnee: She loved it. She wanted to watch it over and over again.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: She was trying to do the voice. She's like, "What is she saying? What did she say? [croaky voice] Mrs. Flax. [normal voice] Is it like that? [croaky voice] Mrs. Flax."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I was like, "That's right, Coop. You got it!"

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: "You got it!" That's their last name, the characters. Flax.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh... I want to talk more— we haven't talked much about why we like this movie, and all the things that happen. But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's... check the group message?

Sydnee: Sort of. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: The special, um... fun— Max Fun only group message.

Sydnee: Ooh. Ooh.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Special Max Fun Drive group message.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So, like I said, it's Max Fun Drive time. We do this once a year, because again, we are a listener-supported network of shows. We put our content out there for free, and ask you, please help us keep making it. Help us make more of it. Help us make it better.

And you can do that at Maximumfun.org/join. Now, why is this the best time to join? Because during the Max Fun Drive, we have special gifts if you join your upgrade your membership! Yeah! And who doesn't like gifts?

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: I already mentioned, at \$5 a month you get the bonus content. Again, hours and hours of bonus content from all the shows. Uh, we've done some episodes where we played D&D with our mom. And, um— they're just great. There's just so many— we did one with Charlie.

Raleigh: Your kid was on one, yeah. I think Charlie was on one. I said "your kid" 'cause I didn't remember which one.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I think it was Charlie.

Taylor: Your kid. One of 'em.

Raleigh: One of the kids.

Sydnee: One of the kids. Uh, Charlie's featured heavily in our bonus episodes. She did the one with me and, uh, Justin for Sawbones this year, too.

Raleigh: Yeah. She's popular in that bonus content. But you also can go back and listen to us from, you know, what, seven years ago at this point? And see what we were doing for bonus content back when I was, like, 15.

Sydnee: It's all on there.

Raleigh: It's all in there.

Sydnee: It's, like, over 300 hours. It's— yeah. Uh, there's so much. And then, uh, if you can join at the \$10 a month, or upgrade to the \$10 a month level, you get a patch. Now, have you seen the *Still Buffering* patch?

Raleigh: It's so cool.

Taylor: The patch is really cool this year.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And you can put patches, I mean... on anything.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That you can... put patches on.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: You can put patches on anything you can put patches on.

Sydnee: Bags. Jackets.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: A denim jacket with patches?

Taylor: Pants. Why not?

Sydnee: Pants

Raleigh: Pants. Shirts

Sydnee: Hats. Like, a cute bucket hat with a patch on it?

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Oh yeah, bucket hats are back. There you go.

Raleigh: A backpack.

Sydnee: Check out these patches. There's one for every show. I love the *Still Buffering* one. It is... yeah.

Raleigh: We got cool, like, notebook paper bubble letters with some little doodles around it. It's— it's very cool, very cute.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Uh, and if you can upgrade or join, uh, at the next level, at our \$20 per month level, you can choose between our Max Fun creativity pack, or— we were just talking about hats— an embroidered rocket hat! And at every level, you get the gifts associated with the other levels. So you still get the bonus content, you still get one of our 35 embroidered patches, you still get— I didn't even mention this— a letterpress Max Fun membership card.

Taylor: Ooh!

Sydnee: And then you can either have, like I said, our creativity pack, which has, um, cards in the, uh— a beautiful deck of 54 cards in the Max Fun inspiration deck. Um, they have activity suggestions from your favorite hosts. Uh, they also come with, uh, three postcards, some modeling clay, a custom black wing pencil to encourage you to make your thing. And then, like I said, if instead you want a hat, you can get the very cool embroidered rocket hat.

Raleigh: And then you'll still get a patch, and you can put that patch on the hat.

Sydnee: There you go. Now that's a plan.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's a—at the \$35 a month, you get the messenger bag, along with all these other things. And then there are higher levels too, if you're in a position to do so. Um, it's really— it's an awesome time to join our family, to join our network and help us, um, make things, and make things better. I know Taylor, Raleigh, you both have, you know, personally be able to do more as a result of our listeners.

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, I mean, I wouldn't be able to be going to law school and finishing up college in the position I'm in, and being able to move out on my own and do all those things, um, and be able to bring equipment with me to continue doing the show from wherever I am, uh, if it weren't for members of the Max Fun family.

Taylor: Well, and you know, I— my main career has always been restaurant work, and hey, the last couple years haven't been great for that! [laughs] So...

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: So, uh, I would say that the Max Fun family has kept me afloat during some really difficult years, and now, you know, like, also able to, like, do some art on the side, take on more freelance jobs to pursue the things that make me really happy. And that's all because of y'all out there. So sincerely, thank you so much.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, thank you. If you are a member, uh, we thank you so much. It means so much to know that you enjoy the things we make enough to want to help us keep making it and to, uh, help us make it better. Like we've talked about, with better audio equipment, with the ability to spend more time, um, create more things. Uh, we really love doing it, and we're really grateful that you enjoy it enough to support it. Um, if you can, this is the time. Join Maximum Fun. Maximumfun.org/join. That's the link. Just do it now, while you're thinking about it. Um, and help us keep making stuff for you.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because—

Rileigh: Pause— pause the episode. Go do it. We'll be here when you come back.

Sydnee: Yeah. Maximumfun.org/join. So, back to *Mermaids*. Um...

Rileigh: The real life creature, mermaids.

Sydnee: No. We're just talking about the movie!

[all laugh]

Taylor: Sydnee's never gonna be talking about the real life creature mermaids again, I think.

Sydnee: Well, somehow I went from trying to figure out, like, I think a very normal parenting thing, when your kids start to question the existence of, like, imaginary things that they accepted to be true when they were younger. I mean, I have to imagine, like, all... parents go through this moment of, like, when do I say "Okay, fine, you're right."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "There aren't any... whatevers." Um, but somehow that became me doubting the existence of Australia. And I did not [laughs] intend for that.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: I did— I don't doubt the existence of Australia, is the problem, but somehow it became that, and I don't— I don't know how that happened. It's because we had too much of that punch at your graduation party last night.

Raleigh: Oh no.

Sydnee: My brain is not functional.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: [sighs] Never let— never let Mary Smirl make your... punch. [laughs]

Raleigh: Especially when there's a pitcher of regular lemonade right next to it, and they look exactly the same.

Taylor: That sounds like an *I Love Lucy* sketch. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It— it really was. [laughs] Uh... speaking of which, that also happens, um, in the movie *Mermaids*, the— Christina Ricci's character gets drunk.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: I found that quite scandalous now.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, she's a child.

Raleigh: Yeah. Like, a whole child. Not just like, you know, a teenager. That's, you know, 17, 18. You see that in movies. Like, a child.

Sydnee: It's— it's weird, because it was— like, in 1990, it probably wasn't that— like, "Oh, ha ha, the little kid accidentally got drunk too." But now I'm like, "Oh no!" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, and I mean, she's being watched by her older sister when it happens, and I had to remind myself that this— I mean, Winona Ryder is— I do not think Winona Ryder is 15, 16 years old playing this character.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: I think she's considerably older than that. But that's how old the character is supposed to be. So the idea of, like, a 15, 16-year-old accidentally letting their kid sister get drunk... not— not entirely, like, inconceivable.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But just because Winona Ryder looks mature I'm like, "Wow. This is— this is bad— bad babysitting, here."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I wonder how old— so, this was made in 1990.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh... I mean, she was 19.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: So, yes, older than 15. I don't know. Hopefully a 19-year-old is old enough to know not to let their 9-year-old sister get drunk.

Rileigh: Exactly. But, you know, in— in... this world, Winona Ryder was only 15, so.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: She didn't know.

Sydnee: Um, I always loved the fashion in this movie. Like, the way that Cher dresses.

Taylor: [laughs quietly] All the polka dot dresses.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I always thought that was so— like, it was this kind of thing where like, "Oh, that's so cool. And I'll never pull that off." It was like— it was weird. It was a realization that Cher's character, and Cher— and Cher is, like, a level of coolness that I'll just never... like, even as a little kid I was like, "Well, I'll never be like that." [wheeze-laughs] That level of coolness is impossible for me. I'm accepting this now. I am much more like the Winona Ryder character here. I accept this about myself. I've made my peace with it. I cannot be that cool.

Rileigh: Well, even in the poster for the movie, Cher's wearing this, like, sick mermaid costume kind of thing, with this big, like, flowy top, and headband, and metallic skirt. Like, it's just magical.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: You just wanna watch it 'cause you just wanna see Cher.

Taylor: Well, that costume that she puts together— which, I mean, it's an impressive costume for now, and the idea of putting that together in, like, I don't know, I'm just— I'm thinking of, like the access that you have, like, costume stores and online ordering.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: This movie is set in '63 and she just has this gorgeous, like, fashionable... like, very cleverly designed mermaid costume.

Sydnee: Um, we also— Mom already, even before— and, I mean— well, I'm assuming she didn't get this idea from *Mermaids*. But she would cut our food into shapes. Like, I did have sandwiches cut out with cookie cutters.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I love that whole aspect of her character as, like, a smart storytelling thing, in that she only ever is serving, like, hors d'oeuvres or appetizers.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And they're all— you know, 'cause she's, like, kind of pick up and go, like, never settle down. Like, I only ever serve appetizers. I don't serve a main course. I think that that's very... just really smart.

Sydnee: It is, it is. Fun finger foods.

Raleigh: Well, especially 'cause then the whole— the whole closing out scene that's very cute is them, you know, setting the table to eat an actual meal together. So it's like, oh, look at that. The tiny moments that have come back around. Now she eats real food, and serves real food.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's what— that's what Bob Hoskins introduced to her life, the concept of a sit-down meal.

Raleigh: [laughs] Of a meal.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I— I love—

Sydnee: That does sound like Mom and Dad.

Taylor: Right?

Raleigh: I was gonna say, that does— that does check out.

Taylor: [laughs] That— can I say, that room that he makes them, that underwater room. That scene... and in my— like, I remember it in my childhood memories being far more elaborate than it actually is, you know? I mean, it's still really cool but, like, in my mind that was the coolest thing that you could do, like, that he did for them, by turning their bedroom into, like, an underwater... seascape.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I remember that. Yeah. I remember seeing that as a kid and just being like, "Oh my God. Can you imagine? [laughs quietly] That is so magical!"

Taylor: It's only in the rewatch that I— the commitment. He painted the windows, too!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, he blacked out the windows with blue paint. That's awesome.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: In my head all I could think was— I was like, "Wow. How cool." And then I was like, "Oh, Sydnee and Justin kind of made a little underwater room for Cooper." And I was like, "Well, they put paper jellyfish on the ceiling. [laughs quietly] She loved those. That's close."

Sydnee: I mean, we— you know!

Raleigh: I was just—

Sydnee: The walls are blue!

Raleigh: The walls are blue!

Sydnee: [laughs] We didn't paint the window. [laughs]

Raleigh: No, it's great.

Taylor: And a boat bed.

Raleigh: And she has a boat bed.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: See, it was like, in my head when I was younger watching this— 'cause I'm realizing I definitely did when I was younger— definitely some plot points I didn't fully understand. But it was one of those movies that mom insisted I watch when I was, like, seven or eight. Um... but, you know, I didn't— I didn't have a room like that. I'd never seen a magical room like that. And Charlie and Cooper watched this, and not only does Cooper relate to the girl with the pumpkin on her head, she's like, "I also have a super sick underwater room, so... "

Sydnee: I don't, uh— we do have sit-down meals. But I—

Raleigh: They do know what those are.

Sydnee: Yeah. They do know what those are. Um... but I also have been known to cut their food into shapes many times.

Raleigh: I love that.

Sydnee: And make— well, you know what? Oh no.

Raleigh: Are you Cher?

Taylor: Skewers?

Sydnee: Well, I don't do the skewers. But you know what I do? I do charcuterie for them all the time.

Raleigh: You do.

Sydnee: Instead of appetizers, like, for a meal, I'll just make a kids' charcuterie board.

Taylor: That's called a lunchable, but alright.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I mean, it is— like, that's how I got the idea, is that I bought a lunchable for them, and it was gross, man!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, I'm sorry. No— no— I'm not trying to—

Raleigh: I stand by lunchable pizzas.

Sydnee: You can if you want. [laughs]

Raleigh: I stand by those pizzas.

Sydnee: You can have all of 'em. I'm sorry. I loved lunchables as a kid, and so I bought one for my kid, and then I ate it and was like, "What? What is happening with this?"

Raleigh: So you were determined to make a better lunchable.

Sydnee: So it started with trying to make a better lunchable, and then... and by charcuterie, I don't mean anything fancy. Like, I get out a serving tray that has Santa on it, 'cause that was the serving tray we had. Since then we've bought other ones, but I still use the Santa one. And I put, like—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —[laughs] a little pile of some fruit, and some veggies chopped up, and some— like I said, like, some pieces of meat or cheese, and then maybe, like— I

might make something. Like, I'll, um... [quietly] oh, God. [normal volume] I'll take a piece of bread and I'll flatten it out?

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: And then I'll put peanut butter on it and roll it, and cut it into like, like, sushi-looking...

Rileigh: Like sushis.

Sydnee: ... pieces. But it's just, like, peanut butter or something.

Taylor: Syd, do you ever think... of the fact that you are making the memories for your children that they're gonna make fun of you for on a podcast someday?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's so true.

Taylor: "Like, you remember when Mom used to— and it was always the Santa tray! Didn't matter what time of year, it was the Santa tray. That made no sense! She would squash a piece of bread and cover it in peanut butter and call it sushi! What was she doing?" [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I'll— I'll— I'll make just a hot dog, and then cut it into little pieces and put a toothpick in every piece so they have, like, a little... [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: It's especially great, 'cause I've seen you call it sushi to them before, and Charlie loves it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, Charlie loves it.

Rileigh: Cooper, though, loves real sushi.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And there's always a look on her face that's like... [sighs]

Taylor: "No, Mom." [laughs]

Sydnee: "That's not... "

Raleigh: "No... no... that's not quite right."

Sydnee: And I'll get little pots of dipping things for them to dip.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm, they love to dip.

Sydnee: Kind of spread around. Sometimes I'll make cheesy roll-ups instead of sushi.

Raleigh: Yeah?

Sydnee: Yeah. I'll make roll-ups and cut those into little pieces.

Raleigh: Hey, now they request it from other people.

Sydnee: Yeah?

Raleigh: They're like, "It's charcuterie time." So, you know, they like it.

Sydnee: They do. Oh my God, they are gonna make—

Raleigh: Why the Santa tray still, though?

Sydnee: [quietly] I don't know. It's just— it just was—

Raleigh: You made a point of saying "We've since bought other ones."

Taylor: But it's the Santa tray.

Sydnee: Well, Justin watched me use this Santa tray all the time, and he was like, "We can't have this. This is... "

Raleigh: [laughs] "It's March."

Sydnee: Justin's way more into, like, the present— like for entertaining and stuff, like the idea, like, we should look— it should look nice. Like, we should have a tray that is, like...

Raleigh: Nice.

Sydnee: Nice. And, like, we should... present this to our guests. And I'm just like... the Santa tray works, so... just put it on the sheet pan that we got it out of the oven. And he's like, "No."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know. [laughs]

Raleigh: Doin' a little bit of Cher.

Sydnee: I guess— I gue— maybe that's where that came from, 'cause I do that for the kids. I feel like, "Well, why shouldn't a meal be fun? Why can't that be the thing that we're doing? We're eating a thing. That's the whole activity."

Taylor: Well... I mean, I also feel like the— like, the— instead of just one, here's your sandwich, having it broken into, like, here are some fun components. Eat it as you wish. I think that's more engaging for kids.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's always been how I eat. Like, when I make myself something, I don't like to commit to a sandwich.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: So, like, I'll get, like, a pita, and then, like, a little pile of, like, some snap peas, and then, like, a little wad of turkey maybe. Or, like, some—

Raleigh: A wad?

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: Turkey wad, you know.

Sydnee: Or, like, a couple, like...

Taylor: A turkey wad.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... little peppers. And then maybe some hummus on the side. And I'll just sort of, like, take pieces off of it all in different combos. I don't know. I don't like to just go all in for the sandwich.

Taylor: You should lean into this and become one of those, like, bento box moms.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: I follow some of those people on TikTok and it's awesome.

Sydnee: I love watching those.

Taylor: They just make beautiful bento boxes for their family.

Raleigh: I saw one where she, uh, took jello and made it blue and, like, tilted it, so it filled it up at an angle, and let it set. And then put, like, crumbled up graham cracker crumbs on the other end to make it look like a beach.

Taylor: Oh-ho-ho.

Raleigh: But in the jello she'd put like, like, gummy sharks and fish and stuff.

Sydnee: Oh, wow.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah, it was like a little beach in the bento box.

Taylor: Can you imagine the power move of, like, rolling into fifth grade with that in your lunchbox? [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] I know. The worst part, though, is I see those now as a 21-year-old adult and I'm like, "That's sick. I want that in my lunch now." And if I opened that up in front of my friends they would be like, "How did you do that? I can barely make a sandwich." I'm like, "Yeah, me too. But look at this cool bento box."

Um, if I would've brought that to school in elementary school, I know I would've been, like, "Ugh. Why'd Mom have to do that? Now everyone's gonna laugh at my bento box. Why couldn't— why couldn't she just make— why didn't she make a normal one?"

Sydnee: I sent— uh, we have a bento box that I sent once with Charlie to school, and it was not anything that fancy, but I did try to do some of the stuff, you know? I tried to make it look like the TikToks. And she has asked me never to do that again.

Taylor: Aww!

Rileigh: [laughs] Kids. Man.

Taylor: That is true.

Sydnee: Yeah, she was— well, and in a very nice way.

Rileigh: Yeah, it's Charlie.

Sydnee: I was like, "Do you want me to do that again?" And she's like, "No, I think I just want... uh—" actually soup is her thing right now. She takes a thermos of chicken noodle soup.

Rileigh: She's just like you.

Sydnee: Every day.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Every day she eats chicken noodle soup for lunch.

Rileigh: Have you seen the little tool, though, they use to make the little rice balls? Like, you put the rice in it and you kind of shake it, and it forms it into little balls. Those are so fun.

Taylor: I forget that— especially, like, in middle school, it's like the way to have a cool lunch was— it's like you wanted as little love and care as possible. You needed, like, a dirty, greasy brown paper bag that had, like, just a smeared plastic wrapped sandwich in it and, like, a bag of chips, and a can of soda. And then you were, like, okay. But if there was too much love from your parents present in the food you brought from home [through laughter] it somehow made you not cool. That was weird. That's a weird thing we were doing.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, it's really true. 'Cause in retrospect, like, I remember my friends being like... I don't wanna say grossed out, but just, like, weirded out. Do you remember when we used to bring pizza rolls all the time?

Taylor: Yeah. Well, see, we had different friends, 'cause my friends loved that I brought pizza rolls. [laughs]

Sydnee: My friends thought it was so weird that I had a little foil pack of—

Rileigh: Foil pack, yes.

Sydnee: —pizza rolls in my lunch.

Taylor: Cold pizza rolls that had congealed together.

Rileigh: That always were— yep, and real mushy.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I—

Rileigh: 'Cause all the steam had just kind of... softened them.

Sydnee: They thought that was so weird and gross. 'Cause eventually I stopped bringing anything except a bag of Cheerios.

Taylor: Well...

Rileigh: Well...

Taylor: Hey.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I— middle school was the worst.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, middle school was the worst. I had those pizza rolls for a while, and then I think I had a similar experience. And I was like, "Mom, save it for the after school snack."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I—I think I—I based my friend group on who was cool with me bringing pizza rolls to school. That's my starting point is like, "I want to eat these. Who's cool with that? And *Sailor Moon*." And that's how I made friends.

Sydnee: That was a good idea.

Rileigh: Man. When did pizza rolls stop being a part of my everyday life?
[quietly] Now I really want pizza rolls. I haven't had them in so long.

Sydnee: Hey, you're an adult now. You can just go buy them.

Rileigh: I can just buy them, I know. It's less magical than someone just providing you with a little foil pack of pizza rolls, though. When you have to make them yourself.

Sydnee: Which is true. And maybe— I mean, to bring it back to *Mermaids*...

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Bring it all back.

Sydnee: ... what Cher was tapping into, what Mom was tapping into is that... I mean, it's nothing, like, revolutionary. It's that if your food looks like somebody took time with it, it makes you feel good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. I do think your kids would jam on those marshmallow skewers. I was looking at— 'cause just, like, gumdrops, and marshmallows, and I think there might be maraschino cherries in the mix.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But I think that that— they would enjoy that.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Well, and I think that's why this movie probably reminds us of our mom, or was important to all of us and our mom, is that, like... it's Cher's unique way of saying "This is how much I love you," even if, you know, it's the kind of thing you take to school and your friends would be like, "That's embarrassing. That's weird. That's not normal lunch. That's not a meal."

But it's, like, something unique and special that you hold on to that no one else's mom is doing for them, and I feel like our mom did that a lot. Um... and, you know, very similar.

Sydnee: It's interesting, because what you're getting is a conflict between, like, Winona Ryder's character wants loved to be shown to her that, like, the way she would understand love is stability. "I want consistency. I want stability. I want to know that things won't change. I'm needing that. Even as a child, like, I'm trying to express that to you, and this is how I would feel loves."

And Cher is saying, "But I do love, you, and here are all the ways I'm showing you a love you." And it's kind of cool to see that play out where they finally start to understand both ways. Like, "Okay, I get that my mom loves me, and here's how she's showing it, and I can accept that and embrace a little bit of her."

And then Cher understanding, like, "My child needs this. And, you know, I need to be able to adapt."

Raleigh: It's like understanding love languages.

Sydnee: Yeah, it is.

Taylor: Well, and it is. 'Cause that— it's sort of the lesson inherent. 'Cause, you know, Cher's character has had stability taken away from her. She's clearly had, like, ugly relationships in the past. So in response to that, she just rebels against it. Anything that looks too promising or too stable it's like, "Nah, I don't want that."

And then, you know, Charlotte, that's all she wants. Whereas the— you know, maybe the truth is... it does feel nice to have consistency and stability, but things change. That's the nature of life. So you kind of... you can enjoy it while it's there, embrace it while you have it, and then accept that sometimes it goes away.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Powerful movie, *Mermaids*.

Raleigh: It is.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Very sweet, though.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: It fits very well in the category of a lot of Winona Ryder's other movies from the 90's that's like, you know, a little bit different, but has a good message.

Sydnee: And it— and it, like, left— like, it left me saying things like, "Know your colors, know your fabrics."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And then people looking at me like, "What are you quoting?"

"You know, *Mermaids*?" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I feel like your kids would get really into this movie.

Sydnee: Yeah. I bet they would.

Raleigh: Like Charlie—

Sydnee: See, I haven't shown 'em the whole thing. I just showed some scenes, but yeah.

Raleigh: Charlie'd love the fashion.

Sydnee: She would.

Taylor: Well, and I think, like, not only representing the time period it was made in, but even in the time period it was made, it had some, like, good kind of forward thinking presentations of it. I mean, just— you know, like a single mom with two kids. There's very open dialog about sex. There's, you know, I think that there's a lot of kind of surprising content for the time period.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I agree. If you can just get past the one scene with the— with the drunk child.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Just remind yourself it's two children. They should've been supervised. But...

Sydnee: Yeah. No, that's— that's— I mean, that's— yes, that is the point. They should've been supervised. And the mom learns that.

Raleigh: Yeah. She learns a lesson. Everyone does.

Sydnee: We all learned a lot there.

Raleigh: With Cher. We all learned a lot.

Sydnee: Uh, thank you all for watching *Mermaids*.

Raleigh: [laughs] Of course.

Sydnee: Tey, what's next?

Taylor: I want to talk about one of my favorite animated movies from my childhood, uh, *The Last Unicorn*.

Sydnee: Ooh, excellent.

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: I haven't seen that movie in forever.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Speaking of unicorns.

Raleigh: We were just talking about unicorns.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm not going to show—

Raleigh: Unicorns and mermaids.

Sydnee: I don't know that I can show that one to Charlie and Cooper.

Taylor: Well, now you can explain what happened to the unicorns with a— with a, uh— a documentary.

Sydnee: This is a documentary about the last unicorn. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: This is what happened to them.

Sydnee: Uh, already. So, check that out for next week. And, as long as you're making plans, here's something you should plan to do. Join the Maximum Fun family!

Raleigh: Maximumfun.org/join.

Sydnee: That's right. Maximumfun.org/join. It is the Max Fun Drive. It is the moment for you to— again, I think it feels good to know, there's something out there in the world that I care about, that I like, that I love, that I enjoy, and I can help make it happen. I can be a part of creating it, um, by supporting it.

And, uh, that's what you do during the Max Fun Drive. You help support us make stuff for you. It's a wonderful relationship. We truly appreciate all of you who are already members of Maximum Fun, who are already helping us out. If this is the moment that you can join, that you can upgrade, please do. Like we said, we have all these great levels. \$5 a month, and you get the bonus content. \$10 a month, you get the bonus content and you get the cool patches, whichever one you prefer. Um, ours is super cool. I would look at it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, and there are levels above that. We've already talked about all the gifts. But, um, Maximumfun.org/joi— join. Get that word right.

Raleigh: Join.

Sydnee: Join. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: J-O-I-N. Join.

Sydnee: Good— you— hey! Did you learn that in college?

Raleigh: Learned that in college!

Sydnee: College grad.

Raleigh: I have an English degree.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Uh, this is the time. Please, stop what you're doing— which is listening to this podcast— 'cause it's about to end anyway.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And join our network, and help us, you know, keep making stuff for you. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: Um, for listening. Thank you to Maximum Fun for letting us be part of this wonderful network of shows. Go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the shows. Uh, thank you— oh, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at

stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Rileigh: I would love a marshmallow skewer right now.

Sydnee: [mumbled singing]

Rileigh: [laughs] That's good.

Sydnee: I love that song.

Rileigh: That's good, Syd.

Taylor: Employed ironically in the film, I believe.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

[music plays]

Speaker One: Max Fun Drive 2022 starts in just one week.

Speaker Two: [echoing] Monday, April 25th.

Speaker One: We'll have exclusive Max Fun Drive gifts, awesome episodes, bonus content, and you know what else? You'll just have to tune in.

Speaker Two: [echoing] We have some tricks up our sleeve. Sleeves? Tricks? Is it plural?

Speaker One: We'll catch you next week: the greatest time to support the podcasts you love. Max Fun Drive starts on Monday, April 25th.

Speaker Two: [echoing] Don't miss it!

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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