

Still Buffering 314: "Harry's House"

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Happy Pride!

Rileigh: Happy Pride!

Sydnee: Woo hoo!

Taylor: Yay!

Sydnee: Yay!

Rileigh: It's June 1st!

Sydnee: It is.

Taylor: We're allowed to be gay for a whole month!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yay! One month!

Sydnee: This is it. Get all your gay in. [laughs]

Rileigh: That's all you get.

Taylor: That's it.

Sydnee: Um, no, but you know, this is the time of year that Target sells lots of excellent... [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... t-shirts, and tank tops, and binders, but only for June. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Can I say, I thought it was really fitting... I don't know if someone just put this in the wrong place or not or if this was intentional, but our local Target—I was there the other day getting something unrelated to Pride stuff, but of course I saw the big Pride display so I was like, "Well, I gotta check that out." And they had a bunch of, like, tumblers and coffee cups and stuff that all had—like, one had a rainbow and one had, like, pronouns or something like that. I don't know. Um, but then there was one next to it that just said, "I wish this was iced coffee."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: And it was just like a— like a beige cup. It wasn't rainbow. It wasn't anything. Like it just said that in black lettering on it. I was like, do they... do they... they get it. They get it.

Sydnee: That's part of the Pride collection? Oh, that's great.

Raleigh: That's part of the Pride collection.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Maybe someone put it in the wrong place, I don't know. But it looked like it was made to be there. Like, it looked like it was set in that lineup of all those cups.

Taylor: They got an insider working on their designs.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You're gonna see one that's just a U-Haul on it.

[all laugh]

Taylor: They've just got a little container of carabiners there.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I almost bought it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I didn't. I was in a rush. I told myself I had to stop. [laughs]

Sydnee: Charlie wants to go check out all the Pride stuff. She's heard about it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know how— I don't know how kids find out about— like, how does my seven-year-old know that Target has a Pride collection? And that she wants to go look at it? I don't know.

Raleigh: YouTube.

Taylor: The internet.

Sydnee: The internet.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Discouraging about the Pride collection, I'm sure.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] I was like, "We can— we'll go somewhere where they sell stuff like that all year long." [laughs]

Rileigh: I've gotten her to really enjoy Target, because of our trips we'll take to just go find squishmallows and get Starbucks. So now I've recruited her into the generation of... young adults that just like to go walk around Target. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, and now, I— I heard this from a friend, so I don't know if this is actually true, but apparently, they teamed up with a lot of queer designers this year, so there's a lot of...

Sydnee: Oh, that's good.

Rileigh: Oh, good.

Taylor: ... good people being benefited by it. You know, actual people in the community that are making money off of it, so I don't know. That's good.

Sydnee: That is good. Hence the iced coffee.

Rileigh: There you go. There was an insider.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Was it Rileigh?

Rileigh: It was me. [laughs] Um, no. They had a lot of stuff that wasn't just like a rainbow flag on a t-shirt, which I appreciated. Um...

Taylor: [through laughter] That horrible rainbow suit that went viral a few years ago.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Like, "What do the gays want? Ah, this is fine. A little suit with a rainbow. The whole thing."

Sydnee: We think they like rainbows. [laughs] That's the best— that's all we've got! We don't know! Should we hire one? Ooh, I don't know.

Rileigh: Ooh, I don't know about that.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Um... I, uh— I don't know if this is— is me working extensively in my herb garden, is that celebrating Pride month?

Rileigh: I think that counts.

Sydnee: Does that count? [laughs] Is that something that's not for us, but is for us?

Rileigh: I walked in this morning and you were fully just invested in what was going on on your laptop that you didn't even notice I walked in. You said, "Oh, hey. I was researching why my basil isn't growing."

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Well, my basil leaves are— my basil plant— my pesto basil plant is very small.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: My— my cinnamon basil—

Rileigh: How are we ever going to make pesto?

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, I'm worried about this! My cinnamon basil and my Thai sweet basil are both great. They are fantastic. They're huge. But my pesto basil is not.

Taylor: I think you could use those other basil in pesto if you really needed to.

Rileigh: Give it a little bit more spice.

Sydnee: They— they do. I mean, they have similar flavor profiles, but... anyway.

Taylor: [laughs] I feel like that's a— you know, it's very much a blanket statement, but I think most people'd agree with it. Like "Hey, fellas. Are herbs kinda gay?" "Yeah." "Yeah." [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I think it was highlighted by— I was working to, like— you have to prune them perio— you have to pick the leaves to encourage growth. So I was working on my herbs all morning, reading about them and, like, checking— you know, getting them— getting them in good shape. And then, um, I picked some lavender, and I... [laughs quietly] I— I got some cheesecloth...

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... and I made, like, a little sachet with lavender, and I, like—

Rileigh: That you sewed closed!

Sydnee: I sewed closed. I put— I made a drawstring and took a little ribbon, for Rileigh—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] It was very sweet.

Sydnee: — because lavender is good for anxiety, and I know that you have a stressful opening weekend coming up.

Rileigh: I do. It was very sweet. It was just when you told me you sewed I was just sitting there looking at it like, what— what— sorry?

Taylor: Huh?

Rileigh: You what?

Taylor: That's nice!

Sydnee: It was like a— it's just a drawstring. It was not too hard. [laughs]

Rileigh: I've never seen you sew a single thing.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: All my 21 years on this planet.

Sydnee: I know how to stitch human flesh.

Taylor: I was gonna say, she might not know how to sew, but she knows how to suture, so there's gotta be some— [laughs]

Raleigh: I guess that's fair. I guess that's fair.

Sydnee: This was easier than sewing skin.

Raleigh: Well, I imagine.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: To be fair, I've never seen you sew human skin, so I know it's a skill you have, I've just never witnessed it firsthand.

Sydnee: As I was making it I thought "I should turn on the theme song to *Practical Magic*."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: [hums *Practical Magic* theme]

Raleigh: [singing] Happy Pride.

Sydnee: [laughs] Anyway... [laughs] the girls— Charlie and Cooper, part of their nightly ritual now is they go out to the lavender bush and pick a little bud off the lavender bush and put it under their pillow before they go to sleep. [laughs]

Taylor: That's adorable!

Raleigh: That is very sweet.

Taylor: I love that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You should make some lavender simple syrup. I bought some lavender at the farmers' market, but I've got a... container of lavender simple syrup in my fridge now, and I use it in coffee, and tea, and cocktails.

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Taylor: It's very easy.

Raleigh: Sounds good.

Sydnee: Well, you are welcome to any of my herbs, next time you're here.

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] Alright.

Raleigh: "You're welcome to my herbs."

Taylor: I'll take you up on that. I'll hit up your herbs.

Sydnee: I need to figure out what to do— some of the basil has gone to flower, which isn't ideal. But, like, I'm sure there's a use for the flowers. Something syrupy or scented or something like that. Like, I think— I mean, I think you can eat all of it, but like... that doesn't always— usually once it goes to flower, you start to get more bitter flavor in there. [pause] [laughs quietly] Anyway.

Raleigh: Welcome to *Still Gardening*.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Now a great garden podcast, and a horrible youth culture podcast.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh no!

Sydnee: We're still a bad cereal podcast.

Raleigh: Still a bad cereal podcast.

Taylor: We're the worst cereal podcast. [laughs]

Sydnee: Um...

Raleigh: Good gardening podcast now.

Taylor: I like that we managed to get that cereal ad, even though we're such a bad...

Sydnee: I know!

[all laugh]

Taylor: Don't— don't let Magic Spoons know [through laughter] what a bad cereal podcast we are.

Sydnee: We're clearly not—

Raleigh: Don't tell them!

Sydnee: — not that bad. [laughs]

Taylor: Hey.

Raleigh: Um... I don't...

Sydnee: I *wasn't* listening to the *Practical Magic* soundtrack. Instead...

Raleigh: There ya go. You were listening to *Harry's House*.

Sydnee: That's right.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I also, by the way, couldn't remember the name of the album. [laughs] And so instead of what would be— what would make sense, just look up Harry Styles, right?

Raleigh: Harry Styles, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, that's what makes sense. No. I sat there thinking, "It had house in it." And I looked up "the house of Harry".

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Which did lead me eventually to *Harry's House*, and I thought, "Why did I think it was *The House of Harry*?"

Rileigh: I mean, I guess in a sense *Harry's House* does also mean *The House of Harry*.

Sydnee: [laughs] That's what I was looking up. Like, "*The House of Harry*."

Rileigh: We're not going for an idea here. Um, yeah. Harry Styles just released his third album, *Harry's House*, on May 20th, like two weeks ago. So, I thought we could talk about it.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: 'Cause I— I enjoy Harry Styles. I will say, though, I was not a Directioner, as you might say. I think we talked about this when we talked about *Fine Line*. Um, I was of the generation that was a big One Direction fan generation, 'cause we were, like, 12 or 13 when they were a thing.

Taylor: Wait, wait. The fans were called Directioners?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [snorts]

Taylor: So, like, One-ders was right there and they went with Directioners?

Rileigh: Directioners.

Sydnee: Directioners?

Rileigh: That's what I knew— gathered from my time spent on the internet at that point in my life, but I wasn't a part of them.

Taylor: Interesting.

Raleigh: There's probably someone out there that'll tell me I'm wrong.

Sydnee: I say that as someone— I say this as someone who has great love and affection for, um, everything British. We know this. This is a known fact about me. Um, that's a very British thought. "We'll call them Directioners." [laughs]

Raleigh: Well, they were all British!

Sydnee: That's what I mean! I know. That's what I mean.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] One of 'em were Irish, but the rest of 'em were British.

Sydnee: That's what I'm saying. That's a very— [through laughter] that's a very British—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just Directioners. Direction's right there, we'll just call 'em Directioners. It's very practical, it's very— yes, I can see that. Uh-huh, okay. Moving on. We have named them, moving on.

Raleigh: There we go.

Sydnee: Next thing. [laughs] We have— it's settled. [laughs]

Raleigh: I was not a Directioner. I knew a few of their songs, like the big hits, but I was not a big fan. Um, but I did become a big Harry Styles fan when he kind of Beyonced his way out of the group.

Sydnee: [laughs] Beyonced.

Raleigh: I mean, I think that's the verb for when you're in a group band, and then one of them, like, becomes a solo artist that's super famous, right? Like, that's Beyonce-ing. But yeah. Then he Beyonced and became very popular, and I have more recently become a fan of his, so.

Sydnee: I, uh— I have to say, I like this better than the last album you had us listen to. I enjoyed this more. Not that I didn't enjoy the other one, but I just... I don't know. Like, this was more my kind of... it felt, uh, throwback.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that intentional?

Rileigh: I think so. Uh, a lot of his influences, including the name of the album, came from 70's, 80's stuff.

Sydnee: It felt 80's

Rileigh: Albums, songs, I think there was actually... oh, I don't wanna say the wrong person. I want to say Joni Mitchell?

Sydnee: Yeah?

Rileigh: Had a song that had *Harry's House* in the title? Um...

Sydnee: Oh, I didn't know that. Joni Mitchell also featured on the *Practical Magic* soundtrack.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Pulling it all together. [laughs]

Rileigh: On her— on her 1975 album, *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*, there was a track called "Harry's House/Centerpiece".

Sydnee: Ah.

Rileigh: So— and that was from '75, so a lot of 70's, 80's influences in some of the bigger hits.

Taylor: Well, I also saw that it was— the name is also partially from— there was a 70's, like, a Japanese pop artist who had an album called *Hosono House*. And so it was sort of homage to that as well.

Rileigh: Yeah, yeah. So lots of influences.

Sydnee: I can see the— Harry Styles feels— like, as an individual he feels 70's to me. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah, I mean—

Sydnee: He seems like a throwback to the 70's. The album I felt like there were moments of it that felt a little 80's to me. I've been watching *Stranger Things*, and I felt like it fit the pastiche of what I've been watch— you know what I mean? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: My impression— and I don't know how else to phrase this, this isn't a negative— I was listening to it. I was like, "Is this what... is this what music for well-adjusted people sounds like?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, is this like— it's not angry, it's not sad, it's not mournful, it's not weird. This is just, like, pleasant, and it's about nice things, and it's not too desperate about any of those nice things. It's just— this is just what music for people that don't have any, like, real big stuff to get over. Just— just vibes.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is. But you know what I— I agree with you completely. I do think it's a little more substantial, though, than the last album. Like, there was something in it— 'cause what you're describing usually is music that I don't necessarily enjoy as much, because I like music to be a little meaty.

Raleigh: You like high stakes in your music.

Sydnee: Yeah, I like something that I can, like, latch on to. If it's too fluffy, it just floats away from me, and I don't know, I can't latch on to it. This gave me something to latch on to a little more so. But I agree with you. It also is... it's not a downer. It's not a bummer. It's not... yeah. No, it's happy, affirming. It's what I— when I heard "Watermelon Sugar" I went and sought out more Harry Styles, and I— I don't wanna say I was disappointed, but I didn't feel like it was— oh, I wanted more like that. And I didn't feel like it was all like that. This is that.

Rileigh: Yeah. I think that's true. I think "Watermelon Sugar" fits very well in with, like, "As It Was" and "Late Night Talking". Like, that kind of vibe from this album. Um, and even "Matilda", which is my favorite song on this album, I think—I don't know. I've only listened to it so many times since it's been out. Um, but it's about not necessarily, like, pleasant subject matter. But the way in which he tells the story and the way the song is composed is very, like, hopeful and uplifting. It's not down. It's about a girl who came from, like, a bad home life situation, and then finally moved out and basically saying like, "It's okay that you grew up and left, and you don't need the family that didn't love you." Which is very sweet. It's very sad, but...

Sydnee: Also a good reminder during Pride month.

Rileigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Well, I'm just saying. Like, found families can...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Queers, we get to choose our family.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Ru Paul said in that one episode of *Drag Race*. something like that.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] Ruple said it.

Taylor: Ruple. [laughs] Broom.

Rileigh: Broom. [laughs] Sydnee, you just need to watch more *Drag Race* and you'd get it.

Sydnee: I don't know what's happening.

Taylor: If nothing else, I feel like Sydnee, you would love Jinx Monsoon, right?

Rileigh: Yes. Jinx Monsoon doing Judy Garland is just the best thing to come out of television in the last, like, decade.

Taylor: That's Pride. There you go.

Rileigh: That's Pride! [laughs] Is this my camera?

Taylor: But you know, that song "Matilda" was the song that I enjoyed the most too. But I also recognized, well, this is the one that is about the most uncomfortable subject matter on the whole album. Of course [through laughter] that's the one I liked the most.

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs] It also felt— and I only say this because I— we're talking about music, of course I'm going to mention Taylor Swift. But there's a lot of overlap between current fans of Harry Styles and fans of Taylor Swift. Which... they dated in the past.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: I was wondering about that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Isn't the one— Golden something, isn't that about him?

Rileigh: Oh. Um, not his song "Golden", her song "Gold Rush".

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: That is the rumor. But, I mean... he also has a song—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Are you impressed? Look at that!

Rileigh: I know, I know!

Sydnee: Look at that Taylor Swift knowledge I just threw out there.

Rileigh: You just knew that.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Rileigh: There's also a song on this album, on Harry's album, called "Daylight", and Taylor's album *Lover* had a song on it called "Daylight". So everyone asked him, like, "Is this about Taylor?" And he said no.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: He said "We're friends, and I know people like to speculate, but no." Um, he's dating Olivia Wilde!

Sydnee: Oh!

Rileigh: Jason Sudeikis's ex-wife.

Sydnee: Oh. I don't know how to feel about any of that.

Rileigh: Yeah. [sighs] But that's who some of the songs are about.

Sydnee: I mean, I hope they're all happy. Like, I wish them all well, you know. Olivia Wilde and Harry Styles, and of course Jason Sudeikis. I wish them all well—

Rileigh: How did we get here? How did I get to this point?

Sydnee: I don't know. [laughs]

Rileigh: "Matilda". It feels the most like Taylor's Swift's most recent, *Evermore* and *Folklore*. Like the vibes of those songs. Some of them were about some heavier stuff, but written in almost the same way that feels very soft. It feels the closest to that vibe to me, 'cause her most recent albums don't have a lot of dance-y, upbeat pop stuff like some of the singles from this album.

Sydnee: Um, it's something that I always thought Ben Folds was good at. He wrote a lot of songs where— and I don't think you've listened to Ben Folds as much— where it's a story about someone. It's not necessarily anything to do with himself, it's just a story about someone. And some of them are very, like, sad or heavy, but still the music is... it doesn't make you sad. I don't know. It's emotional without being... like, a downer.

Rileigh: Right. Well, it seems like something he wrote, not necessarily for himself, but for people he knows that experience that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: For them to have.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Maybe it was for himself. I don't know his personal life. But... you know what I mean? It doesn't seem like when artists will write songs about, like, a breakup they've been through or, like, something they've been through on their own, and it feels like they're writing about their experience. This feels like something he wrote about... I don't know if there's a real girl named Matilda. I mean, I assume not the one from, like, the Roald Dahl book.

Taylor: Uh, apparently that was part of the influence on the name, I read.

Rileigh: Really?

Sydnee: Huh.

Taylor: Yeah. Like, there was somebody in his life that he knew that he had a— he'd heard had a really hard life and kind of wrote this inspired by her, but the name came from the book.

Rileigh: Ohh. I just figured it was like a name that kind of fit the aesthetic. But also, like, three syllables. So, I don't know if that fits better in whatever scheme he was working with. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I wouldn't have guessed it was from the book.

Sydnee: I am certain that syllables had something to do with it, but.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, if you're a songwriter that has to be part of it. But it is a beautiful name.

Rileigh: Yeah. And I didn't know that came from the book. That's interesting. 'Cause that of course is immediately what you think of when you hear Matilda. I mean, I don't know what else— I don't know anyone with that name in real life, so of course I immediately think of the girl with... magical mind powers.

Sydnee: It was on my list.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Of kid names.

Taylor: I was gonna say, that sounds like something you would name your kids.
[laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, it was on my list.

Rileigh: Oh. You used up your two.

Sydnee: I know. Yeah, I'm done.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, I am done. [laughs] But it was on the list.

Taylor: I was gonna say, part of, like, the— the sort of— its pleasant, but, like, I think what you're saying is it's not detached in a bad way, but it's just like... you know, when you're writing or singing about something you've gone through, sometimes it would have a tendency to be more emotionally charged, and this feels a little bit more resolved, a little bit more pleasant, even. Whatever you're singing about. I just wonder how much is, like... starting with the fan base he had in One Direction, and as they grow up, he's kind of continuing that role of being, like... like the, you know, perfect guy that's singing about things that you can relate to. Like, not that it's prescribed, but I think he's still kind of singing to the same audience, you know? Just, like, fulfilling that role.

Rileigh: Yeah. I mean, I think that's definitely true. Um, 'cause I would say that probably a majority of his current fan base is around my age, probably slightly older, maybe a little bit younger, but not, like, a lot of younger-younger, like 12, 13-year-olds that were his main fan base when he was in One Direction. And I

think that's because it was a lot of people that started out as fans of his when he was in One Direction, and then grew up and followed his career, um, after that.

Sydnee: Which is similar to Taylor Swift.

Rileigh: Exactly, it all comes back to her, always.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: It all comes back around.

Sydnee: Is that your goal with every topic you pick? Just, how can I tie it back to Taylor Swift somehow?

Rileigh: And sometimes the ones you all pick, too.

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Spend a whole week thinking how I can fit it in.

Taylor: But it's nice, though. I mean, 'cause you know, it's something— I think it's two choices that artists make where it's like, do I keep trying to make the same kind of music, and your audience just outgrows you but then younger people listen to you and it's fine, or do you grow up with your audience?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: I also think that it really shows, like, the difference in time, like, society-wise, societally, between 2012 and 2022. Like, One Direction to Harry Styles. Like, his whole aesthetic of him as a person has changed into something that fits more into modern times than what he was then. I mean, he said that, like, that boy band image was not necessarily him, but it was what was marketable, and it was what was, like, good at the time, and what made them popular. But now, I mean, he's been very open about, like, not dressing in any way that he thinks is, like, gender conforming or normative or anything like that. And he doesn't... you know, [amused] play by society's rules, um, of gender.

Sydnee: He's a bad boy, but a nice bad boy.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: He's a bad boy. Uh, you know... man, his fashion. And, like, wear whatever you want. I have no— no judgment on other people's self-expression. But I do think it's funny that I've seen, like, some push back from... I don't know. Like, "Oh, he's— he's dressing in a non-gendered fashion, and lots of other people have been doing that, but he's getting recognition for it." And, like, when I see him on a cover— like, I saw— there was a picture of him wearing, like... pink Lycra shiny pants and, like, a pilgrim hat. And I'm like, "I don't wanna... I don't wanna claim that. That's not... I don't wanna say that that's queer representation."

[all laugh]

Taylor: Like, that's not— that's not us. Don't— no. He can do his thing, but let's not say that's us.

Raleigh: It really seems like it's like, now, hold on. Someone help him out. It's okay if he wants to not wear just, like, quote, unquote, 'male clothes,' but someone help him figure out what's going on here. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. He just, like, fell into a pile of costumes, just put on what stuck to him and went like, "Yeah?" And everyone went like, "Well, it's Harry Styles. He's— whatever he wears he's gonna look good in." But, you know, maybe... maybe some editing.

Raleigh: Yeah. He just adds a feather boa to everything! It's like, I mean, okay, but is that really— is that what fashion is?

Sydnee: I love the idea that there's, like— there's, like... jerks out there, like, representing toxic masculinity who are like, "Look at that, see? Look what— this is what the gay community has done to Harry Styles." And the gay community's

like, "Uhh... actually, no— no. Hmm... uhh, that's not... that's not— we— that's not us— "

Raleigh: We had no hand in that.

Sydnee: No. [laughs]

Taylor: He's doing his own thing.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And we're fine with that, but...

Taylor: And that's good, I support it, but let's not say it's our thing.

Sydnee: That's not us. [laughs] Uh... before we talk more about Harry Styles...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, well... I wanna tell you all about cereal. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Oh no! [laughs]

Sydnee: I want to reclaim our status as a great cereal podcast and tell you about Magic Spoon, 'cause it's a great cereal! Um... there are a lot of times where... [laughs] you're looking for a yummy treat, something that will taste good but also give you all the things you need to keep you going, like protein and all that. Um, and maybe you're also trying not to eat a lot of sugar. Well, Magic Spoon has you covered on all those fronts, and of course it's a great breakfast option. But it's— I mean, let's all be honest. Cereal's an anytime food. It has zero grams of sugar. It's got 13 to 14 grams of protein in each serving, so that's great. It's gluten free, it's grain free, it's soy free, so if you have special dietary needs for your yummy snack products, it's got you covered. Um, and you can build your own box.

So, they've got flavors, and then you can tell 'em exactly what you want in there together. So there's cocoa, there's fruity, there's frosted, there's peanut butter, there's cookies and cream, there's maple waffle, blueberry muffin, cinnamon roll, honey nut, what you want. You can build your own box. You can eat these flavors.

They're all delicious. Um, and like I said, they don't have sugar, and they got some protein in there. That's great.

Even more exciting, Magic Spoon just brought back their cereal bars! So if you're like me, and breakfast is almost always on the go, this is perfect for you. It's convenient, you grab it, it's yummy, and it has all the wonderful qualities we just talked about with Magic Spoon, except in a convenient little bar. Not little bar. A convenient appropriately-sized, perfectly packaged bar.

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: For your breakfast needs. So Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Magic Spoon, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, they should go to magicspoon.com/buffering to grab a custom bundle of cereal, and be sure to use our promo code "buffering" at checkout to save \$5 off your order. And Magic Spoon is so confident in their product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee. So if you don't like it for any reason, they'll refund your money, no questions asked. Remember, get your next delicious bowl of cereal at magicspoon.com/buffering and use the code "buffering" to save \$5 off. Thank you, Magic Spoon, for sponsoring this episode.

Raleigh: So, I want to talk about something that we kind of talked about before we started recording very briefly, which is, um, like, social media and TikTok specifically being used to market music now, and market albums. One of the things that he did which I think is interesting that maybe has been done before, I'm just not aware of it 'cause I don't go to a lot of music festivals or concerts, two of the songs off this album he played as part of his set at Coachella, before the album had ever been released.

So, like, there were videos of these songs that people had never heard before that then were being spread on the internet of these songs that had never been heard and hadn't been released and wouldn't be released for another, like, month or whatever, before the album came out.

Um, and I have to assume that was intentional, one, to like show off new music, but also knowing that people are always filming every minute of every concert they go to, and knowing that that will be put on social media, and then everyone starts talking, like, getting hyped up about like, "Oh, those must be songs off his new album. Where did those come from? I've never heard those before."

Which I thought was interesting.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, I mean, and that— you know, in the day, that would've been, like, your radio single that you release ahead of the whole album coming out.

Rileigh: Well, and he did that with one song, with "As It Was" he released like a month before the album came out, maybe a little bit over a month. That was the only single that was formally released though, before the album came out. And a lot of artists recently will do, like, several singles with music videos with them and stuff. And he did that. He had a music video that came out with "As It Was", but Tey, you were talking about the TikTok trend for "As It Was".

Taylor: Yeah, I've seen that go around, and I was wondering— 'cause, I mean, I don't know. It's... it's not a... I don't think it's an organic thing that happened. Like, people started doing it. Like, my suspicion is, was this like a... a product that was made along with the release to start a trend to make the song popular? 'Cause it feels like that must be part of marketing music now, right? Is that where we're at?

Sydnee: What is the TikTok thing?

Rileigh: Um, Tey, do you wanna describe it?

Taylor: Well, I don't—

Sydnee: I haven't— I don't think I've come across this.

Taylor: I mean, it's usually just like people reflecting on things that have changed in their lives, right? That's just kind of it? [laughs]

Rileigh: 'Cause the song is like— the refrain is, "I know it's not the same as it was."

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: So it's a lot of, like, pictures of life, then at this point in someone's life, and now. Like "I know it's not the same as it was," here, whatever. Like, using the song as a background for that.

Sydnee: I wonder if— I can't picture those. I don't feel like I've seen those TikToks, but then at the same time the song felt familiar to me when I heard it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. I mean, it has been very popular. I was wrong, it came out April 1st.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I must've heard it. Okay.

Raleigh: So, like, six weeks before the album ever came out. So it was out and very popular for a while before the rest of the album. But I noticed the TikTok trend when the song first came out, and then I happened to stumble across on my For You page, um, Halsey on TikTok, who I don't even listen to very much, um, but I obviously am aware that she is a very popular artist. Uh, posting conversations that she claims that she recorded, genuinely recorded conversations with her agent telling her, in order to be able to release new songs that she had written that she wanted to release, she had to tease them on TikTok and make TikToks to make the teaser bits of the songs very popular before she would be allowed to release the songs, and she had to make TikToks about them.

Sydnee: Was she releasing these conversations as, like, a criticism?

Raleigh: Yes. And a lot of people were saying, "Well, how do I know this isn't part of it to hype up your new songs? That, like, you're quote, unquote 'recording' these conversations with your agent, and these aren't real either."

But then there were several other musicians that jumped in and said, like, "Yeah, I released music last month, but only because— I was only allowed to because my agent or label or whatever made me release X amount of TikToks advertising it."

'Cause that's a very common thing. I don't know if it's something you all see, but a lot of people, especially ones that aren't necessarily signed musicians, like, with established fan bases, like ones that create music on the internet, will release 30 second, 45 second bits of songs, and then play them in TikToks over and over and over again, and basically say, like, if this gets this many likes or this many shares or this many views, then I'll drop the song.

Sydnee: Really?

Rileigh: Yeah. So that's become a very popular marketing tool for a lot of people that aren't even necessarily popular musicians, that will get, like, one really huge single that gets downloaded millions of times because it blew up in a TikTok they made. So I guess musicians that are already established, their teams saw this happening, and have encouraged them to do the same thing.

Sydnee: That's interesting. I didn't know that they did that.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I mean, I can't be too cynical about it, 'cause it makes sense. You know, getting people to just hear the song is such an effort of getting people to— er, such a big part of getting people to like a song. Like, there's so many— like, back in our day it was just getting something to play on repeat on the radio. But, like, there are so many songs from, like, my high school era that I'll hear. And I'm like, do I like this song, or do I just know it? [through laughter] I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: No, I mean, that definitely—

Taylor: [simultaneously] I know the lyrics, so I must like it.

Sydnee: Yeah, that definitely happens. No, but I mean, I can see— you know, that was the only reason— there are some songs that I am very familiar with because I have heard the same 20 seconds on TikTok over and over and over again, but I didn't know who did them or anything.

Rileigh: Yeah. I don't know. It seems like one, it's a smart marketing tool. And I say all that to say probably yes, the whole trend with "As It Was" was someone who was an advertiser for Harry Styles in some way using that song as a trend, and it being paid to be sponsored and blown up and shown on X amount of feeds and stuff like that, that then came from that. That's always been my assumption with most TikTok trends that use songs, though, because I've even seen that happen with songs that, like... there was a Doja Cat song that blew up right at the beginning of quarantine, like early 2020. And she had been releasing music for a while before that, but she wasn't necessarily very popular. And then out of

nowhere, one of her songs that had been released a year before became immensely popular on TikTok, and then she blew up in general.

Um, so I don't know if that— maybe that was just coincidental, but it really seems like it might just be a smart marketing ploy to, like, make something viral. 'Cause even if it's only viral for a few days or a week, like, there's all those downloads to your song, and then your name is out there, and then everyone knows you wrote the song that is on this trend. Even if you don't know who wrote it, like, "Oh, that's the 'As It Was' trend." Or that's the, um... Lizzo trend, or dance or whatever. I don't know. But...

Sydnee: And then Charlie and Cooper are telling me about it, and trying to do the dances, and...

Raleigh: Yes, exactly.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Um, so I don't know. It does seem like it's smart marketing, but I could also see from the standpoint of, "I want to release music I wrote. I don't like being an influencer or advertiser or, you know, marketing myself. I like writing music." I guess that's what Halsey was trying to say in her TikToks was like, "I don't do this so I can make TikToks that blow up. I do it because I enjoy writing music that means something to me and sharing it with you all, and I want to be able to share this with you all, but I'm not allowed to until I make TikToks about it."

Sydnee: Oh. I don't— I mean... I mean, I— I don't, you know, "allowed" and all that, like, that's a problem. And I don't— I know that the music industry, like, there are endless problems with the way they treat artists. Like, obviously that's always been true. But at the same time, I mean, I think what you're getting down to— and Teylor, maybe you could speak about this more than me, 'cause I am not an artist in any sense of the world. But, I mean, I think it depends. If you're creating things for your own enjoyment, in the sense that you love the process and making a thing, and then the next part of that is do you want people to see it, or hear it, or experience it? And if that is important to you, are you willing to use the tools that are available to make that happen? And, I mean, I don't know. That part of it isn't— I mean, it's not something that I have to ask for myself.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But now I don't— just to clarify, Sydnee, you are a writer, and you also are a poet, and you're very good at that, so you are very much an artist.

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: Just— just to, you know.

Raleigh: An artist of the parody song.

Taylor: Yeah, also that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, thank you.

Taylor: I mean, that's— I think that's a good question. Because if it's not affecting the integrity of the art, if you're not designing the art to sell, you're just trying to use today's mechanisms of getting things to be heard to get it out there... I mean, I don't know. I'm very past the whole, like, "[sarcastically] No, I make art for art's sake. I do it alone in my house and I hide it under my bed when it's done."

Like, no. I... art is meant to communicate. You make it to communicate with people in the ways, the tools you have. So, it's—I don't think there's any shame in using the current tools of communication to get out there. But if you're infringing on the integrity of your art in order to make it more palatable or more shareable, that's where I think you cross the line. Which is probably part of it too. I mean, corporate music, probably yes, there's an element of... I mean, we know this. Making things in an appealing way.

Sydnee: Sure, yeah.

Taylor: But that's a whole other... element. You know.

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, I'd say that there are rules they're already playing by in terms of what they're allowed to release or not. Like, artists don't just— I mean, at least very huge ones, like Harry Styles or Taylor Swift or Halsey or whatever, they don't just release songs as they write them. Like, you don't just get one or two song drops from artists like that throughout the year. Usually they wait until

they have a fully realized album that then the album gets teased, and then maybe there's a single for that, and there's a music video, and then there's a release date and all that, and then there's bonus tracks. Like, there's already a whole system in place for that to sell more.

Sydnee: And you could make the argument, too, like obviously if you're under a contractual obligation, that's what you gotta do. But once you're famous enough, if you're not under a contractual obligation for your next album or whatever, you could do that if you wanted. But the problem is, you won't make money that way, right? Like if you just like, "I made this song and I want to share it with you, so I'm just gonna do it on whatever social media or whatever. You know, I'm gonna make a YouTube video," whatever you're gonna do. Obviously if your platform is big enough, people will experience it. But that's not how you...

Rileigh: Streaming isn't how people—

Sydnee: That's not how you make a bunch of money.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] — they don't make money, yeah.

Sydnee: So, I mean— so it's like— I don't know. I guess it depends on if you want to make money for it or not.

Taylor: Usually yes.

Sydnee: Which is very— I mean, that's a very— [through laughter] yeah, usually yes, right?

Rileigh: Yeah. Especially if that's your career. Like, if that's what you rely on, then yes.

Sydnee: Yes, then you want to. And so then if you do want to make money, there are ways proven to ensure that— and, I mean, obviously then somebody else gets to make money off you too, but... I don't know.

Taylor: Well, I think that's more of the same. That sort of weird moral purity we assign to artists. It's like, no, I— I both want people to see this, and I want to make money off of it. Yes, it is the thing I do. I would like it to do both of those things. It doesn't stop me having integrity because I want it to support me, and

also be experienced by lots of people. I don't know how we got those beliefs baked into the idea of an artist.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: I think that you have to accept, when you start— like, when you become an adult, developing your own music taste. Especially with people like Harry Styles, who I love very much as an artist and musician. I like all of his music a lot. Um, and I don't think he's, like, a— a bad person. I'm not saying this as, like, a criticism of him. But—

Sydnee: As far as we know at this point!

Rileigh: As far as we know, he seems good.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I mean...

Taylor: [simultaneously] A dangerous game.

Sydnee: As far as we know! [laughs]

Rileigh: Can't trust anyone these days. Um, but like, do I think that sometimes some of his stuff about... needing to— not wanting to dress in a certain way, or, like, wanting to do magazine covers in dresses or, like, walk red carpets in half typical masculine, half typical feminine, like, clothing. Do I sometimes think some of that is a way to get attention brought to him in the media to then boost, like, him as an artist? Probably sometimes. But I don't think that's a bad thing. Again, I think it's like, if this is— this is not a bad... thing to bring awareness to, that we have a very heteronormative, gender binary society that we need to stop caring about. That's an important thing to talk about. But I don't know if that's necessarily, like, a thing that he really cares about that much, or if it's a thing that is used in a way to, like, separate him from his boy band identity and bring in an era of listeners and fans that don't— that didn't like him then, but would like this version of him.

Sydnee: Which is what all artists do. I mean, musical art. Like, that is part of it. You're, you know— I mean, and a lot of not just, like, musical artists, like, anybody who's famous. And, like, on a smaller scale, we all do. You know? We are

all constantly... I mean, I know, like... okay. I decided I was not gonna wear dresses and skirts anymore 'cause I don't like 'em, and I've never liked 'em. And I also— part of that was, I like people to see me, you know, in a certain way. I like the way I am dressing and looking. And then I realized at some point, like, I'm... I actually do like this one dress, and I am gonna— [laughs] there's this one dress I have that actually I do still enjoy wearing, and I am gonna wear it. And I was— but I was trying to send a message. Like, "This is who I am now. I'm powerful and I'm strong, and I don't— I don't embrace the femininity that I used to." But also, I do like this dress, so I am gonna wear this dress.

So, like, I mean, we all make those choices every single day when we go out into the world and leave the house and let people... take us in. [laughs quietly] Um, it's just he has to do it on stage.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: [laughs quietly] Well, you know, there's degrees to that. Because we started talking about Target and, like, the idea of creating Pride clothes or appealing to, like, a non-gendered fashion sense purely to sell things, they're— I think we can agree that's kind of bad. That's a little repugnant. But if it's— you know, if it falls in line with your— with your feelings, your opinions about things, and it's also something that, you know, society demands, I think that's when it works, right? Like, it's not full artifice. It's just... it's a trend, but it's one that I— I relate to, or I feel is important to address with my— you know, my power in society as Harry Styles.

Raleigh: Right. And also just, I think he's using it to kind of identify his, like, eras, if you will, associated with each of his albums. I don't know if this was a thing, like, before social media made this a thing, but like, Taylor Swift had her eras. Like, how she dressed when she released *Red*, and how she dressed when she released the *1989* was very different. And you could look at pictures of her and know what era she was in. Um, I think he does a lot of that to kind of identify his eras that also kind of match the vibe of the album. I mean, even on the cover of *Harry's House* he's wearing, like, bell bottom jeans and a very, like, flowy white tunic top shirt thing, that looks very, like, 70's, 80's. That is not necessarily hypermasculine, but not necessarily feminine.

Taylor: It looked like... Syd, you remember those many years where for every Halloween you would just be a hippie?

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: It looked like what you would wear when you would do your hippie Halloween costume.

Raleigh: That is what it looks like!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: When I was— and I was basically just wearing stuff that I wore to school anyway, but just in a configuration that specifically communicated... [laughs]

Taylor: With, like, a headband.

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, that is what it looks like.

Sydnee: Get some of those little teeny sunglasses that are, like, pink or whatever. [laughs]

Raleigh: Um... but yeah. He's also breaking into acting, if you all are interested. Olivia Wilde, his girlfriend, is directing a film. I think it's called *Don't Worry Darling*. And Florence Pugh is the other lead actor.

Taylor: Oh!

Raleigh: And I love her.

Sydnee: That's where they— that's where they met. Like, she didn't, like, cast him in her movie.

Raleigh: Right. I think they met doing that.

Sydnee: They met doing that, yeah. [laughs]

Raleigh: Right. Um, but there's been lots of jokes on the internet about Florence Pugh and Harry Styles starring in a movie together. Like, bisexuals and pansexuals losing their minds over the two of them together. Which is true.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: He's also gonna be a— a Marvel... guy. Right?

Raleigh: Yes! Yes.

Taylor: He's gonna be, uh... Thanos's brother?

Sydnee: What?

Taylor: Playing... Eros?

Raleigh: Yes. Yes, that's right.

Sydnee: Whose brother? Whose brother?

Taylor: The big purple guy that tried to end the world. Half the world.

Raleigh: Thanos.

Sydnee: Oh. He's playing his brother?

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: What are they— like *The Eternals* or something like that? Is that what they're called?

Taylor: Yeah, he showed up at the end of *The Eternals*. He's in there somewhere. Don't worry about it.

Raleigh: He's in there. He's in the MCU. And so is Florence Pugh!

Sydnee: I've only seen bits and pieces. I really need to see *Doctor Strange 2* still.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah you do. It's so good.

Sydnee: I know. There's so much Scarlet Witch, I hear.

Rileigh: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. That's...

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Doctor Strange and Scarlet Witch.

Taylor: Oh, those are your—

Rileigh: [through laughter] There you go, it's like Florence Pugh and Harry Styles!

Sydnee: Yes please! Yes please! [laughs] I love these characters. It's perfect.

Taylor: Your two favorites in one movie.

Sydnee: I know! I know.

Rileigh: Um, before we wrap up our conversation of this album, I am curious to know what your all's favorite songs were. And we talked about "Matilda", I don't know if that was...

Sydnee: Well, I liked "As It Was". I didn't know it was, like, the bop. I feel like—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] It was the single.

Sydnee: I feel basic now, is the thing, and I didn't—

Rileigh: It's a little basic.

Sydnee: I— but apparently I am basic. 'Cause I—

Rileigh: Good song, though.

Sydnee: It was my favorite one. It was the one that I— I listened to the whole thing, and then I returned to listen to that one. I was like, "Yeah, that was the one I liked. Yeah."

Taylor: Um, yeah. I mean, "Matilda" was definitely the one that I liked the most, but I thought a lot of them were pleasant. I liked "Grape Juice". I liked— it's about wine, of course I'm gonna like it. [laughs] Um... I thought "Satellite" was enjoyable. I like the imagery of that song. He does— he has a lot of really nice imagery in a lot of his songs, actually. They were a couple songs that just had a list of pleasant things as part of the— [laughs] the verse, which was nice.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They really are... no thoughts, just vibes? Is that... what you...

Raleigh: [through laughter] Oh my God.

Sydnee: ... is that what you say?

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: Yeah, that's it. That's it!

Sydnee: Is that wrong?

Raleigh: No thoughts, just vibes.

Sydnee: Was that wrong? I thought that was—

Raleigh: It's good. It was good.

Sydnee: — I thought that's what... you young people say. [laughs]

Raleigh: You sound like a TikTok teen.

Sydnee: [laughs] [sheepishly] Was that wrong?

Raleigh: That's very good, Syd.

Sydnee: I don't know! Am I— am I saying something mean? I don't mean to be mean. I just meant... that's how it feels.

Raleigh: No, it's not mean. I get what you mean.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rleigh: Um, I like "Late Night Talking" for that exact reason. 'Cause there's something about the beat when it comes on where I'm just like, "Yes. This is good."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rleigh: That's also why I like "Music For A Sushi Restaurant", 'cause I can't understand half of what he's saying during that song, but it's just the "[singing wordlessly]"

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I looked at the lyrics to that.

Rleigh: It's like, yeah, alright.

Taylor: It's a little— they're a little silly! [laughs]

Rleigh: Yeah, they're a little silly!

Sydnee: Yeah, it is silly.

Taylor: And I was curious about the name, and apparently, it's because he was in a sushi restaurant and he heard one of his other songs come on. He was like, "Well, this is not appropriate music for a sushi restaurant."

And so I guess he decided to write a song [through laughter] that was!

[all laugh]

Rleigh: This is music for a sushi restaurant.

Taylor: It's sort of pleasant, it's in the background, it's vaguely referencing some things you might encounter in a sushi restaurant. But not— you know, not too directly.

Rileigh: Like, at one point I heard, like, "fried rice."

Taylor: Yeah. "Green tea."

Rileigh: "Cook an egg on it. Green tea."

Taylor: Yeah. "I could cook an egg on you." That's weird. Alright. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yep.

Sydnee: Alright.

Rileigh: Um... yeah, all around I really enjoy this album. I think as a whole this is my favorite album he's put out. There are some really good songs from other ones that I enjoy just as much, but as a whole I like this album most. That seems to be a general consensus.

Sydnee: And it's a good summer album.

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's good for this time of year.

Rileigh: I agree.

Taylor: It's not a negative to have an album be able to kind of sit in the background and just be enjoyable. Not, [through laughter] you know, engage with your emotions to the 10th degree.

Rileigh: It doesn't hurt to listen to it. You can just vibe to it.

Taylor: No pain here. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's a good thing.

Rileigh: Well, thank you all for listening with me to *Harry's House*.

Sydnee: Well, thank you!

Taylor: Thank you.

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: I don't— I don't know that I would have sought it out if you hadn't suggested it, and now I will keep listening.

Raleigh: Well, good.

Sydnee: So, thank you.

Raleigh: Um, what's next?

Sydnee: Well, because it is Pride month, I know this is a current— or recent, I should say, not current— recent thing, but I thought we could talk about *Our Flag Means Death*.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: Oh yeah!

Sydnee: Because...

Raleigh: I'm the only one here who's not watched it yet.

Sydnee: I know we are not the only members of the community obsessed with this show.

Taylor: I think a few other people have seen it. I think.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. So you have a week.

Raleigh: I have a week.

Sydnee: Watch it.

Rileigh: I know. Sydnee said "You can't watch a whole season of a show before we record next." I said, "Sydnee, I have nine days to watch ten episodes. I'll watch it in two days."

Sydnee: That would never happen.

Rileigh: I watched all of *Stranger Things* Season 4 Volume 1 in a Day.

Taylor: Same.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: We've seen one episode so far. [laughs]

Rileigh: Well, I have no children, so... [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, same.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, thank you again, Rileigh. You guys should check out... not *The House of Harry*. It's called *Harry's House*.

Rileigh: *Harry's House*.

Sydnee: But if you look that up you'll find it. [laughs] The internet'll get you there. Don't worry. Um... [laughs] Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind".

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Rileigh: What— what do you think music for a pancake restaurant would sound like?

Sydnee: Hmm... it would sound like... I feel like it would sound like *The Brady Bunch*.

Rileigh: [laughs] Alright.

Sydnee: [laughs]

[music plays]

Jackie: I'm going first! It's me, Jackie Kashian.

Laurie: Man, she's always this bossy!

[all laugh]

Laurie: Uh, hi, I'm Laurie Kilmartin. We're a bunch of stand-up comics, and we've been doing comedy, like, 60 years total of both of us—

Jackie: [laughs]

Laurie: But we look amazing. And—

Kyle: [laughs]

Jackie: It's all working out. We drop every Monday on Max Fun, and it's called *The Jackie and Laurie Show*, and you could listen to it, and learn about comedy, and learn about anger management, and all the things.

Laurie: And Jackie is married but childless, and I'm unmarried but childful, so together we make...

Jackie and Laurie: ...One complete woman.

[pause]

Kyle: [through laughter] Is that just where that one's gonna end?

Laurie: Yeah! Yeah!

Kyle: [laughs]

Jackie: And we try to make Kyle laugh just like that and say "Oh my God" every episode.

Kyle: It's a good job.

Speaker Four: *The Jackie and Laurie Show*. Mondays, only on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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