

## Still Buffering 316: Ani DiFranco

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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 Sydney McElroy.

### **Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

### **Sydnee:**

Uh, my broccoli was ready yesterday.

### **Taylor:**

[laughs] Ready for what?

### **Raleigh:**

Oh.

### **Sydnee:**

Picking.

### **Raleigh:**

Oh, boy.

### **Sydnee:**

I grew broccoli.

### **Taylor:**

Did—

**Sydnee:**

And I picked it.

**Taylor:**

How did you know it was ready? Did it tell you, "Hey, hey, pick me!"?

**Raleigh:** "I'm ready!"

**Sydnee:**

Okay. You joke, but this is, like, a great question. [laughs] I don't know how big- Like... so, you know how big they look in the grocery store-

**Taylor:**

Well, when like—

**Sydnee:**

But—

**Raleigh:**

Or when they're cut up?

**Sydnee:**

Well—

**Taylor:**

... not the little guys.

**Sydnee:**

... they're like a whole head.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But, like, I don't know how big I can expect that broccoli that I'm growing to get, right?

So, I assume there's a point where I know it's ready. I don't- but I didn't want to pick it too early, 'cause, like, what if it keeps getting bigger?

**Rileigh:**

But you've accepted, now, that it's ready?

**Sydnee:**

Well, here- here was my clue. A couple of the teeny little green... things... started to look a teeny bit yellow.

**Taylor:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

So, I was worried that it was about to- uh, my broccolini bolted. It all flowered.

**Rileigh:**

Oh, my gosh.

**Sydnee:**

So, my broccolini plant is gorgeous. It has these beautiful yellow flowers [laughs] all over it. But- but that's not good for eating.

**Rileigh:**

No, that's not- That's not foods.

**Sydnee:**

No. It's still growing new little sprouts of broccolini that I can grab off of it though, so I- I'm letting it go. The top part is beautiful and the bottom parts are still edible.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] I like that plants do that. Like, you know, it's like, "Oh, I'm growing. I'm growing. I'm growing. I'm edible. I'm beautiful. Don't touch me."

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] They do. The- the herbs will do that too.

Now, you can eat `em. Like, it's just bitter.

But, you know, I don't- I have a bit of a palate for bitter, so as long as they're not all flowered, like, if there are a couple flowers on there, I'll just chop it all up-

**Raleigh:**

Mmm.

**Sydnee:**

... throw it in the salad. But- [laughs] but anyway. I picked my broccoli and I showed Charlie and Cooper, and they were like, "Can we hold it?"

And I'm like, "It's a head of broccoli."

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Like, this is not exci- Okay, sure. So—

**Taylor:**

Why can't they hold it?

**Sydnee:**

... Charlie's holding it, and she's like, "Wow. [laughs] You grew this."

I'm like, "Yep."

And then, Cooper takes it and just takes a giant bite out of it.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

... and is like, "Yes."

And just proceeds to wa- They're playing on the playground, just walk around the playground, eating a head of broccoli.

And, like, I had kind of intended to bring it in and chop it up, and I don't know, cook it or just serve it.

**Raleigh:**

Nope.

**Sydnee:**

But, no. She ate most- Just walked around, eating a fresh head of raw broccoli.

Which is great. I mean, it's great, but... She's, like, going down the slide, holding a whole head of broccoli, [laughs] taking bites off of it.

**Taylor:**

Was it washed?

**Sydnee:**

No, I had just picked it.

**Taylor:**

Oh. You get some of that good natural bacteria...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... biome of the- the area. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Make you hardy.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Just a little bit of anthrax.

**Taylor:**

Oof.

**Sydnee:**

A little bit of... [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

You know, your- your children held up a big head of broccoli and said, "Wow, you grew this."

Have you ever told them, like, "I also grew you"? [laughs] Oooh.

**Sydnee:**

They'll never—

**Raleigh:**

[As Sydnee] "I've grown far bigger things than this head of broccoli."

**Sydnee:**

They don't ever seem as impressed by that. Like, "I made you. I grew you in me."

**Raleigh:**

But you also grew that big head of broccoli. So-

**Sydnee:**

I grew that broccoli.

**Taylor:**

So, that's basically your—

**Sydnee:**

Right now—

**Taylor:**

... your sibling, that broccoli that you just ate.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yep. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

They're way more excited about the snap peas. They go out and check every morning to see if there are some.

Like, I will never- I will never collect enough to, like, make them for dinner, because as soon as one is ripe, one of them picks `em and eats `em.

**Raleigh:**

Mmm.

**Sydnee:**

Which is fine. Like, they're eating vegetables. I don't care. Whatever. But...  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I always enjoyed, last year, you grew those tiny little snacky peppers?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Those little teeny red ones? And I was with you a few times when you would pick them.

And Cooper, specifically, would help pick them, but then just eat them the whole time she was picking them.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

So, like, she'd pick, like, a dozen, but then end up bringing in, like, two. [laughs] Just eat them the whole time.

**Sydnee:**

I have- I'm growing two more snacky pepper plants this year.

**Raleigh:**

They're so good.

**Sydnee:**

They- they yielded so many, I only grew two.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I've got some- I've got some jalapenos growing. I've got some regular old bells.

**Raleigh:**

This is no longer *Still Buffering*. This is *Still-*



**Sydnee:**

*Still Gardening.*

**Raleigh:**

... *Still Gardening*. Sydney's plant corner.

**Sydnee:**

A bad serial podcast.

**Raleigh:**

A bad serial podcast, decent gardening podcast.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I just- I just—

**Raleigh:**

Maybe a culture podcast.

**Sydnee:**

... it- [laughs] It just makes me happy. I like to eat things...

**Raleigh:**

Me too.

**Sydnee:**

... outside.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

Well, I also like to eat things.

**Sydnee:**

I've be- I've- I've also been- All these plants have all these leaves on them.

**Taylor:**

I feel like--

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... this is your area. This is- this feels like a vegan thing.

All these plants that I'm growing have all these leaves, and I feel like some of the leaves must be edidle [sic]- edible. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Edidible? [sic]

**Sydnee:**

Edidible. [sic]

**Taylor:**

I don't know. That's- um, that's a person that knows about plants thing. That's not a vegan thing.

Have you met a- a--?

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

... functional vegan?

**Raleigh:**

Uh, Tey, you're a vegan. You should know which leaves are edible and which aren't.

**Sydnee:**

Can—

**Taylor:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

Can I eat the broccoli leaves?

**Taylor:**

I don't know. Try.

**Sydnee:**

Probably.

**Taylor:**

See- see--

**Raleigh:**

Aren't the--

**Taylor:**

... how it goes.

**Raleigh:**

Sometimes aren't there leaves on the ones you get in the store?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

On the heads?

**Sydnee:**

You can actually eat—

**Raleigh:**

Probably fine then.

**Sydnee:**

... broccoli and broccolini leaves. I think that they're- Again, like, the bitterness is the thing. So, it's like a lot of greens, if you're worri- you can cook `em...

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Greens, greens-

**Sydnee:**

... if you want to.

**Raleigh:**

... they're nothing but greens.

**Taylor:**

I mean, just- just to clarify, bagels and Oreos are also vegan. Some of us live like monsters. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I live like that and I'm not even vegan.

**Taylor:**

Well, maybe you are. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

That's just my choice. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I still love the conversation we had, Cooper told us she wanted to be a vegetarian, and Charlie goes, "You can't ever have chicken nuggets."

And she said, "Why?" [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Oh, no.

**Sydnee:**

"'Cause they're made out of chicken." [laughs]

She went, "Oh."

And she said, "And you can never have shrimp, and you can never have hot dogs, and you can never have hamburgers."

And Cooper said, "Okay, I don't want to be a vegetarian. I want a hamburger now." [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Well, I will say that the, uh, the- the Impossible nuggets, um... I feel like chicken nuggets are so far removed from a natural food—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... of any kind, that the Impossible ones really are quite similar. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

We have started buying those at the grocery store and serving them to the girls. They haven't caught on yet.

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Raleigh:**

I had a vegetarian roommate I really enjoyed that, uh, the brand she would get, they called their chicken nuggets, like, Chik'n Nuggets.

**Taylor:**

Oh-

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

It's, like, C-H-I-K'N. I didn't eat them, so I don't know how they tasted, but I did enjoy seeing them in the freezer. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

KFC has some sort of- I don't know what brand of fake chicken, but some sort of fake chicken nuggets now.

And, um, the only- And they're good. Like, they're good. You wouldn't- You know, they taste like chicken. It's whatever.

But, um, they're square, which is strange.

**Taylor:**

Hmm. Chickens don't come in that shape.

**Raleigh:**

I think they can make it any shape. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, you could do any shape. Like- [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Dinosaurs, stars...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Yeah. Like, McDonald's has four shapes of chicken nugget.

**Raleigh:**

Boot, bell, ball...

**Sydnee:**

I don't remember.

**Raleigh:**

What's the fourth one?

**Taylor:**

Sounds like some sort of astrology.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Uh I—

**Sydnee:**

Which chicken nugget are you?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Really more of a bell, myself.

**Taylor:**

I feel like my favorite brand of fake... Not to eat, but just the whatever went into the packaging design of fake chicken nugget. Have you all seen Simulate?

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] No.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Taylor:**

It's- it's Simulate Chicken, and then, in just big red letters, it says NUGGS, just N-U-G-G-S.

**Raleigh:**

Oh god.

**Taylor:**

And the image on the front is a human hand feeding a chicken nugget to a chicken.

**Sydnee:**

W- wha- Uh...

**Raleigh:**

Uh... umm...

**Taylor:**

I feel like this is one of those, like, we- We gave an AI some information and asked them to design us an imitation [laughs] chicken nugget box.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Why—

**Raleigh:**

Uh...

**Sydnee:**

Why would- Is that just to prove there's no chicken in it?



**Taylor:**

I- I don't know. Um—

**Raleigh:**

You look at it and go, "Well, here are your two options. This is cannibalism or this is a chicken eating some plant-based fake chicken meat. One of 'em's- One of them's true and it's the second one. Buy our fake chicken nuggets."

**Taylor:**

Like, "Don't worry, the chicken's cool with it, 'cause we told the chicken, 'Don't worry. This isn't your mom. This is fake.'"

Like, I think if you made a human cadaver out of Impossible meat, I still wouldn't be like, "Yum-yum!"

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

No. No, I hate that.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I don't—

**Raleigh:**

To be fair, at least if the chicken was eating a nug, it wouldn't look like a chicken.

**Taylor:**

That's true. The chicken... The chicken doesn't know. It doesn't know what a nugget is. It doesn't have nuggets.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I mean, I think we can all agree that the chicken, it's not gonna know either way.

Like, the- [laughs] The chicken is not gonna be aware.

**Raleigh:**

What are you trying to say?

**Sydnee:**

But that, like, for us—

**Taylor:**

You know what, Syd? I don't think we can agree without input from the chicken. Okay? [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I- All I'm saying is—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... that, regardless of whether or not the chicken knows, it's wrong. We can all agree on that. Right? Like, we shouldn't feed chicken nuggets to the chicken. Even if they're fake chicken nuggets—

**Raleigh:**

What if they're—

**Sydnee:**

... it's still concerning.

Like, it's concerning to me, as a human, even if I can accept that the chicken probably doesn't know.

**Taylor:**

Well, you know, uh, this is not *Still Veganing* podcast.

But if you ever want more disconcerting information about how likely we are to feed animal by-products to the animals of which those are by-products, I got some information on factory farming for you. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

No, no, I know, but I mean- And that's why I'm saying, like, even if the animals don't know, I think we can all agree it's wrong.

**Taylor:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

That- that was my point. Like—

**Taylor:**

That's also how you get zombies.

**Sydnee:**

... that's not good.

**Taylor:**

I'm fairly certain, scientifically. That checks out. Right?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. No, I—

**Raleigh:**

Will it start with chickens?

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] There's lots of research on that.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, you... You feed an... You feed an animal its own flesh, it turns into a zombie. That's just science.

**Raleigh:**

I have no segue.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Ani DiFranco. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

There we go. We went too far in one direction.

**Sydnee:**

We did- We did go too far there. That was, um...

**Taylor:**

Ah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, cannibalism is too far. There's the line. Anyway.

**Raleigh:**

Anyways.

**Sydnee:**

Taylor, you chose Ani DiFranco to talk about this week.

**Taylor:**

Uh, yes. I did, uh, specifically, um, her 1995 album, *Not a Pretty Girl*, which was the first one that I ever listened to.

And there were other ones that I enjoyed, but I think it was the one that kind of made an initial impact on me the strongest.

And I think I first listened to it back in high school, and it was sort of one of those albums I kept to myself, because I was introduced to Ani DiFranco as being, like, a... a gay musician by kids in my art class.

And, uh, she's... She's bisexual. That's fine, but it's just funny. You know, this was, like, this was the early 2000s. It still kind of felt like... like contraband to be listening to gay music.

**Rileigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I was introduced to Ani DiFranco by our cousin, Joe.

**Taylor:**

Oh, really?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Honestly, most of the music, especially, like, the- At the time that that sort of-

What people called, like, angry girl music, although they weren't angry, but that was how it was sort of categorized.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

But all the, like, what I would say, like, maybe powerful women music, [laughs] um, I- Joe was usually the one [laughs] who played it for me first, and was like, "I think you will like this."

**Taylor:**

That's interesting.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know what vibes I was sending off that he was, like, "Mm, Ani DiFranco." [laughs] But, uh... But I remember immediately liking that it was, um...

We've talked about this before on the show, like, it didn't feel produced or polished. You know?

**Taylor:**

Well, and that's... That's a pretty fair read, because she was... She made her own record label and, like—

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Taylor:**

... published all of her own albums. [laughs] Self-published. Can you do that with albums? I guess you can. Ani DiFranco did it. But—

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't know that.

**Raleigh:**

I didn't know that.

**Taylor:**

Righteous Babe is her creation. Um, I mean, her, as a self-starter is really impressive.

Like, she was, uh, emancipated from her parents at, like, 15, and I mean, she has put out, I don't know, what? Like, 30 albums at this point? But they were all self-produced through Righteous Babe.

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

See, I had no idea.

But I'd... I mean, and I always enjoyed that with music that sounded a little more raw, a little, like, I don't know.

A little more- It's not always live, but you feel like there's some element to it of, like, "I'm hearing it played in the moment."

**Raleigh:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. Sometimes... And nothing against, like, I can enjoy some really...

Like, I would say, we talked about Harry Styles recently.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That music is very produced—

**Raleigh:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

... very polished, very— [laughs]

**Taylor:**

You don't... You don't think old Harry Styles is in his basement with a—

**Sydnee:**

No. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

... guitar and a synthesizer? [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And I can... And I can appreciate that too. Like, that is what it is, and I- You can imagine... It's kind of, like, with watching a really well-made TV show or movie.

You're aware of the fact that they may have shot this scene 30 different times, and you're seeing bits and pieces of different moments—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... put together into the best version.

And some music sort of sounds that way. Like, maybe you're hearing the best amalgam of all these different tracks or whatever.

And with music like Ani DiFranco, I never get that vibe. It feels like you are playing this song in this moment in history and time, and I am hearing it.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Which, uh, which I like.

**Raleigh:**

I was looking because I thought I had listened to one somehow on accident that was live, and I did.



Just shuffling through- it wasn't from this album, I don't believe, but I was just shuffling through some of her most popular music after listening to the album.

And I didn't even- I wouldn't have known, listening to the actual song itself, it was live, if not for the little, like, bit at the beginning that was, like, "Thank you all for coming," with some applause in the background.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Because it genuinely all does sound the... Not the same, in that sense, but it all sounds either like it is done live or, like it is made to give off that vibe that you're listening to it in the moment.

I was thinking that—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... as you were saying that, that I listened to one that was live unintentionally, I was- I wouldn't have known.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Usually, you can tell with artists. Like, "Oh, this is from a concert," or "This is live," 'cause it sounds way different and there's not as much going on in the background, or the voice sounds different.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Not at all.

**Sydnee:**

When- and I always felt like her music isn't as, um... It's not as, like... It- I don't- It feels more complicated? It doesn't feel like your standard, like, verse chorus with a hook—

**Taylor:**

Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... kind of- You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Like, it's a more complicated structure as well.

**Taylor:**

Well, she really- It's one thing I like in this album, you know, there's, um, "Tiptoe," which is really just spoken word—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... the second track. And then, even the last track, uh, "Coming Up," which is beautiful, uh, it's- They're... They're both more poems than songs.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

And I feel like a lot of her songs even kind of... They get a lot closer to, like, you know, free verse, spoken word, like, poetry than necessarily song structure, which is really pleasant.

**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and I wonder if that- I mean, who know- I... You might know the answer to this.

I wonder if that was her style of- Like, her workflow. I wonder if she wrote poems and put them to music or if she... You know?

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Or if it was composed simultaneously, because that- You know, some people sort of work that way.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

They write the poem and then the music follows. I don't know.

**Taylor:**

I'm not sure.

**Sydnee:**

I can- I don't make music, so I have no idea.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Well, it's a- You know, like, it depends if you're more of a lyric or a sound person, but I've always been more of a lyric person. And so that's one of the things that I really enjoy about Ani DiFranco, is that the—

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... lyrics are so rich. Like, they're so descriptive. The imagery that she invokes.

And a lot of that comes from just, like, having that freedom to just continue with a point. It's not like everything has to rhyme or everything has to line up, which is nice.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I wonder if that is, too- I have no idea, and people who make music could probably weigh in on that- Like, I do feel like the lyrics lead these songs and the music is made to support and fit—

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... the lyrics, as opposed to vice versa.

And sometimes, you hear that, like a song that's got, like, a really catchy hook to it or something, but if you just looked at the lyrics written down, they're kind of... They're kind of meaningless.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Like, they don't- You know? They're just sort of, like... They're saying just one basic thing, and that's it.

And I wonder which way- I don't know. I wonder if that's two different ways of approaching it.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know.

**Taylor:**

Um, well, and I... You know, the kind of... I mean, I don't know. I don't make music myself. But I feel like that break from the structure that you're so used to in more produced music...

It's funny, this, this... Re-listening to this album, like, now, so far removed from when I was first introduced to it, uh, I never really considered how punk it was.

**Rileigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Like, back then, there was such a strong line. It's like, "Oh, like, you know, power chord progression, punk rock, is this thing," and then this is "angry girl music."

But if you look at, like, the kind of core values of punk rock, it's like, "Well, I mean, she's singing a lot about, like, the personal and the political. You know, there's a lot about... About... I mean, classism and sexism. There's...

Like it's... This is the... Even the structure itself, there is something very punk rock about Ani DiFranco, but was always kind of excluded from that category because... I don't know, it's a girl with a guitar instead of a boy with—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... different kind of guitar?

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... which I just thought was interesting, in retrospect, 'cause I've always felt like my music was very different in some ways, the tastes I had.

I'm like, "No, they- They're actually- It's very similar. She just wasn't put in that category."

**Sydnee:**

I think... I think that's very true.

Um, I think that part of it is exactly what you said, 'cause it's a girl with a guitar.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And it's not- I mean, very pragmatically speaking, it's not as loud.

**Taylor:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I think- You know? I think that's part of why, but I do think the other part of it is that sometimes, it's softer.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You know? Which is fine and can still be punk, but I think that the... For a lot, like, especially back then, it was like, "Well, no, if you're- if you're ever being soft or quiet, it's not punk."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Well, and that label of, like, I mean, I- She even addresses it on the song, "Not a Pretty Girl."

That, you know, "I'm not an angry girl, but I feel like I have everyone fooled. Every time I say something they find hard to hear, they chalk it up to my anger and never their own fear."

Like, that- I don't know. Angry political songs in, like, a punk rock band sense, it's like, "Oh, you're saying something. You have a message."

But then when it's a woman, it's like, "Oh, you're just mad." [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Yep.

I do think it's interesting how, looking, especially as I've gotten to listen to some of your all's music and you talk about, like, what genre it was considered or how it was regarded at the time.

And then me listening to it now with no knowledge, usually, of the music itself, but also, obviously, no societal experience of living in that time when it first, you know, came out, how the societal, like, cultural conversation about, usually women is usually what we're talking about, changes how music is defined.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

'Cause, uh, this- Listening to it, to me, was pretty punk. This is a lot more punk than anything I listened to in my usual listening routine of music, you know, than Taylor Swift, [laughs] per se.

Um, but I wouldn't have thought that it wouldn't have been thought of that way, when it first came out.

Because of everything else that was, um, being published and made at the time, and that sort of harsh distinction between what's allowed to be and what's not allowed to be and what women can make and what women can be and what they can't.



It's very interesting, looking back at it and not having that experience, but looking at it through, you know, 2022 eyes and ears.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and... And not just for the artist, but, like, as fans.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

But, I mean, we've talked about it before.

But, like, if you wanted to call yourself, like, a fan of a certain kind of music or that your... You know, "This is what I'm into, this is what I dress", in that sort of style or whatever, it was so clearly delineated.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And, like, we've talked about this too, like—

**Raleigh:**

Couldn't be a poser.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Exactly.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You know? The demands put upon you, like, "Prove it then."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, so, you had to sort of commit to a genre. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And the genres were much more clearly defined.

I don't know. I was sitting here thinking, and part of this is just 'cause I'm old and out of touch, but, like, when I listen to music that is popular on the radio, which is un- that is not a common thing for me to do.

**Raleigh:**

No, it is not.

**Sydnee:**

No, I... There are so many ways I can just listen to music from the 90s, so I just do that. But [laughs] um, god, that's what old people do.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

I- I- I have- I have- I- I don't wanna be the one to tell you this, Syd, uh, we're old. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Um, I know. I know.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I realize that. Like, it's what- What our parents did.

But, like, music now feels softer to me. [laughs] I listen to music that's popular today and I feel like, "That's nice. That's nice." Like, I don't mean in a mean way. I just mean, like, "Oh, it's all nice now."

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Everybody's happy and chill and having fun, and I don't know.

**Taylor:**

Oh, I don't know. I feel like we're on the cusp of an emo resurgence that I don't know how to feel about. And so, you all- You all do what you gotta do, youngins. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Except... I don't know, I had a 14-year-old in my pre-show show me her costume for another show that's supposed to be, like, an evil- descendants of [inaudible 00:22:36] —

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... an evil kid costume that she put together, and I said, "You look exactly like someone that I don't think you're going to know who I'm talking about."

And I kinda was joking, 'cause, I mean—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... she's not that much younger than me, and she said, "Who?"

And I said, "You look like you're wearing an Avril Lavigne costume from, like, the "Complicated" music video." Like, she had on, like, the cargo vest and the—

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... plaid skirt. Like, all she needed was a skinny tie and it would have been perfect, and she was like, "Who?" [laughs]

And I was like, "Oh, no! No!"

**Sydnee:**

That's how old you are.

**Raleigh:**

So, yeah, it's the emo resurgence, but without any of the [laughs] previous knowledge of what came before.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. Maybe- maybe music is actually super... Maybe metal's back and I don't know though. I mean, I will allow for that. Music could actually be really—

**Raleigh:**

Everything's back all at once.

**Sydnee:**

... hardcore, and I would have no idea.

**Taylor:**

Well, I don't... I don't know. I mean, [laughs] I just... I just judge what I see, the teens do it on the TikToks. I'm like, "Oh!"

**Sydnee:**

Exactly.

**Raleigh:**

They're unknowingly bringing it back. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, I want to talk more about, especially why you, like this album so much, Tey, or Ani DiFranco in general, but before we do that—

**Raleigh:**

Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:**

I wanna talk to you all about... I was gonna say breakfast, but, you know, cereal can be an anytime food, especially when that cereal is Magic Spoon.

Because Magic Spoon makes breakfast options that you can really feel good about, like, a whole meal that you can start your day with, or as a treat later on.

Because they have zero grams of sugar in their cereals. Um, they have 13 to 14 grams of protein in each serving. So, you're really getting more of a complete meal, what you need, what your body needs to feel good and get going.

And it tastes great. They are gluten free. They're grain free. They're soy free. So, if you have certain dietary needs, these are almost certain to meet those.

They have tons of great flavors. Cocoa, fruity, frosted, peanut butter, cookies and cream, maple waffle, blueberry muffin, cinnamon roll, honey

nut, and you can build your own box, where you can mix two of them together, if you want.

They're delicious. We've all tried them. And again, they're- It's good for breakfast, but also, you know, in this house, cereal is often a go-to dessert, as well.

And this will be a dessert that you can treat yourself with and feel good about eating, 'cause you're getting some protein in there too, and cutting back on your sugar, which we never want to eat too much sugar.

And even more exciting, Magic Spoon just brought back their cereal bars.

So, if you're busy, if you're on the go and you don't have time to sit down to a bowl of cereal, you can grab one of these and take it with you. And it's delicious. Perfect for a midnight snack.

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

**Teylor:**

Well, they should go to [MagicSpoon.com/Buffering](https://www.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 back with 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](https://www.magicspoon.com/Buffering) and use the code Buffering to save \$5 off.

Thank you, Magic Spoon for sponsoring this episode.

**Sydnee:**

So, Tey, what do you think it was? You talked about how it felt like contraband.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Was it just because it was sort of, like, from your friends, sold to you as, like, "Shh, this is...? This is gay music"? [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Uh, no. I mean, I say that ki- You know, that definitely was... I mean, let's be real. That was the stigma of the time. It was scary to be openly gay in high school, when we were in high school.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Um—

**Sydnee:**

Yes, and there was... And music was a code.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You're right. Like, if you... You could say, "I listen to this music," as opposed to anything else, and people would go, "Hmm."

**Taylor:**

Well, and that was very much the context of, "Do you listen to Ani DiFranco?" Like having, like, a girl in my art class ask me that. I'm like, "No, but I could?"

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

And her being, "Listen to this" and giving me the CD. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

You know? I'd really, like, like... Like, yeah, like I... Like, she was one of the few out lesbians in the school.

So, it was like, "Oh, okay. I'm receiving a coded message."

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

"Take this and be careful with it."

Uh, but you know I mean, it's not like... And there... I do think that, like, there is a song on this... There are...

Ani has lots of songs that address her bisexuality, and there is one on this album that I think is very... Well, I was gonna say it's kind of subtle about it. I don't think it's that subtle. It literally has a line about, "You need to do what I did and go meet a nice girl," uh—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... addressing a boyfriend character.



So, she's... she does have a song that's very openly about it, um, but that's hardly what the album's about.

Like, I think it's just... It was more, the appeal to me, was that it just... It was... It was difficult. It was confrontational. You know?

I never want to rate artistry and, like, some is better and some has less worth.

But I do think that this is something that, it feels... Just as much as it feels closer to, like, spoken word or poetry, it feels closer to art than content.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... and that was... I don't know. I mean, that was not like a lot of the things that I heard at the time.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. No, I can—

**Taylor:**

Like, I think if I understand and digest these messages, I will be better for it.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I can definitely understand that. I... And I do think it has that quality to it, where, like, you feel like she's saying something important that you need to listen to.

And I don't mean, like, that is exclusive to Ani DiFranco. Lots of music can do that, and certainly, some of that music can be very poppy and produced and... You know?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I'm not saying that you can't do that with other forms of music, but there is something about the way that the lyrics lead the music that makes you feel how important they are.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And it did... I will say it's interesting that Ani DiFranco was not... Like, when I think about the people I hung out with, listening to Ani DiFranco wasn't necessarily... Like, it... Like, straight girls liked it too. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Because it did... It did fall into that sort of, like, Alanis Morissette kind of angry girl. What...

But it was like, why did we throw people into this group? There was, like, you could have tossed Ani DiFranco and Alanis Morissette and Sarah McLachlan into the same—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... bucket at the time. And people'd be like, "Yeah, look, angry girl music," and it's like, "None of this is the same." [laughs]

**Taylor:**

'Cause they're all girls. That's why.

**Sydnee:**

And—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

That's why we put `em in there. That's why. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And Jewel.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Jewel would have gone in there too.

**Raleigh:**

That's what I was gonna say.

**Sydnee:**

It's like, "Look at all these angry girls."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And it's like, "What?"

**Taylor:**

When it... Like, yeah, but—

**Sydnee:**

Jewel yodels. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Well, and they all have completely different, like, viewpoints.

I mean, like, there's a lot of kind of... I don't know, paint-by-number punk bands from, like, the 90s that all sang about the same things. Right?

"I'm a loser, girls don't like me," like, "I wanna..." I don't know, like, "I want a girl to like me."

That was kinda it, and, like—

**Raleigh:**

I think that's a song.

**Sydney:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I think you just quoted a song exactly. [laughs]

**Sydney:**

I'm sure you did.

**Taylor:**

I just wrote one, if not. [laughs]

But, like, they all were given different identities. But, like, these were very...

The four women you just named could not be more different in the kind of lyrics and stylings that they did. They just were women that weren't trying to...

I mean, I think that kind of is... I think there's a bit of a tongue-in-cheek to, like, this album being *Not a Pretty Girl*, and even the song.

Like, it's... That's the line, but it's not just, like, "Oh, I'm not a pretty girl. I'm different. I'm not like other girls."

It's not that vibe. I think it's recognizing that vibe that these kind of women got at the time.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

It's really interesting how... I was thinking about, like... So, when I was... When I was younger, not my teenage years, but younger than that, the "girl," and I'm using that sort of in quotes, the "girl music." You know.

If you were listening to women making music, the women that I was listening to when I was younger than that were like Paula Abdul—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... and, like—

**Taylor:**

Don't get me wrong, a queen.

**Sydnee:**

Definitely, like, the Debbie Gibson, Tiffany era of music, you know, like, mall music was definitely in there.

The style of dressing and, like, the way that you defined sort of femininity with those popular figures.

And, like, all through there is Mariah Carey. Right?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Mariah Carey, who did, like, a bunch of different things and was super talented.

So, I... It's hard to put her in a box with... You know what I mean? She's kind of her own thing.

But, like... [laughs]. Well, I mean, it's true. Like, you would listen to Mariah Carey and it's just this whole other thing, but... It was- it was such a different version of femininity that I started out with.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And they were also all tossed into the same box, which, again, if you think about those artists I just named, they were doing very different things.

Like, not all... I wouldn't say that I have, like... I don't know that Debbie Gibson is still my love— [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... but I would still listen to some Paula Abdul—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... any day of the week. [laughs] And they were doing very different things, but, again, we toss `em into the same box because they were girls—

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... they were singing, they might be kinda dancing too, and they all looked sort of, like, feminine, and fun and they're having a good time.

And they might go to the mall, and they probably wore some denim and, like, had big hair, and, like... So they're all sort of, "Yeah, you know. That's the girls."

And then, it was like, "Oh, now what are the girls doing?"

"Well, now the girls are... They're kinda mad, and some of them are kinda sad, and their hair is way flatter than it used to be [laughs] and they might wear these really long skirts sometimes and sit in coffee shops. You know, like that."

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

"That's how the girls are now, and there they are, and you go listen to those girls now."

But it was. It was like those were my... But it was all presented as the same thing, as opposed to, like, different artists doing different kinds of music.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

Like, yeah. And it's another sort of a... A sort of ranking or rivalry aspect to it. Like, I don't know. I don't feel like there was ever a conversation of like, "Prince or David Bowie?" Like, "One of `em's the winner."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

"Who is it?"

Like, no. "Both. Both, please."

But, like, Brittany Spears or Christina Aguilera, one of `em has to be better and the other one has to be the loser of... I don't know. The one girl. There could only be one.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Women are like *Highlander*, I guess.

**Raleigh:**

A girl.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

There can only be one girl making music at any given time.

**Taylor:**

In any specific genre, yes.



**Raleigh:**

Too many girls.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Uh—

**Sydnee:**

And girls can only do certain genres too. Like, that's the other part of it.

As you mentioned, like, the idea of a girl being a punk- the leading punk artist- was still, like, "Well, I mean, for a girl."

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Yeah... Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Well, I'm not saying I agree with that. I just mean, like, I think that, yeah, especially when we were younger, it was very much like that.

**Taylor:**

And I don't know if it's gotten better or if I'm just out of touch, which it's likely, it's the second one. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

So, I mean, I'm— This is why we transitioned our show and I'm no longer the voice of the younger generation. [laughs]

Um, I have no grasp of what... Also, I think part of it is because I am not in that music scene, per se, and just haven't been. That's not usually the genre I keep track of.

But also, I think music- And I kind of was thinking about it when you were talking about, like, giving someone a CD, and like, "This makes a statement about who you are and what you like and what you might be if you listen to this artist. So, let me share this with you."

It used to be... Music used to be a lot more, like, personal and intimate, when you could, like, share a physical CD with someone, and there was a lot less of it, and you couldn't just find it all the time and listen to it all the time.

There were occasions for listening to music because you either had to, like, play a CD, or play the radio, or, I don't know, go somewhere in public.

But you couldn't just, like, pull out your phone and start playing music at all times.

There's just so much more stuff now, all the time, everywhere. It seems like people care less about what falls into what category—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... unless it concerns, like, I don't know, what is it technically classified as for what awards it can win or something.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I don't know, like, what genre is this technically, so I know what it'll be nominated for at the Grammys.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like, I don't know. Beyond that, it seems like you don't have to turn on a specific radio station that plays a certain genre—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... to listen to music anymore.

So, I think everything just kind of exists in one big mass of music, [laughs] and it's like, "Find the voices you like, and it might be this, and it might be that." I don't know.

**Sydnee:**

It is interesting. I look at Charlie and Cooper, and, of course, they're still on the young end to be picking music. You know what I mean? Like, a—

**Raleigh:**

They still like Koo Koo Kanga Roo.

**Sydnee:**

They do.

**Raleigh:**

So—

**Sydnee:**

... and they still—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... and, like, you know, they're listening to a lot of musicals right now.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

A lot of *Seussical*.

**Sydnee:**

We spend a lot of time listening to *Seussical: The Musical* and, honestly, *Into the Woods* now—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm. And *Rocky Horror*.

**Sydnee:**

*Rocky Horror* and then, Justin introduced *Les Mis* into there—

**Raleigh:**

[snorts]

**Sydnee:**

... so that was a weird—

**Raleigh:**

Oh, no.

**Sydnee:**

That was a weird little in—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

But—

**Raleigh:**

That's punk.

**Sydnee:**

But— [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I'm gonna... I'm gonna leave that. I'm just gonna let that stand. Sure. Yeah. I agree.

**Sydnee:**

But the... But, like, when I think about what they ask me to play in the car, other than musicals, in terms of female artists, because there may... [laughs] The leading male artist they enjoy right now is Elton John. So, great.

**Raleigh:**

They did ask me the other day if I'd ever heard of Elton John and "Crocodile Rock."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I was like, "What...? Yes." [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

They're obsessed with "Crocodile Rock." That's Charlie's getting ready song. Whenever I tell her to—

**Raleigh:**

[sarcastic] This underground artist?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, whenever I tell her to go to her room and get dressed, she turns on "Crocodile Rock" to get dressed to. [laughs] So...

But when they ask for female artists, like, the big three that I get requests for are Lizzo.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... Always... Lizzo is a... has been a consistent favorite. JoJo Siwa, always there, and Beyoncé. Those are their big three female artists, I would say right now. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That they just go round and round, asking. And then, you know, all artists, throw Elton John in there.

**Raleigh:**

Sure.

**Sydnee:**

So, I don't know. I don't know. I don't know what kids are into, 'cause that's what my kids are into. [laughs]

I don't know if it's better or worse than, like... Well, I mean, it's better. I know it's better than, um, the-

We were just listening to *The Greatest Showman* soundtrack on loop for a while, which is great, but, like, once you've heard it 50 times in a row, you're kind of, like, "I need- I love you Hugh Jackman, [laughs] I need a break."

**Raleigh:**

That's how your children have unintentionally ruined so many things for me.

**Sydnee:**

I know. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's not because I liked it the fir- Or, it's not because I hated it the first time. It's because I had to listen to it or watch it too many times.

**Taylor:**

You hated it the 300th time. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yes. Like, *Descendants*, the movie, actually pretty good, when you go back and watch it after not having had to have watched it, like, a dozen times—

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... but when you had to watch it a thousand times. Or *Frozen* or *Moana*. Just—

**Sydnee:**

I know.

**Raleigh:**

... had to give it a break.

**Sydnee:**

I know. Well, they did that with... They loved that, the Beyoncé "Lemonade" video where she's hitting—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... things with a bat? They both loved that music video, and we watched it over and over again. And then we listened to the song over and over again.

And now I've heard that song maybe more than any other song [laughs] in my life, and they still request it, and I'm like, "It's such a great song. I don't want to listen to it again, 'cause you keep making me." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

And if you play it, they both will just start strutting around, hitting things—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... with various, like, fake—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... baseball bats or sticks or something.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

It's very good.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

Very good to watch.



**Sydnee:**

Anyway, I will say when I was listening to Ani DiFranco, uh, Tey, Charlie came over and was standing there listening and went, "What is this?" [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Oh, no.

**Sydnee:**

And was kinda like... Like, not dancing, like, feel- You know? Like, moving her head, like—

**Raleigh:**

She was feelin' it.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. "What is this? What's she talking about? Yeah." [laughs] I was like, "All right. Here we go. Here's the next evolution." [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I feel like- I feel like "32 Flavors" is a song that your girls could get on board with.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Like, that—

**Sydnee:**

That was... That was one of my favorites.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Yeah, I love that song.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

That was actually the first song that I ever listened to.

There was, once again, one of the girls in my art class that had made an art piece based on "32 Flavors," and that led to the conversation that resulted in me getting the album.

**Raleigh:**

Hm.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

So, uh, I love that song.

**Sydnee:**

That... that was definitely the one, as I was listening to the album and thinking, like, "What songs did I listen to a lot?"

'Cause I'll be honest; I never owned an Ani DiFranco album.

**Taylor:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I had her on numerous mixes with other artists. And then I listened to whole albums when- 'Cause Joe and I would ride together places, and went on some road trips and stuff, and he would put that CD in periodically.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But, uh... But I didn't have the album myself, and "32 Flavors" was the one that stood out to me instantly as, like, "Oh, yes. I- This was on a lot of my mixes. I listened to this song a lot."

**Raleigh:**

That was one of my favorites as well, listening to this. This was my first time listening to Ani DiFranco-

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

... knowingly listening to Ani DiFranco.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

This happens a lot when I'm listening to your all's music, where it's like, "Oh, I've heard this song before."

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

"I didn't know this is who sang it, and I don't think I sought it out, but I've heard this before."

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Um, this was my first time, like, seeking out her music and listening to it.

**Taylor:**

Were there any that... Others that stood out to you?

**Raleigh:**

Um, let me look at my Spotify [sic]. I mean, I liked "Not a Pretty Girl."

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Um, I liked "32 Flavors." Um—

**Sydnee:**

And Raleigh, you listened to some outside of that one album too, didn't you?

**Raleigh:**

Yes. So, I listened to that album, then I went, and Spotify has, like, the most popular whatever right there on the front for you to listen to. So, I also listened to, um, "Both Hands."

**Taylor:**

Oh, "Both Hands" is great. I love "Both Hands."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

And I really liked that one.

But yeah, I mean, I was able to just kind of turn on the whole album, and then continue it into some of the most popular, and it was just a very nice, like...

I really enjoy listening to stuff sometimes I can turn on, just, like, makes my brain—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... feel good for what's going on in the background, so I can listen to what is being said.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Like, I like that that... I agree with you, the sound over the lyrics. Like, I usually listen to lyrics more. That's why I like musical theater music.

But I was able to really just listen to what was being said and just kind of have the rest be pretty mellow and, um, good, good vibes.

**Sydnee:**

Um—

**Raleigh:**

Lots of thoughts, but also vibes.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Not no thoughts, just vibes.

**Taylor:**

I think the—

**Sydnee:**

Out- Out—

**Taylor:**

Go ahead.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, I was just gonna say outside of this album, "Little Plastic Castle" is one of my—

**Raleigh:**

Mm.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... favorite Ani DiFranco songs.

**Taylor:**

Oh, I love that.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

The narrative to that too.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Well, and I... It's funny how, like, things change over time, because I definitely remember, like, especially "Not a Pretty Girl" being very, like, "Oh, I really... I feel this." Like, "Yeah—"

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... like, "Don't..." You know, "Don't try to rescue me."

And then, like, when you come back to an album so much later and it's like, "Oh, I'm not there anymore."

But, like, "Hour Follows Hour"—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... is the song that really struck me, like, now in my life, which is...

It's probably one of the, like... It's very low key. It's lovely to just listen to in the background, but then, lyrically, it's just... it's very dense lyrics.

And it's just this kind of, like, sort of melancholy recognition of, like, "Life is a lot, and we mess things up, and I hope in the end, I was enough."

Like, it's this very beau- I don't know. Like, it's cool to come back to an album after so many years and realize you've changed so much that the songs that, like, really speak to you are just completely different.

But that's really the magic of something that is this artful and this dense, is that—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

... there's always something different to come back to.

**Raleigh:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I really enjoyed listening to... Like, sort of sitting down and listening to it in a way that, in all honesty, I don't think I ever did back then.

And really like, thinking about it and paying attention to the lyrics outside of certain songs, and like I said, on mixes, it was... It was fun to do that.

And it was nice too, 'cause Justin, for whatever reason, has been just listening to Ani DiFranco for the last couple of months.

**Rileigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Oh? [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. On his own. Like, just out of nowhere, 'cause he... He was learning how to play, "Little Plastic Castle."

**Taylor:**

Oh, that's awesome!

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, and he was... I could hear him downstairs playing it, and he came upstairs later, and I was like, "Were you playing Ani DiFranco?" [laughs]

And he was like, "Yeah, I had that song stuck in my head and I just wanted to play it."

And so he was playing it on guitar, and then, like, when I told him, like, that's what we're gonna do on *Still Buffering*, [laughs] he was like, "Awesome!" And immediately put the—

**Rileigh:**

[laughs]



**Sydnee:**

... music on. So...

**Taylor:**

That's great.

**Sydnee:**

So, it was nice. I don't know why he was having like, this revival of, you know, interest in Ani DiFranco at the same time, but he did.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Well, and you know, one of the other reasons I wanted to pick it was, I mean, it is Pride month.

And, you know, as I mentioned at the start, Ani DiFranco is bisexual, and, like, was so clearly quintessential to queer awakenings and giving a voice to young queer people.

I mean, and it... When we really needed it, when we didn't- when we were kinda bereft.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

And it's, you know, during Pride month, there's always the fun tradition of bi-erasure that happens. [laughs]

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

There's always the, "Oh, you're... You're not quite gay enough."

But I really... You know, you reflect on someone like Ani DiFranco. Like, what... She's married to a man now. She's had relationships, you know, across the gender boundaries.

The idea that somehow her work would suddenly stop meaning what it meant to me and countless others because she's in something that resembles a heterosexual relationship is so absurd.

So, you know, it's just [laughs] something to keep in mind that it's... All of the letters matter. They all contribute. There's not one that's more important than the other.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And I'd...I don't know how it could ever be a bad thing that there's more of us. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

No, I think that [laughs] anyone that wants to join isn't on the opposition. That sounds great.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, Taylor, thank you.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, thank you.

**Sydnee:**

I think this was an excellent choice for Pride month and was very enjoyable for me, personally.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Everybody go listen to some Ani DiFranco.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Absolutely. And, uh, what's next?

**Raleigh:**

Well, speaking of excellent choices for Pride month—

All:

[laugh]

**Raleigh:**

I think since I'm a member of the LGBTQ+ community, that means anything that speaks to me deeply—

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Yes.

**Raleigh:**

... I also can claim as being acceptable for Pride month.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Um, so, I wanna talk about, um, a short-lived reality game show from ABC—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... that had one season in 2012, called *Who Done It?*

**Taylor:**

This is so random. I love it. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Where—

**Raleigh:**

And all the episodes are free on YouTube.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, that's what I was gonna say. Where can people find *Who Done It?*

**Raleigh:**

You actually... I think you can find it, and, like, they'll ask you to pay for it, but there is someone who has uploaded the episodes for free—

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... and they're just as good quality.

**Taylor:**

Oh, we're- Okay.

**Raleigh:**

So—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... they're, like, very easy to watch. They're not hidden. They're just there.

**Sydnee:**

That's probably illegal, isn't it?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

It's fine. It was on for one season a decade ago.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Raleigh!

**Raleigh:**

I think that's fine.

**Taylor:**

You're going to be a lawyer. Are you sure? [laughs] Are you sure you—

**Raleigh:**

I'm not yet. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I... Is that how it works in the law? "I think that's fine"?

**Taylor:**

"I'm not yet." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I think that's fine. Um—

**Sydnee:**

It seems fine.

**Raleigh:**

It seems fine.

**Taylor:**

Raleigh's gonna get all her crimes in before she's official.

**Raleigh:**

I got three more years.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I'm not committing any crimes. I just wanna get on the record as saying, I will not commit any crimes to watch this show.

**Raleigh:**

I... It has—

**Taylor:**

I will absolutely pay properly for this show.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

Each episode has, like, tens of thousands of views on YouTube, and it's been up for, like, a few years, so...

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

I don't think they're itchin' to take it down. I don't think it's... You know.

**Sydnee:**

Um, I did watch it back in the day [crosstalk] but I'm gonna have to re-watch it, 'cause it's been so long.

**Raleigh:**

It's a... I mean, it's a... It's a reality show, so you don't need to watch every single episode. Every episode has the same exact structure, which maybe is part of its downfall.

But just... I just re-watched the whole thing and TikTok—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... reintroduced me to it. I just need to talk about it.

**Sydnee:**

And I can't wait to hear how this, um, helped you in your understanding of yourself as a bisexual woman.

**Raleigh:**

Of course.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yes. It really has helped me on my [laughs] journey of self discovery.

**Sydnee:**

All right. Well, thank you all. [laughs] Thank you, listeners.

Please listen to Ani DiFranco if somehow, you haven't.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org) and check out all the great shows there. You can email us at

StillBuffering@MaximumFun.org. You can tweet at us @StillBuff, and thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

**Raleigh:**

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

[Outro, theme song plays]

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydney McElroy.

**Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:**

I am still buffering...

**Taylor and Sydnee:**

[Sort of in sync] And I... am... too.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

It's always starting to lag there.

**Sydnee:**

[inaudible 00:47:51]

**Taylor:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It was close enough. Close enough.



**Raleigh:**

It's fine. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It's fine. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's probably fine.

**Taylor:**

It's for Pride month. It's fine.

**Raleigh:**

Pride month, it's fine.

**Taylor:**

I just use that excuse for anything I mess up.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

It's Pride.

**Sydnee:**

Don't call us on it. It'll be homophobic.

[Theme music ends]

**Taylor:**

Challenge me. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

I was 15 minutes late to work yesterday. I said, "It's Pride. Mm." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's fine.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**John Moe:**

Hey, it's John Moe. Join me on *Depresh Mode* for conversations on how mental health shapes our life.

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**David Sedaris:**

I think there's a difference between, you know, a good person and a good character.

Like, he was a good character, my boyfriend, Hugh.

You know, my father was another one of those people. He was a really good character, but he... He wasn't a good person.

**John Moe:**

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