

Still Buffering 328: Carole King

Published September 13, 2022
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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Um, I feel like that it— it— we have to talk about all the drama that was happening in Venice.

Raleigh: Ohh. I love this drama!

Sydnee: I feel like because we've discussed Harry Styles on this show before, because Raleigh, I know— I mean, we all are. But Raleigh, you in particular are such a big fan of Florence Pugh.

Raleigh: I love Florence Pugh.

Sydnee: I feel like we have to...

Raleigh: Well, we're— we're— we're a pop culture show.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: It's in— it's in our catchphrase. We have to.

Sydnee: I have been telling Justin about all this drama as it's unfolding, and I feel like he's become less interested as—[laughs quietly] as I tell him more. But I just keep telling him! 'Cause now I can't stop myself.

Raleigh: I don't know if this will be as funny to you all or as to our audience as it was to me and my law school friends, but when the video came out and everyone said it was Harry Styles spitting on Chris Pine, um, in our torts class we were talking about assault and battery, and what makes an assault and what makes a

battery. And immediately as soon as we saw it we were like, "That's a battery. Harry Styles battered Chris Pine!" [laughs] It was so good watching it, trying to dissect it. Chris Pine says that's ridiculous, that didn't happen. But if you watch that video... I— I saw and I thought, "That's not what happened."

But then I watched it again and I thought, "What else could've happened?"

Taylor: Well— well— well, I mean, who would want to admit to being spat on by Harry Styles? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: But it's just such a wild thing— like, of all the things to do.

Raleigh: I know.

Sydnee: Why would you do that?

Taylor: I... [sighs]

Sydnee: And why then?

Raleigh: It's just such— when you watch the series of events and look at— he turns his head right at the same time as Chris Pine stops clapping all at once and looks down at his lap and kind of sighs. And then sits— like, goes back to clapping. Like, what—

Sydnee: Just—

Raleigh: What could've happened?

Sydnee: Why— but why?! I mean, I know that there's tension here. But of all things!

Raleigh: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: Well, yeah!

Taylor: Well, that— see, that's the only— the only— the only actor— I mean that in a broad sense— in this whole situation that I'm concerned about is Chris Pine. Like, everything he's had to put up with, I'm sorry. I know how you feel about ol' Harry, Raleigh. And I'm not insulting him as an artist, but—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] No, I don't care. [laughs]

Taylor: —his interview when he's— well, when he's talking about "This is a movie that feels like— it's like a movie."

Sydnee: "It feels like a movie."

Raleigh: "I love the movie, 'cause it's a movie."

Taylor: And you see... like, Chris Pine is just disassociating to, like, the—

Sydnee: [crosstalk] movie.

Taylor: He— he's moving beyond this world into the next. Like, you see him just, like— he's leaving this reality. He has said goodbye to this world. Just the— I feel for Chris Pine [through laughter] in everything that I see in all of this. 'Cause he seems like the only one that's just— he's just an actor. He played a role. He's got this nice new 'do that he'd like to show off. What is going on?

Raleigh: The footage of his face when Harry Styles is answering that question and saying he loves the movie 'cause it's a movie, and he's just sitting there with those fake headphones on, like, leaned back in his chair, just... [laughs]

Sydnee: Just full-on dissociating.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Dissociating, yeah.

Sydnee: Just— yeah. Just, like, "I'm not here. This is not happening."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] It's so good.

Sydnee: Yeah, I feel bad for him. I don't... I mean, obviously none of us will ever know what actually—[laughs] what was the series of events. Was Shia LaBeouf fired?

Raleigh: Well, did you see—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Did he quit?

Rileigh: —the texts between Shia LaBeouf and Florence Pugh were quote-unquote "leaked."

Sydnee: I mean, I saw. I saw that where, like—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] But he didn't—

Sydnee: —she was begging him to come back.

Rileigh: Well, and he was not fired, as Olivia Wilde claims. He quit. Um, and there was no tension between them. You know, between him and Florence Pugh. And he— you know, Olivia Wilde said they didn't like each other and there was tension.

Sydnee: Well, it's hard, though. Because, like, you want to wonder if there isn't some element of truth in that, because of Shia LaBeouf's history.

Rileigh: Well, yeah. I mean, I don't— I wouldn't have blamed Florence Pugh for not wanting to work with him.

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: But also he quit, and that makes more sense than with people saying, like, "Olivia Wilde didn't fire him. She was begging him to come back and do the movie." She didn't fire him to, like, stand up for Florence Pugh.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, there's also dispute about who— like, if Florence was paid adequately. Like, that Harry might've been paid more. I— one opinion that I wish we had— and I love that she responded at all— Christy— Christy Carlson Romano? Is that... from *Even Stevens*?

Sydnee: What did she say?

Taylor: She made a TikTok!

Sydnee: About this whole drama?

Taylor: And she just— just kind of being like, "If I could tell you... but I can't."
And, you know, canonically she played... Shia... LaBeouf's sister.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] LaBeouf's sister, yeah.

Taylor: So out of— I don't know why, but my For You page was blessed with her presence. But I was like, "[whispering] Oh my gosh."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Oh my gosh. I didn't see that.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I love Christy Carl—

Taylor: [simultaneously] What does she know?

Sydnee: I love Christy Carlson Romano. I loved her in *Stevens*. Why— what does she know— but why would she know?

Raleigh: What do you know?!

Sydnee: Like, why—

Taylor: Or is she just, like, does she know from working with him? Who knows.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] That's what I thought, yeah.

Sydnee: Well—

Taylor: She— she had a take that she was being too much of a lady to share.

Sydnee: I have no doubt she knows about Shia LaBeouf. I mean, she would have to. But, like, what insight would she have in *this* situation? [laughs quietly]
Why would she? Who does— I mean, there's no way her—

Taylor: I don't know.

Sydnee: —and Shia LaBeouf are talking. Right?

Taylor: I don't know. They were brother and sister... ish. Who knows?

Raleigh: I just love that that video leaked of Olivia Wilde calling Florence Pugh Miss Flo. In, like, a very sarcastic, condescending way. And then her stylist for the Venice film festival posted a picture of her on Instagram in her outfit and captioned it, "Miss Flo." And then her whole styling team, like, hair, makeup, everything, all were wearing shirts that said "Miss Flo" on them that she had made for them.

Sydnee: They were?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Just white print right in the corner, it said Miss Flo. And then there's that video of her where she said she had scheduling conflicts and couldn't do the Q&A, but then posted a video of her strutting in that purple outfit with an Aperol spritz. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: The— her whole thing—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] The power.

Sydnee: And, like, her look and everything. It's just, like... "I am so much bigger than this. I am so much better than this." I love it.

Taylor: The only thing that bothers me that I think is worth saying is, okay. So, a director of a movie was... hooking up with a cast member, and perhaps paying a man more than a woman, and being disrespectful and shady. Uh, it's just that it's a— it's just a woman. Is that— is that— I mean, fine, absolutely. Call out all the bad behavior. Support to the cast, 100%. But can we have the same energy for *all* of the male directors that pull the same stunts? Can we please?

Sydnee: Yeah, sure.

Taylor: 'Cause it does feel like— an *eau de misogyny* that it's like, "Oh, yes! Let's bring her down. Let's bring Olivia Wilde down." It's like bit like, "Ooh, but ehh, but— yeah, like, can we call out the industry as a whole? Can we talk more about— oh, nope. We're just gonna attack the woman."

Raleigh: Well, see, that's why I like the whole Miss Flo thing is because Olivia Wilde herself was being a little bit of a misogynist with the way she was talking about Florence Pugh being very condescending, talking about her in that whole situation. So it's like, okay, Florence. Okay.

Taylor: Oh, no, I agree. And misogyny is a heck of a drug. You can both internalize it, propagate it, and suffer from it at the same time.

Sydnee: Yeah, and I don't know, too— I mean, I think that's a fair thing to point out. Um, because I think all of that behavior we sort of expect with male directors. Um, which we shouldn't. I'm not saying we should. But, like, we do.

Uh, I wonder if it's also— so, I have not seen this movie, of course. I didn't really intend to before. I—

Raleigh: Oh, I am seeing it now. [through laughter] I am seeing it now!

Taylor: See, I refuse. Now I refuse. 'Cause if any of this was just to, like, drive interest in the movie, then I just think that, like— just make a good movie or don't. But if you need all this to get people to see it, then I will not see it.

Raleigh: I would've been enough for me, the clip on TikTok of Harry Styles talking in whatever accent he's doing. That would've been enough for me to see it. I need to hear that in full sentences in the context of the movie. [laughs]

Sydnee: The reviews are not good.

Raleigh: It had, like, a 38% rating so far.

Sydnee: And, like, I read— I didn't read a spoiler. But I read, like, just a brief sort of summary of, like, the idea. And it sounds very confusing.

Raleigh: It does.

Sydnee: For a movie that's supposed to be about, like... female sexual empowerment, I guess? I guess that's one of the big things, right? "Only women come in this movie" was what Olivia— that's what Olivia Wilde said. But, like—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I don't know if that was intended—

Sydnee: Yeah, that was one of her—

Raleigh: —to be as big of a part of it as it was, because I guess there was some other thing about how Florence Pugh maybe didn't know about all of the intimate scenes she would be doing and how graphic they would be.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Oof.

Rileigh: And they didn't have, like, an intimacy coordinator there for all the times they were filming.

Sydnee: That's part of the drama is that Florence Pugh has explicitly said, "I don't want it to be about the sex," and Olivia Wilde has explicitly said "This is about sex." And so, what is it about? And it also sounds like it's kind of a Stepford Wife kind of movie, too. And that's a weird... mishmash of ideas. But maybe they pull it off brilliantly. I have no idea. I haven't seen it. Now I don't know. Now I kind of want to just to see what the heck's going on. But I also— I didn't intend on— I don't know. It wasn't the kind of movie I would've wanted to see before.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well, I'm just gonna judge it based off of ol' Harry Style's recommendation.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That it's like a—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] It's like a movie.

Taylor: It's a movie that's like a movie. And I'm thinking, like, well, I— I— the movies that I see in the theater, I enjoy movies. Most movies, I'm a big fan of movies. So if this is somehow different than what I've been experiencing, then maybe it's not for me.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I guess I like movies that aren't *movies*. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: What— that— that was really disappointing to me. I've always— I mean, I've always kind of liked Harry Styles' whole thing. I've always kind of, like, dug him. I mean, I didn't know if he was particularly well spoken or eloquent or, you know, the smartest guy in the room. I had no idea, and I didn't really care. I

kinda like his whole thing! And then watching that interview it was sort of like...
"Oh... "

Rileigh: I just think it's w—

Sydnee: "I don't know what to feel about any of this anymore." [laughs]

Rileigh: I just think it's wild that he has been a celebrity for so long at this point, for most of his life I would guess.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Rileigh: How has he not had better media training? Like, he was giving similar interviews— if you go back and watch, like, One Direction's first interviews from a decade ago, he was giving pretty similar answers when he was a teenager. [laughs] Like, how has he not... there are people that do that. Like, your PR people, like, tell you how to do those things.

Sydnee: Yeah. Like— like, "Harry, tell— when they ask you what you think of the movie, what are you gonna say?"

And then he says, "Well, I'm gonna tell them that I like it 'cause it's a movie."

And then they go, "Well, let's ex— let's expand on that. But, like, what about it?" [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, that's just what's astounding to me.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: And also a soundbite that someone grabbed of Olivia Wilde on Jimmy Kimmel from a couple years ago where she said "If the movie's bad, I blame the director."

Sydnee: Yeah...

Rileigh: It's like, "Well... "

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Did you see the newest rumor that's being started? There's a picture of Florence Pugh circulating where she's sitting, like, at a picnic table, and there are cameras on her, so it's a scene from something. It looks like they're shooting something. And somebody suggested that it was a deleted scene from *Ted Lasso* where Florence Pugh was guest starring. But no one knows that. It's just a rumor. No one's proven anything. It's just something someone said on Twitter. And now everybody's like, "Hold up. Was Florence Pugh— did she have a cameo on Jason Sudekis's show at the same that Olivia Wilde was maybe hooking up with Harry Styles behind Jason Sudekis's back?"

Everybody's freaking out. And it's like, there is no way any of that's real. There's no way that's real. [laughs]

Raleigh: And you know who one of Jason Sudekis's besties is?

[pause]

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Zach Braff. And Florence Pugh and Zach Braff were dating at the time that all of this was going down. So some people have said, like, maybe Florence knew some stuff about that whole situation via Zach Braff.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Taylor: This— this is a lot.

Raleigh: It's very— it's very convoluted. There's a lot of layers.

Sydnee: There's so much drama!

Taylor: You know, and I feel kinda bad. 'Cause it's like, hey, this is their dirty laundry. I'm just gonna remind myself that they're all very rich celebrities [laughs] that are very beautiful, and that these are harmless problems to have.

Sydnee: They are. And Olivia Wilde's first movie, *Booksmart*, remains excellent.

Raleigh: Oh, I love *Booksmart*.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Well, I've seen a few people talk about how it's nice to have some— some celebrity drama that feels like it's not... it's like— it's very fluffy. Like, it's kinda just like, "Ooh." Like, they're all gonna be fine. They're all millionaires. They all have mansions. They're all fine.

Sydnee: Oh yeah. Yeah. Nobody— I mean, I— I get what you're saying. I think, like, is the treatment of Olivia Wilde in the media colored by the fact that, one, she's a woman, and two, she's a woman who recently divorced Jason Sudekis, who is kind of like...

Raleigh: America's sweetheart.

Sydnee: Yeah, who is, like, very beloved at this moment because of *Ted Lasso*. Is she getting extra flack for those reasons? Yeah, for sure. I think that that's true. But I think that they will all— they'll all be fine in the end. [laughs quietly] Everybody'll be okay.

Taylor: Well, and I do— you know, I think that— not to pontificate too much, but I do think there's always, like, this older generation of... I mean, especially with women, that kind of played by the rules to get their power, of which I think Olivia Wilde is one. And then there's a younger generation that's kind of, like, not putting up with crap. And to watch that, two women sort of butt heads over it, it's like, you know, you're probably on the same team, but people will pit you against each other. And you probably— like, you know. I fully believe that Florence Pugh is mistreated. I can— just from what you've seen, like, there's enough evidence to say like, "Yeah, probably she didn't have a great time with that."

And that's— that's messed up.

Raleigh: Her Cooking with Flo videos that she used to do on Instagram are just adorable, if you've never watched them. 'Cause I forget she's British, watching her in all the movies where she has to be very American.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: So her very, very good British accent while cooking is very good to watch.

Sydnee: Um...

Rileigh: Anyways, it's been 15 minutes. [through laughter] All we've done is talk about this.

Sydnee: There's a lot of drama! There's a lot of drama to talk about.

Rileigh: Um, but that's not what we're talking about today.

Taylor: Let's talk about something not dramatic at all.

Rileigh: Yeah, exactly.

Sydnee: That's Carole King, *Tapestry*. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true. I would not say this is a dramatic album. It's... it's beautiful. It's poignant. It's happy and sad. But very soothing.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It reminded me of... I have a pair of sweatpants that I really like to wear, but it was too hot to wear them for several months so they were, like, clean in my closet, and I put them on for the first time that, like, the temperature dropped below 80 the other day, and I was like, "Oh. I forgot how comfortable these are."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: "How—how did I forget how comfortable these are?" That's— that's kind of what this album feels like to me. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's so nice, isn't it?

Taylor: Yes. It's just nice.

Sydnee: It is. It's very soothing. Rileigh, did you recognize some of the songs?

Rileigh: Yes. Um, obviously... "Where You Lead," was that what it was called? Um, from *Gilmore Girls*.

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: Which just already puts you in a fall, like, peaceful, cozy mindset. So that's just like, you know, where you're starting off. Um, "I Feel the Earth Move," "You've Got a Friend," both of those. Like, the big— I mean, the big hitters that when you look up— I just looked up Carole King on Spotify to make sure I was getting the names right, and all the ones that have over *100 million listens*... like, all those I have heard before.

Sydnee: I feel like all those, um... "A Natural Woman" is one a lot of people have heard. Um—

Rileigh: Um, "Beautiful—"

Sydnee: "So Far Away."

Rileigh: "Beautiful" I had heard because of the Carole King musical called *Beautiful*. Um, I have not listened to the entire soundtrack. I'm sure— I mean, I think it's all Carole King songs. It's like a jukebox musical, so I'm sure there are more, but that is the one I had listened to. Via that.

Sydnee: This, uh— this album was... it may be the first CD that I had? I'm— yeah. I'm— yes. This was the first CD I owned. Like, that I... sought out and bought and wanted, was Carole King *Tapestry*. 'Cause I love that, like, the tracks are listed as Side 1 and 2 on this, by the way. Uh, but I think— I think it was.

And I remember having this CD on... gosh, do remember how big stereos used to be? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Do you remember that? I had that giant CD player stereo thing. It had a CD and a cassette tape, and it had the huge speakers on either side of it?

Taylor: Yeah. And I don't even know, like, what the center console all did, 'cause there was the place where you put the tape or the CD in, and then there were

just so many knobs and buttons, and I don't— I still don't know what that was all about.

Sydnee: Well, it was a radio, too.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: Yeah. That used to be a thing. Like, if you got a cassette player or even the early CD players, it would also have a radio as part of it.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's wild.

Sydnee: 'Cause you wanted that. But it was huge. I don't think that one— that one didn't have a record player on top. No.

Taylor: No. We had one of those, like, big stations, I think.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Before that. But that was not the same one. I know the one you're talking about. It was like a big, like, three-piece, like, black thing, right? Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, the big, tall thing. But yeah, mine was shorter, but a similar thing. And, like, the two big speakers you— I learned how to wire 'em to the thing. Like, you would have little things that— you didn't plug it in, Raleigh. It was like you would have to learn how to attach the wires to the speakers.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like you worked at Radio Shack. You remember Radio Shack?

Raleigh: Of course, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It's a shack that sold radios.

Raleigh: Like Blockbuster, right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Right. These are things that—

Raleigh: They're in the same— they're in the same family.

Sydnee: [laughs] It's the same genre.

Raleigh: It's in the same family as the era of Netflix that got sent to your door.

Taylor: What do you think a Sun Coast is, Raleigh?

Raleigh: A S... Sun Coast? [pause]

Sydnee: Do remember Sun Coast?

Raleigh: Sun... kissed? [laughs quietly] I know Sunkist.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: This is another story.

Taylor: Like the soda?

Raleigh: Like the soda.

Sydnee: Was Sun Coast the half— 'cause Sun Coast was— it was half Sun Coast and half...

Taylor: Sam Goody.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: I don't— I think Sun Coast was movies, Sam Goody was music, but they existed as one... you could enter under the one side or the other, but they converged in the middle.

Sydnee: It's like the combination—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Just like a TJ Maxx and a Home Goods.

Sydnee: —or Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And the combination of Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I remember getting this CD and putting it on my—[laughs] in my giant CD player. Um, and it was, like— it was around the holidays, 'cause I'd gotten that, and I'd gotten... I don't know, some sort of nerdy books that I liked. And, like, laying in my bed and reading my nerdy books and listening to my Carole King and feeling like... I've really... I remember— it wasn't about growing up. It was like, "I've really found myself. I've really figured out... who Sydnee is." [laughs] [through laughter] Like, this is me. Carole King, *Tapestry*. This is me.

Taylor: Did— was this a— Mom introduced you to Carole King, right? How did you get introduced to this album?

Sydnee: Uh, Mom suggested I would like it. Which, I mean, I obviously did. She was right.

Raleigh: It feels very Mom.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. 'Cause, I mean, obviously, like, this album came out in 1971. [laughs quietly] So...

Raleigh: None of us were around then.

Sydnee: No. Um, it won... I was looking this up. So, it was released in '71, in '72 at the Grammy Awards it got four Grammys, including Album of the Year.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Sydnee: Yeah. So, I mean, it was a huge— it was huge. It was a huge album. And, you know, especially for the time, and obviously, like, has many iconic songs. That— 'cause that's the thing about Carole King, is not only was she a performer but, like, as a songwriter, her songs were often covered by other artists because they were... beautiful, and timeless, and... you know. Well-loved.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, I want to talk more about the songs themselves, but actually, before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

So, I do a lot of walking now. Um, living in a city where I have to walk pretty much everywhere. Um, I do a lot of listening to things on headphones, whether it be a podcast or a Taylor Swift album, or in this case for the past couple days a Carole King album. Uh, I am always walking around listening to something, and I think listening is better on Raycon wireless earbuds.

And that's because they don't just sound better when you're listening to things. I mean, they do. But they also look and feel better. They have these optimized gel tips that fit in your ear perfectly, and they give you eight hours of playtime and a 32-hour battery life, which is great for me. I leave the house in the morning, and I don't have to worry about at the end of the day walking back home and my earbuds not being charged for me to listen on the way back. It's got me covered all day.

And they start at about half the price of other premium audio brands, so get the quality sound, look, and fit, but half the price of other premium brands. So it's a steal. Um, I highly recommend. Especially— they have, uh, awareness mode, so you can listen to music and still be able to hear your surroundings if you're walking alone. I know that's been very helpful for me. And the earbud tap functions, which again, I found helpful. Walking in the rain, don't have to pull my phone out. Just put your ear up and tap— tap your ear, and it feels like you're in

a high tech spy movie, um, when you get to tap your ear and it does things, and you look like you are on a secret mission, so that's fun. Um...

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs quietly] So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Raycon earbuds, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, they should go to buyraycon.com/buffering— stillbuff— today, to get 15% off your Raycon orders. That's buyraycon.com/buffering to score 15% off. Once again, buyraycon.com/buffering.

Sydnee: So, uh, Rileigh, you mentioned you've been doing some walking, and while the weather might be starting to get a little cooler on some days, it's still pretty warm. And that's a perfect setup for sweating.

[pause]

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] And—

Rileigh: I have been sweating a lot.

Sydnee: And, uh, Native has got your back. When you're worried about smelly pits, Native is there for you. Uh, and now it's better than ever, because Native is doing their part to help our Earth with new 100% plastic-free and recyclable packaging, which makes you feel good about the deodorant that you're using; what's inside the container as well as what's outside the container itself.

Um, when you buy Native's new plastic-free recyclable packaged deodorant, you are saving 37 grams of plastic. And every gram counts, as we know. That's plastic that ends up in our landfills and in our oceans. And, uh, and if you can save some plastic, Native would like to help you do it, and that's a great thing to do for the planet.

Uh, they have 10 scents. I always love their coconut and vanilla, 'cause anything coconut scented, that's always my favorite. Uh, but they also have sensitive formulas that are formulated without baking soda, and even unscented.

So, sometimes I know for me, certain smells and things, even if they smell wonderful, can make me sniffly. And so, if you need an unscented product, Native has deodorant that can fit that need as well.

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

Teylor: Well, if you're ready to try plastic-free deodorant, you should go to nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout and get 20% off your first order. That's nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout for 20% off your first order.

Sydnee: Uh, so one of the things that I— was I was relistening to Carole King, *Tapestry*, there are so many good songs on here. I remember when I was younger being obsessed with the song "Smackwater Jack."

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um...

Teylor: [laughs quietly] Weird.

Rileigh: Why?

Sydnee: I know. I don't know. Because as I relisten to it... it's pretty violent.
[laughs quietly]

Teylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: It's a pretty brutal ballad... about a murderous guy named Smackwater Jack, and his eventual capture and killing. [laughs quietly]

[pause]

Rileigh: Which I love.

Sydnee: And I remember, I loved it when I was younger! And now I listen to it and I'm like, "Oh. This is intense and brutal."

Rileigh: I mean, I love that style of song. The ballad, if you will.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Rileigh: I mean, Taylor Swift, you know, [through laughter] had it her most recent album.

Taylor: It's like a true crime podcast in a song.

Rileigh: Yes, exactly. That is why I love it. It's accomplishing—

Sydnee: And a catchy, bouncy tune.

Rileigh: Yeah, it's accomplishing my goal of listening to my true crime podcast of the day and my music for the day, all in one. It's very efficient.

Taylor: [laughs] Nice.

Sydnee: And with a little—and with a nice little joke, a little *bon mot* at the end, there. She finishes it off that it was a very good year for the undertaker. Which is, like...

Taylor: [laughs quietly] That's a great joke.

Rileigh: It's a good—

Sydnee: You know—

Rileigh: *Bon mot*. [laughs]

Sydnee: Because of all the people who died in this song you listened to! In this— how long is... uh, 3 minute and 42 second song. [laughs]

Taylor: What's the body count for this one?

Rileigh: Which really isn't long enough to have as many bodies as it does. [laughs]

Taylor: Too many bodies.

Sydnee: It's unclear, because as Carole King tells us, he shot down the congregation.

Taylor: That could be a lot of people.

Sydnee: That could be a lot of people!

Raleigh: That's probably more than two, but less than... a thousand.

Taylor: Yeah. I would say at least ten.

Raleigh: At least ten.

Sydnee: I— I mean... [laughs] and that is his way of, by the way, letting it all hang loose. [laughs]

Taylor: Sometimes you just gotta let it all hang loose.

Sydnee: It's a wild song!

Raleigh: It is a wild song.

Sydnee: And it's wild that it's on there with, like, "You've Got a Friend." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And "Where You Lead" has exact opposite vibes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Like, it's exactly the opposite. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I mean, that's— that's kind of how I feel— I mean, it's not as violent. But, like, the title *Tapestry* also is a song title, and the song "Tapestry" is a little also out of sync with the kind of feel-good vibes of the rest of the album. That was always my favorite song when I was young, but it always made me really sad. It, like, felt like a weird, sad fairy tale.

Sydnee: It *is* a weird, sad fairy tale.

Taylor: Right?

Sydnee: I mean, he— the old man turns into a toad.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I— well— and, I mean, I think—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: She's got a lot of whimsy going on.

Taylor: Yeah. You know, and it's definitely about, like— like, life and death, you know? Like, there's a— there's a figure that comes and your tapestry unravels. It's a heavy song! [laughs]

Sydnee: It's a very heavy song. It's the— the song "Tapestry" is the musical equivalent to Pyramid Catalog, is the thing. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [wheeze-laughs]

Sydnee: It's like—

Taylor: Oh no!

Sydnee: It's like flipping through Pyra— I got a Pyramid Catalog in the mail the other day. Can I tell you how excited how I was?

Taylor: What? I— they still have them? I want one!

Sydnee: Oh, I was eating it up. And, like, the girls did not understand. I was like, "You have got to see this catalog."

Now, the only thing about Pyr— Raleigh, have you seen a Pyramid Catalog?

Raleigh: I don't know what— I don't know what this is.

Taylor: Oh, okay. Alright.

Sydnee: [sighs] I'm gonna get one. I'm gonna get one for next time I see you.

Taylor: So, it's, like... everythi— it's just like... [sighs heavily] how could you even describe it? It's— it's crystals, and tarot cards, and witch books, but also clothing, but also, like, zombies for your front yard. Like, it is just anything kind of witchy and spooky, or magical. But, like, in a very, like, suburban housewife way. Right?

Raleigh: Did Mom probably get these?

Sydnee: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah.

Taylor: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: Oh, yes. Mom loved that.

Raleigh: Now that you're describing what is in it, I am remembering flipping through a catalog of similar content when I was much younger.

Sydnee: I mean, if you need a corset, or a cape, or a very dramatic, like, hooded cloak...

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I always need a corset or a cape.

Taylor: Or a goblet.

Sydnee: Um, or a goblet.

Taylor: Or a scrying mirror.

Sydnee: Or— I mean, now Pyramid Catalog also sells personal massagers, so deal with that. Among—

Taylor: Oh, they always did. They always did.

Sydnee: Among your tarot cards. [laughs]

Taylor: Yes. There was always a two-page spread that when I was a— when I was younger I just would flip by very quickly. Like, "Oh, no, no, no, no."

Sydnee: "No, no, no."

Rileigh: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: Um, yeah. But, uh— so the song "Tapestry" always sort of reminded me of Pyramid Catalog. It was like, "What is happening?" Is this— this is all metaphorical. Is it a dream? But also a fairy tale. But it is very sad.

Taylor: Yeah. I'm always very sad about the old man who turns into a toad. I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That line just always gets me.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It's just very silly. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I do like the "I wept to see him suffer, although I didn't know him well."
[laughs]

Taylor: Well... And I don't know what— once he reached for something golden hanging from a tree and his hand came down empty? That's a really sad lyric!
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It is a really sad lyric. I don't know. It's very— I mean, this was, again, '71.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It fits the time. It fits the mood.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well, and I mean, it's a credit to— I mean, Carole King is an amazing storyteller. Whether she chooses to, you know, write an upbeat song about how you're not alone and you have a friend, or some sort of weird, esoteric dreamscape fairy tale. She's— she's very effective.

Rileigh: Has she written a children's book yet? I feel like that would—

Taylor: Not that story as a children's book, though. I think that would be a bummer.

Raleigh: It could be like—

Sydney: Yeah, let's not.

Raleigh: It could be like one of those cartoons that's like, you know, made for adults, but it's a fun cartoon— like, the colorful, fun cartoon that looks like it's for kids?

Taylor: Carole King's *Tapestry*. [laughs]

Raleigh: Quote-unquote "children's" books.

Sydney: "Smackwater Jack" will be cartoon, or be the children's book. You know, it's a fun story of a guy named Smackwater Jack... who lets it all hang loose.

Raleigh: It looks like a children's book. But it's for the grownups.

Sydney: No... no. That won't be good.

Raleigh: Why not?

[pause]

Sydney: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: 'Cause of all the death, Raleigh.

Raleigh: But I'm saying it's for adults, guys!

Sydney: How— um... there are—

Raleigh: Like, have you seen— okay. Have you seen that children's book that was popular on Amazon? It's like, *Go the F to Sleep* or whatever.

Sydney: Oh, we have that book.

Rileigh: Like, the cadence is meant to put your kid to sleep, but every page ends with "Go the F to sleep." Like, it's not— it's a ki— kid's book. But obviously you're not gonna give it to, like, Charlie and let her read that, now that she can read.

Sydnee: We got it— it's one of those books that, like, your friends get you as, like, a joke. But then you can't read it to your children for real. I mean, at least we don't. I don't know. Maybe someone does. We do not read that to our kids. It was for our own entertainment.

Rileigh: Well, that's fair. This book could be the same!

Sydnee: There are— there are lots of songs on here that are pretty heartbreaking.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like "Home Again."

Rileigh: Oh my god.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That gets me every time. Um... I sang... "So Far Away" to— sometimes Charlie'll ask me at night, before bed, to sing her a song that will help her fall asleep, but she wants a song she's never heard before. So it's always a challenge to come up with, like, new soft lullaby-esque songs that she's never heard before, 'cause she doesn't want me to repeat one. And I chose "So Far Away" one time, [holding back laughter] and she just laid there sobbing.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Are you surprised?

Sydnee: I had to—

Rileigh: Why did you pick that?!

Sydnee: I don't— I didn't—

Taylor: That's a very sad song to sing your child.

Sydnee: I didn't think it was that sad!

Raleigh: She's eight! [laughs]

Sydnee: So then I had to stop, because I— and then she was like, "[tearfully] No, finish the song!" [laughs] And I was like, "No."

Taylor: Should've gone with "Smackwater Jack."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's for Cooper.

Raleigh: That would put Cooper to sleep.

Sydnee: Yeah. Cooper— yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's for her.

Sydnee: Cooper would like that. But— no, Cooper falls asleep to ASMR videos of people putting makeup on you.

Taylor: Okay. Yeah, alright.

Raleigh: Have they seen the ASMR videos of people eating candy that's made to look like crystals that you shouldn't eat, but it's edible?

Sydnee: No?

Raleigh: Those show up on my TikTok and they make me think of them.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Taylor: That sounds dangerous for children.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, 'cause I mean, it's like the idea of, like, the stuff that looks like it should be edible but you definitely can't eat it. Like, people see crystals and like, "Oh, it looks like tasty rock candy." Now they've made rock candy that's shaped like... crystals.

Sydnee: No, they just like the ones with— it's a makeup tutorial kind of thing, and they're pretending to put makeup on your face and—

Rileigh: Do you think that means that if you didn't have WiFi or power for whatever reason, if you sat there whispering to Cooper and, like, pretending to put makeup on her face, that would put her to sleep?

Sydnee: Hmm, maybe.

Rileigh: That's pretty good. [laughs]

Sydnee: Maybe. I don't know. I stroke their noses a lot to put them to sleep, so that might...

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: That's a similar idea. Like, pretending to put makeup on.

Rileigh: Sure. Just on their nose.

Taylor: I like the, uh— I like the— I don't know— I mean, I don't discount anybody's beliefs. But, like, the reiki videos, whether or not they work, they sure relax me.

Rileigh: They really do.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Just some, like, pleasant lady going, [whooshing noises] with their hands in front of your face. [whooshing noises]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: And that soft music playing in the background all the time.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, I love those reiki ladies.

Raleigh: I always sit there— usually I'm on TikTok most when I'm peeing. So I'll just sit there while I'm peeing just, like, "Thank you. You made this day better for me." [laughs]

Taylor: Right?

Sydney: [simultaneously] "While I pee."

Taylor: They're like, "Can I bless you with some healing reiki?"

I'm like, "Please. Absolutely."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Right? I need it.

Taylor: And then it's just, we're good. I feel good.

Sydney: Not for me. I can't— ASMR makes me feel weird. I don't...

Raleigh: Well, those aren't A—

Taylor: I just don't think you know how to relax.

Raleigh: I don't think those are ASMR. 'Cause usually they're not, like, whispering.

Taylor: [simultaneously] No, they're not.

Raleigh: Or anything.

Sydney: Oh.

Taylor: No, they just— they— I mean, they might be saying things in, like, a pleasant tone. But...

Sydnee: Hmm. I don't know. I can't— I can't do the ASMR. I don't know. I feel weird.

Raleigh: Yeah, Teylor's right. You don't know how to relax. [laughs quietly]

Teylor: Yeah, I think you get uncomfortable when your body starts to relax.

Sydnee: I mean, this isn't wro— like, you're— that's not wrong, what you're saying. That's not wrong.

Teylor: I— I know. I know I'm not wrong.

[all laugh]

Teylor: I know you, and I am not wrong.

Sydnee: Uh, my— so... [laughs] my favorite songs, um, "I Love Where You Lead," long before *Gilmore Girls* made it popular.

Raleigh: How did she—

Teylor: Oh, before *Gilmore Girls* made it cool! [laughs]

Raleigh: How did she write a song that so perfectly encapsulates a show that wasn't going to be made for... 40 years?

Teylor: Did they base the show on the song?

Raleigh: I mean, I guess it's possible. I... I don't know.

Teylor: Probably not. [laughs] I don't think they—

Raleigh: Maybe. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, but it has the line— I always think about— it's a song— I mean, I've never told Justin this 'cause he'd probably laugh at me. But when she sings the line—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well you know. He'd think it was sweet, but he would also think it was goofy. Um, the "I never thought I could get satisfaction from just one man."
[laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs quietly] Is that how you feel about your husband?!

Sydnee: [through laughter] I do.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: But if anyone can keep me happy, he's the one who can.

Raleigh: Yeah, no, he would— he would laugh at you, 'cause we're laughing at you right now! [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah, I thought it was gonna be something sentimental—

Raleigh: I did too!

Taylor: —but that almost sounds like an almost-insult. Like, "I didn't think you were gonna be enough for me. But you know what? You are." [laughs]

Sydnee: It's not— I didn't think anyone—

Raleigh: "Surprise!"

Sydnee: I didn't— you know.

[all laughs]

Taylor: "Just enough. Good job. High five."

Sydnee: No, I just— it's true, so... anyway.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: I've never told him that.

Taylor: Well, now you put it on the internet for everybody, so he might— he might hear.

Sydnee: Um, I always loved that song, though. Um, and— and "Home Again," even though it's incredibly sad.

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Isn't it? It's wild that— that's the one with the lyric "Snow is cold, rain is wet," right?

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, yes.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like... and, I mean, when I say that that sounds silly, but the way she sings them, and when it gets to that crescendo I'm just— that's the part that makes me cry. I'm like, "Yes it is!"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: "It is cold, and it is wet, and I am alone!" [laughs]

Sydnee: I— I— it's rough. I have sung "Home Again" and cried many times in my life. Because it's like— it's not just about physically being home, right?

Taylor: It's like feeling home.

Sydnee: It's about feeling home. That's rough. That's what she's singing about. And sometimes you don't know where home is anymore, you know?

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: Uh, "Way Over Yonder" is my shower song.

[pause]

Taylor: Is it?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, I like to sing that when I'm in the shower.

Taylor: [simultaneously] That's a choice.

Raleigh: You have—

Sydnee: It's a good...

Raleigh: If someone gave me a sheet with all these categories you're listing, and then this album, your corollaries there are just wild. [laughs]

Taylor: "This is the song I sing to my child. This is the song I sing in the shower." Interesting choices.

Raleigh: "This is the one that makes me think of my husband."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: [through laughter] I'm just saying. Well, I mean...

Raleigh: I just— maybe— you know, I— I understand what you mean. Not for this album necessarily, but I think sometimes when you listen to an album or to someone's music so many times, you associate, like, meaning with it that maybe has less to do with the lyrics and vibe itself, and more with just, like, the association you have personally with that song. So I get it. Like, I understand that. Not with this album. I don't understand, you know, singing that to Charlie when she goes to sleep. But I do understand the intention.

Sydnee: I think, um... it's hard to sing— as much as I love "Natural Woman," it's hard to just stand and sing that and not feel a little... [laughs quietly] cringing at yourself.

Taylor: That song was a little... yeah. It was a little abused by advertisement, too, I think.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Wasn't there a deodorant that used it or something? Like, that's how— I always just think of that, you know? That's kind of like "Like a Rock," you know. That's a great song, actually. But it unfortunately just makes me think of Ford trucks.

Sydnee: I know. There are so many songs like that. Yeah. And "Natural Woman" is one of those songs where, like, it's a great song. It's a cool song. It's— the sentiment is cool. I love the whole thing. It's kinda sexy. Like, it's a good song. But it's been in so many commercials for, like, feminine... and when I say feminine products I'm not talking about, like, menstrual products. I just mean, like, things aimed at femininity, at being feminine. And, like... yeah.

Taylor: "This— this tampon will make you feel [through laughter] like a natural woman." What?

Sydnee: Probably! I mean, there's probably, like, a Vagisil commercial with that.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, like, there's been so many commercials with that.

[all laughs]

Taylor: I really— you know, it wasn't one of the songs— I think I liked the sadder songs when I was younger, I absolutely did. But I feel like now that I'm older I really appreciate the sentiment of "Beautiful." Like, I think when I was younger I thought it was cornier, and now that I'm old I'm like, "No." It's like a very— like, it's a— it's like a statement. It's like a... like a... powerful, like, "No, you have to. This is how you have to do it. [through laughter] Every morning you gotta get up, and you gotta go to it!"

Sydnee: It is a good— it is a good. It is empowering, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, I love that song.

Sydnee: Uh, so what are your— before we finish out, what are your favorites? Is that your favorite, Tey?

Taylor: [holding back laughter] Well, I think my favorite is still "Tapestry," 'cause it's so weird!

Sydnee: It is.

Taylor: "Tapestry" is my long-time fave. "Beautiful" is maybe the one that I'm jiving with the most now.

Sydnee: "*Tapestry's*" a very artistic choice. I can see that.

Taylor: Yeah. I wanna draw things from "Tapestry," you know?

Raleigh: That makes sense.

Taylor: A sad little old toad man on a rock.

Raleigh: Oh, I wanna see that.

Sydnee: I look forward to it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: The looming figure of death, and Carole King! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs] And bits of blue and gold.

Raleigh: Uh... I think— I know it's over-listened to probably, but I just think "Where You Lead," for similar reasons that, like, you like all the— some of the other ones. Like, I just listen to that and I think of *Gilmore Girls*, and then the first time I watched that series was with Mom when I was in, like, middle school and didn't really have many people to hang out with, so it was just me and Mom sitting and watching *Gilmore Girls*, like, every single day. Um, and eventually Dad joining in, and not understanding what was going on but watching anyways.

Like, I listen to that song and I just think of *Gilmore Girls* and all that, and fall, and... it's a— a good vibe.

Sydnee: It's a good fall album.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Good chill music. Well, thank you both for listening to Carole King. I appreciate it.

Raleigh: Of course!

Taylor: Well, I'm happy to.

Sydnee: Tey, what's next?

Taylor: Um... there's a lot of talk, uh, outside of Venice— well, I guess it was still also in Venice—but about Brendan Fraser's return to film. Um, he's been in things recently. He was in *Doom Patrol*. But this is his first big movie in a while. And, uh, it made me think back to some of my favorite Brendan Fraser movies. Um, and I know *The Mummy* is the one that everybody iconically loves him for, but my personal favorite is *Airheads*, so I was hoping we could talk about *Airheads*.

Sydnee: That would be great!

Raleigh: Definitely.

Sydnee: I would love to watch *Airheads* again.

Taylor: Steve Buscemi's there too, so, you know. You know it's gonna be good.

Raleigh: Perfect.

Sydnee: Excellent. Well, we will watch *Airheads* for next week, and I could always use some Brendan Fraser in my life. Um, thank you all, listeners. You should listen to Carole King, this great little artist you may or may not have heard of. [laughs]

Raleigh: Really indie, underground.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, definitely not super famous.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... [laughs] uh, and thank you to Maximum Fun. You can go to Maximumfun.org and check out lots of great shows there. You tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: Well, do I sing the sad one about going home again to Charlie to bed, or...?

Taylor: "Smackwater Jack."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Just change the lyrics so he hugs people instead of kills them.

Rileigh: There you go.

Sydnee: [laughs]

[theme music ends]

[music plays]

Caroline: Are elephants right-handed?

Tom: What's the middlest size in the universe?

Emma: What is the history of fanfiction?

Tom: Let's find out together! On our show, *Let's Learn Everything*, where we learn anything and everything interesting.

Caroline: My name's Caroline, and I studied biodiversity and conservation.

Tom: My name's Tom, and I studied computer science and cognitive [indistinct mumbling].

Caroline: Hmm, did you?

[both laugh]

Emma: And my name's Emma, and I studied stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Tom: On our show, we do as much research as you would for a class, but we don't get in trouble for making each other laugh.

Emma: And we get to say f—[censor bleep]!"

[all laugh]

Tom: Maybe— maybe not in the trailer. [wheezes]

Caroline: Subscribe to *Let's Learn Everything*, every other Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[chord]

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