

Still Buffering 331: "Sister Act 2" (1993)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Uh, so I had a bad experience. I'm having it now.

Rileigh: Oh?

Sydnee: I'm congested. That's not it. I know that every— I'm just getting that— I'm getting out in front of that. I have a cold. It's not COVID.

Rileigh: Okay?

Sydnee: We tested ourselves multiple times. It's just the normal cold stuff. But— so yesterday all of a sudden my eyes started watering and I couldn't see, and I having some terrible allergic reaction. Okay? [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I didn't know what was going on. I had to take my contacts out, it was a mess. It eventually went away. This morning, I wake up, I'm feeling fine. I mean, I have a cold, but I'm okay. I get all ready, and it starts happening again. So what I have determined, I think, is that when you find a very old eye brightening cream...

Rileigh: [groans quietly]

Sydnee: ... that you don't ever remember purchasing or owning, and you find it down in the back of, like, an old bag under your sink, and you— you don't know what it is but it says "eye brightening cream" and you have dark under-eye circles and you think maybe that'll fix them, don't use that.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: This is what I think the problem is.

Raleigh: That checks out.

Sydnee: I don't know where I got this stuff, or how long I've had it. It's very old. I don't think I should've put it... around my eyes.

Taylor: What did it— what did the container look like?

Sydnee: It was a yellow bottle.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: It's not one— I have a more recent one that, Tey, you may have gotten me.

Taylor: I was gonna say, well, yes. But I was gonna say, I got you an eye brightening cream, but it's been about two years, so I don't think you should be using that one. But if this one predates that one... [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, it's not the one you gave me. I have all the things you gave me in a bag together, and yours was in an orange pot.

Taylor: Yes, I was gonna say, that's not...

Sydnee: It's not the— I use the orange pot one most of the time, but I just—

Raleigh: Are you still using that one from two years ago?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That's— maybe it wasn't— was that two? That was one or two years ago. It's still definitely— makeup expires.

Raleigh: It has a little date on the back that tells you how long you have.

Sydnee: But the orange pot one has not— I mean, I've used it and I've never had this reaction. It's the yellow tube one that I don't remember getting.

Taylor: Syd, if you found, like, food in the back of your fridge that you don't remember when it came from or where— when it got there, would you eat it?

Sydnee: No... prob— I mean, well—

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —probably not. [laughs]

Taylor: You need to apply the same logic to things you put on your face, you know. Your giant organ that is your skin.

Sydnee: And then I washed it off. Um, but I also... used, like, a washcloth that... [laughs quietly] I had used the night before.

Raleigh: Syd...

Sydnee: So... I'm gonna s— I'm gonna change my routine, is— here's the lo— here's the short story. I'm gonna change my routine. I might stop using washcloths, I think, for my face.

Raleigh: I don't.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't. Like, the way that our— I mean, your— our parents' household uses washcloths I don't think is a good way to use washcloths. Like, a towel that you dry yourself off of? You can reuse that. A washcloth that gets wet and covered in your facial goop and then you set it on the side of the sink and you use it again the next day and the next day? [through laughter] That is not sanitary.

Sydnee: But I rinse it out.

Taylor: That doesn't matter!

Raleigh: Sydnee, you're the medical doctor here.

Taylor: You know this!

Raleigh: You know how germs work.

Taylor: You've just made a facial marinade. Like, here is a bunch of, like, dead skin cells, and it's wet and moist and in a temperate environment. What happens, Syd? Come on.

Raleigh: I just use my hands for your fa— it's better for your face, too, 'cause sometimes you can get those tiny little abrasions if you scrub too hard with, like, a rag. So that's why I use my hands. And if you wash your hands before you wash your face, then it's clean.

Sydnee: I'm going to throw away the very old eye brightening cream.

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: And just use the orange pot from now on. I think it's fine, still.

Raleigh: Just so you know, there's usually a little image— like a little logo on the back of all things you can put on your face that looks like a pot that's open. And it has, like, 12M or 6M on it, and that means after opening that's how long you have to use it before it's bad. 12 months, 6 months. I don't think I've actually seen one longer than 12 months.

Taylor: I'm beginning to think that this is just, like, a personality trait for you, Syd. Because I feel like at least once a year you tell both of us, like, "Oh, I— I really don't— I don't take care of my skin very well. I wash my face with a dirty bar of soap that I found in the backyard."

And we're like, "Well, you shouldn't do that! Here's a bunch of stuff you should do that."

And then, like, again later it's like, "Well, I don't know what happened. I just— I just used mayonnaise, and that doesn't work."

[all laugh]

Raleigh: I feel like it happens around this time every—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I got better!

Raleigh: I feel like it happens around this time every year too, because then Tey you and I both have the same thought for Christmas, which is like, "I'm gonna get her, like, some face masks and some good creams and good products and stuff."

Like, I got you some makeup stuff last year I thought would be good.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] But then I use them all.

Taylor: No, you clearly don't. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, okay. I use them, and then they're gone, and... see, I was doing better. And I still do better than I used to do. I use my— my very, like, nonabrasive facial cleanser. And then I have a moisturizer. I got micellar water to take my eye makeup off instead of just sort of rubbing at it with a washcloth, which is what I used to do.

Taylor: Hm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I got micellar water. And, um, most of my makeup products were good. The problem is I ran out, and then I had these older things, and I was like, "Well, I'll just use these up too, instead of buying new things. I'll use up the old things." 'Cause I didn't wanna be wasteful. But the old things are very old.

Taylor: Yes. I just— you got— you got— you gotta put in some effort, Syd. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I know. I— well, I— I threw a couple things away. I ordered some new things today. Justin got me a couple of masks, because I ran out of all the— I finally used up all the masks you all gave me. I took me a long time. I mean, especially, like, the pots of mask goo that you put on. Those last a long time.

Taylor: They do, yes.

Sydnee: So, like, it's not that I didn't use them. It's just I— they— eventually they run out. And then... anyway, I have replaced some things. I'm gonna do better. I'm gonna do better.

Taylor: Alright. [laughs quietly] 'Cause I feel like— like, you don't have an excuse. You're very financially stable. There have been months where I've made the choice between, like, moisturizer and a timely credit card bill, and I've chosen moisturizer, but at what cost?

Sydnee: I, uh... I could do better, I know. And I— this has been a wake-up call. This allergic reaction I'm having to eye brightening cream.

Raleigh: And you're a doctor! Like, you— like, you can just, like— you know, like—I'm not saying, like, you know, you specialize in skin stuff. But, like, you at least know the basics of like, these germs have been here for a while. I shouldn't put those on my face again.

Sydnee: Well, I also— I was— I was getting in the habit of not wearing makeup most of the time, and then this campaign stuff started and I felt the need to, like, do a little more when I leave the house. Like, when I go to these events. And that just threw my skin into a tizzy.

Taylor: A tizzy? [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Not a tizzy.

Sydnee: I had gotten so comfortable with just, like, my moisturized face, and maybe a little bit of, like, concealer when I've got really bad circles, and then everything went haywire. [pause] Anyway, so that's— if you see me, like, blinking with my big, red, puffy eyes a lot, that's what it is. That's what's happening. Don't worry. [laughs quietly] I'm fine.

Raleigh: Yesterday you were just sitting there, having— carrying on a normal conversation with everyone with a bag of ice wrapped in a paper towel just held against your eye.

[pause]

Sydnee: Well...

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] That was— I was like, "Wha— what— what is happening?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Mom kept trying to force me to take antibiotic drops in my eye, and I kept telling her, "Mom, this is not pinkeye." Like, it's not— it all happened immediately. Like, I was fine and then I wasn't. That's not how infections work.

She was like, "Here, take these Cipro drops."

"I'm— I'm not gonna use your Ci— your old Cipro drops!" [laughs]

Taylor: That's definitely the solution for old eye cream: outdated medication.

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: Outdated antibiotic drops. That shouldn't be a problem.

Taylor: Are you trying to get a super eye? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I have learned. I will do better. I am a cautionary tale. That's why I'm sharing. I'm not— I'm not— I am sharing this as a cautionary tale. Don't do what I do. I am fixing my behaviors. I value my eyesight.

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: So I will— I will protect it more, by using... not out of date products around my eyes. Anyway, so that's been my adventure this morning. [laughs quietly] It was nice when I figured it out. And then I had this one moment where I was like, "Well, I also used this older, like, tinted SPF." But I've used it before without incident, so I really think it's the... the eye brightening cream. But then I thought, "Well, maybe I should do a test on it—"

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: "—and tomorrow I'll just use one of them and see if I have a reaction." Or— you know. But then I was like, "But what if I do?" [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I'd say if they're both old, you should throw them both away, and then just— there you go. Science is done.

Rileigh: Yeah. The rules of the products are there not to utilize after you have a bad reaction. It's to avoid the bad reaction.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: So you shouldn't wait for the bad reaction to happen before you're like, "Hmm. Maybe this is too old."

Sydnee: Then I had a moment where I was like, "Was it the very old curl spray I put in my hair?"

Rileigh: Why do you not have anything that's from this year?

[pause]

Sydnee: I spend— well, part of it is I spend a lot of the summer just not doing any— you know? I don't do anything with my face or hair. So...

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: I use sunscreen, that's it.

Taylor: I also think, you know, we talk about things similar to this on the show, that I— the whole, like, "Well, to be taken seriously as a woman I can't take care of myself with a beauty routine, or in a physical sense, or have concerns like that."

And I'm not saying you actively believe that, but I do think a lot of us subconsciously have that within us that you gotta work through. You can still be taken legitimate and serious and be big, bad, doctor politician lady, and... buy up-to-date styling products.

Sydnee: I know. It's hard because I don't— I legitimately don't prioritize that stuff. Um, but then, like, I do recognize when I go to these sort of events where I'm, like, shaking hands with people, I want to look nice. Like, I don't wanna look... fancy, necessarily. But I do want to look like I took a little bit of time. I know that that— whether or not it should matter, it does matter. I don't know.

Taylor: I think that's just, like, a human concern. That's— everybody wants to, you know. [laughs]

Rileigh: I'm not running for office, but when I'm going somewhere I know there's going to be a lot of people that are going to be looking directly at my face, I'm like, "Maybe I should— maybe I should try."

Sydnee: When I do my doctoring, nobody cares what I look like. Like, my hair is usually sort of like just a frizzy pile on my head, and nobody cares. You don't care if your doctor has good hair. Nobody's looking at me thinking, like, "Well, I don't know if you can lance that abscess or not. Your hair looks pretty frizzy." You know?

Rileigh: That's true. I think they're probably thinking about that abscess.

Taylor: Well, yeah, but Syd, it's not necessarily about what the people who are looking at you think. It's about how you feel about yourself. So we all feel better when we feel like we look in the mirror and we see a version of ourselves that we're satisfied with. That's the only audience you should be worried about.

[pause]

Sydnee: Well... that's a bigger issue than—

Taylor: [laughs] Okay.

Sydnee: That's, uh... [laughs quietly] well, that's for me in my private sessions. Um, let's talk about *Sister Act 2*.

Taylor: Change the subject with nuns. You always do that.

Sydnee: I know, I do. I— you know, I realize, Rileigh, like, I've done sequels on the show before. And the thing is, like, you can watch *Grease 2* with no knowledge of *Grease 1* and I don't think that's...

Rileigh: But at least, like, when you brought *Grease 2* you also were under the knowledge that both Taylor and I had already seen *Grease 1* many times. Like, I at least had that information in my head somewhere.

Sydnee: But I feel like the plot of *Sister Act 1* is so basic that, like, you don't need to watch it to understand what's watching in *Sister Act 2*.

Rileigh: Do you know how confused I was—

Sydnee: Really?

Rileigh: —when it was Whoopie Goldberg in Vegas and a bunch of nuns were like, "We need you back"?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I was like, "What— back where? Where was she? What was she doing?"
[laughs]

Taylor: Rileigh, didn't you— the whole plot of the first movie is in her opening number. Like, that— that's the review.

Rileigh: I guess that's true.

Taylor: That's your little— your little run-through.

Sydnee: She was a... okay. [singing quietly] Her name is Whoopie. She was a showgirl. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: No, no. Not—

Taylor: She was a headliner.

Rileigh: Not Copacabana. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: She was.

Rileigh: She was a headliner, yes.

Sydnee: She was a headliner, and she witnessed a murder. Right?

Taylor: Wait, no, you're the one that's supposed to know this! [laughs]

Sydnee: She saw a crime.

Rileigh: She was hiding from the mob.

Sydnee: She was hiding from the mob because she witnessed a crime and they knew she had, and so she had to go into hiding so that they didn't find her and kill her. And so the police said, "Here's a good place for you go into hiding." Like, she was working with law enforcement and they said, "Here. Go hide in this convent.'

And at the convent they were like, "Now, if you're gonna hide here... " They're very strict. They're like, "You have to actually, like... we don't want the nuns to know you're hiding here. Like, we don't want the put the other nuns at risk. So as far as the other nuns know, you're just another nun that has transferred here."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I guess that happens. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: From another school.

Sydnee: From another nun place. Another convent. You've been transferred, and that's all anybody's ever gonna know about you is you're just another nun here. And so she comes and she has to wear the nun stuff and she has to act like a nun and follow all the nun rules, and that's hard for her 'cause she's a headliner, not a nun. Would be for anybody who's not a nun. Might be for nuns, I don't know.

Raleigh: I haven't asked 'em.

Sydnee: I'm not a nun, so I don't know. Um, but then, uh, she realizes that their choir is in need of help. 'Cause they have a nun choir, but it's not very good. And because she has this talent, she helps the nun choir become really good, and they do all these performances that, like, bring the community together and inspire people, and... [pause]

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Fill the pews... with parishioners.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I mean, that's pretty much it. Like, the— the— she helps, you know, lift up the nun choir and the community, and everybody loves her. And they finally found out, like, that she's not really a nun, she's there in hiding. And then there's

an exciting scene where, like, the mob finds her, and... whatever. But then... she obviously does not get harmed. She's fine.

Raleigh: Right. 'Cause she's there for the sequel.

Sydnee: Yes. So she has saved the church, and the school, and everyone, and everybody's happy. Then she goes back to Vegas. They go on nunning, doing their nun things, until they need help with the school choir, the kids' choir. And now it's time for *Sister Act 2*.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: There you go. Does that make more sense?

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean... y— yeah. It was still a little odd for you to bring... bring a sequel. [laughs quietly] With no knowledge of the first. And also, how likely is it that police would really put, you know, someone in witness protection essentially in a convent? Chances of that, pretty low. [laughs quietly] Little unrealistic for me, but...

Sydnee: I don't know!

Taylor: It's a wild— as you're giving the review, it's a wild tonal shift from one movie to the other. Or I guess it's not really a tonal shift. But, like, the stakes. Like, the mafia is after her and they want to murder her because she witnessed a crime. And the second movie is like, "Here's some kids you gotta help sing good."

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Their future is at stake, Teylor!

Taylor: [stammering] Death is not on the line. They— they might have to take a bus to a new school system, which is bad, but it's not... the mob.

Sydnee: That's true.

Raleigh: That's— that's fair. When you were describing that I was like, "Man, then— a lot more going on there than this." This is like, you know— it almost feels like in TV series where you have, like, the big event that happens at the

climax of a season, and then they come back for a new one and everyone's just, like, carrying on. And, like, their daily hijinks and problems are back to normal.

Sydnee: Didn't, um... didn't Lizzo reenact the part where she says, "Take off your robes"? She's telling all the kids to take off their robes?

Raleigh: Yes. I think so.

Sydnee: Didn't she do that at an awards show or something?

Raleigh: Maybe.

Sydnee: How did that make sense to you if you haven't seen *Sister Act 2*?

Raleigh: It didn't.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just enjoyed the performance! I never— we've never discussed that performance specifically and I've been like, "I really understand all the cultural references that Lizzo was making there." [laughs]

Sydnee: It's just— I don't know. For whatever— and, like— okay. Raleigh has infor— okay. So, the plot. The plot of *Sister Act 2*. [laughs quietly] Whoopie— now you know what's happened in *Sister Act 1*. Whoopie Goldberg is back to help the high school choir, because they— these kids— I don't know. It has, like, that— I guess this probably would've been the same time period where they did those movies— what was that one? *Dangerous Minds*. Where they have, like, the teacher go into the school that's underfunded with underprivileged students and try to, like, inspire everybody by being, like, cool. This probably would've been, like, the same era, and so a similar vibe.

Like, we need to get these kids inspired and motivated to work towards something, because nobody has ever given them a shot. Nobody has ever told them they could be something. And so, you know, we're gonna bring Whoopie Goldberg in. She's gonna work with all these teenagers. She's gonna inspire them. She's gonna get them to work together and save the school, basically. Inspire the community, save the school... win the choir competition. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's the big— and so she does. I mean, that's the long and short of it. And the reason I think it was so popular... to— like, for me and the people that I hung out with is because the musical performances are so good!

Raleigh: Because you were a choir kid.

Sydnee: It's so good, though!

Raleigh: I mean, it is very good.

Sydnee: I mean, am I wrong?! Like, I— we watched this in show choir over and over and over, whenever we had a day where we could just watch movies. This is what we watched.

[pause]

Or *Newsies*.

Raleigh: [muffled snort]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean, I'm not saying the performances are not good. I just... I don't know if this would've been one I would've come back to many times if I would've watched this in my, you know, youth, in the 90's.

Sydnee: Really?

Raleigh: When did this come out? In the 9— 90's? Early 2000's?

Taylor: Well, they're class of '93.

Sydnee: '93.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: '93, okay.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: That's right, that's right.

Taylor: I do think it's— I mean, I remember enjoying this movie when we were younger. It is funny, with the— I don't know. Like, the— the religious wrapping on it I feel like would read different for a younger generation, you know? 'Cause, like, there a lot of priests in the second movie, and it— they're— they're weird, right? Like, they wrote them weird. They act weird. They're... I don't—

Sydnee: They are written weird.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. But I was like, "Man, these priests are creepy." I'm like, "Well, yeah." [through laughter] Like... yeah.

Rileigh: Checks out.

Sydnee: [laughs] Yeah. This was before— I mean, like... [laughs] and I can say this. I was raised Catholic.

Rileigh: I was gonna say.

Taylor: Yeah, all Catholics here. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. All— all Catholics.

Taylor: [through laughter] Oops, all Catholics.

Rileigh: Recovering— recovering [holding back laughter] Catholics.

Sydnee: I am not sitting here saying, like, "This is before the Catholic church had issues," obviously. This is before it was well publicized how immense and the scope of the issues within the Catholic church and the priesthood. Like, this was before I think it was, like, common knowledge to everyone.

Rileigh: It was just common knowledge to, you know, all the people that worked in the church.

Sydnee: All the people in the church, yeah.

Rileigh: Um, might I contend that maybe part of the reason you enjoyed this so much is, as someone who was raised Catholic and briefly was at a Catholic school, that maybe you just wished that one day you would have a... Catholic choir that was like this? And have performances like this?

Sydnee: I would never have been cool enough to be in that choir. I mean, I wish I would've.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I just— I— well, I mean, I wish. Like, yeah. Yeah. And probably, like, I would've gone to church willingly [through laughter] if I could've been in a choir like that. If that was an option I would've been like, "Yes, I will— I'll go to church every night if I can be in that choir!"

Rileigh: I didn't meet a ton of nuns, but if the ones I met were more like Whoopie Goldberg, maybe they could've kept me around longer. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I remember one good nun. There was that one— I don't wanna say her name, because I don't know if she's out there in the world somewhere. But she played the guitar. She was, like, my first grade teacher? I think you remember who I'm talking about. That was a cool nun. She never dressed like a nun. She just dressed like a person.

Sydnee: The one who gave you... the one who gave you the award for being the best napper?

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: She got me. [laughs]

Sydnee: Taylor was the best napper in class.

Taylor: I slept through a fire drill.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: This is true. This is absolutely true. The fire patrol had to carry you out.
[laughs]

Taylor: Nap time is nap time, okay?

Sydnee: Can I say that it's pretty intense that— what we have established is that one of the duties of the fire patrol is to, like, literally carry younger children out? Like, I don't think that that was well established.

Raleigh: At my school, fire patrol was fourth graders and safety patrol was fifth graders, which meant it was a bunch of, like, nine-year-olds.

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, uh— it was. It was a fourth grader that carried Taylor out.

Taylor: Okay, but the thing is, it was a drill. It wasn't an actual fire alarm.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: So, like... [laughs] I think I would've gotten up if it was real. But I think even kid Taylor was like, "This is an exercise. I will— if there is a real fire, I will move. I know this is not real fire. Let me sleep."

Sydnee: Um, I wanna—[laughs] I wanna talk more about the musical performances and the fashion of this movie.

Taylor: [laughs] Oh boy.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: So, uh, I know this is true for all of us with our father. When you have been chatting with a loved one and you thought you knew them better than anyone else. Like, we've heard all of Dad's stories by now, certainly. And then he starts telling you a story and you're like, "How have I never heard this before, Dad? How have you never told me this wild story before?"

Now, there's a chance with our dad he's making it up.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah, I was gonna say, he just came up with it.

Sydnee: [laughs] But maybe he's not! And how many other stories don't we know about Dad, or about whoever— whatever loved one in your life you wish you knew a little more about? And that's why we have Storyworth. Because, you know, sometimes you don't think about, like, "Oh. That would be something that I bet my kids, or my grandkids, or my nieces or nephews, or my sisters or brothers or parents or whoever would enjoy knowing about my life."

And every week, Storyworth will email whichever loved one you choose a unique prompt, uh, of your choice. You get to pick which one you want to send, from a vast pool of thought-provoking questions. Things like, "What is one of your fondest childhood memories?" Or, "What's the best advice you've ever received?" All kinds of different prompts like that. So you can— that kind of gets you thinking about something that, "Oh, you know what? That's actually something I'd like to share, and I had never thought to share it before."

Uh, the Storyworth podcast spotlights actual Storyworth customers who volunteer to share their stories with you, so you can get a taste of what these sort of prompts and stories could be like by checking that out, and the podcast shares some of the most heartfelt, hilarious, and inspiring stories for everyone to hear. So, stories, you know, not just about your loved ones but other people's loved ones that you may enjoy.

I can tell you that Storyworth has been great to kind of— like I said, so you don't hear those same stories, or the ones that your dad makes up over and over again. You can hear new stories from their life for real. Tey, if our listeners want to check out Storyworth, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, Storyworth helps bring you closer to your loved ones. Learn all about the stories you can discover together at storyworth.com/podcasts. That's S-T-O-R-Y-W-O-R-T-H.com/podcast to learn all about the stories you can discover. Storyworth.com/podcast.

Sydnee: By the way, I don't think we made the point that this is called *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*. As I was [laughs quietly] looking—

Raleigh: I did not realize that's what it's called.

Sydnee: As I was looking up the year I realized it was *Back in the Habit*. Uh, I did not— now, Rileigh, you informed me that it does not have a good critical score online.

Taylor: Really?

Rileigh: It has a 19%—

Taylor: Oh!

Rileigh: —on Rotten Tomatoes. Or 17? 17 or 19. Um, and it didn't do as well in the box office as the first one.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, it did not. Um, I am so— I am so confused by that. I do see, like, as you read about its reception that it eventually became a cult classic and has a strong following among fans, so maybe it's just the— maybe it's sort of like *Grease 2* in that sense. Like, those of us who know, know.

Rileigh: Don't compare this to *Grease 2*.

Sydnee: Lauryn Hill sings in it! Why are people not more excited about that?
[laughs quietly]

[pause]

I mean, it's just— it's like, the music for me was iconic. Like, the— when you hear— and, like, the harmonies. When you hear them harmoni— I mean, it's just incredible! It was just beautiful. It was just... [pause]

Rileigh: Do you want to hear the consensus from Rotten Tomatoes that Wikipedia is telling me why it has a 19%?

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: "Sister Act is off key in this reprise—"

Taylor: Oof!

Rileigh: "—fatally shifting the spotlight from Whoopie Goldberg to a less compelling ensemble of people and trading its predecessor's sharp comedy for unconvincing sentiment."

Taylor: Ouch!

Rileigh: Ouch indeed.

Sydnee: I mean, I will say that, like, as a... as an adult now and as a parent, I understand more, like, our main character, Lauryn Hill... I forget what her character's name is.

Taylor: Rita. Rita?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Rita, thank you. Rita's mom. I understand Rita's mom a little better now.

Taylor: Well, okay, wait. Do you?! 'Cause I was trying to figure out, like, clearly there's a conflict as to why she can't sing in the choir. There's gotta be some backstory. And the backstory is her father tried to be a singer, and then died? And so the mom's like, "No singing!" Like, that— really?! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, she just wants her to, you know, have, like, a— she wants her to have financial security. And I don't think it is far-fetched to say pursuing a career in the arts, whether it be music or whatever, doesn't guarantee you financial security. You can be very successful, and certainly Rita is incredibly talented. But that doesn't always mean...

Rileigh: She's Lauryn Hill.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: But—

Sydnee: But that doesn't always mean that you will be financially secure.

Taylor: But she's not running away and joining a rock band. She wants to sing in the church choir. It's a little—[through laughter] it's a little bit of a heightened moment.

Sydnee: I guess that's true.

Raleigh: And she's also still in high school, so it's like, it's just an extracurricular at this point. Like, this is just, like, a club. This is not a career choice.

Sydnee: She just really wants her to focus on her studies.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I understand that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm? I never thought I'd hear you say you understand Rita's mom.

Sydnee: I mean, this is what growing up is. One day you realize that you get where Benny was coming from on *RENT*—

Raleigh: That's different.

Sydnee: —and you go, "What happened? What happened to me?" [laughs]

Raleigh: Benny sings a whole song full of valid points.

Taylor: I just— so one— I don't know, Syd. If one day there's a tragic podcast ep— accident, are you gonna bar your children from podcasting? Like, "No! You can't—[through laughter] you can't be like your father! You must not podcast!" Charlie and Cooper sneaking microphones down in the basement and doing some sort of... renegade radio show.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: It's like Footloose but for podcasts. It is not as cool. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's *Radio Free Roscoe* is what it is.

Raleigh: That's what I was gonna say.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Oh, that would be very cool if our kids started *Radio Free Roscoe*. Um... no. I— I don't know. I guess it's a different world now, 'cause I don't— I would ne— I can't see myself discouraging our kids from, like, podcasting? But when they're like—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Are you sure?

Sydnee: "I wanna be a doctor." I'm always like, "Are you sure? Are you sure? Are you really sure?" It's never "You can't." It's just, "I don't know. I don't know." [laughs] "Let me just tell you, it's not what you think it's gonna be. Let me just say that."

Raleigh: Hey, Syd. Your oldest child is eight.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: When I was eight, all I thought doctors did was, like, put band-aids and, like, use that thing that you tap on your knees and it, like, kind of makes your leg kick. You don't gotta— you don't gotta tell 'em all the details right now. [laughs quietly] You can warn 'em before they go to college. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Now is not the time for the "You will—" like, "You will daily confront death and you must become deadened to it." [laughs] Like, not for— not for eight-year-olds.

Sydnee: I'm like, "Listen. Let's sit down and talk about the concept of moral injury. Now... [laughs quietly] mommy... has suffered a great deal of moral injury. Now, hospital administrators will try to call it burnout. Don't fall for that!" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [sighs]

Sydnee: Anyway. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: This is nothing like Rita's mom not letting her be a singer. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um... but that— I think that was what stuck with me so much about it was, like, the sing— I like to see, um... like, as they fix the choir room, I think that's very satisfying. You know? They, like, fix up the piano, and they have pretty windows later, or something. And... [laughs quietly] and then— and then the— I just— it's just, like, an iconic scene when they're at the choir competition and there's, like, the rich high school that, like, always wins and, like, you can tell, like, a ton of money and effort and, like, everything has been poured into, like, making sure these kids have, like, every benefit and every, you know... like, upper hand. Like, it's all— and then— and then they come in and they're like, "No, just take off your robes. And do your thing." And they win. And it's just beautiful.

Raleigh: It is. Um, you mentioned the fashion, and I would just like to say, the biggest thing I realized I think watching this, especially— I was looking up a picture to make sure I was remembering correctly— when they win and they're all, like, standing on the stage with the trophy. Like, a big herd of teenagers wearing, like, the most 90's clothes ever.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um, it made me realize that now fashion has moved past being focused in the 90's, and now everyone's returning to, like, the 70's with, like, corduroy bell bottom high waisted pants, and... yeah. Uh, lots of corduroy and suede.

Sydnee: Corduroy is back?

Raleigh: Oh yeah. Um, that was really the biggest moment where I was like, all these outfits would've been on people, like, when I was getting out of high school. That was the popular— we were in the 90's. And, you know, we thought that was cool. In our minds we were in the 90's, I mean. Obviously not in real life. Um, now we've all moved past that as a society. Which struck me. 'Cause I was like, "I like those overalls that one kid's wearing." Or like, "I like that baby tee." [laughs quietly] Um, no more.

Taylor: There's part of that, but there's also, like, a weird— I mean, there's a lot of early 2000's fashion that's in now, which is very... I find that very upsetting.

Raleigh: Like the low— low rise, like, long skirts.

Taylor: Also, like, scene style? Like, that's uni— I see it just unironically on the streets of Brooklyn.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Oh, is that back?

Taylor: And I'm just like, "Wow." Like, cool, but also really? [laughs] You wanna do that again?

Raleigh: It's just— I don't know how it keeps happening that I think we've run out of— have we run out of fashion? And we just have to pick an era to recycle?

Taylor: [stammering] Yeah.

Sydnee: Basically.

Raleigh: Are we too— are we— are we all as a society nostalgic for a time before the last three years, so we just pick any era that was before these last couple years and try to recreate it? [laughs]

Taylor: It's just trying to time travel with your shoes. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that's true. I mean, I think, like, the... I don't think you're gonna see a shift back to a time where, like... 'cause you know, there was a long time where, like, modesty standards dictated clothing, you know? Or, like, strict gendered norms.

Taylor: Well, yes. I don't think we're gonna shift back to, like, the 1800's.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I think now we're actually doing the opposite of that. Trying to push back and, like, do the opposite of what gender norms would be, and also being not modest because, you know, who cares how much of your body you show? Um, there is some elements of, like, new 2020's fashion that you can see some places. I'm like, "I don't remember that existing before." Not, like, the clothes, but the combination of clothes or whatever. Um, but I mean, like, all the websites I go on to buy clothes it's like they have a whole section of just corduroy pants and skirts, and the shoes they have are all, like, platform brown faux leather, like, boots.

Taylor: But you know what's interesting? Is that— is that re— is it bringing back the 70's, or is that specifically the time in the 90's where corduroy and chunky shoes were popular?

Sydnee: That's true.

Raleigh: Was this a moment in the 90's, too?

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: Corduroy was absolutely.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I had corduroy pants in every color.

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah, and I— you'd wear 'em with, like, a big belt.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: Big belts were in.

Taylor: And some, like... like— like, deep, like a... emerald green corduroy pants. That I would absolutely wear now.

Sydnee: Mine were all, like— I had, like, brown, I had mustard, I had olive, I had, like, burgundy.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I just got a pair of burgundy ones. They're very comfy.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. But yeah, I had all those, too. Corduroy was very in for a moment. I do like this idea— 'cause, like, in the 2000's we had this moment where it's like, it's the future now. We dress like the future. And everybody was wearing things that were shiny. [laughs quietly] And, like— you know what I mean? Like, a lot of metallic looking things and plastic looking things. Which were not comfortable. It was not— I mean, it may have looked great. Maybe you love the way it looked, like, aesthetically but, like, it was not comfort. So I like that if we're mo— like, I like that we've decided "No, the future is where we're all... comfortable." [laughs quietly] "In the future, no one can make us wear uncomfy clothes. We can go to work in sweatpants. It is the future."

Taylor: Well, that's how you get to that ideal future, right? Where everybody just wears the one jumpsuit.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: That's it. There you go. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh no. Oh no, this doesn't sound good either. That's like in 1984, right?

Taylor: Oh, well that's a different—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I'm talking about, like, the... I— I— I don't know. Different futuristic jumpsuits.

Sydnee: I have these long overalls for gardening. [laughs quietly] They're very baggy and they have lots of pockets. They're green, um, and they're made of, like, a sort of water-resistant material, because they're made to wear out, like, when you're digging in the dirt and, like, you can get wet and stuff like that. And... [laughs quietly] I wear them around a lot 'cause they're really comfortable. And then—

Raleigh: You wear your gardening overalls around?

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, they're super comfy. So I just wear 'em... I mean, like, just— I mean, I don't wear them— well, no, I've worn them to pick the girls up from school.

Raleigh: But— but do you wash the garden off of them first?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Okay. I didn't know if you liked the look of like, you know, rugged gardener that just got done tending her crops and shows up to pick the kids with, like, dirt smudged on her nose. And, "Oh, you know. That's how it goes."

Taylor: Got an entire squash just hanging out of your pocket.

Raleigh: Yeah! [laughs]

Sydnee: No. I drop the peppers in the fridge before I go and get the kids. But no, I— I, uh— I was wearing them the other day, and Cooper looked at me and went, "Mommy, why do you look so weird?" [laughs quietly]

I was like, "I don't look weird. I look like a gardener."

She was like, "Hmph. Okay. You look weird."

I was like, "Aww." [laughs]

Raleigh: I have questioned my own fashion sense a couple times, when I've, like— several months ago when I was living at Mom and Dad's, and Dad would, like, I don't know, take all the laundry and, like, give me back what was mine and give Mom back what was hers. And then he started doing that with, like, shoes would leave out in the front. And you all got Mom a pair of rubber gardening clogs that she'll wear when she does work outside and then leave by the garage, and Dad kept giving them back to me. Like, thinking they were mine. And these are, like, made for gardening. These are not, like—

Sydnee: Yeah, they're very clearly, like, rubber shoes.

Rileigh: They're fully rubber. They look like they could be rain boots except you just slide your foot into them, essentially. And he kept giving them to me, and I was like, "Dad, why— why are you giving these— these aren't mine."

And he's like, "Well, it looks like something you'd wear."

And that has stuck with me for months now. Like, I look like I'd wear gardening clogs on a regular basis? [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, they don't look— they are not fashiony. They look very much— like, they're very functional. They're very utilitarian shoes. Um... not like my— now, my— my high boots that I wear for gardening, like, 'cause I needed something for when we had the blackberries in, like, to get in the brambles...

Rileigh: [muffled snorts] In the brambles.

Sydnee: In the brambles. Those are high yellow boots and they have got flowers all over 'em.

Rileigh: Those are good. [pause] Anyways...

Sydnee: I don't wear those to pick my kids up.

Rileigh: This is not Sister Act anymore. I just think it's funny that we used to watch these movies from the 90's together and it was like, "Oh, this is what I wear now. This is what my friends wear now." And it is still what I wear now, because that was when I was buying my clothes I thought were trendy was when, like, we were all doing a 90's moment. Um, now we're not, and I still have clothes like the, but it's not the in moment... universally.

Sydnee: Well... hang on to 'em.

Rileigh: I say these these things. I'm not speaking everyone, you know. I just mean, like, when you look on social media and you look at the trends and what stores are selling.

Sydnee: Hang on to 'em. It all comes back around.

Rileigh: Oh, I still wear them. I just had to try out the corduroy pants. I was curious.

Sydnee: Yeah. I might get corduroy pants if those are back in. I love corduroy.

Rileigh: They're made with a very thin, like, corduroy? So they didn't feel, like, heavy, either, which was nice. 'Cause I could, like, wear them, and it looks like fall. But I'm not also, like, you know... wearing— [crosstalk]

Sydnee: [crosstalk] wear corduroy pants with a turtleneck, and then a flannel over the turtleneck.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Nice. I have worn those corduroy pants with a turtleneck.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Not the flannel, though.

Sydnee: I had socks that matched every color of turtleneck I had. [pause]
[laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Of course.

Sydnee: Do you remember the big, thick socks, Tey, that you rolled up?

Taylor: Hmm, yeah. Um... which it's funny, 'cause they were color coordinated usually, but you never saw them because you wore them under hiking boots.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: They were big, thick socks.

Rileigh: You knew they matched.

Sydnee: I knew, yeah.

Rileigh: That's what mattered.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um...

Sydnee: Well, anyway. I don't know. I think *Sister Act 2* is iconic. I think that moment where they sing "Joyful, Joyful" is just... I would watch that over and over again.

Rileigh: And I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the musical numbers. Um, I think I would probably watch the first one before I'd watch the second one again.

Taylor: Fair.

Rileigh: But I did enjoy it.

Sydnee: And the first one's good, too. I mean, it is. It's good. It's all good. Rotten Tomatoes is wrong.

Taylor: I was really surprised by that.

Sydnee: Me too!

Taylor: Like, that is— I thought that of the two of them it was the more beloved. I thought they were both beloved, but...

Sydnee: Yes. Yeah, I am very surprised at that, too.

Rileigh: So, Tey, is the second one also your favorite of the two?

Taylor: Um... I don't have a strong opinion about this. I'm not gonna manifest one. I think they're both fine. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I like them both equally. They are very different movies, and it is kind of funny that one is a sequel to the other, but they are both enjoyable.

Rileigh: I can't weigh in.

Taylor: Also just Whoopie Goldberg. Like, I just...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: ... will watch her do anything.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Me too. She's so good.

Raleigh: Well, thank you for having us watch it.

Sydnee: [laughs] No problem.

Raleigh: It was a nice— it was a nice watch.

Sydnee: Now you understand that thing Lizzo did. I think it was, like, the MTV...

Raleigh: I'll go back and watch that performance and have a whole new appreciation for it.

Sydnee: There you go. Alright, Tey, what's next?

Taylor: Well, we— well, I guess we'll be releasing this episode in October, but since we're in spooky season now, and we usually do a bunch of spooky stuff, I decided to start the spooky stuff, sort of, with one of my favorite horror movies. Uh, *Battle Royale*.

Sydnee: Alright!

Raleigh: I have never seen this, so I'm excited.

Taylor: It— it's— it's sort of horror. It's sort of, like... *The Hunger Games* before there were *The Hunger Games*. Uh, very much so. So, I think you'll enjoy it.

Sydnee: I think it counts as horror, yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: I'm excited. I love watching horror movies in October, so.

Sydnee: You'll like it. Alright, *Battle Royale* for next time. Thank you all so much for watching *Sister Act 2*.

Raleigh: Of course. It's on Disney plus. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: If people want to watch it. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, thank you, listeners. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff, and you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, 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.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Raleigh: You're about to sing. You did the shoulder thing.

Sydnee: I was about to sing, but I can't— my voice is too— it'll just squeak. I was trying to do it earlier.

Raleigh: Sydnee did her little shoulder shrug.

Sydnee: Also, like, it's Lauryn Hill. I'm not even gonna... I'm not gonna try.

Rileigh: No. No one— no one could.

[theme music ends]

[circus-style music plays]

Hal: Hi, I'm Hal Lublin.

Mark: And I'm Mark Gagliardi.

Hal: And we're the hosts of *We Got This with Mark and Hal*, the weekly show where we settle the debates that are most important to you.

Mark: That's right. What arguments are you and your friends having that you just can't settle?

Hal: Apples or oranges?

Mark: Marvel or DC?

Hal: Fork versus spoon.

Mark: Chocolate or vanilla?

Hal: Best bagel?

Mark: What's the best Disney song?

Hal: *We Got This with Mark and Hal*, every week on Maximum Fun. We do the arguing...

Mark: So you don't have to. Oh, all answers are final for all people for all time.

Speaker 3: [singing] We got this!

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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