

## Still Buffering 001: How to Party

Published January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Listen here on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org)

[theme song Baby You Change Your Mind by the Nouvellas plays]

### **Raleigh:**

Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*. Sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I'm Raleigh Smirl.

### **Sydnee:**

And I'm Sydnee McElroy. Now, you may remember us from a- another podcast. I of course do *Sawbones* and Raleigh is my s-

### **Raleigh:**

I was on there, you know, once or twice.

### **Sydnee:**

Yeah, exactly. And we are real life sisters, uh, who real life have 17 years between us.

### **Raleigh:**

And we have some real life sisterly teen guidance advice.

### **Sydnee:**

Exactly. [laughs]

### **Raleigh:**

Real life.

### **Sydnee:**

Hopefully in those 17 years I have on Raleigh, I've accumulated a little bit of wisdom and knowledge that I try to share with her anyway to navigate those- those troubled teen waters. Those difficult, I would say.

### **Raleigh:**

They're very difficult. Very [inaudible 00:01:13]. Teen years.

### **Sydnee:**

Exactly. And- and I try to share that with her anyway, to, you know, help out and in return, Raleigh tries to keep me, like, you know, plugged in.

**Raleigh:**

You've been out of the teen loop for a few years now. And, you know, in about 10 years, you're gonna have a teen yourself, so-

**Sydnee:**

Exactly.

**Raleigh:**

... why not help you with these, uh, modern day teen times?

**Sydnee:**

Exactly. To keep me, keep me trendy. Keep me hip. So- so we decided, why don't we share all this information that we, that we have with each other, why don't we share it with- with the world?

**Raleigh:**

With all of the world. 'Cause everyone listens to us.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] So, here you go. Every week, uh, we'll be joining you with a new question that Raleigh has- has burning on her mind that she wants to come, you know-

**Raleigh:**

It's all I can think about.

**Sydnee:**

... seek out my wisdom on, and, uh, in return, Raleigh'll- Raleigh'll help all of us grownups, um, hopefully understand what- what the heck these kids are talking about, right? Am I right?

**Raleigh:**

Right. Right.

**Sydnee:**

So, Raleigh, what question do you have for us? What- what- what should we discuss this week?

**Raleigh:**

So, Sydnee, with party season starting in about 360 days ...

**Sydnee:**

Right. You mean, like, next holidays? [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Right. Like, next holidays. Like, next New Year's, next Christmas-

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Raleigh:**

Um, I don't know how to party like the teens used to.

**Sydnee:**

So you figured this out over the- the past holiday season? That you didn't know what you were doing? [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I spent the past [laughs] month not knowing how to party and not attending any parties.

**Sydnee:**

Ah.

**Raleigh:**

So I kind of needed some advice so I could be prepped for next, uh, party season.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. All right. Well, it's good that you're preparing in advance.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

'Cause ever- ... I mean, the most important thing about a party is to prepare before you know the party's happening. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I need extensive studying and knowledge before I can attend any of these parties.

**Sydnee:**

So you can already tell how, uh, how cool that is i- when you're studying for parties.

**Raleigh:**

Right. Right.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. So, that's- that's good. Uh, well Raleigh, let me ask you, like, ha- have you been to parties yet? Do you ... What is your party experience so far?

**Raleigh:**

I mean, I've been to one party. And it's the one I threw on Halloween. Um, so-

**Sydnee:**

Wait, so—

**Raleigh:**

... I guess I don't have that much party knowledge.

**Sydnee:**

Wait, so the only party you've been to is the one you h-, you had? Like, you had a party and that's the one you're counting?

**Raleigh:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. So not a lot of experience, we'll say.

**Raleigh:**

No, I have, like-

**Sydnee:**

We'll say minimal. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... like a one-night worth of experience.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Did, I mean, did you have a good time?

**Raleigh:**

It was great. Partied.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. But- but it was your party.

**Raleigh:**

M-, I mean, it was mine.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. So you're worried about going to other parties-

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

... and- and what that would be like. Well, okay. Let me ask you this. Like, where do parties happen now? Because that party obviously, I'm assuming, was at mom and dad's house.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You didn't have, like, a secret party spot?

**Raleigh:**

Secret party spot? Like, you mean mom and dad's house?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Well, that's what ... I don't know. When I was younger, like, sometimes there w- ... o- obviously there parties at houses, but, like, then other times, there would be parties, like, at the junior league or the YWCA. You know?

**Raleigh:**

Now, what's the ... What are those?

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Well, so, the point is, they're at houses now. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Basically.

**Raleigh:**

I don't think, I don't think there's-

**Sydnee:**

You don't-

**Raleigh:**

... been any parties recently at the YWCA?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Young Women's Christian Associa- ... That- that's where my sweet sixteen was. So, I'd be surprised.

**Raleigh:**

Do those exist?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I mean, there's still one. Basically the idea was that you'd rent out, like, a different building and then have a party there and ... Okay.

**Raleigh:**

I don't, I don't think this happens anymore.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I could, I could be wrong. I'm obviously very out of the loop because I haven't been to parties that much but I don't think that happens.

**Sydnee:**

So you have parties at houses. Like, are- are parents there?

**Raleigh:**

I mean, mom was there. She wasn't *there*, but she was there.

**Sydnee:**

What about these parties that other people are having that you've maybe heard about [laughs] but you're not going to?

**Raleigh:**

I don't think-

**Sydnee:**

Are- are, like, parents there?

**Raleigh:**

I don't think there are parents there.

**Sydnee:**

That's not good.

**Raleigh:**

I mean-

**Sydnee:**

I don't like this at all.

**Raleigh:**

I think that's when they have parties is when the parents leave.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

It's like, you know that movie about all the rats? Whenever the- the owners of the rats leave, the ... all the rats party?

**Sydnee:**

What movie is that??

**Raleigh:**

I don't know. [laughs] I watched a lot of weird movies.

**Sydnee:**

Is that Rat- ... Is that was *Ratatouille* is about? 'Cause I thought that was about food.

**Raleigh:**

I thought that was about food.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

And cooking. A cooking rat.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know, I don't, I don't know the rat movie that you're referring to.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I don't know. I just remember them being flushed down a toilet.

**Sydnee:**

That sounds like a really upsetting movie.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, they lived-

**Sydnee:**

Oh, well that's good too.

**Raleigh:**

... to tell the tale of their rat parties.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Well, so check that out. Rent that on DVD. *Rat Party*. [laughs]



**Raleigh:**

*Rat Party.* [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Coming-

**Raleigh:**

Down the toilet.

**Sydnee:**

Coming to a Netflix near you.

**Raleigh:**

Netflix original.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. So, parties are happening at somebody's house. Um, so that's good. Okay. So, I would say, step one, we figured out where the parties are.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

So in order for you to attend them, that's critical.

**Raleigh:**

I need to figure out when the parents are leaving.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

Exactly what date, exactly what time.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, so this could be ... That's a great idea. You could interview parents. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I'd interview them. Say, "You should take vacations more often. Studies have shown that parents are happier whenever they take vacations and leave their children at home all the time."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

"On the weekends, um, with no babysitter."

**Sydnee:**

You could get really popular with this service if you-

**Raleigh:**

I really think I could.

**Sydnee:**

If ... It's like you have a business where I will talk your parents into leaving town so you can have a party. But-

**Raleigh:**

And then I would get invited to all of the parties.

**Sydnee:**

Exactly.

**Raleigh:**

I would make them invite me.

**Sydnee:**

And you'd a-, you'd also have to charge them, right?

**Raleigh:**

Right. So I'd make money. I wouldn't use it on the parties. I'd use it on, like, food for myself. I'd go to the parties that these other people are throwing-

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... and then I could have at-home parties with all the money I made off their parents by myself, and then have real life parties.

**Sydnee:**

No, when you said food for yourself, back it up for a sec. Do you have to buy your own food? [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

Like, are you buying yourself dinner?

**Raleigh:**

No, but, like-

**Sydnee:**

Mom- mom would stop making dinner?

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

'Cause when- when I was, when I was growing up, like, mom d- or dad, like, w- usually mom, cooked for us. Dad maybe ordered pizza or made hot dogs sometimes. But, you know.

**Raleigh:**

Well, I mean, when I say that, I mean, like, mom and dad don't buy me all the cool foods. It's like they don't buy me all, like, the- the candy.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Okay.

**Raleigh:**

So I could just go home and buy myself a lot of, like, candy.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

You know, the cool foods.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

And then have an at-home party where I'm just watching Netflix.

**Sydnee:**

I- I didn't know candy was a cool food. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

A cool kid food.

**Sydnee:**

For teens. Well, what ... Okay, along th- ... What ... Okay, what food are we gonna have at these parties?

**Raleigh:**

I mean, I don't ... Is there food?

**Sydnee:**

At a party?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, I ho- ... Well, I mean, there was. Like, we always had food at our parties. I mean, you know, maybe stuff like pizza, but at least if there wasn't, like, a, like, an entrée [laughs] there were lots of hors d'oeuvres. So you could always count on a really good party to have, like, lots of chips and candy and usually Skittles. Like, the best parties have Skittles.

**Raleigh:**

Wait. Hold on. Wait. Two things. First, why are Skittles a party food? [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I mean, like, look at them. They're colorful and-

**Raleigh:**

It's like you walk into a party and it's just like all they have is a bunch of bowls of Skittles and they're just like, "Taste the rainbow! Have a party!"

**Sydnee:**

That sounds like a great party you just described. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] So it's a Skittles party.

**Sydnee:**

Um, well, they're delicious. And they're also, like ... They don't, they don't count, like, as bad for you because they're f-, they're fruit flavored.

**Raleigh:**

You also said if they don't have an entrée. So, like, were some of the parties you went to the kind where, like, you had to fill out, like, an RSVP card-

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... and, like, circle which entrée you wanted like at a wedding?

**Sydnee:**

No. I didn't do, like, cotillion or anything 'cause I think they probably did that there. But, like, you know, like, pizza as an entrée, or, like, tacos or-

**Raleigh:**

Oh, so cool kid entrées.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Raleigh:**

Yet the cool kid-

**Sydnee:**

The cool- [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... the cool kid food is the Skittles.

**Sydnee:**

The cool food. Okay.

**Raleigh:**

The cool kid entrées are the pizza.

**Sydnee:**

So, um, so from what you've told me I think I would have to advise you not to take food to a party, 'cause it sounds like that's not a thing anymore.

**Raleigh:**

Sounds like that's not something you- you do.

**Sydnee:**

Do you think-

**Raleigh:**

Like going to a potluck.

**Sydnee:**

Do you think [laughs] ... You just keep— do people throw potlucks in high school a lot.

**Raleigh:**

I don't, I don't think that's a thing cool teens do. I'm ... I don't know. Maybe they try to make it seem uncool so now it's just, like, their territory.

**Sydnee:**

Do you think that, uh, you'd be more popular if you started that trend? Maybe like bring back the Skittles from my old days. Just bring bags of candy to a party. 'Cause, like, I think, you know, back in the day, if somebody had shown up at my house with candy and said, like, "Party time," I, I mean ...

**Raleigh:**

Even if you weren't planning on having a party?

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Rileigh:**

Someone just shown up and said, "Party time. Brought the candy."

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. That's great. I love that person. That's my new best friend.

**Rileigh:**

I mean, I-

**Sydnee:**

Especially if it's Skittles.

**Rileigh:**

I'm ... Yes. Especially if it's Skittles.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Rileigh:**

The only party food.

**Sydnee:**

Um, okay. So- so we've established where the parties are and not to bring food because apparently teens don't eat now. Is that a thing?

**Rileigh:**

At least teen girls don't seem to eat anymore.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, that's a shame.

**Rileigh:**

I mean, all my friends, like, we just, you know, the boys come, they have their good time and the boys leave and all the girls just order, like, Chinese food for ourselves.

**Sydnee:**

Oh. Well, at least you eat eventually.

**Rileigh:**

Eventually, when the party's died down.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Here's- here's a little tip from me to you. Um, boys know that you eat.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

They do?

**Sydnee:**

Just eat. It's fine.

**Raleigh:**

How do they know?

**Sydnee:**

I, I mean, 'cause they're not, like, that dumb.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, they j-, they know. It's okay. It's okay for men and women to eat, I would say.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Like, this would be a k-, a key-

**Raleigh:**

Food- food equality.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. Food equality. It's okay for us all to eat. Uh, and- and I understand where you're coming from, 'cause there's a lot of pressure on you to probably look a certain way.

**Raleigh:**

Right. Like, not walk around always stuffing food in your face.

**Sydnee:**



Well, n-, I mean, I think it's a universal girl-

**Raleigh:**

Wha—

**Sydnee:**

... experience that we feel this pressure. And I think, I think boys do too. I think everybody does when you're a teenager.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I don't think this is just a girl thing.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

I think everybody when you're a teen feels like there's certain things you're supposed to wear and there's certain ways you're supposed to look. And part of that is, like, "Well, I can't eat anything so people don't think, like, you know"-

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

"... like, I'm greedy," or, you know-

**Raleigh:**

Like I like-

**Sydnee:**

Like I eat a lot or-

**Raleigh:**

Like I like Skittles too much.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. You don't wanna get the reputation that you like Skittles a lot.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Apparently I already have, so-

**Raleigh:**

They'll think you're too big of a partier.

**Sydnee:**

... too late for me.

**Raleigh:**

Too big of a partier.

**Sydnee:**

Along those lines, okay, so, what ... Let's talk about what we're gonna wear to this party. So we know where it is. Uh, we've talked the parents into going out of town.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

So-

**Raleigh:**

Made my money.

**Sydnee:**

So you've guaranteed yourself an invite.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

You ate your Skittles beforehand so you don't have to take food.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

What are you gonna wear?

**Raleigh:**

So, I'm gonna use all this new money that I got from convincing the parents to leave town, to buy myself a cool new party outfit, which-

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

... if I was going with the teen girls nowadays, not based off of what I would wear, I would probably go out and buy some sort of, uh, sparkly ensemble with heels.

**Sydnee:**

Sparkly?

**Raleigh:**

Sparkly maybe? An sparkly ensemble with some, uh, some- some makeup? Maybe some, uh, some heels?

**Sydnee:**

Okay. That sounds uncomfortable.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, yeah. Uh, it's not what I wanna wear.

**Sydnee:**

Are you going to a party or are you going clubbing?

**Raleigh:**

Isn't just ... Isn't it, like, the same thing now- now- nowadays with these teens?

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. Is it? 'Cause see, I- I wouldn't say that. Like, when I think back, um, one of my favorite party outfits [laughs] ... So, like ... And when I

say party outfits, I don't mean, like, special, like, only can wear to parties. I mean, like, you know, the stuff you like the best so you save it.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Like, I'm gonna wear that when a lot of people will see me in it. One of my favorites was this, uh, sweater that I got from Limited Too.

**Raleigh:**

Wait...

**Sydnee:**

It was like, knit and it had an American flag on the front of it. And, like, I would wear it with a turtleneck underneath and I had socks that matched my turtleneck, and these, like, really light colored jeans and hiking boots. And that was, like, my favorite look.

**Raleigh:**

Okay, wait. Back up, back up, back up. You said you bought this from Limited Too?

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

When you were going to high school parties? College- college parties?

**Sydnee:**

H- h- high sch- [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Ad- adult parties?

**Sydnee:**

I have some clothes maybe that I st- [laughs] ... that I bought when I was in middle school maybe. So-

**Raleigh:**

I was gonna say, I shopped at Limited Too when I was in, like, fifth grade. I don't even think it was Limited Too anymore.

**Sydnee:**

It was still cool when I was in high school.

**Raleigh:**

Was it? Was it?

**Sydnee:**

Or I was still wearing those clothes when I was in high school.

**Raleigh:**

So even though [laughs] it wasn't the cool teen girl thing to do, Sydnee was just still rocking her American flag sweatshirt and turtleneck.

**Sydnee:**

It wasn't v- ... Okay. Listen. There was a time period where a turtleneck with matching socks and a sweater over it was a very cool look, okay?

**Raleigh:**

So-

**Sydnee:**

There was a-

**Raleigh:**

... all of your turtlenecks match all of your socks.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Do you have any, like- like-

**Sydnee:**

I did.

**Raleigh:**

... designer-

**Sydnee:**

I did have pair ... I did have a lot of paired- [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Did you have any designer turtlenecks? Like, you know, like, patterns. Like, some paisley turtlenecks or, like-

**Sydnee:**

Oh, no-

**Raleigh:**

... some plaid turtlenecks that match your plaid socks?

**Sydnee:**

That would have been very uncool.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

Only solid colors.

**Raleigh:**

Right, right.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Raleigh:**

The solid colors were cool. Patterns, no, no. Get outta here.

**Sydnee:**

That was ... Let me tell you, Raleigh. There was a time period where, like, the coolest thing you could wear was just, like, a really big flannel shirt.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, that's- that's pretty cool now.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, really?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Like, oversized?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like, your- your, uh, air quotes boyfriend flannels?

**Sydnee:**

Oh, okay.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well then, cool. I- I would have worn that sometimes.

**Raleigh:**

So, yeah. You were, you k- used to be kind of cool. And you mentioned your hiking boots.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

That's, like, a, that's, like, a new, just coming up and new 2016 trend.

**Sydnee:**

And are we still wearing, like, the, like, the real light colored jeans?

**Raleigh:**

No, that's not as cool.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Mine always had, like, holes in the knees and-

**Raleigh:**

That's- that's pretty cool.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

The holes? I mean-

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... that's against school dress codes now, but-

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

... your pre-made holes make them look like they're not pre-made. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

See, I- I think one thing that you're not benefiting from is that ... sounds like when I was going to parties that, like, the styles of the time were just inherently more comfortable.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

And-

**Raleigh:**

Like, now it's just very uncomfortable and back then it was super cool to be comfortable.

**Sydnee:**

Right. And it ... That- that would make it hard to party, I think.



**Raleigh:**

Yeah, 'cause, I mean, how are you supposed to, you know, do all your party dancing and your party moves if you're in your uncomfortable sparkly teen girl outfit?

**Sydnee:**

So why do you wanna wear s- ... I mean, unless you really wanna wear a sparkly outfit, which, you know, go for it, but, uh, if you don't want to, I would say don't- don't get the sparkly outfit. Wear the flannel thing. That sounds-

**Raleigh:**

The flannel thing with my hiking boots?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

And my pre-made, my pre-made holes in my jeans?

**Sydnee:**

I think that sounds more comfortable.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

But then what if I, what if I show up to this party and I'm wearing my- my flannel and my hiking boots, my pre-made holes in my jeans, but all the other girls are wearing, you know, their sparkly ensembles or their heels or their- their teen girl looks, fashions?

**Sydnee:**

That is a, that is a great question. And I will counter you by just saying, what if? [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

So you're answering my question, which is what this, what this show is about, you answering my question with a question.

**Sydnee:**

No, let's walk through that. Okay, what is the worst case scenario? You walk in, you're in your flannel. They're in, they're in sparkly things that aren't as comfortable. And so, you didn't want to wear them.

**Raleigh:**

And you're like, you're like, "Oh no. I'm totally underdressed for this cool kid party." What if their parents don't hire me anymore?

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

And what if I continue to also not have a job but also not be invited to parties?

**Sydnee:**

So, you're worried that they won't invite you to the next party if you don't look cool enough at this party?

**Raleigh:**

Right. Because all the ... You know that same group of kids always throw those parties.

**Sydnee:**

Now, let me ask you, do you want to go to the parties with people who wouldn't invite you because you wore a flannel shirt?

**Raleigh:**

I mean, maybe not. Maybe this is when I just call over [laughs] that kid who carries around the bags of Skittles-

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... and I'm just like, "Hey, let's have a party."

**Sydnee:**

Your new best friend, Skittle Joe.

**Raleigh:**

Ski- Skittle Joe. [laughs] Come on. Let's go have a two-person party. We can watch some Netflix and eat some Skittles.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. And wear flannel.

**Raleigh:**

And wear flannels and hiking boots.

**Sydnee:**

That sounds, that sounds way more comfortable.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, hey, I guess it's a ... what, you know ... You can make it your cool thing. Maybe it's not what the cool kids are doing, but I can make it cool.

**Sydnee:**

I think that's a really good point. Now, let me, let me ask you this. As long as we're, as long as we're talking about what the, what the cool kids are doing. That was a big problem I used to have when I would have parties when I was in high school-

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... uh, was that I didn't have the music that the cool kids liked.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, yeah. That was a big problem for me. So, uh, what I would always tell my friends was, "We're gonna have this party. Don't worry. It's gonna be, it's gonna be poppin' off. We're gonna have lots of Skittles." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's gonna be popping off?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I've never heard that phrase in my entire life.

**Sydnee:**

You've never hear- ... Poppin' off? That's not still a thing?

**Raleigh:**

Wait, so, like, instead of ... Okay, so you would say a party is gonna be poppin' off?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

See, we say-

**Sydnee:**

It's gonna be poppin' off. It's gonna be, like- like, cool. Like, groovy. Like, super awesome.

**Raleigh:**

Groovy? Okay, see we just say a party's gonna be turnt.

**Sydnee:**

It's gonna be what now?

**Raleigh:**

Turnt. T-U-R-N-T.

**Sydnee:**

And that means ...

**Raleigh:**

Turn up.

**Sydnee:**

Fun?

**Raleigh:**

Like, woo. It's turnt. It's lit. It's lit. There's another one. It's lit.

**Sydnee:**

Lit was a band back in my day.

**Raleigh:**

See, now it's just, like, a phrase.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

Like, it's getting lit.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, it wasn't, like, a band-

**Raleigh:**

Getting turnt.

**Sydnee:**

... that, like, was everybody's favorite band. I did see them once in concert kind of accidentally. I really went to see Garbage but then Lit opened for them.

**Raleigh:**

Was this one of those bands that you had that people thought wasn't cool on your, on your phone?

**Sydnee:**

No- no. Not on my phone. Oh, goodness. No. Um, actually, I- I probably would've been considered cooler if I had had that available for people to listen to than what-

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... I did have, uh, which was, um, I had some Carole King and some Jimmy Buffett. [laughs] Um, I got into some of, like, the music that was, that we

would've considered, I think, most of us, okay for the time period. Like, I had some Tori Amos and some Jewel.

**Raleigh:**

Wait, and how did you, how did you listen to this... these artists?

**Sydnee:**

So, like, you know, CDs. So, like, I had, like, my big binder full of all my CDs and, you know, one of the things you always wanted to do when you went over to your friend's house is, like, flip through their binder of their CDs and see, like, what do they got and is there-

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

... something you wanna listen to.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Um, but I would always tell all my friends, like, if I'm having a party, "Just bring your binders. You can bring your big ..." You know what I'm talking about. The big zip-up things-

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

... with CDs?

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

Like, there could be little ones, but a lot of us had, like, one big giant one with all the CDs in it.

**Raleigh:**

See, I'm just most confused about the part where the cool thing to do [laughs] when you had your friends over was flip through each other's binders.

**Sydnee:**

Well, of CDs. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Of CDs. Of CDs. Which I also don't h- ... I think I own any of. I don't think I own any CDs now.

**Sydnee:**

Well, that ... Well, okay. Now I know music exists, like, in the air around us like magic.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

We live in Harry Potter times.

**Raleigh:**

It just happen ... You snap your fingers-

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Raleigh:**

Music.

**Sydnee:**

You just tell your phone, like, "Siri"-

**Raleigh:**

... "play me some"-

**Sydnee:**

... "find the music."

**Raleigh:**

... "show tunes."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

See, that's another problem I face. I guess we face the same problem except yours was you had an uncool binder.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I did have an uncool binder of music.

**Raleigh:**

And mine is just I have, mine is just I have an uncool phone where I only have show tunes and Jimmy Buffett, which I guess, okay, we both had Jimmy Buffett on our phones.

**Sydnee:**

There we go.

**Raleigh:**

Or ... So- sorry. You had in your binders. But, now all my friends have the rap, uh, sorry, uh, trap music.

**Sydnee:**

What is-

**Raleigh:**

Cool music.

**Sydnee:**

What is trap music?

**Raleigh:**

I honestly have no clue but I have to act like I know. Because it's what all my friends like. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I- I mean, I understand what rap is. Rap's been around, I mean ... Sorry, Raleigh. That's not a new thing. Like, it's been around a while. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Okay.



**Sydnee:**

It's like, I understand what that is, but what is trap music?

**Raleigh:**

I honestly don't know.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, gosh.

**Raleigh:**

Like, it's what the, it's what all the kids, it's what all the teens are listening to these days.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, gosh. Well, we're gonna have to look that up, 'cause n-

**Raleigh:**

And we're gonna have to figure it out.

**Sydnee:**

... neither of us can offer expert opinion on that.

**Raleigh:**

But instead of them giving me their binders, they give me their phones and I take the aux cord? And I plug it into my speakers? and then we listen to their music from their phones through the aux cord. 'Cause they'll just say, "Hey, hand over the aux cord, yo."

**Sydnee:**

Is that a- [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

"Let's turn on some trap music."

**Sydnee:**

... like, a common expression?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. You gotta hand-

**Sydnee:**

Ha-

**Raleigh:**

... over the aux cord.

**Sydnee:**

Really?

**Raleigh:**

I honestly don't know what aux stands for.

**Sydnee:**

I- I actually do know that. A-U-X. It's auxiliary. It's-

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

So now I can use that. I can say, "I will hand you the auxiliary cord."

**Sydnee:**

I ... You know what? I don't know that that expression will make you cooler.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I wouldn't, I wouldn't. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I'll have knowledge that they won't. They'll just say aux. I'm like, "You know what that stands for? Auxiliary."

**Sydnee:**

You know what? I'm gonna ... This is something I can definitely tell you 100% without a doubt from my own teenage experience. Knowing things

that other teenagers don't know and then telling them doesn't necessarily help. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Maybe ... Okay. Let's just back up. Pretend I don't know what aux stands for and I'll just keep calling it aux to all my-

**Sydnee:**

Just call it aux.

**Raleigh:**

... all my cool friends.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. If ... Because ... Yeah. Y- you don't win friends by telling them things that they don't know, which is a really bad, it's a bad sign for me because I do a whole podcast where I tell [laughs] people things I don't think they know.

**Raleigh:**

So maybe your whole audience is just people who hate you secretly. Like, "Oh, wow. She knows what aux stands for. She knows what medical things are... to do."

**Sydnee:**

"I b-, I bet she thinks she's so cool."

**Raleigh:**

"She thinks she's so cool. Let's just, let's just keep listening to it to- to spite her."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Now, Raleigh, one thing I will say, a common theme with all these different kind of, like, aspects of party ... Now that we have broken parties down-

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... into the ... its, like, party components-

**Raleigh:**

Right. Party components. [inaudible 00:21:45].

**Sydnee:**

Right. Which is ... It's ... You know, to thoroughly understand, you know, you wanna research it, dissect it, take it apart. This is, I am certain, what everyone does before they attend a s-

**Raleigh:**

Exactly.

**Sydnee:**

... a s-, a soiree.

**Raleigh:**

A s- soiree?

**Sydnee:**

Yes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

A g-, a gathering.

**Sydnee:**

A gathering. Um, it sounds like in a lot of these cases you're feeling pressure to do or act or dress or be a way that isn't, like, that doesn't come naturally to you. Is that fair to say?

**Raleigh:**

I would say so.

**Sydnee:**

What ... I mean, why do you think you feel like you have to do that for a party?

**Raleigh:**

I feel like nowadays, it's all about, you know, fitting in with all the coolios.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

The cool, the cool dudes. And-

**Sydnee:**

Coolio was actually a musical artist that I listened to back in my day.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm. Okay.

**Sydnee:**

But carry on. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Okay. Um, as I was saying, um, now you've gotta fit in with all the cool dudes and you gotta be one of them, or else you're not, you're not lit. You're not turnt.

**Sydnee:**

So, you're feeling the need to, like, be, like, a different version of yourself then?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. You gotta, you know, you go to the parties. You put on your- your party badge. Your party hat.

**Sydnee:**

Your b- ... [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Your party sash, if you will. Um-

**Sydnee:**

Now, are you using ... I- is this like a, um, euphemism? Like, you're not actually physically wearing party hats and-

**Raleigh:**

No. No, I am.

**Sydnee:**

... sashes?

**Raleigh:**

Party sashes.

**Sydnee:**

'Cause this could be part of the problem. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

You know, that's how you know you're the cool kid at the party. That's how you know that you- you're the host of the party, if you will. Um-

**Sydnee:**

Right, 'cause you're wearing a sash.

**Raleigh:**

You're hosting. You wear your party hat or your party crown I guess, if you want.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

Um, but it'd have to be in the shape of a cone. And then you put on your party sash and your party badge that says, "I'm the party- party owner, Raleigh. Party girl."

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

And then everyone establishes you as, like, the alpha partier.

**Sydnee:**

And then they, and then they will follow your lead-

**Raleigh:**

They will follow everything you do.

**Sydnee:**

... as to, like, party behavior.

**Raleigh:**

Exactly.

**Sydnee:**

So, I'm gonna assume you mean, like, a metaphorical sash and hat for this.

**Raleigh:**

I guess if you want it to be metaphorical.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, okay. I think, I think we've hit the crux of the problem, that ... a- and this was ... I- th- I will tell you as true for me back- back in my day-

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... as it is for you now, that when you are at a party or a setting with a lot of other people your age and especially people that ... and you've used this, you've said this several times ... that you perceive to be cool people-

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... which, by the way, I think you're also making the assumption that you're not cool-

**Raleigh:**

I mean, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... which I would have a huge problem with, 'cause I think you're super cool. Um, and I also think that it's all a matter of perspective anyway, who's cool, who's not cool. Gosh, that's a whole other conversation.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But I think that what you're saying is that you feel the need to be, like, a party Raleigh. Like, a party version of yourself-

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... in order to fit in at the party.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And I would say that as an adult now, going to parties now, although I ... you know, now I have a kid, so I don't go to a lot of parties-

**Raleigh:**

Don't go to a lot of parties.

**Sydnee:**

... but when I do or when we host a party, I don't, I'm just, you know, me.

**Raleigh:**

You're not party Sydnee?

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Raleigh:**

You're Sydnee.

**Sydnee:**

I'm just Sydnee.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And I remember being party Sydnee to try to fit in at parties when I was younger. And the thing is, everybody's trying to be the party, their party self. And-

**Raleigh:**

No one's just being like, you know, Jill or- or Bob or Sue.



**Sydnee:**

Or Skittles Joe. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Or Skittles Joe! Skittles Joe probably is just Skittles Joe on his own.

**Sydnee:**

And- and that's the thing is that everybody's trying to be this other version of themselves, and so everybody's uncomfortable. Everybody's nervous. Everybody feels awkward. Maybe there are people who like the sparkly clothes, but there are probably other people like you who are going, "Oh my gosh. Could I just put some jeans on."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You know, nobody feels like they can just be in their own skin and it's okay. And I think as you get older, the faster you realize that just don't be party Raleigh. Just be you. Be Raleigh Raleigh at a party. Um, and as- as people get older, you realize, like, those are the people you gravitate towards. Those are the cool people. Like-

**Raleigh:**

No, you are cool.

**Sydnee:**

... if- if there is, like, a cool that we should all aspire to be, a coolness is an accept-, an acceptance of, like, this is who I am. That's who you are. And it's all fine. I think that's maybe what cool is.

**Raleigh:**

That's what, like, your cool is. Like, these are your cool people.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Those are his cool people. These are my cool people.

**Sydnee:**

And we're all fine with it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And we don't feel the need to, like, aspire to a certain standard of coolness. Um, and we're all just being who we are.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And the sooner you can, like, embrace that, I think the more fun you start having at parties. The less stress they are.

**Raleigh:**

And the more Skittles you have-

**Sydnee:**

And the more Skittles you have [laughs] 'cause, I mean, that would be important for me.

**Raleigh:**

Right, right, right. And all your cool friends.

**Sydnee:**

So, what have we learned today, Raleigh?

**Raleigh:**

That Skittles are a party food and that all your cool friends had binders?

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Well, [laughs] yes. That's ... Those are fair points, uh, but I would say what we've learned today, our most important teen lesson, is that you, uh, being yourself, your own version, like, of Raleigh Raleigh, and not party Raleigh or, you know, school dance Raleigh or-

**Raleigh:**

Or alpha party master Raleigh?

**Sydnee:**

No, or cotillion Rileigh or whatever cool thing kids are into now [laughs]-

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... uh, just be Rileigh Rileigh and all your friends can just be your, you know-

**Rileigh:**

Friend friends.

**Sydnee:**

... Skittles Joe Skittles Joe and- and everybody can just be themselves and you're gonna have a lot more fun.

**Rileigh:**

Well, that sounds like a pretty- pretty good deal.

**Sydnee:**

All right.

**Rileigh:**

You get your, you get your Skittles and your party friends and there you go.

**Sydnee:**

And then I am going to, uh, go figure out what trap is.

**Rileigh:**

I'll help you 'cause I don't know what it is either.

**Sydnee:**

All right. Well, Rileigh, I think that'll do it for us this week.

**Rileigh:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

We've both learned, we've both learned some important lessons.

**Rileigh:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

Um, I wanna thank you guys for listening, for tuning in. We'll be, we'll be bringing a brand new, uh, teen advice topic to you next week, hopefully with more things to learn for both of us. I wanna thank, uh, The Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

**Raleigh:**

Baby You Change Your Mind.

**Sydnee:**

It's super cool. And I think that'll do it for us.

**Raleigh:**

This has been *Still Buffering*, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Raleigh:**

I am a teenager.

**Sydnee:**

And I was too.

[theme music plays]

**Travis McElroy:**

Hello, internet. I'm Travis McElroy.

**Teresa McElroy:**

And I'm Teresa McElroy.

**Travis McElroy:**

She is my wife.

**Teresa McElroy:**

And he's my husband.

**Travis McElroy:**

And it is our pleasure to introduce to you a brand new podcast ...

**Teresa McElroy:**

*Shmanners!* It's extraordinary etiquette ...

**Travis McElroy:**

... for ordinary occasions. Teresa, let me ask you this. Can you teach me how to write a thank you note?

**Teresa McElroy:**

Yes, I can.

**Travis McElroy:**

How about tips to improve my table manners?

**Teresa McElroy:**

I'll do my best.

**Travis McElroy:**

And will you finally explain to me the difference between casual and business casual and cocktail and formal and black tie and all that stuff?

**Teresa McElroy:**

If anybody can, I can.

**Travis McElroy:**

But, like, it's gonna be funny, right?

**Teresa McElroy:**

Of course. I'm going to give historical origins and how those manners fit into our everyday lives. How could it not be funny?

**Travis McElroy:**

But also sometimes we'll talk about, like, burps and farts, right?

**Teresa McElroy:**

Yeah, when not to.

**Travis McElroy:**

But we'll still talk about it.

**Teresa McElroy:**

Yes.

**Travis McElroy:**

Great. So come join us for our new hilarious show.

**Teresa McElroy:**

No RSVP required.

**Travis McElroy:**

Coming to you soon every Friday on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), it's *Shmanners*.

**Teresa McElroy:**

Manners, shmanners. Get it?