

## Still Buffering 337: "Home Alone" (1990)

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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 Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Uh... I don't—Justin is baking a lot. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** He is baking a lot.

**Taylor:** Lucky you.

**Sydnee:** I have been eating cookies and chess bars for breakfast. That's not great.

**Taylor:** That's—that is great!

**Rileigh:** That is great, actually.

**Taylor:** That's absolutely great. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know, nutritionally, if that's getting all the things that I need to start my day.

**Taylor:** I mean... you got, like, probably good fats, and carbs, and... bar.

**Sydnee:** Plenty of powdered sugar.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. There you go.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But I don't—

**Raleigh:** Sounds good to me.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I don't know if I can continue to live on that.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's Christmas.

**Taylor:** That's like the Santa Claus diet. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna have to get him to put some nuts in there somewhere so I can get some protein.

**Taylor:** There you go. It's nutritionally sound.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] No, but it's great. Our house smells like baked goods. Justin is baking up a storm.

**Raleigh:** It does. I came in this morning and just sat in your house, just surrounded by baked goods. Just the entire counter.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I know. This has been my life recently. Justin already bakes when he's anxious, and then he's baking for the holidays so, like... we're just inundated with treats.

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Taylor:** Is he anxious and it's the holidays? Is he anxious because it's the holidays?

**Sydnee:** Yes and yes.

[all laughs]

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** All the yes.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, that's a good—I mean, it's bad for him, but it's good for you.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Taylor:** You got the double whammy of... [laughs quietly] of reasons to bake.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] No. Once he's done baking he's soothed, so.

**Raleigh:** That's good.

**Taylor:** That's good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no, so it's beneficial baking. And I get cookies.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, you get cookies out of it. I've got a grandma in my building, and she's been in grandma mode baking every day, and I can only just smell. Like, every day I come home and it's like, "Ope. Today she's—she's baking something sweet today. Whole house smells like almonds. Nope, smells like ham today." it's just smell torture. I don't know what that is. Just smell delicious food all day while you sit and eat ramen.

**Sydnee:** Well... that's rough. But—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Although I imagine the ham probably wasn't very...

**Taylor:** It was, like, a whole day of ham smell in the house, and it smelled so good. And, I mean—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't eat ham. But it was nice to—I feel like the smell was so intense that I was not a vegan that day. [through laughter] Like, just from that.

**Sydnee:** See, that's what I was gonna ask. That's interesting.

**Taylor:** Aerosol ham particles.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting. I was wondering that. Like, when you smell cooking meat, does it... repulse you? Or are you, like, "It still smells good. I'm not gonna eat it, but it does smell good."

**Taylor:** Oh yeah. Well, I mean, yeah. I'm sure every—I'm sure other vegans feel differently. But for me, I very much know how good meat is.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I'm very aware.

**Raleigh:** I feel like the smell of bacon is just one of those smells that, like, I don't know how you ever don't like that. You know what I mean? Like, it's just always good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm sure it's, um—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Guys, I'm—

**Taylor:** Go ahead.

**Raleigh:** I'm just sitting here thinking about the fact that I forgot to take my garbage out before I left my apartment and I won't be back for three

weeks, and now I'm really worried about what [through laughter] that smell's gonna be.

**Sydnee:** Oh no!

**Rleigh:** I really forgot. It was my plan, and then it was raining and it was cold and I was overwhelmed, and then I got a parking ticket. And it was a lot. Now my apartment's gonna smell bad.

**Taylor:** Ye—yeah.

**Sydnee:** [singing] Living on your own. Learning lessons the hard way.

**Rleigh:** [laughs] Three weeks! It's gonna sit there for three weeks!

**Taylor:** You're gonna have—you might have some people move into your apartment, if you know what I'm saying, while you're gone.

**Sydnee:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** You might have some roommates when you get back.

**Rleigh:** I've already had bug problems, and I've been trying to fix it. And I have come to the conclusion that it's because my window to my kitchen is right above the dumpster in the alley behind me.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rleigh:** And also there are just little teeny cracks all around the window where, like, it doesn't seal entirely. And that's those little teeny tiny flies. And I think they're just coming from the dumpster, and it's cold outside so they're coming into my window.

**Sydnee:** What if... what if you get... [whispering] Rats.

**Rleigh:** How would they get in?!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I'm elevated off the ground!

**Sydnee:** I mean... Tey, you live in New York. Tell—

**Taylor:** Well, I—

**Sydnee:** Tell Raleigh about this. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean, you know, there is—it's like 50/50. Like, part of, I think, apartment living—and I don't know, maybe DC. DC seems cleaner to me than New York, but I could be wrong.

**Raleigh:** I mean, I have seen rats on the street.

**Taylor:** Well, I've never had rats in my building. Like, they've been in the basement. I've never had them in my actual unit. I've had mice. Mice happened, but I don't mind mice. I think it's, like, 50/50. Like, there's stuff that you can prevent, like flies. Like, I'll put up, like, fly tape and stuff every summer, because every summer the flies come. You can't do anything about it, so you just have to prepare.

So you'll learn the things you have to prepare for. And then there's 50% where you just accept that sometimes you have roommates, and there's nothing you can do about them. Like those—you know. I got water bugs in my apartment, and there's only ever one or two of 'em. And at this point I just say hi to them when I'm making my coffee in the morning.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, those little guys, those little flies, like, I just—I can't get rid of all of 'em, 'cause the dumpster's not gonna stop being outside my window.

**Sydnee:** It's like the stink bugs.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Here that's the thing. When it gets cold, the stink bugs come inside. And you know, the thing is they're not reproducing in the house. I read extensively about stink bugs—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —to try to figure out, like—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Stink bug reproduction.

**Sydnee:** Is there anything I can do? Because the children's inclination is to, like, flick at them, or bat them—well, I should say Cooper's. Charlie picks them up and carries them outside.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** But Cooper, like, "Ah!" And flicks them. And if you scare a stink bug, it will also make the stinky smell. It's not just if you smash it.

**Raleigh:** Aww, it got a `lil scared.

**Sydnee:** Like if you startle it.

**Raleigh:** He let it out a little.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Oops! My bad.

**Sydnee:** If you scare it, it stinks.

**Taylor:** Just lets out a little putt. Just a little...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rleigh:** That sounds like—that sounds like your kids, though. I feel like if you scared your kids there's a chance they'd let out a little stink. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Probably. But Cooper will scare them, and then they stink. I was like, "What—why do we have so many stink bugs?"

And it's just like, they just come in for the winter, and they'll go back out. There's not—so when you find more stink bugs in your house, it's not like they're in your house, like, doin' it and having stink bug babies. They've just all come in to winter with you. And they leave in the summer, they really—or the spring. When it gets warm they really do leave. And I don't see them for all the warm months. But then as soon as it's cold they've, like—they're seeking refuge in the house. So now I just live with 'em.

**Rleigh:** Yeah. You'd think the cold, they would, like—you know, there wouldn't be as many.

**Sydnee:** The pro—well—

**Rleigh:** But—I mean, like—

**Sydnee:** Well, no, they come in from the cold.

**Rleigh:** That's what I'm saying. You'd think that they... they... would not do well in the cold. So there wouldn't be as many to come in your house.

**Sydnee:** Oh. No. I mean, they reproduce out there.

**Rleigh:** That's what I thought about the flies. I thought—I know. That's why the flies are coming in, 'cause it's warm in my apartment.

**Sydnee:** They—one time—the only problem I have with the stink bugs is that sometimes they'll wanna, like, get—they'll, like, fall in cups or glasses, 'cause they'll, like, seek water. And so I—one time... picked up my cup...

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** ... I know.



**Taylor:** You drank a stink bug?

**Sydnee:** Well, I felt it in my mouth.

**Taylor and Rileigh:** [horrified gasp]

**Rileigh:** Ugh!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** No!

**Sydnee:** And then spit it in the sink. And it was just, like, one of the worst moments of my life. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's... that's not... yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That's my only problem with stink bugs.

**Rileigh:** That's a top five worst moment.

**Sydnee:** It really was. It was way up there. Remember that one time we got a pizza, and I took a bite of the pizza, and there was a Band-Aid on the pizza?

**Taylor:** I do remember that.

**Rileigh:** That was before me.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That was before you.

**Rileigh:** Remember when you ate noodles out of the garbage? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I didn't eat the noodles out of the garbage! Dad tried to make me eat the garbage noodles.

**Rileigh:** It's the same. They were yours.

**Sydnee:** They were mine. But I did not eat the garbage noodles. I said, "No, father. I refuse."

**Rileigh:** Oh...

**Sydnee:** "You eat garbage noodles, father!"

**Taylor:** "No, father"? Is that—did you call him father in that moment? "No, father! I refuse the garbage noodles!"

**Rileigh:** "Papa!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** "Papa, you eat the garbage noodles! I want new noodles!"

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** "New-dles." [snorts]

**Taylor:** "New-dles."

**Sydnee:** "New-dles." Ohh... this is nothing. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Let's see how many more ways we can say noodles real quick.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay. I don't think there were any noodles in *Home Alone*.

**Rileigh:** No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** That's what we're talking about.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I know. Inexplicably, that is where we've come to from the noodles.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, so *Home Alone* is a movie. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Great start.

**Taylor:** That is—yep.

**Raleigh:** My garbage is home alone right now. I can't stop thinking about that, guys. That's gonna be my whole next three weeks is gonna be thinking about that garbage.

**Taylor:** I think—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Do you want...

[pause]

**Taylor:** Do you have anybody that has your keys?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** Oh, you gotta have a key buddy.

**Raleigh:** Well, everyone I know in the city is also home for the holidays.

**Taylor:** Do you have, like, a maintenance that you can call?

**Raleigh:** Yeah... guys, I just can't stop thinking—what if someone calls and thinks there's, like, you know...

**Taylor:** A dead body?

**Raleigh:** Yeah! [laughs] That's what I'm worried about!

**Taylor:** How funky is—

**Raleigh:** I don't know how to—

**Sydnee:** What is—

**Raleigh:** Like, if they call me like "We're breaking into your apartment" I'm like, "I'm sorry, it's just my garbage. I forgot to take it out!"

**Sydnee:** What is in your—what is in your garbage? [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's what, like—how funky is your trash?

**Raleigh:** Well, no, no, no. It didn't smell before I left. It's just, like, whenever I cook... I make salmon pretty frequently.

**Taylor:** Ooh.

**Raleigh:** So when I have the package it comes in or, like, you know, anything left on my plate, it goes in there. So I try to take my garbage out once every, like, two to three days at the most, even before it gets, like, all the way full. Um... it was not full before I left, but I made the plan to take it out, and then too many things happened. And I was also maybe a little bit hung over [mumbling] so then I forgot.

**Sydnee:** I mean... I don't know. I mean, we know people who live in DC, but...

**Raleigh:** How are they gonna get in?

**Sydnee:** I don't know how they're gonna get in.

**Raleigh:** That's what I mean.

**Sydnee:** It'd have to be something where you call, like, maintenance at your building...

**Raleigh:** And say "I forgot to take my [through laughter] stinky garbage out!"

**Sydnee:** "And I have—and—[laughs]"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I forgot to take my stinky garbage out, and Griffin McElroy will be there soon to take my stinky garbage out."

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I forgot they live there! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Raleigh:** Griffin? Hello.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Could you take my garbage out?

**Raleigh:** "I know we've not interacted since living in the same city, but would you care to go to my tiny apartment and take my stinky garbage out?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I mean, what's family for? That's fine.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's what family does. Griffin would do that for you.

**Raleigh:** Sorry, I didn't mean to take away from the *Home Alone*. I just—this is gonna be my life for the next three weeks. I'm not gonna stop thinking about.

**Taylor:** You should just get—just drive back and take out your garbage and then drive back. That's what you should do.

**Raleigh:** I'm seriously considering it. Like, it's gonna be so stinky.

**Sydnee:** I don't think we should do that. But hey, Tey. Let's re-book your flight and get you a layover...

[all laugh]

**Sydnee and Raleigh:** In DC!

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** No!

**Sydnee:** Just long enough for you to run by Raleigh's place.

**Taylor:** You know what?

**Raleigh:** Anyways... okay.

**Sydnee:** So anyway, if anyone out there wants to break into Raleigh's apartment... [laughs] just to take her trash out, and then leave everything else and close it back up, [through laughter] we'd really appreciate it.

**Taylor:** See, you've gotta—if you'd befriended your little flies, then they'd be like the Cinderella moment, you know? Like, "Oh, little friends! Take out my stinky garbage." And they'd say, "Okay!" And they would've done it.

**Raleigh:** [sighs] Anyways, *Home Alone*.

**Sydnee:** So, uh, 1990. That's the thing I needed to—

**Raleigh:** 1990?!

**Sydnee:** That's how old that movie is.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Raleigh:** Wow. 32 years.

**Sydnee:** It doesn't feel that old. [pause] I mean, right?

**Raleigh:** I mean, that's before me. I feel like I can't really speak on that.

**Sydnee:** Well, but like, you watched it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. But, I mean, I knew—

**Sydnee:** Does it feel that out of date?

[pause]

**Raleigh:** No?

**Sydnee:** No. I mean, I feel like some of the movies we watch from the 90's are so, like... that's so 90's.

**Raleigh:** I mean I guess watching it, like, when they're, you know, in the airport or the phones and all that, you're watching like "Oh, well. This is not recent." You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** The plot of *Home Alone* is that Macaulay Culkin [through laughter] gets left home alone.

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** And he defends his house from robbers who... who are—they're robbers who are willing to become child murderers by the end of the film.

**Raleigh:** Which legally is an important distinction.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. They do not murder the child, but they are willing to engage in murdering the child if necessary.

**Taylor:** I was trying to understand the, um... the—the—the impulse, the sort of—the reason that they were so stuck on this house. 'Cause it's like... there's a plot point that the whole street has a bunch of abandoned houses

on it. Like, everybody's away for the holidays. But this one house clearly has somebody in it. In they're like, "No. It doesn't matter. That's the one we want." Like, why... I think they wanted to murder a kid. I think they wanted an excuse to murder a kid.

**Raleigh:** That's very possible.

**Sydnee:** I think that is—and maybe this is what sets it better in the 90's. In the 90's we didn't question the idea that two sort of small-time robbers... who are just—I mean, like, they're not looking for a fight. They're waiting for houses to be empty.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. They want stuff.

**Sydnee:** And they just—although—although, you know, maybe the turn—leaving on the water and flooding the houses, maybe that was to hint at, like, how chaotic they were? Like, it's not just about the stuff. They also will just, like, damage your whole basement for the heck of it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause that sucks. Like, that's an inconvenience. That's not helping them. They're not gaining from that. That just sucks for the person who comes home.

**Taylor:** Still less of an inconvenience than murder, but yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Now, that is true. 'Cause that's chaotic, but it's not murderous. And they definitely are willing, it seems... to murder someone.  
[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, they're not opposed.



**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** So... seems like a big leap for a movie nowadays.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I think that we are—we have a more nuanced take on criminality these days. That just because—just because you're willing to steal something, especially if, like, you're stealing something, like a piece of electronics, that nobody's harmed because their VCR gets stolen. I mean, I'm not saying that, like, it's good.

**Raleigh:** I'd be harmed if my VCR got stolen.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like—you get—

**Raleigh:** How am I supposed to play all my orange Nickelodeon tapes with *Rugrats* on 'em?

**Sydnee:** I mean like...

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] VCR.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I mean, like, you're not gonna die because somebody took your VCR. Like, I mean, it's—I'm not saying it's fine. But I'm saying, like, you steal somebody's VCR, you sell it, you buy something. That's not on the same level as, like, you murdered someone's kid. And I feel like we have a more nuanced distinction about that sort of thing these days. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, and it's clearly on a very rich people street.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And, I mean, I feel like if every other house on that street gave the one bandit the same information—like, the whole opening where it's just

he's dressed as a cop, one of the bandits, and I guess he goes door to door to try to figure out who's gonna be home for the holidays.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And they just... this cop just shows up in their—in their house. He's inside the house, asking them all these questions about if they're gonna be away. And they answer him. I mean, they kind of set themselves up.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's fair.

**Sydnee:** That also is a very different sort of environment, I would say.  
[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I would not be as willing, if somebody showed up, police officer or not, at my front door and wanted to know what my holiday plans were.

**Raleigh:** What's the reason?

**Sydnee:** Why do you wanna know? I don't have to tell you that. [laughs]  
Come back with a warrant! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I know my rights!

**Taylor:** Just in every conversation, I like to be as elusive as possible with personal information.

**Sydnee:** I know. I don't know. Who are you? Why are you asking? [laughs]  
What's your last name?

**Raleigh:** Where do you live?

**Sydnee:** Where's your driver's license? [laughs] Um...

**Raleigh:** Um, I gotta ask, though. I'm not a parent. You are, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** How many kids do they have? That are, like, going on this trip? What, six, seven? Is that right?

[pause]

**Sydnee:** More, right?

**Raleigh:** More than that? I don't know I thought there were, like, eight.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Eight.

**Raleigh:** Eight?

**Sydnee:** Are there eight? Because—

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** Well, 'cause... there's their kids, and then there's also other kids, right?

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** He has... two siblings?

[pause]

**Raleigh:** Yes?

**Sydnee:** I mean, Buzz.

**Raleigh:** I mean, there's a lot of kids there.

**Sydnee:** I lose track of whose kids are whose, frankly.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah. That's why I always, like, was under the impression before I rewatched it, like, they were all just siblings, like a *Cheaper By the*

*Dozen* kind of situation, and then I realized upon rewatching, like, oh, no. These are different people's kids, but they all kind of run together. But if you had six more kids than you have now in your care, would you—would it be possible for you to look around and not realize one of—a whole child was gone?

**Sydnee:** I would like to say no.

**Raleigh:** I mean, realistically. Because, like, I could understand if you had that many kids under your care, you just, like... they all kind of blend together! I mean, watching the movie they all kind of blend together.

**Sydnee:** I will say that, um... I frequently, especially if we're going on a trip or something like that, or if there's a bunch of us traveling together who have kids, like we went recently on a trip with some friends of ours who have children. As we all loaded up into a car together, I did do a last minute, like...

**Raleigh:** [quietly] One-two-three-four...

**Sydnee:** *Home Alone* check. I mean, I really did. Like, I looked back to make sure, like, we didn't pull a... "Where's Kevin?" You know?

**Raleigh:** Kevin, yeah.

**Sydnee:** So I don't know that I would. Maybe because of *Home Alone*...

**Raleigh:** Hmm, okay.

**Sydnee:** That wouldn't happen because I'm aware that sometimes parents miscount their children [through laughter] and leave one home alone.

**Raleigh:** That's a fair point.

**Sydnee:** I also, though—and this is just me—I would not, on a plane, ride in first class and put my children in coach. I wouldn't do that.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I wouldn't. I just—and I know—this might be controversial, because I know some of y'all out there do that. I know that's based in reality. Uh, 'cause I've seen that in some groups I'm in on Facebook. [laughs quietly] I couldn't... I couldn't do that. I wanna... I mean, I don't know. If I'm taking a trip with my kids I want to be where my kids are. And right now, that's practical. Like, they're little, you know? And I wouldn't want them—

**Raleigh:** Well, Macaulay Culkin looks pretty little.

**Sydnee:** He's little enough that I wouldn't feel comfortable. I mean, like, but even if I have teenagers, I'd want 'em near me. Like, maybe I want to talk with them, find out what they're doing, see what the cool music is.

**Taylor:** And he's so little you'd think that the parents would've taken a second to be like "Make sure that really little one's here, 'cause that little one could—"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Yeah, the little teeny guy.

**Taylor:** "Could get missed." I'm gonna say it. I think these parents... I mean, maybe they learn their lesson by the end of the movie, but I don't think that they're particularly great parents at the beginning. 'Cause this poor guy—when I saw it when I was younger, closer in age to Macaulay Culkin's character, so I didn't think of him as being as young as he is in this movie. Watching this as an adult I'm like, man, this poor little kid. Everybody treats him like garbage. And it's a lot of, like, emotionally distressing stuff, the family dynamics on this young guy. And then he's left. And, like, you know. I'm team Kevin on this.

**Raleigh:** And did they learn their lesson? Because there's more of these movies.

**Taylor:** That's true! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, they don't really learn their lesson.

**Raleigh:** There are sequels! [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Sydnee:** Once you've forgotten your kid once, you want to believe that would never happen again. But no, I agree. I think in the beginning of the movie, everybody's very angry at him. Like, angrier than we typically think of getting at children.

**Raleigh:** Especially when it's not the child's responsibility to make sure, like, they get taken on the trip. Like, that's what parents are for. Like, the kid's yours.

**Sydnee:** Also, like, okay. I'm gonna say this. We're just gonna get controversial. This is what we're doing now. We're talking about *Home Alone*.

**Taylor:** Happy holidays. Let's go.

**Raleigh:** It's been out for 32 years. It's finally time to have unpopular opinions. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Listen, it's the holidays, families are getting together. That's the time for controversy. Um, I have kids who are picky about their pizza topics.

**Raleigh:** You do.

**Sydnee:** Especially Charlie. If I'm ordering pizza for a bunch of people, I will make sure that Charlie gets a piece of the weird pizza she wants. And when I say weird pizza, please know I have the weirdest pizza taste on Earth, so this is not a judgment on Charlie. My pizza is way—

**Raleigh:** Charlie just likes cheese sticks.

**Sydnee:** Yes, Charlie wants cheese—she just wants pizza with cheese, no sauce. Just cheese. My pizza's weirder.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it is.

**Taylor:** I feel like you have to tell the audience what your pizza is when you say something like that. That's very ominous.

**Sydnee:** I think thin crust pizza with sauce, no cheese, chicken, green peppers, onions—red if you have 'em but I'll take any onions—and pineapple.

**Taylor:** Ooh.

**Raleigh:** It's the no cheese that gets me.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's a flatbread. But that's alright.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] That's not pizza.

**Sydnee:** Uh, yeah. So that is what I like, and Charlie just wants cheese. So see, when I say weird I'm not judging my child. My pizza's weirder.

**Raleigh:** Cooper is also weird. She also wants no cheese. She just wants sauce and sausage.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I mean, again, I'm a vegan, so I have to have vegan pizza, so that's weirder than everything. That's a curse to pizza.

**Sydnee:** Um, I know. Any time we order pizza, there's always a moment where the person's like, "Wait. Hold on."

**Raleigh:** "Sorry."

**Sydnee:** "Are you sure?" And sometimes they don't bring the right thing 'cause I have to imagine they're like, "No, that's not... that can't be... "

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] "They definitely don't mean no cheese."

**Sydnee:** "That's not what you meant. You did not mean for this."

Um, but anyway, when he doesn't have the kind of pizza he likes, I find that a little appalling. Because I would make sure, like—and I've been in these situations where there's a bunch of pizza, there's a bunch of people, everybody's running for what they want. And, like, the first thing I do as a parent is make sure, like, "Here. Did you get a piece of that weird pizza you want? Did you get a piece of that weird pizza you want?" Like, I'm taking care of these things, 'cause—this was the '90s. This is a '90s movie. This was the '90s! Our parents didn't care if we got the pizza we wanted. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, again, in my mind he was like, I don't know, like a teenager. But he's not. He's like, what? Eight? Seven? He's like somebody Charlie's age.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is he eight?

**Raleigh:** I think he's eight, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I mean, he's little.

**Taylor:** He's so small. It's hard to say.

**Sydnee:** I thought he was, like, ten, but...

**Taylor:** Maybe.

**Sydnee:** But either way, you're right. I mean, he's little and nobody's... I don't know.

**Taylor:** It's very mean to this small boy.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, he's eight.

**Taylor:** I was thinking—



**Raleigh:** That's Charlie's age.

**Taylor:** Yeah! Like, he does something really bad to get put in the [unintelligible]. I remember that. And watching the movie it's like, oh, he spills some milk. Like, that's it. It's not a big deal. And, like, a grown man, like, calls him a name after that? And everyone's just like, "Well, yeah. That's... so it goes." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That uncle is out of line. Can we all agree?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's a bad uncle.

**Taylor:** Like, I cannot imagine if somebody called your child a name, a grown adult, in front of you. Like, that person is not your relative anymore, I think.

**Sydnee:** No. No. Well, I mean, the people who I'd be in that situation with would never do that. But I think they also know that if they ever did, it would—yes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You mean us, or Travis, or Griffin?

**Sydnee:** Yes. All of the various, you know, aunts and uncles. That would never happen. But, I mean, I think everyone knows. And same way. Like, I'm an aunt. I would never talk to one of my nieces or nephews like that! Like... never! I wouldn't want to. I love them! [laughs] Like, why would you—anyway. That's a bad uncle.

**Raleigh:** It's a bad uncle.

**Sydnee:** We need to talk about the... defending the house from... robbers slash killers. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah we do.

**Sydnee:** But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:** So, uh, as we have already referenced, it is the holiday season. Um, it can be really hard to figure out special gifts for your loved ones that will—not just something that they'd want but, like, really make them feel special, and show them how much you care about them.

That can be challenging, to think about what that looks like, especially when we're stressed. We're all trying to figure out, what are the best ways to spend our time and spend our money on the people we love? And that's why Storyworth is a great gift option this holiday season.

Storyworth emails your relative or friend once a week a thought-provoking question of your choice. There are a bunch of different options. You don't have to come up with them on your own. But they give you, like, unique prompts that you might not think about to ask somebody you love. So even somebody you know super well, you may never have thought to ask, like, if you could see into future what would you want to find out?

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So it's a really great way to become even closer to the people that you already know and love well, and can really connect you with people who maybe you're not close to physically, who maybe live far away and you don't get to see and talk to all the time. So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Storyworth, what should they do?

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**Sydnee:** So, as we realized that the age of Kevin McCallister is eight, I find this even more disturbing, because Charlie is eight. And I guess what's most disturbing about it is that I have not trained Charlie to defend us against would-be robbers, I do not feel. I mean, she knows taekwondo.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Sorry. I'm sorry. I love—I love your kids more than, like, most people on this planet. But if it was Charlie versus those two robbers with her taekwondo—!

**Taylor:** I just imagine the little, like, suit-up sequence of her putting on her little—her uniform and getting ready to go.

**Sydnee:** Her dobok, mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And her blue belt. She's a blue belt.

**Raleigh:** Oh my god. [laughs] Sorry, that's just really good to think about.

**Sydnee:** And you do taekwondo barefoot, but she on her way to taekwondo, like to wear her blue Crocs that match her blue belt. So I'm picturing her in her blue Crocs trying to spin kick the wet bandits. That's her favorite move. So when she gets to do, like, free fighting, no contact free fighting, she just, like, spin kick, spin kick, spin kick, spin kick.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** She's like an IRL button masher.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** That's is exactly. And the other kid always just looks at her like, "What is happening?" Like, so—like, it works in the sense that they usually, like, kind of back off, like, scared. Like, "I don't know—is she okay?" You don't want to get too close. It's like a fan. [laughs] Anyway.

**Raleigh:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** I don't know that she could do all the rest of it. I definitely don't know that I could trust her to value dental hygiene that Kevin McCallister does.

**Taylor:** He steals a toothbrush. That poor lil guy when he's walking alone with that toothbrush. [laughs] Like, maybe it's just 'cause I—

**Sydnee:** I know!

**Taylor:** —like, having small children in your life that you care about, you can't help but, like, picture them. Like, "Oh no. This little guy. He's just trying to brush his teeth."

**Raleigh:** It's a sad movie.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, it's kind of depressing. I'm not gonna lie. You have to watch this 'lil teeny boy take care of himself like a grown up. How's he supposed to do that? He's not a grown up. He's a boy!

**Taylor:** The amount of, like, I think if this was—if this truly happened, the amount of, like, I don't know, PTSD this child would have to deal with from defending himself... like, when he has little gun, I'm like, that's just—we're already in uncomfortable territory. [laughs] It's a BB gun, but still.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's all rough. I mean, it is sad, and it's... uh, when he has the scene where he's about to sit down to his little mac and cheese dinner.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's really sad.

**Taylor:** He's like a—like a soldier going into war as he prepares to defend himself on the final night. You know, if we're getting controversial, it does have an accurate depiction, I think, of how useless the cops are in this small town.

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** Because you'd think that the movie would have ended—and it's a movie, I get it. Suspension of disbelief. But, like, when the mom contacts the police department and is like, "My eight year old child is alone at my house. Can you do something?"

And the police are like, "Ehh. Ehh."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "They're fine."

**Raleigh:** I feel like there's a good chance Kevin would have been removed from that home. [laughs] Like, you know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah. Like, why is CPS not involved?

**Raleigh:** That's what I'm saying. Like, if you call the police and say "I left my eight year old at home alone, and we're gone." What? That's kids gone. They're gone.

**Sydnee:** Like, we're out of the country gone.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no. I agree. I think... [laughs] And again, maybe those are just standards that have changed today. Like... [laughs] This is 1990. This is just the beginning of the 90's. This is—

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, it wasn't even, like, late 90's coming into the 2000's. Like, the beginning of the 1990's.

**Sydnee:** This is the full-on time of, like, the latchkey kid. Like, you come home and make yourself a hot pocket and, you know, watch things on TV that you probably shouldn't. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. You know, we did a whole analysis of that whole scene of all the traps that Kevin sets up in his home in my torts class in law school to talk about how much of it is probably, um, not allowed. And it's most of it. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Now, I mean, do they have a stand your ground law, though? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well... see, here's the thing. With stand your ground, you can't defend property like you defend a person. So if he had specific reason to know for sure they were coming to kill him, and they were actively attacking him, then you can use deadly force and kill someone. But not if it's, like, your house.

**Taylor:** Wait. So you're telling me if somebody comes into your house, you're not... I thought it was like, all bets are off. I am allowed to set as many booby traps as I want in my house, 'cause it's my property.

**Raleigh:** Now, torts are things you can civilly sue someone for, so I'm not talking criminal law. But there was a whole case of a guy who set up, like, a spring trap shotgun, and you can't do that in a house. You can't set up traps like that, that you don't have explicit, like, control over.

**Sydnee:** I feel like people get away with that all the time, because the other person was on their property. Like, there's an inherent threat to somebody who you've said "I don't want you here" and they come in anyway. And I feel like forced entry—

**Raleigh:** Now, I mean, criminally I'm sure they'd probably still get charged with something.

**Sydnee:** Gotcha.

**Rileigh:** I'm saying, like, if you injure someone like that, even if they're breaking into your home, they might still be able to sue you for hurting them.

**Sydnee:** So the wet bandits may have had a case against Kevin McCallister.

**Rileigh:** Yes, that is exactly it. Especially, like, the traps that he sets up that he is not there for. Like, the ones that he just leaves that then he has no control over them? Yeah. Like the, um, doorknob.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** [shudders]

**Rileigh:** Or the... what does he set up under the window?

**Sydnee:** The glass ornaments.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, the glass ornaments. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um... [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** So yeah, anyways, we spent a whole day in law school talking about this movie. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I've done a whole Sawbones about how many times they would've died.

**Rileigh:** They would've died so many times, right?

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Like, that paint can alone.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yeah. There are multiple injuries.

**Raleigh:** They did a *MythBusters* about that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Raleigh:** About that paint can. Swinging it down to hit one of the fake people they'd build on *MythBusters* to see if it killed—and it did.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No it would kill you. I mean, unless they're empty.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Kevin McCallister goes to jail for murder.

**Sydnee:** There are definitely moments that they would've died. And we're not talking about *Home Alone 2*, but if you watch *Home Alone 2* there are even more moments. Like, the bricks?

**Raleigh:** Yeah?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's game over.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Um... [laughs quietly] Is that—also, when you talk about the legality of defending, even if you're defending yourself and you're allowed to use deadly force—I'm not saying I endorse any of these positions. I'm just asking.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Um, does, like, the cruelty of it come into play? Because it's one thing to be like, I used deadly force with, I don't know, a weapon. But it's another to be like, I set up a deadly force trap that will, like, burn someone's scalp off and they'll die of wounds related to their burns. You know what I mean? Like...



**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah? You know, if you're defending your physical self, like, you, like you feel like you are about to be killed, then whatever force you think is reasonable.

**Sydnee:** [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** That's the civilly—

**Sydnee:** And if you're an eight year old...

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Well, exactly.

**Raleigh:** Civilly, that's the standard. Well, and if you're a child then it's what any other eight year old would think is reasonable in that situation, is how they determine that. So there you go. [laughs] Would Charlie think it's reasonable that if someone were running at her, she could swing a whole paint can at them? That is probable she would think that was reasonable.

**Taylor:** You could just blame the cartoons. 'Cause all of the defense [crosstalk]—

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** —are very Tom and Jerry. They're very Roadrunner. So, you know.

**Raleigh:** Kids don't know. Like, Charlie doesn't know if you do something like that to someone, the likelihood it's going to kill them.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Do you really an anvil them.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, sure. Like, she's very smart, but those things you just, like... I don't know.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** That whole sequence, though. Like, oh. Oh, man. There's so much. Like, stepping on the nail and stepping on the—and they're all done in very extreme close ups. There's no hiding the violence against these two men.

It's odd that it's such, like, a beloved family movie, because there's a whole sequence that's just torture of these two men in weird ways. [laughs] It's very uncomfortable!

**Sydnee:** It is weird! It is weird that it is a beloved family movie. The more we talk about it, like, it's incredibly scary as a parent to think about your kid being home alone. It's scary to think about a breakdown of the systems that are supposed to protect you. With like, the police don't come to rescue your kid. And then it's scary to think about, like, these two people are so dead set on stealing stuff from this house that they'll kill someone, an eight year old, if they have to. And then the eight year old will take steps that are incredibly violent to stop them. I don't know. But music is so good, though, so I guess—

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk] The music.

**Sydnee:** The music is so lovely. It really—every time you hear that theme from *Home Alone* it's just like, "Aww... aww... " [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Now, why do they keep going into the house? You know what I mean? Like, why not after, like, the doorknob that would probably burn a good layer of skin off, or the glass ornaments, like, why would you not just turn around after that. You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** They want revenge, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah, but I just mean, like... you know? Like, if you're already hurt that much, do you think...

**Sydnee:** I think—

**Raleigh:** There's not gonna be deadly traps everywhere else? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think this is what—what you're getting into is probably why the movie still works, and why it's not like, "Oh. What is that? Like, why did [crosstalk]."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is that it's cartoonish and hyperbolic.

**Raleigh:** You're very right.

**Sydnee:** It's not—none of it seems real.

**Raleigh:** Those bandits are not actually scary figures, like, to someone watching the movie.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** They're goofy.

**Sydnee:** Like, even though they say and indicate that they will physically harm Kevin McCallister, do you ever really—

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly] It's easy to brush past that.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's hard to feel afraid of them. Like, I never feel like that—there is not a moment where you think they're actually gonna harm him.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Even when they finally have him at the end, right before the old guy hits 'em with a shovel...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Yeah, I completely forgot about that, that side story line. Like, there's this old guy who has had some sort of horrible falling out with his son. That's a little, you know, heavy out of nowhere. And for what? But... [quietly] I don't know. Saves the day.

**Raleigh:** Why is this a holiday classic? Why is this a beloved family holiday classic?

**Taylor:** I mean, I love it. It's just...

**Raleigh:** Oh, me too! I just like—

**Taylor:** It's a lot of elements you would not think to find in a holiday movie.

**Raleigh:** Yes, exactly.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] music is just so moving. [laughs] Uh, I mean, it's because... Macaulay Culkin is adorable.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** He's a great lil actor. Um... Catherine O'Hara.

**Raleigh:** True.

**Sydnee:** She's wonderful.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. And, I mean, it's funny.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I guess. I guess it's still funny? I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Do I just—do I—I don't even know—I say it's funny because when I watched it the first time as child I thought it was funny, because I watched cartoons like that where people got hurt like that, and I thought that was funny, 'cause those cartoons used to be. Hey, kids! Cartoons used to just be that. [through laughter] A bunch of violence.

**Raleigh:** Cooper would love that.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Have your kids seen it? Seen this movie?

**Sydnee:** Uh, so Charlie watched it, and it was a couple of years ago, and she found it deeply upsetting.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She called it *They Left Him Alone*.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Oh, that's right.

**Sydnee:** And she kept saying "I don't wanna watch *They Left Him Alone!* They left him alone!"

**Raleigh:** Did she think that was thing that just happened to kids sometimes? Where they just get left alone?

**Sydnee:** I think yes.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't think we've rewatched it with Cooper.

**Raleigh:** I feel like Cooper would really like it. Like, that whole sequence of those wet bandits getting, you know, tortured.

**Taylor:** She loves a good bleeding.

**Raleigh:** She would love that, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I feel like—

**Raleigh:** Should give her some ideas.

**Sydnee:** Of the two of 'em, Cooper is—she's going on five. She's almost five. But I feel like as smart as Charlie is, and knows some taekwondo, I feel like between the two of them, Cooper would probably be better suited to defend our home from burglars.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** If the need arose.

**Raleigh:** Cooper could come up with some wild traps like that. That was the thing I think I always found most unbelievable about it was, how did this eight year old think up all of this? Like, how would an eight year old think about, like, if I leave these ornaments under this window, he's gonna get all cut up. Or, like, figure out how to hang the paint can to swing it so it would hit. Like, how does an eight year old—I don't even know if I would be able to come up with some of that stuff.

**Taylor:** Kevin McCallister grows up to be Jigsaw. That's...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah! That's the thing.

**Taylor:** That's what I think. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There's gotta be some part of him that's like, enjoying it a little bit. Like, "Mmm. Mm-hmm."

**Sydnee:** I mean, he does give a couple of those "Yes!"

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** With the little... you know. The elbow.

**Raleigh:** "Yes!"

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Raleigh:** But yeah, I feel like Cooper could come up with some stuff like that.

**Sydnee:** I think—well, and Cooper would not be afraid of the conflict. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] The drama.

**Sydnee:** The drama.

**Raleigh:** Cooper loves the drama.

**Sydnee:** Charlie would want to make friends with them. Charlie would want to resolve the issues and become their friend, and reason with them. And then what Charlie would do—

**Raleigh:** She'd walk out with her hands up like, "Can't we all just calm down?"

**Sydnee:** Charlie would start carrying the VCRs out of the house and handing them to them. That's what Charlie—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She'd be like, "You know what? You probably need these more than we do. What else do you want?" [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just VCRs. Like, just all of the VCRs. That's all that the robbers ever wanted.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I don't—it's 1990. [through laughter] I assume they're after V—[wheezes]—they're after VCRs... and giant stereos.

**Raleigh:** What else could they want?

**Sydnee:** And very heavy TV sets.

**Raleigh:** You know, I always thought that about that old TV set we used to have in our old house.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** I feel like it was probably after watching this movie for the first time that I really appreciated that TV set because I fully understood, like, no one is stealing this.

**Sydnee:** Nobody's stealing this TV.

**Raleigh:** No one is taking this out. This TV is giant. No one is taking this out. It'll never leave.

**Sydnee:** And we don't mean, like, a big screen TV.

**Raleigh:** No. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** It had one of those big stands on the bottom of it, and it was just, like, a big box. But it was huge.



**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was a cathode ray tube TV.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It's become stylish to buy a big box to put your flat screen in now.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** So it looks vintage. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh my gosh.

**Raleigh:** That big TV. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Those giant, deep TVs.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Deep TVs.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Those deep TVs [through laughter] we all used.

**Taylor:** That deep TV.

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** They were all so deep! Every single one of 'em.

**Sydnee:** Do you know they invented that little talk boy thing he had for this?

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. That was created for *Home Alone*.

**Raleigh:** But then did they, like, mass market it?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, then you could get 'em.

**Raleigh:** Okay. I figured. That seemed like a thing that if I had been a kid at this point I would've been like, "Oh, I want that."

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Another odd bit of trivia. You know the picture of—what is it? Buzz's girlfriend?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That Kevin looks at and makes a face. So, that is actually the director or the art director—the art director's son. They didn't want to put a picture of an actual young girl in the movie and then have it be used to, like, make fun of her, you know?

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** So they just, like, put one of their boy kids in a wig and had him pose funny.

**Raleigh:** Oh my gosh.

**Taylor:** To spare the feelings of a young actress. I don't know. That was cool. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I didn't know that.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting, yeah.

**Raleigh:** That is interesting.

**Sydnee:** That's a—yeah, I can see that conundrum. Then of course Kieran Culkin's in the movie, too.

**Taylor:** Yeah, he's great. He's a little gremlin, but...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, well, you know. It's still—we're gonna—we'll watch it again, 'cause we need to have Cooper see it and see what she thinks.

**Raleigh:** I feel like that'd be one of those movies where she'd just ask you to play that scene over and over again.

**Sydnee:** She will.

**Raleigh:** Like the *Twilight* one.

**Sydnee:** Listen, we gotta do something to get her off of Elf, 'cause we have watched Elf... I mean, I love—this is not me, like, criticizing Elf. I love Elf. I've watched it so many times this holiday season. We need something else.

**Raleigh:** Just get her on *Home Alone*. I think she'll like that.

**Sydnee:** We'll start that. Well, thank you both for watching *Home Alone* again.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** Tey, what's next?

**Taylor:** I want to talk about another beloved, beloved Christmas movie. *Gremlins*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Perfect!

**Raleigh:** Perfect.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** I have not seen that movie in so long.

**Taylor:** It's from '84.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** This movie is older than both of you all.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Wow. I haven't seen it in a long time, so yeah.

**Sydnee:** *Gremlins* will be our next film. Um, this will be before the holidays, so.

**Raleigh:** Right before.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And during, depending on what you're celebrating.

**Raleigh:** True.

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you all. If you haven't seen *Home Alone*... it's very violent. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But you know, in a funny way. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, like most things of the 90's. Thank you all for listening. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org), listen to a lot of great shows you'd enjoy. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org). If you haven't yet, you should get tickets to Candlenights.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** So, starting tomorrow, 'cause this'll go out today—yes. Starting Saturday the 17th.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I was gonna say, today or tomorrow.

**Sydnee:** Starting Saturday the 17th, you can get access to Candlenights. That is our streaming holiday special. The link is [bit.ly/candlenights2022](http://bit.ly/candlenights2022). Tickets are \$5, or whatever you can donate. If you can give a little more that's great, because all the proceeds go to Harmony House.

That's the shelter for people experiencing homelessness where I provide volunteer medical care, and this hugely benefits people in our community who are currently unsheltered, and we need all the help we can get. So [bit.ly/candlenights2022](http://bit.ly/candlenights2022). There's lots of fun things from all of our podcasts that you would enjoy. There's songs, there's skits, there's—

**Raleigh:** Including your favorite part of every Candlenights, which is Now That's What I Call Candlenights.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

**Raleigh:** We're back.

**Sydnee:** So check that out. You start access tomorrow night, or Saturday night at 9. And, uh, you get access for a month. So, um—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]

**Sydnee:** It's just the music makes it all seem so magical.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Guys, my stinky garbage. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay. [laughs] Alright.

**Raleigh:** I can't stop thinking about it.

**Sydnee:** It's home alone.

[music plays]

[dog barks]

**Ella:** Hi, everyone! I'm Ella McLeod.

**Alexis:** And I'm Alexis B. Preston.

**Ella:** And we host a show called *Comfort Creatures*. The show for every animal lover, be it a creature of scales, six legs, fur, feathers, or fiction. *Comfort Creatures* is a show for people who prefer their friends to have paws instead of hands.

**Alexis:** Unless they are raccoon hands. That is okay.

**Ella:** That is absolutely okay, yeah.

**Alexis:** Yes. Every Thursday, we will be talking to guests about their pets, learning about pets in history, art, and even fiction. Plus, while discover differences between pet ownership across the pond. It's gonna be a hoot, on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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