

Still Buffering 003: How to Valentine

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

Raleigh:

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

Sydnee:

And I'm Sydnee McElroy. Raleigh-

Raleigh:

Yeah?

Sydnee:

... Guess what, guess what's coming up?

Raleigh:

What's coming up?

Sydnee:

Everybody's favorite day.

Raleigh:

Oh no.

Sydnee:

Valentine's Day!

Raleigh:

I hate Valentine's Day.

Sydnee:

I actually do too.

Raleigh:

It's the worst [laughs].

Sydnee:

I'm pretending that I like it so we can talk about it. [laughs].

Raleigh:

Is that what, is that what this is? Did you get me here telling me we'd be talking about like candy and stuff, and really we're just talking about Valentine's Day?

Sydnee:

Well I, I thought, I thought we should talk about Valentine's Day despite my, my shared loathing of this holiday, uh, 'cause I feel like that it's a, it's a part of, yes it's a part of all of our lives, you know, from, from being a little kid to being a grown-up.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

But specifically in school, we have all these kind of like codified rituals around Valentine's Day.

Raleigh:

That made it sound really like-

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

... Like satanic almost.

Sydnee:

No, no, not like in a scary, although sometimes in a scary way.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

But, but there are certain things like you're supposed to do, like you're expected to do.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Like throughout your adolescent and teenage years, and I feel like that the Valentine's Day that I experienced when I was like a teenager, it was very different than like my reality of Valentine's Day now, which is, ugh, Valentine's. 'cause Valentine's Day now like, just to full disclosure is like two things, it's one, Justin and I think it's silly, we don't get each other presents, we go buy a box of really good candy that we both like, and we eat it [laughs].

Raleigh:

That sounds great.

Sydnee:

Yes, and we, and we pick one that like we know we'll both enjoy, so we're not both like buying each other something to be like, "Is this the kinda filling you like?" So like, we do that. And then the other part of Valentine's Day is hearing people who like openly hate it, 'cause like, it's an insult to people who are single, and I don't think it is, 'cause I think Valentine's Day should be about loving whoever.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Just, loving everybody. Love your friends, your family, your, your significant other, whatever, it's just about love.

Raleigh:

Your pets.

Sydnee:

So I think Valentine's Day can be for everybody, it doesn't have to be like what, couple's awareness day, or single's awareness day, or whatever.

Raleigh:

Yeah. I also feel like February 15th is my favorite day of the year, 'cause it's where all this candy in the store is on discount.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

You get all of it for like 50% off.

Sydnee:

Is that something that you're worried about, the availability of discount candy?

Raleigh:

Yeah, 'cause I mean it's still good, 'cause you're supposed to get it on Valentine's Day, so it's not bad, but it's discounted.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

Get it for free.

Sydnee:

There you go. Um, well that's good, um, that is a good point about February 15th, it's something to look forward to, perhaps if you love Valentine's Day, and you're sad the day that it's over-

Raleigh:

You get discount candy.

Sydnee:

You get discount candy. You and Raleigh can make a trip to Walmart.

Raleigh:

Yeah, come with me, we can take our yearly trip to Walmart, clear out the aisles of candy.

Sydnee:

I've always been a fan of, you, you're a fan of *Parks and Rec* too.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Where they celebrate Galentine's Day.

Raleigh:

Oh I love Galentine's Day, I always do that.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

In February 13th.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

See, I love the day before and the day after, just not the day of.

Sydnee:

Just not the day of. Well I think, I think that um, Valentine's Day could easily be, like I said, expanded for all the people you love.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

You can just tell them you love 'em, and who cares like if you're coupled up, or single, or whatever.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Who cares.

Raleigh:

All of you, I love you.

Sydnee:

Yes.

Raleigh:

I mean, probably-

Sydnee:

Everybody?

Raleigh:

Everybody.

Sydnee:

That's a lot of love.

Raleigh:

A lot of love. I got a lot of love.

Sydnee:

I'm a little stingier with my love.

Raleigh:

Wow, Sydnee.

Sydnee:

I'm still, I'm still talking to you. Is that a phrase? I'm talking to you.

Raleigh:

You're... I don't think you're using that right.

Sydnee:

We're talking [laughs].

Raleigh:

I don't think, I don't think you're using that right.

Sydnee:

We're just, um, are we going together?

Raleigh:

No, I've never used that phrase before.

Sydnee:

Oh, okay. Well anyway, Rileigh, let's talk about Valentine's Day in terms of like school, 'cause what I wanna know, I guess I'm asking you a question this week.

Rileigh:

Oh.

Sydnee:

Ooh.

Rileigh:

The tables have turned.

Sydnee:

What I wanna know is sort of like what Valentine's Day, like kind of compare what it was like for me-

Rileigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... As a kid to what like the reality is now.

Rileigh:

Okay.

Sydnee:

So let's start with like, I think where we can find some common ground. So when you're a kid.

Rileigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Like a little, little kid.

Rileigh:

Like elementary school?

Sydnee:

Even before that.

Raleigh:

Okay.

Sydnee:

I mean, in elementary school too, but even before that, like my concept of Valentine's Day was, that's a day when mommy and daddy gave me a box of candy, and I don't know why.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Yeah. Like I'd wake up in the morning, and dad would come in, and give me like a stuffed animal [inaudible 00:05:05], and mom would give me like a box of chocolates, and a card.

Sydnee:

Yes.

Raleigh:

That was Valentines Day.

Sydnee:

Yes. And that, and that was a cool day, because-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... You were, when you're a little kid, nobody expects you to buy anything.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

You don't have money.

Raleigh:

They just give you stuff.

Sydnee:

So they, exactly.

Raleigh:

It's like Christmas, but only with chocolate.

Sydnee:

Yes, or Easter, but with better candy.

Raleigh:

Right. Yeah, it's Easter, but with better candy.

Sydnee:

Yes. Because-

Raleigh:

Also, totally different, because it, I mean, two totally different holidays, but basically the same thing.

Sydnee:

... [laughs]. But that, that was my concept of Valentine's Day when I was like a little kid, so it was a cool day.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, because it was also like my favorite, personal, personally my favorite kind of candy which is, chocolate, with like, either like gooey, caramelay stuff with like nuts, or like toffee, or like other co- ... Like chocolate, creamy things, like that's my like, my kind of candy. Forget all the fruity stuff, forget all the chewy stuff.

Raleigh:

See.

Sydnee:

Other than skittles, other than skittles of course.

Raleigh:

Okay. Okay.

Sydnee:

But, but that's my kinda candy.

Raleigh:

See, I'm the opposite. I don't like all the boxes of chocolates, 'cause I mean-

Sydnee:

Really?

Raleigh:

... Out of those, the only ones I'll eat are like the milk chocolate.

Sydnee:

That's it?

Raleigh:

Yeah. And then, like, I mean-

Sydnee:

Oh no.

Raleigh:

... Mom and dad caught on really fast, like, "Oh, she won't eat this." Which I mean, I guess dad liked, because then he got to eat it. But mom-

Sydnee:

'cause he buys you that box.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

I know. It's the same one he buys me, and you, and Teylor, every year [laughs].

Raleigh:

It's the same box. And he knows that I don't like it.

Sydnee:

Or like the Russell Stover, like, yeah, every year.

Raleigh:

Yeah. He just counts on me like eating out all the milk chocolates, and going, "I don't really want the rest of this. Anyone want it?" And he's just

sitting there, he's like, "Well, I guess if you don't like what I got you, I guess I have to eat it."

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

So mom just started sneaking and getting new boxes of like sweet tart hearts, and like Nerds that are all red.

Sydnee:

'cause you're, you're a fruity candy person, all the way through.

Raleigh:

Oh yeah, fruity, chewy, starbursts.

Sydnee:

Right.

Raleigh:

Sweet tarts, Nerds, laffy taffy.

Sydnee:

Can we agree that Conversation Hearts don't taste good?

Raleigh:

They're the worst.

Sydnee:

I don't, I don't get.

Raleigh:

I don't know why people still eat them.

Sydnee:

I don't know, yeah, I don't wanna eat 'em.

Raleigh:

Does anyone eat them, ever?

Sydnee:

Somebody.

Raleigh:

Are they even edible?

Sydnee:

I mean, little kids probably do 'cause they don't know better. Like they don't know, like if you give them candy, then they think like, "Well, I don't know if any other candy will ever come to me again. Like this might be the only candy."

Raleigh:

Better eat it now.

Sydnee:

"I better candy when I have the time." [laughs].

Raleigh:

But like, do you think they learn? Like they eat one, they're like, "Oh, this is terrible. Oh, I could never eat this again."

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

And then they just never eat it again?

Sydnee:

Based on watching how much sand Charlie ate at the beach this past summer.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

I'm gonna say they don't learn, 'cause she just like shovelful, blegh, another shovelful, so.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Maybe they don't.

Raleigh:

Maybe they just like see the colors, like, "Ooh, it's colorful." Like, "Ooh, it's edible. Mom's not gonna tell me not to eat it, here we go." And then it's the worst.

Sydnee:

Do you like the, the chocolates that are filled... Since you like fruity stuff.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

The chocolates that are filled with-

Raleigh:

With the fruit?

Sydnee:

... Like the fruit cream.

Raleigh:

No.

Sydnee:

No? See, I don't either, but I thought maybe-

Raleigh:

Does, does anyone like those either?

Sydnee:

I don't know, because-

Raleigh:

I've never seen anyone like those.

Sydnee:

I'm the person who goes through the box of chocolates, and sticks my pinkie into the bottom of each one.

Raleigh:

You're that kind of person.

Sydnee:

[laughs], to make a little hole, and see like, "Oh, that's pink inside, nope. Oh, that's orange inside, worse. Nope." [laughs].

Raleigh:

See, you're the reason why I have no trust in anyone in our family, because I always get my box of chocolates, and it's like, "Oh, I guess I have it sitting on my table. I hope no one ate any of it." And then like, "Oh, this one hasn't been eaten. Let's see, let's go to eat it." And there's stuff dripping out of the bottom of it, because Sydnee has stuck her finger through the bottom of it.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

So I can never trust anyone in our household, because they stick their fingers in my candy.

Sydnee:

I don't wanna accidentally eat a fruit one [laughs].

Raleigh:

You use your mouth for that, or you could break it in half. And then everyone knows, "Oh, someone tampered with this, it's a tampered candy."

Sydnee:

But then it's gone to waste. If I just stick my finger in it, then you might just think it was like, maybe it was a little broken in the box.

Raleigh:

Or maybe you-

Sydnee:

And then someone still gets to eat. I just don't wanna waste.

Raleigh:

But you are.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

Because then I see it, and I see the gross pinky hole, and I'm like, "No, don't wanna eat this. Sydnee's finger has been in this. Sydnee, Sydnee also just changed Charlie's diaper. Nope."

Sydnee:

[laughs], see, this is why, this is, let me give you a sneak peek into your future, this is why once you're an adult, and you have the ability to drive and, or, you know, navigate public transportation, and you have like money, that you can buy whatever you want with, it's great, 'cause then you go by yourself, like there are boxes of chocolates that exist that are just like the chocolatey ones.

Raleigh:

[inaudible 00:09:18].

Sydnee:

Like, forget the fruit, forget whatever you don't like, like there's just like yummy chocolatey goodness in them, if that's what you want.

Raleigh:

But then like mom and dad know I don't like it, why does dad always get me the same box of chocolate?

Sydnee:

'Cause he does.

Raleigh:

Like, can't he just get himself chocolate?

Sydnee:

How sad is that? "Dad, buy yourself a heart-shaped, [laughs] heart-shaped box of chocolate."

Raleigh:

Mom should buy it for him then.

Sydnee:

Like, you can have that conversation.

Raleigh:

I, I don't think I wanna have that conversation.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. So, so we've established... When you're a little kid, you get candy from your parents, that's cool. Um, and then you go to elementary school.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

And I mean, your parents are probably still getting you candy, but now, there's this whole new thing where you have like friends and classmates.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And at least, and I'm assuming this is probably the same, we were expected to like, go buy like your cardboard box of your little like-

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

... Usually your favorite like cartoon character or whatever, some sort of, you know, like story characters.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Somebody. Right? Right? Like uh-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... I don't know, like what, what did I like a lot? I used to have, probably when I was little, I probably had a lot of Rainbow Brite-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... Valentine's. Something like that. And you would hand one out to everybody in your class, right?

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

Like you don't pick and choose.

Raleigh:

Right, everybody. You say... I'll pretty much say the same thing.

Sydnee:

Yes. Did you ever do the thing where you would try to find the ones that were maybe a little bit like-

Raleigh:

The ones you liked more?

Sydnee:

... Yes.

Raleigh:

And give it to your friends?

Sydnee:

Yeah, that made it sound like you might like that person a little bit.

Raleigh:

And then you gave it to him?

Sydnee:

And you, well, and you gave it to like either the person you had a crush on, or, or just for your friends, like, "These are the ones I like better, whereas this one is like a really like, benign, like..."

Raleigh:

"I don't even know your last name, here's this Valentine."

Sydnee:

Exactly.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

You know, I'm doing this, 'cause that way, we all have the same number at the end of the day.

Raleigh:

Right. Yeah, yeah I did that. I also remember, we also had a uh, contest in kindergarten.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Or, we all had to make a box to put our Valentine's in.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

And everyone who had the best one got extra candy. And mom helped me make mine, and I made a giant pink cake that was three layers out of cardboard boxes, and we painted it, and put uh, like styrofoam on it, to make it look like cherries and candies.

Sydnee:

Really?

Raleigh:

Yeah, I won that contest, and I got all sorts of extra candy.

Sydnee:

[laughs], that sounds very impressive.

Raleigh:

It was. I mean, they didn't believe I made it. Everyone else had like, you know, like a square box that had like pink splattered all over it with glitter, and then mine was like, obviously not done by a five year old.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

But I still won.

Sydnee:

We definitely always had, our, our... We were lucky, our mom was always very involved in any kind of school projects we have going on.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

So you could always see like that little, that little polish that was put on any, any arts and crafts-

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

... So like science, or social studies fair.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

Any other projects we did, that little polish that says, "Your mom helped you, right?"

Raleigh:

"I mean, I could tell you were a part of this, but your mom definitely did like 80% of this."

Sydnee:

[laughs]. But she, she was good at making it look just enough like we did, did it.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And we understood it, that we usually got away with it.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

I feel like, pretty much all of uh, any time, 10th grade, 9th grade, 2nd grade, all of it, got away with it.

Sydnee:

Yeah, pretty much, pretty much. Don't, I hope your teachers aren't listening to this now.

Raleigh:

Don't listen. I, I did all of my projects what are you talking about?

Sydnee:

Now Raleigh does them on her own.

Raleigh:

Exactly. All of my own.

Sydnee:

So, so, and elementary school was cool, 'cause you get Valentine's from everybody I'm gonna get, unless you're Charlie Brown.

Raleigh:

Yeah, and then you don't get 'em.

Sydnee:

You don't get any.

Raleigh:

But that's sad.

Sydnee:

That is very sad. And that just wouldn't, maybe back in Charlie Brown's day, that happened, but luckily in my youth and in Raleigh's youth, everybody gets a Valentine. Then you get to middle school, and it's a free-for-all.

Raleigh:

It's the worst.

Sydnee:

It's awful.

Raleigh:

Except for my middle school. My middle school, I went to a private middle school for 6th and a half of 7th, and they made us give Valentine's to everybody. That was different, because we didn't have to buy them, they made them for us, and they didn't watch we wrote on them.

Sydnee:

Whoa.

Raleigh:

So we would write whatever we wanted, which was not great for me.

Sydnee:

No. And it's middle school, so people would write like messed up stuff.

Raleigh:

Yeah, it was the worst. It wasn't great for me. I got a lot of blank ones.

Sydnee:

Aww.

Raleigh:

I got a lot of um, "You're cool." Like, "You are cool."

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

Um, I got a lot of um, my name misspelled.

Sydnee:

Aww. Well, to be fair, your name is hard I think for people to know how to spell.

Raleigh:

But like, if it's written on my bag that you're putting the Valentine in-

Sydnee:

Okay, that's fair.

Raleigh:

... Wouldn't you think you'd know how to spell it?

Sydnee:

That's fair, that's fair. Um, I was not so lucky in terms of having to get Valentines. Like are, at my middle school, you did not have to give anybody Valentines, and we highlighted Valentine's Day in a couple of ways, one is we had a Valentine's Day sock hop.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

So that's a dance.

Raleigh:

I don't know why do you call it a sock hop.

Sydnee:

Because it's actually... Okay, sock hop actually predates me that, that's actually what they used to call dances, I think like back in the '50s 'cause you would like take off your shoes. Dance in your socks, I guess.

Raleigh:

That's a thing? It sounds very unsantiary.

Sydnee:

I think so. But like, at my middle school, we still called them sock hops.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

So we had like a special Valentine's Day sock hop, where you would go and dance, and then they would have like, they had like a picture booth where you could take pictures.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

Like you're, I mean, I did it with my friends.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Like, I still have the picture of me with my friends, and we're all wearing like pink or red sweaters.

Raleigh:

And there we are with the sweaters again.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

Are they turtlenecks too? Did you get them from Limited Too?

Sydnee:

I am certain I'm wearing a white turtleneck underneath [laughs].

Raleigh:

Cool, cool, cool.

Sydnee:

And, and my very high waisted jeans.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

Although those are cool again.

Raleigh:

Those are cool. I have those.

Sydnee:

They were also very light colored jeans...

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

They were like, very light denim. Uh, but, but so we would all like do that, and like the Valentine's dance. And then there was also like a compatibility test at my middle school, where like you filled out, everybody could fill out a paper, and like, with their like... It was just a bunch of random questions, but stuffs you like and stuffs you didn't like.

Raleigh:

Uh-huh.

Sydnee:

And then they would put it into some, I don't know, [laughs] this sounds like from a book, but it was real, some sort of computer, which would then give you a list of like five students that you're a perfect match with.

Raleigh:

They had like their professional middle-school algorithm, like Beverly Hills. I don't know, like, "This is who your perfect match is."

Sydnee:

That's what it is, and we were all so eager to see like-

Raleigh:

Sounds like some sci-fi novel.

Sydnee:

... "I hope it's somebody I know." [laughs], 'cause most time it wasn't even a kid you knew, and you were like-

Raleigh:

So they were like pairing up 10 year olds, 11 year olds?

Sydnee:

... Yeah, I mean like, six, seven, and eighth grade, yeah.

Raleigh:

That sounds like, awful.

Sydnee:

It was crazy, it was crazy. Now that I look back.

Raleigh:

That is not a thing that you should do.

Sydnee:

And it was all... You know, that was intimidating, 'cause then it's like, who are you gonna get paired up with? And what is that, what does that mean about you? Because if it was somebody that you didn't like, or if it was somebody that was considered like, you know, by middle school standards uncool, then I guess you're uncool too if you're compatible.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Which wasn't shocking news to me, but-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... [laughs] but you don't wanna see it on a computer printout.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

And it was on computer printouts, Raleigh, used to come on this like this paper that had like these, um, like rings along the edge, like holes along both edges of them, like-

Raleigh:

What?

Sydnee:

... Like strips of paper that you could tear off it was like, perforated.

Raleigh:

Like notebook paper?

Sydnee:

Sort of like notebook paper along the edges.

Raleigh:

Why?

Sydnee:

I don't, it was the way that it printed out. This is, this is how computers used to print, on these, those weird sheets of paper.

Raleigh:

This is a whole other thing, I don't understand.

Sydnee:

And you'd get this, and it, to me it looked very official like.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

This is my love report [laughing]. This is my love report.

Raleigh:

Like, official sixth grade love report [laughs].

Sydnee:

These are the five guys that I should be in love with, I'm not in love with any of them, I don't know who four of them are, and that one, I don't like him very much, "Oh no."

Raleigh:

"And this one, I'm pretty sure he got expelled."

Sydnee:

[laughs], what does this mean? I'm hopeless.

Raleigh:

See if it were me, if it were sixth grade Raleigh, I wouldn't have answered the questions honestly. I would have just been like, "Ooh, uh, who did, what is Bob's answer to those questions? Let's see what's his favorite color, I'll put that's my favorite color too."

Sydnee:

You're probably the one that always like tried to cheat on like the teen magazine quizzes to get the answers you want.

Raleigh:

Oh, or sure. Well because they show the answers ahead of time. Like, they know you're gonna cheat.

Sydnee:

Right, yeah, yeah. I, you know, I always try to do that to figure out what, what house I belong in in the *Harry Potter* quizzes.

Raleigh:

See, you gotta answer honestly with that.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. That's more important.

Raleigh:

You have to.

Sydnee:

That's important than who you're gonna get paired up with in middle school. That's fair, that's fair.

Raleigh:

I mean, what, Hogwarts house you're in is more important than like what hunky teen celebrity guy you're perfect matches that you take in like *Tiger Beat* magazine.

Sydnee:

Now, now, middle school is, and again, that's like a whole other, it's like this awful like-

Raleigh:

It's the worst.

Sydnee:

... Jungle experience where like you, you just make your way through, and either you decide to be one of the people who eats other people, or like you just hide in the bushes until you're survive and it's high school.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

High school, and that's what I wanna focus on mainly, for Valentine's Day was kind of complicated, because we're back to this point where like... 'cause like in middle school like I may have gotten some Valentines for my friends and stuff, but like in high school, I don't feel like that was as big of a deal-

Raleigh:

No.

Sydnee:

... For me to be giving like some sort of card.

Raleigh:

Well it'd be kind of weird, 'cause like I don't have classes with like 80% of my friends, so am I just gonna go find them in the hallway? And just be like, "Here's your *Looney-Toons* Tweety bird Valentine that I got you from Walmart."

Sydnee:

Tweety bird. "I love you."

Raleigh:

"I love you. Here you go."

Sydnee:

I, actually I think Tweety bird now has a lot of attitude, a lot of the t-shirts got the sass.

Raleigh:

A lot of the sass.

Sydnee:

Yeah, that, with Tweety bird on them. Tweety bird seems, yeah, pretty sassy.

Raleigh:

So maybe I have like a uh, I don't know, like a Bugs Bunny that I'm giving you 'cause you're my favorite, I don't know.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

But that just seems like a weird thing to do.

Sydnee:

Yeah. And I don't remember ever doing that, like giving my friends stuff.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Like I, I don't know, I feel like there were people who would bring like a bag of suckers or something, you know?

Raleigh:

Yeah, I would do that, maybe like give some candy to all my friends.

Sydnee:

Yeah, that kind of thing. Um, but it was really, by that point, it was more focused on like your significant other, and-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... And we, and we go, you go to the same high school I used to.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

Uh, back in the day, we used to do a thing where you could like give somebody a rose.

Raleigh:

Yeah, we do that.

Sydnee:

Do you still do that?

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

You can pay, I don't know, I don't know, it's one of the student organizations, they would deliver it. Which is the worst, because when you're in high school-

Raleigh:

It really is.

Sydnee:

... And you're sitting there in class, every class you're sitting there just waiting, and then inevitably, somebody comes to the door, and they've got roses, and you're watching them walk around the room.

Raleigh:

I guess you don't get one

Sydnee:

Never got one.

Raleigh:

It's like Mean Girls, it's like the scene where they hand out what is it, candy canes?

Sydnee:

Yes.

Raleigh:

And it's like, "Three for you Glen Coco, you go Glen Coco. And none for Gretchen Wieners, bye." It's like, "None for Raleigh Smirl, bye."

Sydnee:

[laughs]. That's exactly what it felt like, it was terrible, 'cause I would sit there all day. And I didn't have like, I didn't have a, I mean I did have a boyfriend for a while, and then I had a boyfriend who had already graduated, so like, I knew I wasn't getting any.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

I don't know why I sat there thinking like somebody was gonna send me one.

Raleigh:

"I have a secret admirer in my third period science class. I have a secret admirer."

Sydnee:

And it would have been creepy I guess for my college boyfriend to come to the high school and be like, "Hey, I wanna send my high school girlfriend a rose."

Raleigh:

Here's a dollar [laughing].

Sydnee:

Is that cool?

Raleigh:

"Fourth [inaudible 00:20:18], she has history. There you go."

Sydnee:

"I signed it at the guard shack, the entrance to the school. Is this fine?"

Raleigh:

"This is legal, I promise."

Sydnee:

It was, it wasn't weird, it was legal.

Raleigh:

I know, I just meant-

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

... Okay, I know.

Sydnee:

Well I know, I just, you know, but.

Raleigh:

I know. We know, Sydnee.

Sydnee:

You know, I did get a secret uh, admirer Valentine one time.

Raleigh:

You did?

Sydnee:

I did. I did, I got-

Raleigh:

When?

Sydnee:

When I, actually when I was in eighth grade, I got a uh-

Raleigh:

So it doesn't really count.

Sydnee:

... A box of candy, and like a note, and um, the note was in my locker, and then the box of candy was on my desk when I got to one of my classes.

Raleigh:

How do you know it wasn't one of your friends?

Sydnee:

Well, I thought it was one guy that I kind of liked, and so I kind of talked to him, [inaudible 00:21:00].

Raleigh:

Did you ask him?

Sydnee:

[laughs] gave it to me. And it was his friend.

Raleigh:

No, Sydnee, that's what you don't do.

Sydnee:

It all went terribly wrong.

Raleigh:

See, I had like the opposite problem. I was in talented and gifted, you know, that little thing you go once a week in elementary school, and like you work with other kids from other schools. And it was Valentine's Day, and I was, you know, I was in like second grade, so I was like wearing like pink bows in my hair, and like, I didn't care about like boyfriends or whatever. Like you boys cooties, gross. But then like I got on the bus, and then this little boy came on and gave me a heart-shaped box of chocolates, and a letter, and I was like, "Oh no, I hate boys, what do I do?"

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

So I just kind of took it, and ate the chocolate, and I never spoke to him.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. But hey, you got candy.

Raleigh:

But hey, I got candy. It was the good kind of candy too.

Sydnee:

And he learned a valuable lesson, which is, don't just assume that you're gonna give me a box of candy, and I'm gonna talk to you whatever, okay?

Raleigh:

Yeah don't, don't assume.

Sydnee:

No, don't assume.

Raleigh:

You gave me candy, great, thanks for the candy. That's it.

Sydnee:

Yeah. Did you get to know me? Did you come to talk to me? Did you find out my likes or dislikes?

Raleigh:

Did you take me out for dinner?

Sydnee:

Do you even know that I hate this candy? [laughs].

Raleigh:

Do you even know that I hate this character from this Looney-Toons shaped box of chocolates that you got me? I hate him, and I hate this kind of candy, and you think that you know me.

Sydnee:

And you would have, you would have known all this if you had ever taken the time to sit next to me on the bus, and talk to me, instead of just assuming like it's Valentine's Day, and like you hand me a box of candy, and I'm gonna go, "Oh-"

Raleigh:

"I love you."

Sydnee:

"... Oh, we'll be together forever now."

Raleigh:

"Yay, true love! We're both six, true love!"

Sydnee:

And that's the inherent problem with like the whole secret Valentine, like giving people stuff on Valentine's Day, like, no, you don't just get to like... Now we have insta-relationship because you gave me candy? Again, like now I'm an adult, I can just go buy it-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... Whenever I want.

Raleigh:

I mean, I have my driver's permit.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

As long as I have an adult 21 years of age or older in the car, I can go buy myself candy all I want.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. That is something we need to talk about at some point are your weird driving regulations. It is so much more complicated to have a learner's permit these days.

Raleigh:

It is.

Sydnee:

But, back to high school, so the, the thing about high school that was complicated for me was like, so there's this weird thing where people get roses, and then there's like, how do you, how big do you go for Valentine's Day with like your significant other?

Raleigh:

Right. I mean, like I've never had one in high school, I mean, we've been in high school for like a year and a half now. And actually, both years I've been in high school Valentine's Day has been on a weekend, so I'm fortunate enough not to have to like suffer through that during the day at school, like I already hate all my classes enough, I don't wanna have to watch you eating each other's faces off in the hallway.

Sydnee:

What? Well you, your friends who have boyfriends or girlfriends, do they, like is it a big deal?

Raleigh:

I mean, my friends that have boyfriends, 'cause I just mostly have friends that are girls, and a few of them have boyfriends, and um, they don't really-

Sydnee:

Not that necessarily because they're girls, they have a boyfriend, but.

Raleigh:

Right, right, right.

Sydnee:

But just, the girls that are your friends are, happen to have boyfriends, yeah.

Raleigh:

Happen to have boyfriends, right. Um, but they don't think it's that big of a deal. They don't like it like I do. I mean, they used to not like it when they were single, and now they have a relationship, I would assume they would like it now, and I asked them, and they said, "I don't really like it that much." Um, but what they do do is like they get together and, you know, they hang out on the day that it is, and if it's during a school day, and they probably hang out together at school, probably after school too, but not as late, you know, 'cause it's a school night. And like, they get each other gifts, and like they hang out with each other, and I mean, it's not that big of a deal.

Sydnee:

It's like the same kind of gifts, 'cause like, you know, back in my day, it was like, the very uh, generic stereotypical like, "Here's, you know, the box of candy, and like a stuffed animal."

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Maybe some flowers.

Raleigh:

I'd say mostly, unless, there are a few people that I know that have been in like long term relationships.

Sydnee:

Long term for-

Raleigh:

Which, how long term can they be in high school.

Sydnee:

... Long term for high school, yeah.

Raleigh:

But like they've been together for like one whole year, and like they get each other like a necklace, or like, I don't know, a keychain, or something?

Sydnee:

A keychain?

Raleigh:

A keychain? I don't know. But they just get each other something other than like a giant teddy bear, which seems to be what most of my friends wanted, it was like a giant teddy bear, or candy, mostly candy, or flowers. So there's a lot of leaving stuff on their porch, and then leaving.

Sydnee:

Really?

Raleigh:

And saying, "Come outside, check your porch."

Sydnee:

Oh.

Raleigh:

Which I mean, that would be cool if like I was in like my jammies, and like I didn't want anyone to see me with like no makeup on, hair wet, you know? [inaudible 00:25:32] don't want to see me, that would be cool, 'cause it's like, hey I get candy, I don't have to talk to anybody.

Sydnee:

Right.

Raleigh:

This is great. But like, I don't know, it would seem like if that were my Valentine's Day, it'd be like, "Hey dude, what's up? You left me stuff that you left."

Sydnee:

Do you wanna talk or whatever?

Raleigh:

"Do you wanna just hang out? We can watch a movie?"

Sydnee:

Do people do like group things for Valentine's Day? 'cause that was never, ours was like, like my recollection when I would have a significant other is that like, it was us. Like it was a day like-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... "You better have something plan, special." And then we would give each other a present. And it went both ways, so like I was expected to come up with some kind of present too.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

It wasn't just all about like, you know, like I get all the presents, I get candy and flowers.

Raleigh:

Right. No, um, for my friends that are in relationships, it's mostly just them. They don't do any group things. Now my friends that don't have a significant other like myself, we hang out together. Like last year on Valentine's Day, we had a Galentine's Day party, for all of us that didn't have anyone to have Valentine's Day with. And we just kind of like sat around, like ate chocolate, and got each other like gifts, and watched old like romantic comedies. But other than like hanging out with just your girlfriends, um, I don't think people that are in relationships really do group things per se.

Sydnee:

Okay. One, one thing that this kind of leads me to the question of is, back when I was in school, one thing that I would hope has improved by now, but I don't know, you tell me, is that when, um, when like for instance, when you would do the rose thing, like if you were gonna get a rose for somebody in your class or whatever, I can't imagine, and I know that I went to, went to school with people, um, you know, like some of my best friends who, you know, identified as, as lesbian or gay, I, I can't imagine back then them openly like giving each other presents, you know?

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

In front of other people and feeling safe in that environment.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

I just, I remember, there were so many kids... I mean, I know that they existed, um, I think in just, in the crowd of people I ran with were more like accepting, and-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... Nice and decent people, so it wasn't a big deal with my group of friends.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

But I know that there were people that I went to school with who would have just given them such a hard time.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And it would have been really bad. And so, you know, uh, one, there probably weren't as many people who were out, who were open about-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... You know, their, their sexual preference. And two, I think to, you know, openly celebrate that in front of people, they may have been very nervous. And I don't remember that happening a lot, like they would celebrate outside school so that people wouldn't know.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Do you think that that has changed?

Raleigh:

I think it has. I mean, it hasn't become... I wish it had, it hasn't become a thing that's like celebrated. Like if, uh, if you are a girl, and you prefer to be with boys, it's a thing that everyone's like, "Oh my gosh, yay, you're in relationship. That's so exciting." But if you're a girl that prefers to be with girls, or a boy prefers to be with boys, it's not really a thing that's, um, that's *not* accepted, and like people aren't okay with it, like people are okay with it, they recognize it's a thing, but it's not a thing that's become like, "This is great, good for you. I'm so happy for you." Which I mean, if I had any friends, I don't happen to have any friends that prefer to be with people of the same gender, but if I did, if they got a significant other or went on a date with someone, I'd be happy for them, and like, "Yay, that's just like a relationship if someone had one with someone of the opposite gender."

But there are some people that just, I mean, they don't say anything bad about it because they know that would be like a crappy thing to do, but they don't say anything good about it either.

Sydnee:

Do you think that they would feel comfortable like, oh, like for dances and stuff at school, like do you know, people, you know, come to dances with their boyfriend, girlfriend, or just their friend, or partner-

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

... Or whoever, just their buddy who happens to be, you know, of the same gender, like would that happen?

Raleigh:

I've never seen that happen. Um, I feel like if someone was confident enough to do that, and like they were, you know, happy enough, they're like, "I don't care what other people think, what other people say," I feel like there are probably people in my school that would do it, and like people wouldn't say anything bad about it in front of them. But then people that weren't okay with it probably would say something when they weren't around.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Um, but in terms of like being with each other at dances, I've never seen that happen. It probably has happened before, I just probably haven't been aware of it.

Sydnee:

It was a big school.

Raleigh:

Yeah, it really is. I mean, like 1,700 kids.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

I probably, it probably happened, I just wasn't aware of it happening. Um, but being with each other on like the hallways at school like on Valentine's Day, like giving each other things, like a rose during class or something like that, I could see that happening, and it being okay.

Sydnee:

Not a big deal.

Raleigh:

No. I mean like, I'm of course okay with it, like I'm like celebrating, like, you know, love is love, love whoever you want, you know? Go for everybody. But I feel like people who aren't as okay with it wouldn't say anything. I feel like the people at my school are probably decent enough that they wouldn't say anything bad about it, they would just think, you know, "Whatever, they're doing their thing, I'll do my thing."

Sydnee:

That, that is definitely I think a stride in the right direction, you know?

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

I mean it, and of course that is, that is unique to where we grow, where we live.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Where I grew up, where you are growing up.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Um, and it would be different in other places. But I definitely think that that's an improvement.

Raleigh:

Yeah, definitely.

Sydnee:

Because I don't think... You know, I know one of my, one of my best friends from high school came out his sophomore year, and I don't, I don't know that he would have felt comfortable telling a lot of people are with a lot of people knowing, or like openly celebrating Valentine's Day.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Or that kind of thing, just because there were people at our school who were, it wasn't just like, "Well I'm not gonna celebrate that 'cause I have problems or whatever."

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

It was, they were mean, and-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... They were judgmental, and they would say terrible things.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And um, it's nice to think that maybe at least we're moving in the right direction that-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... That, that's not happening.

Raleigh:

There are definitely people probably at my school, I mean, not people that I would be friends with there, or I am friends with that would be mean about it or say mean things about it. But like, our school as a whole has kind of become like, I wanna say, accepting of it. Like we have a lot of um, student council like presidents, like we have the young republicans club at our school, like the president, vice president, student council, like senior president, stuff like that, are people who happen to be gay, who happen to come out, people know about it. And people are like accepting of it, it's not a thing that people use to like define them. I mean, they're cool people, they are friends with a lot of people, everyone likes them, everyone is friends with them.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And it's just like, it's become a thing that people like are accepting of, and are like, you know, they don't think about it, it's just a person.

Sydnee:

You made a really cool comment there that I don't think would have been true at all when I was in high school, which is that, that's not how others define that person.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Which is, which is really interesting, 'cause I think that um, the kids, the few kids I knew who were comfortable enough to, to tell others about, you know, about their sexuality in high school, um, I think that they, that other people would like, see them only as that.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Like they would have said like, "Oh, I know that kid. You're talking about the one who is gay."

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Instead of like, calling them by their name, or like the one who's, you know, in band, or, "The one who I have science with," Or whatever.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And it's really nice to think that like they're, that they're, that's finally as it should be, you know, which is that, they're defined by a million things.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

That's one fact about them. And honestly, not a fact that we should like, that is often on display either way, like-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... I don't go around talking about, you know, the fact that I'm married to a man on a daily basis.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Like that is not part of a conversation that I have generally, although I do talk about Justin a lot-

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

... 'cause he's pretty great. But I don't, you know, and so, that's not part of, that shouldn't be a big part of how other people define you, or reference you, or describe you.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

And so, that's really cool.

Raleigh:

I mean, yeah, it's a thing people know, like they're not trying to hide it. I mean, there probably are some people at my school that are gay, or like people of the same gender, or feel uncomfortable with it, but they don't say it. But like, even if people know, and they haven't said it, people just, you know, let them be. Or like if people are open, or have come out, they are like, you know, "I am aware of that. I know that's what you are like." And people are still friends with them, and people still like see them as just really cool people, or really funny people, or talented, or stuff like that.

Sydnee:

That's... See, that's really cool, because I, I guarantee you there are people at your school who are members of the LGBTQ community who have not come out.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

You know, who've not-

Raleigh:

I'm sure.

Sydnee:

... Felt, you know, like they can tell other people or share that with other people.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And the more that they see people around them who are accepted for being exactly who they are, and who aren't openly criticized, and who can live their lives, and, and, you know, the more that they see that, the younger

that they see that, the sooner hopefully they will be able, you know, be comfortable enough-

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... Just share that part of themselves as well. Um, so that's a really great thing.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

'cause I feel like... I, looking back, and I know now, like I know people now as adults who have, you know, who have come out, who have, you know, talked, and now talked openly about, about their uh, sexuality, who at like in high school, I, must have, must have felt so alone.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

They must have felt so scared.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Because they, they're, the stuff, 'cause you're trying to figure out everything about yourself when you're a teenager.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Like, it's all so confusing, everything is so confusing. And to have that be something that you aren't, you don't feel like you're able to openly-

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... Figure out, would be really scary.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

So.

Raleigh:

I mean-

Sydnee:

And that's a really cool thing.

Raleigh:

Yeah. On the terms of Valentine's Day, I really think that like, you know, people being with their significant other in the hallways, in class, in giving them roses, I don't think it'd be a big deal.

Sydnee:

That's really nice to hear.

Raleigh:

I feel like it's just like, having a relationship with someone who's of the opposite gender is the same of having with someone who's of the same gender.

Sydnee:

Well Raleigh, this has been very enlightening to me.

Raleigh:

It has been for me too.

Sydnee:

Yes. Um, I, I think that it's kind of funny the way that, you know, sometimes we talk about on the show things that are very different.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

Um, obvious stuff like technology and stuff, but this is something that I think a lot of what we talked about is very the same.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And it is, because it's like a holiday, and you get these like rituals and traditions-

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Around a holiday, and that they're the same. But it's funny to see how it plays out in school, and how it just, it's tweaked a little bit, and maybe a little bit better now than it used to be-

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... Because we're finally realizing that if we're gonna celebrate love, let's celebrate all love.

Raleigh:

Yeah, everyone.

Sydnee:

Not just some, you know, one guy's definition of what love is.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, so that's pretty cool.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And I hope, I hope you have a very happy Valentine's Day.

Raleigh:

And you too. I'll be sure to buy myself a lot of discount candy.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

February 15th. Good day.

Sydnee:

You know what? I will treat you and buy you like full price.

Raleigh:

Woohoo!

Sydnee:

and you know what? I'll even buy you non-traditional Valentine's Day candy if you like.

Raleigh:

Yeah. That's the best candy.

Sydnee:

Would you like some jellybeans, or sweet tarts, or?

Raleigh:

That's the best.

Sydnee:

That, I would call that Easter candy, but that's another conversation.

Raleigh:

But that's the best kind of candy.

Sydnee:

okay sure, sure. Well, uh, well Raleigh, um, this has been a lot of fun.

Raleigh:

It has been a lot of fun.

Sydnee:

And uh, thank you at home for listening, or wherever you are, at home, in your cars, and your various places of business, for listening to our show. Uh, thank you to um, Max Fun for hosting our show.

Raleigh:

Yes. Thank you so much.

Sydnee:

Check out some of the other great Max Fun shows, including the also brand-new *Shmanners* from uh, Travis and Teresa McElroy, who we may know well-

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... As you may have guessed. So check that out wonderful and adorable.

Raleigh:

Based on the last name, you might know them.

Sydnee:

Um, thank you to everybody who's tweeting about our show. You can tweet at us @Stillbuff. You can send us emails at Stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Uh, please feel free to send us emails, this is one thing we thought would be helpful.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, if you have any uh, questions for Raleigh about like teen culture now.

Raleigh:

I don't know that much about it, but I can figure it out.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. You know, about like, "Is this still a thing?" Or like, "What is that word that you said mean?" That kind of thing, um, and if you would feel comfortable in us, you know, maybe talking about it on the show.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Email, you know, email us, uh, at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org and ask us those questions, and maybe we can uh, answer 'em for you.

Raleigh:

We wanna know all of your questions.

Sydnee:

[laughs]. Um, thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind. Uh, check out their music, they're super talented. And um, also, join our Facebook group.

Raleigh:

Yes.

Sydnee:

Our *Still Buffering*.

Raleigh:

Still Buffering group.

Sydnee:

Yes.

Raleigh:

If you're not a robot, we'll accept you, don't worry.

Sydnee:

That's, that's pretty much it. It is a closed group, so we have to admit you, but we're just-

Raleigh:

It's just, it's just for the bots.

Sydnee:

We're, we're anti bots.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

[laughs].

Raleigh:

We love all people except for robots.

Sydnee:

So, so please join it and check it out. And uh, and otherwise, I think that's it for this week.

[theme music starts]

Raleigh:

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

Sydnee:

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Raleigh:

I am a teenager.

Sydnee:

And I was too.

[theme music plays out]

Griffin:

The three of you went into a cave of a big red dragon, and is standing over a horde of precious golden rubies. And he says, "What do you do adventurers? I'm a dragon man."

Justin:

I cast fire on him, it's very good.

Clint:

I addressed the red dragon to say, "Us, we're the hosts of The Adventure Zone, a podcast about family playing Dungeons and Dragons."

Griffin:

Very good synergy. Commit to the bit. [laughing].

Travis:

I, I, I roll to charm new listeners. It is very effective.

Justin:

Against all odds.

Griffin:

Everybody, we're the McElroys. We host *The Adventure Zone* podcast where we play Dungeons and Dragons together. It's a comedy podcast. We don't take the rules too seriously, because there's a lot of them, and we did not take the time to learn them. Maybe listen to us. We come out every other Thursday on the Maximum Fun network. You can find us on iTunes, or on maximumfun.org. I think this promo is a critical hit.

Clint:

[laughs].

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