

Still Buffering 345: Miley Cyrus

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: Oh boy.

Sydnee: I know.

Raleigh: Guys... [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Are you referencing that this is our third try at this episode?

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. Um, Raleigh's having technical difficulties.

Raleigh: I had WiFi stop working for, like, a whole day, and we started this episode twice, and it let us start it and it tricked us and let us think it was gonna be okay. No. It was not.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: So here we are, 24 hours later. Third attempt. [laughs]

Sydnee: Trying again.

Taylor: How committed we are to getting this episode to you, our lovely listener.
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I just really want to talk about Miley Cyrus.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just really want to.

Sydnee: Well, I mean—

Taylor: Is it some sort of curse? Is this a...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Miley Cyrus-based curse?

Sydnee: I mean, to sum up, like, I had done a funny opening bit about how I have this box from the program OpenOffice that's permanently frozen on my desktop that I can't get rid of. I had done a whole thing about how my cat got trapped on top of the shelves in my closet.

Raleigh: That was your second funny opening bit.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Several bits lost to time.

Sydnee: Lost to time.

Raleigh: Do you have a third bit that has happened in the last 24 hours that you want to do?

Sydnee: Umm... [laughs] in the last 24 hours... uh, so... hmm. No. I mean, I had a whole conversation with Justin this morning about how I watch a lot of TikTok. And I feel like when people do, like, a "get ready with me" or like, "my morning routine" or even if it's like "a day in the— of what I eat," any of those sorts of things, I feel like everyone on TikTok has a very complicated coffee game that I don't have.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: And I was wondering— I actually said, "Do you think I need to step up my weekend coffee routine?"

And he said, "Did you read an article titled that?"

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And I said, "No."

And he said, "Then why are you talking like that?"

Taylor: I feel like a lot of that is just they purely do it for the TikToks. Like, the people that have, like, a freezer full of different shapes of ice cubes...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, and then it's like flavored ice and stuff. Like, the froze— like, the iced coffee that's frozen into ice form I get. I think that's cool. Like, that's a good way to store it. That's cute. But, like, everything else just feels so extra. Sometimes I get sent those videos, like, drink-making videos, and they look really cool but hey, as someone that makes beverages as a profession it's like, you just put two different... colored ice cubes in a glass and you covered it in Sprite. Like, that's not a... that's not a fancy drink. It just is... a lot of work.
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Sprite on ice.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah.

Sydnee: Can I ask you, Teylor— I want to ask you a coffee question, because this is a thing I see on TikTok a lot. And I know that you did not work at, like, Starbucks. You worked at, like... fancier— or, like, more local or cooler— I don't know the word.

Raleigh: Actual, like, coffee coffee place.

Sydnee: Yeah, like actual coffee places. Not that Starbucks isn't. I mean, I drink Starbucks. I'm not throwing shade on St— but you know what I mean? Like...

Rileigh: There's a difference.

Taylor: I started out at a Dean & DeLuca which is sort of like more of the chain coffee experience, but yes, after that I worked at a little bit— a little bit, I don't know, fancier coffee.

Sydnee: So you— so did you ever have to do the thing— and they do it at Starbucks all the time, but I don't know what other coffee places do it— where if they get, like, a cold coffee drink, you squirt the syrup in patterns around the insides of the cup? You know? There's, like, chocolate or caramel syrup. You know what I'm talking about, Rileigh.

Taylor: Yes. I know— yeah.

Rileigh: That's just what they do at Starbucks when you get, like, a drizzle. They just, like, do it around the inside.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay. This is my question. I see people on TikTok do that at home. They're, like, making their coffee drink, and they start off squirting the stuff around the edges. And my question is, that feels to me like you won't really get to taste much of it unless you've got, like, a spoon, or you're, like, somehow getting your tongue down in there to lick it. 'Cause it— I've had those drinks from Starbucks and it just sticks. It's just still there. You drink the whole coffee drink and it's just still there.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, especially depending on what kind of syrup you're using. Because some of those then, if it's a cold drink, it's gonna seize up, and it's absolutely not gonna incorporate into the drink. If it's, like, a...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: If it's not a super runny, very viscous syrup. I think they just do it 'cause it looks nice. 'Cause you get the same thing in, like, you know, not necessarily in a fancy cocktail bar but, like, you know— like, the same thing. Like a chocolate swirl on an espresso martini, and it just looks nice. It's a nice little pattern. It's not really gonna properly incorporate into your drink. I don't think it— I don't think you need to add that to your weekend coffee game. [wheezes]

Rileigh: Well, I think a lot of those syrups, like, you just— there's no way to add them well. Like, they're not made for that. You can't squirt them right into your coffee on ice because it's just like you said, they're not gonna, like, incorporate. It's just gonna be solid and probably float to the bottom, sink to the bottom, and sit there. But then if you put it around the edges, then it just stays there. Like, I just— I don't think that's what those syrups were intended for.

Sydnee: That feels right to me. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Right? Like, isn't that what, like, the flavored clear liquid syrups are made for is, like, adding to coffee? Like, for flavor?

Taylor: Yeah, those— those definitely work better. Like, with chocolate syrup or white chocolate syrup or caramel, stuff like that, uh... [laughs quietly] I just know because over the, like— when the height of lockdown, I was making a lot of coffee for myself at home. My coffee got, like... fluffier and fluffier is I just— I need something that makes me feel something in the morning. Like, I can't. Like, black coffee's just not cutting it. [through laughter] I started adding Hershey's syrup to my coffee.

Rileigh: Nice.

Taylor: But you know what works really well? If you wanna add, like, one of those heavier syrups, a cocktail shaker.

Sydnee: Ohh.

Rileigh: Ohh.

Taylor: Put your iced coffee and your milk, and if you want chocolate syrup or caramel, something that's thicker that needs to incorporate, put it in a cocktail shaker with some ice, and you get nice, fluffy coffee, and it mixes it. So...

Sydnee: What was that coffee we all tried during the pandemic where you have to, like—

Rileigh: Whipped coffee.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: The whipped coffee.

Raleigh: There's another name for it that's, like, the proper name that I can't think of.

Sydnee: I don't remember.

Raleigh: Everyone just called it whipped coffee.

Sydnee: I remember trying it and being like, "Well... I think I'll stick with coffee." [laughs]

Raleigh: It was just a lot of work.

Sydnee: It was!

Raleigh: You had to, like, manually whip it. Like, for five straight minutes.

Sydnee: I'm imagining you could use a machine.

Raleigh: Well, I did not.

Taylor: You could get one of those little hand things that I see people using.

Raleigh: I just...

Sydnee: Yeah. Everybody on TikTok has one of those little hand things. And you know what?

Raleigh: The frothers.

Sydnee: Knowing my husband, we probably have one. I just don't—

Raleigh: Yeah, that's what I was gonna say.

Sydnee: Justin loves gadgets, especially kitchen gadgets. I feel like it's the kind of thing that would be in our house somewhere, and I just don't know about it 'cause... I have—

Raleigh: One of those little— yeah.

Sydnee: My coffee game has moved from black to, uh, a little cream. So... I mean...

Raleigh: Little cream.

Sydnee: I don't know. [laughs]

Raleigh: I haven't changed my coffee game, but I did just yesterday invest in these glass little, like, mason jar-esque, like, rounded at the top glasses that come with little glass straws that I've seen all over TikTok, because I didn't have any good glasses. I was just pouring it in, like, various plastic cups. Um, so I feel like at least now I've got my little glass glass with my glass straw, and it feels like I'm at a coffee shop, even though it's just bottled old iced coffee and creamer. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: The glass straw would make me nervous.

Raleigh: It does make me nervous. But it, I mean... you got the whole—

Taylor: [simultaneously] It's very aesthetically pleasing.

Raleigh: —the whole cohesive look. Yeah, you've got the whole cohesive look going on.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Yeah, it's beautiful. It's definitely beautiful. But it would—

Raleigh: And then, like, when it's like that, when you put it in a clear cup like that, which I realize most people do put their iced coffee in a glass, I just didn't have glasses [laughs]. I just had non-see-through plastic cups. Um, then you can, like, see the cream go down and start to mix, and it looks pretty.

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: I also— I also feel like that glass straw could get you busted for drug paraphernalia pretty easily. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Well, I have four of 'em, so... [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Let's hope not?

Sydnee: Just saying. I wouldn't take it to the airport. [laughs]

Taylor: That is, like, a thing now. Like, people carry their own straws. You can get, like, a cute little straw in a carrying case. So...

Sydnee: Yeah, I've seen the metal ones, and especially the ones that—

Taylor: [simultaneously] I have the metal ones.

Sydnee: Yeah. We have those that—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I do have metal ones.

Sydnee: —that retract or whate— you know? They telescope down into themselves. And they come with, like, a little thing you can put on your key chain. I just don't— I will tell you, when that all happened I just decided, you know what? I've never been a big straw person.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: So I just— if that's— I'm doing my part by just not using straws. There. [laughs] That was my contribution.

Raleigh: I never could understand why our dad never used straws. Like, for as long as I can remember, like, if you go to a fast food place and you get a soda and it comes with a lid to put a straw through, he would refuse to drink it that way. Even when, like, he was driving the car on a road trip, he would refuse to drink it with a straw. He would have to take the lid off and just drink it. And I

never understood that. But maybe he just [laughs] he was thinking ten years ahead.

Taylor: He was thinking about those... turtles? What are— I don't know.

Sydnee: The turtles, yeah.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] He wasn't. He wasn't thinking about the turtles.

Taylor: [crosstalk]

Raleigh: I still don't know why he doesn't use a straw.

Sydnee: I have heard other dads refuse to use straws. I have a theory—

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: —that it has somehow been linked— like, the concept of using a straw... in some people's minds, is linked to femininity.

Taylor: I was gonna say, is it gay? Is it... gay to use straw? [laughs]

Sydnee: I have gotten the vibe from other people talking about straw usage that somehow not using a straw is a way of, like, declaring your masculinity. Like, "I don't need a straw! I'll just rip the lid off and drink the whole thing!" [laughs]

Raleigh: I just—[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, you're absolutely right. I mean...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Fragile masculinity is funny how it works into things. 'Cause it's true, like, just with even glassware. Like, I don't know how many times I would have people, like— I would serve a man a drink in, like, a coupe. And he'd be like, "Can you put that in a rocks glass?"

I'm like, "Oh, it— you know, it's not the way it comes, but sure, yeah."

And it's like, it's not... it's not because anything other than that coup glass, I don't know. It's a little too fruity. Can't be seen drinking out of that glass with a stem, a stem on a glass just... that just denies you your man card. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. And I think the straw gets tossed in with that.

Taylor: I think you're right, yeah.

Sydnee: "I don't need a straw." [laughs] "I'll drink with my whole mouth!"

[all laugh]

Raleigh: The entire mouth around the top of the big plastic cup you get from Wendy's.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Ahhhh. [laughs]

Raleigh: Om. [laughs]

Sydnee: "I'll suction it right into my gut!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Uh... that's definitely less gay.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Raleigh: Yep. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh...

Sydnee: Oh...

Raleigh: Sorry, Dad.

Taylor: Your drink ware choices don't relate to your sexuality, but also it's fine to be gay. [wheezes] I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: There are a lot of statements there.

Sydnee: Don't limit yourself on drink ware choices because of some idea of what you're supposed to use. How about that? Like, just use what makes you happy.

Taylor: But, like, don't— yeah. Don't— and— but don't let anything cheat you out of the joy of a fruity little beverage.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Life is hard these days. A fruity little beverage is sometimes the only thing getting me through. [laughs quietly] Doesn't even have to be boozy. It can be a fruity little coffee drink, fruity little soda in a pretty glass, you know?

Sydnee: I put that cappuccino powder stuff in my coffee this morning. That's how I stepped it up.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know that it [wheezes] helped.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, if you felt joy for a fleeting second, then it helped.

Sydnee: It's weird. It was very coffee— it was more coffee than I— like, I just made my coffee more coffee.

Taylor: You put coffee in your coffee. So it's not like a—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I put coffee in my coffee.

Taylor: —like a sweet cappuccino powder, like some of those. The ones that felt fancy in the 90's. Do you remember those, Syd? The tins?

Sydnee: Uh... uh... oh. Oh, I know exactly what you're talking about. International something?

Taylor: Yes. Yes.

Sydnee: Oh, man. That's gonna kill me. Yes. Rileigh, at some point we need to talk about Miley Cyrus.

Rileigh: Yeah. We've just... we've done this so many times, guys. It's just...

Taylor: Well, we haven't managed to get to the actual Miley Cyrus discussion that much either time, so.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] That's true.

Sydnee: Well.

Rileigh: Um, yeah. I wanted to talk about Miley Cyrus because I was a fan of hers when I was very young. Like, she was one of my first favorite not just music artists, like, TV people, celebrities in general. She was a Disney girl. I was a Disney girl. But yeah, and now she obviously is still very prevalent and popular. But for different reasons.

Sydnee: We used to torture you, Rileigh— more so me and Justin. Tey, I don't know that you got in on this. But Rileigh was a big fan of the show *Hannah Montana*.

Taylor: Hmm.

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Which I assume that's how she became famous. Was she doing music before that or is that, like, she— well, I mean, she's Billy Ray Cyrus's daughter.

Rileigh: I was gonna say, her dad was always Billy Ray but yeah. That was, like, her big— quote, unquote "big break." I mean, she was, like, 13 when she started *Hannah Montana*, so. She was not doing much before that.

Sydnee: Do you remember when— Rileigh, you weren't alive yet so you wouldn't remember this. Uh, Billy Ray Cyrus came to Huntington with Bill Clinton.

Rileigh: [snorts] Oh my god. [laughs]

Sydnee: Do you remember this, Tey?

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: It was while Bill Clinton was running for President. He came through Huntington and stopped at the— it was a train campaign thing. It was like a whistle stop tour. And he came to the— 'cause we're a railroad town. He came to the big train depot downtown and they set up a big platform—

Taylor: [simultaneously] I kind of do remember this now, actually.

Sydnee: —out front. And the train stopped, and Bill Clinton got off, and... Billy Ray Cyrus was here with him. Not from Huntington, but was here with him. [pause] And they—

Raleigh: That's so weird.

Sydnee: Dad got to meet Billy Ray Cyrus because he worked for the railroad, and so he was, like, there behind the ropes. He did not get to get over to meet Bill Clinton. I don't think he was vetted for that. But...

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Dad was probably more excited to meet Billy Ray Cyrus if I had to guess. Right?

Sydnee: He was. He was.

Taylor: He got the more important approval. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Yeah, then Bill Clinton. Yeah.

Sydnee: That was when the, uh... I don't know what position she was at the time. But it was the woman running for governor, and she said the pledge wrong, and everybody freaked out. I don't remember. There was a lot of drama.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

[pause]

Sydnee: Anyway— but Billy Ray Cyrus was here and met Dad, and Dad was just, like, very excited about that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's how close you are to Miley Cyrus!

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: You used to— you didn't finish the horrible thing you used to do to me.

Taylor: That's true.

Raleigh: Which was you and Justin both pretended like you didn't understand that *Hannah Montana* and Miley Cyrus were the same person.

Sydnee: Yes. Yes. We would refuse to understand that basic premise of the show. 'Cause that was— like, that's the whole show, is she's... just a regular girl who's secretly a pop star. And she transforms—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Because she puts on her wig.

Sydnee: Yep, by putting on a blonde wig. And so we would say, "They can't be the same person, Raleigh. Their hair is different colors. Obviously they're not the same person."

Raleigh: I never— looking back, I never knew why it bothered me so much, but now that I know your kids, I know for a fact if there was an equivalent for that and I told Charlie, like, "No, they're not the same person. Look at 'em." She would lose her mind.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: [laughs] She would be like, "What? Are you kidding?!"

Sydnee: "I know this to be so, and I am so upset that you won't acknowledge." 'Cause Charlie will, like, double down on stuff she *doesn't* know.

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: Today she was trying to tell us that she wanted potato chips for breakfast.

Taylor: [laughs] Nice.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And she was like, "You can make 'em in the microwave. All you do is a take a potato, you cut it up, you put it on a plate, and you put it in the microwave."

And I was like, "Honey, that's nothing. That is not a thing."

And she was like, "I saw the recipe! It was on YouTube!"

I was like, "What are you talking about? No, we don't microwave—!"

Raleigh: Aww... she will. She'll double down on most anything.

Sydnee: Anything.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You can't even, like, sing a song lyric wrong around those kids. They get very angry about that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Even if they're wrong and you're right. And you're trying to say, like, "That's not a lyric."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "That sentence doesn't make sense."

"No it isn't!"

So you used to get very mad about that. I don't really remember— I watched that show with you. But I think it was in the way— and I understand this now as a parent— I'd be looking at the TV [laughs]—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like I was— my face was directed at the TV, but I don't think I was absorbing it. 'Cause I don't remember anything about the TV show other than that she would put on the blonde wig and do concerts.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then she would have her brown hair and be a regular girl.

Rileigh: Right. Well, and in the show she was— Emily— er, Emily. Miley. Same letters, different name. Miley Ray Stuart instead of Cyrus. She was still Miley, though, on the show. And he was Billy Ray Stuart. And he played her dad in the show.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Which I always thought meant that, like, the show was written for her. 'Cause, I mean, he was in it as her dad. But, um, she was one— her and Sarah Hyland actually were the two final girls that they were considering for Miley. Dolly Parton's in that show too, 'cause of course Dolly is Miley's godmother, so Dolly's in there as aunt Dolly. Um, yeah.

Sydnee: You know, normally I would say, like, that sounds kind of like BS. That of course it was gonna be Miley Cyrus and they just said that so it didn't look like nepotism or whatever. But it's Disney. And Disney's not gonna build a show around somebody who's not talented. They're pretty ruthless about that.

Rileigh: That's true.

Taylor: So they would have hired another child to be named Miley and be Billy Ray Cyrus's daughter?

Rileigh: That's what I don't— I don't know if the character's name was originally Miley, and I don't know if Billy Ray was always in it.

Taylor: It was built for a nepotism baby. They just needed to fill in the nepotism blank. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and—

Rileigh: They just, like, saw an opportunity present itself and they were like, "Wait a minute. If we got Miley, we got Billy Ray. So... "

Taylor: Could be that.

Sydnee: Now that, that makes sense to me is that they had this idea for a TV show and whoever was representing the Cyruses [laughs quietly] collectively was like, "I got a package deal for you."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Was— okay. But this was past, like, the peak popularity of Billy Ray Cyrus, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Oh yeah. Because I did not know— I will admit this— I did not know that he was, like, a singer of his own, like a famous singer, when I was watching *Hannah Montana*.

Sydnee: Really?

Rileigh: Like, I knew it was her dad in real life. I didn't— also, like, I didn't have a phone to use the internet and look things up when I was watching *Hannah Montana*. So I just knew— I existed in this space where Miley was the famous one. [laughs]

Sydnee: I bet you there are people listening who are in your age group that have no idea what Billy Ray Cyrus, like, did.

Rileigh: I mean, I wouldn't have known except if it wasn't for you all and Dad, so it's possible.

Taylor: Yeah. Because I feel like—

Rileigh: I know "Achy Breaky Heart."

Taylor: I was gonna say, like, his high point was when we were kinda young. Like, that would've been...

Sydnee: I'm gonna look up "Achy Breaky Heart." What we're talking about, if you're not familiar, was the song "Achy Breaky Heart."

Taylor: Yeah. That was his big hit.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Which was huge.

Raleigh: And I'm pretty sure there's an episode at some point where he sings it. Um, because his character in *Hannah Montana* is he used to be a famous singer, and then he retired from music. But... Hannah— or Miley doesn't want the world to know that Billy Ray Cyrus's daughter is Hannah. I don't know.

Sydnee: It was— so the song "Achy Breaky Heart" was written in 1990.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: By Don Von Tress. And then it was released in '91 by the Marcy Brothers. But then Billy Ray Cyrus rerecorded it and released it the following year, 1992, on his debut album *Some Gave All*.

[pause]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] So. If you look at this album cover, it's just such a moment.

[cat meowing]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Anyway, we used to have to line dance to that song a lot in gym class.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Yeah, I remember that.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Of course.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um, but yeah. Miley, um... Cyrus, started on *Hannah Montana*. And there was a lot of music that came from that, because they wrote a lot of music that was Hannah's music that of course Miley sang, because they are the same person. Spoiler. But then she moved on from the Disney show, and that was when there was, like, the whole big media controversy of "Oh my god, she's no longer little Disney sweetheart. She's a teen, and she's a 20-year-old, and she's doing drugs and kissing boys!" You know, like the whole thing when someone leaves Disney and they stop being, you know, picture perfect.

Sydnee: They all have to go through that, I feel like.

Raleigh: Yeah. Well, I'm sure they have—

Sydnee: Either that or they just really disappear so that no one knows what's happening.

Raleigh: Yeah. You know, every Disney star I watched growing up now is one of those two categories. Like, they had some big— like, the public hated them for a while, and now they're popular again, or I just have no idea what happened to them. They disappeared.

Sydnee: Yeah. They just vanished for a while and then came back. And it's like, "What have you been up to?"

And it's like, well, they've been doing all the stuff they weren't allowed to do when they worked at the Disney Channel.

Raleigh: Right. Um, and that was when Miley moved on to her own era of music that, I will be honest, and I told you all this yesterday in one of our forever-lost recordings, I knew about obviously her first couple of albums. Like *Time of our Lives*, *Breakout*, *Meet Miley Cyrus*. Those were, like, peak *Hannah Montana* era. I remember getting those albums at, like, the checkout counter at Limited Too and reading the lyric booklets, like, in the backseat of Mom's car. Like, that's that era.

But *Can't Be Tamed* in 2010, that was when Miley first was like... "Hold on a minute. She's singing about boys, and she said hell in one of her songs, so... "

Taylor: Ooh.

Sydnee: Ooh.

Rileigh: And then of course *Bangers*, but I didn't know about the three albums she released then, from 2013 to 2020. I think that was the era where it was post-"Wrecking Ball" and everyone thought, like, you know, what has happened to Miley or whatever because of the music video and the... the MV and MTV— what was that? VMA performance. Um... and she kept making music, but I guess it wasn't as mainstream. And then 2020 gave us all a rock album in *Plastic Hearts*. And people realized how great she is at singing that kind of music.

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah, I remember when— 'cause there was so much buzz around her for *Bangers*, and then that's weird— where it's just all her mouth, and a lot of glitter and goo. That video. [laughs] Which I think premiered at an awards show, right?

Rileigh: I think that's right.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And it was like, "Oh, no. What's going on?"

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But I don't know. Like, looking at the whole discography, somehow— and I would've cynically not predicted it— she managed to, like... like, stay afloat and maneuver I think the pitfalls that I think a lot of child stars have. Like, you know, have, like, an actual artist career where it seems like she was figuring out her sound, figuring out what she wants to do, finding her voice, and then she did and it's great.

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: Did you know— I was just looking up that, like, information about the different albums. Did you know her name wasn't Miley when she was born?

Rileigh: Yeah, wasn't it Destiny Hope or something like that?

Sydnee: I had no idea. Yes.

Rileigh: Yeah. Now it's legally Miley, but it wasn't.

Sydnee: She changed it a long time ago, 2001.

Rileigh: I... that was about when *Hannah Montana* started, I guess.

Sydnee: That's wild. Her parents called her Smiley, which was shortened to Miley.

Taylor: Ohh.

Rileigh: Ohh.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: I didn't know that.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: I used to read a lot of those, like, "Did you know? 20 facts about your favorite Disney stars" in, like, you know... *J-14 Magazine* or whatever.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: So... I have a lot of useless information about all of those eras of people.

Taylor: So it was a nickname that she was called her whole life, it just wa— okay.

Sydnee: But she legally changed it to that.

Taylor: That's cute.

Sydnee: And changed her middle name to Ray after... hold on, I just saw it. Her grandfather, Democratic political Ronald Ray Cyrus.

Rileigh: Ronald Ray?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Man. [laughs]

Sydnee: Ronald Ray Cyrus.

Taylor: Ronnie Ray.

Sydnee: So she became Miley Ray, which is a good stage name. That's a good— if you're gonna pick a famous name, it's a good famous name.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: We said this yesterday, but I think it's worth mentioning again that, um, I did not know she had an album named *Bangers*. You all kept talking about her *Bangers* era, and I just thought you meant, like, when she was making bangers!

Raleigh: No...

Sydnee: I know.

Raleigh: It's the whole album. Which has "We Can't Stop" on it, which you love.

Sydnee: I love that song. I don't know why. From the first time I heard it I was like, "Yeah. This is... my vibe."

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Which I— even from when I first heard it, I'm too old for that to be my vibe.

Raleigh: That's why it's always been funny to me, is like, I just— of all the kinds of music I know you to like, when that song came out in like, what, 2013?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And I was watching you hear it for the first time I was like... "Why does she like this so much?"

Sydnee: I don't know.

Rileigh: You turn it on your car, like, on your own, when I'd be in there, and I was so confused. Like, "Is she doing this for me? No, it looks like she's doing this for her." [laughs]

Sydnee: I added it to all these— as I figured out how to make playlists I added it to all my playlists. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Someday—

Rileigh: Hey, Syd? When did you figure out how to make playlists?

Sydnee: [through laughter] I don't wanna talk about it. So— someday you all are gonna—

Rileigh: Like, a couple years ago? Couple weeks ago?

Sydnee: —look through my phone at my playlists, and that's gonna be a whole episode is just talking about... what I have done. [laughs quietly] I just put songs that I like on there with no, like... sometimes I try to pick a theme. But they're all named for, like, the month I made them.

Taylor: Ohh.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Or like one time I didn't know what to name one so I just named it Now.

Rileigh: [laughs quietly] Syd?

Taylor: Well, that—

Rileigh: That's not... I don't know if that's what a playlist is for.

Taylor: Yeah, "That's what I like now." You know?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like, I have six playlists that are all distinct moods or situations. So if I am getting myself ready, or walking to class, or trying to get ready for bed, or among mixed company of people, I know what playlist to turn on to fit the situation.

Sydnee: I— the only playlist that was, like, for a specific purpose and that has any sort of cohesive— and when I say "cohesiveness" that's still, like, if you saw the songs, that's... it's a stretch. Was I have a playlist called Plus One, because when we first found out I was pregnant with Charlie, we used to just refer to her as Plus One.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Aww.

Sydnee: 'Cause we didn't know what she was gonna be, you know, whatever. And so would say it's us plus one. So I made a playlist about... that just fit my mood at the time. So it's— it's kind of about becoming a parent, but not really. You know? Some— I don't know.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Well, there you go.

Sydnee: It's all vaguely associated with my feelings about being pregnant and having a kid.

Taylor: I didn't know that you could see people's playlists on Spotify for a long time.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: And from some playlists that I've made for the show and shared with y'all, there was one that I posted to Twitter forever ago, and then got notifications that I had likes on some of my playlists, which was horrifying. That's... I feel like that's worse than somebody, like, I don't know, it depends on what kind of person you are, but somebody seeing, like, your text history. It's like, "Oh God. Somebody saw all the weird playlists I made." I have one that's called Gay Cleaning Time, and it's when I'm cleaning my house.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And the music's very gay. And I had, like, eight likes on my Gay Cleaning Time playlist. I was like, "Oh no. [through laughter] This is— I need to— I need to make everything private. No one can know me to this degree."

Raleigh: No, I know exactly what you mean.

Sydnee: I still build playlists like it's, you know, the early 2000's, where I only have songs that I've downloaded to my phone that I then construct into playlists.

Taylor: And it can only be 12 to 13 songs long. It's too many after that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: You still listen to music like the early days of streaming, where you just had to listen to the songs that you had actually purchased and downloaded.

Sydnee: Yeah...

Raleigh: I don't... [laughs] I don't understand.

Sydnee: I don't know...

Raleigh: Like, that's good if you, you know, if you buy an album then it helps the artist instead of paying a streaming service. But...

Sydnee: I am gonna tell you, the first time I tried to use Spotify... [laughs quietly] I didn't understand why... and this was my first interaction with it, and I know that there are ways to get around this now. But the first time I tried to use it, I asked it to play a song... and it played the song, but then I tried to skip, like, the next song and get to something else, and it was like, "No, no. This isn't... you can't do this. You just listen to these songs in this order, and you can't keep skipping. You're done skipping." Like, you could only skip once or twice or whatever, and then you just have to listen.

And I didn't understand how or why. And then I would try to, like, put in a new song but like, "No, just play this song now." I was spending so much time telling my phone what song to play, and it wasn't working, and I finally was like "I don't understand this technology."

Rileigh: That's just the free version of Spotify.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I also like that you were telling it. Like, I've never told my Spotify anything. I use the interface. [laughs] It's not an Alexa.

Sydnee: [through laughter] I don't know...

Rileigh: "Spotify! Spotify, play!"

Taylor: [crosstalk] "Play the song!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Can you imagine Sydnee just sitting in a room like, "Spotify! Play 'We Can't Stop'! No! No, 'We Can't Stop' by Miley Cyrus, Spotify!"

Sydnee: "The one about drugs! You know, that one!" [laughs]

Rileigh: "Spotify, play 'Margaritaville!' No, the song!"

Sydnee: [laughs] Um... yeah, I do like "We Can't Stop." It's a great song. It's a banger.

Rileigh: On *Bangers*.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Banger of *Bangers*.

Rileigh: Um, yeah.

Sydnee: I think, uh— I don't know what album "Wrecking Ball" was on, but man, that's, like—

Taylor: That's on the same one, yeah.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I think that's also on *Bangers*. Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that on— that's on *Bangers*?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That didn't make on my playlist, but that's a great song.

Raleigh: It was a great song.

Sydnee: Um...

Raleigh: Um, which I guess was also about Liam Hemsworth.

Sydnee: Okay. I— so they got divorced in 2020?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: How come—

Raleigh: But they had been engaged I think at least once before they actually got married, not too long ago. 'Cause they weren't married for a super long time, I don't think.

Sydnee: So why did— why did the song "Flowers" just come out now?

Taylor: She was still processing. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs quietly] Maybe she wrote it but, like, she's now releasing a whole album. So maybe she was waiting until she had a whole album to release, so maybe she wrote it a while ago but she's been working on the rest of it.

Sydnee: I didn't know— I—I—fro— I didn't know what was going on with Miley Cyrus's romantic life, obviously. And so when the song came out and I watched the video and I read all the articles about, like, what all the references are and stuff, I got the impression that they had just split. I didn't know that this happened three years ago.

Rileigh: Yeah. They, um— I was looking—[laughs quietly] I was looking at a timeline of their relationship to make sure I'm telling you the right thing. They got engaged for the first time in 2012.

Taylor: Oh wow.

Rileigh: And then they broke off their engagement in 2013, which was shortly before *Bangers* came out that year, and that's why you've got "Wrecking Ball" on there. And then... they— they... get back together in 2016 and are engaged again, like, as soon as they get back together. [pause] So... that's, uh— it's been a very off and— off and on, I suppose.

Sydnee: So she was pretty young when they got... engaged the first time around.

Rileigh: Yeah, they met filming, um, *The Last Song*. Which is, like, a young Miley era kind of romantic movie.

Sydnee: She would've been, like, what? 21, 22, something like that?

Rileigh: 2010? Yeah, that sounds about right. Well—

Sydnee: Or 20.

Rileigh: Actually— I was gonna say maybe younger than that, because when they started *Hannah Montana*, she was... probably only 13 or 14. And that was... yeah. So *Last Song*, by the way, is the movie that they filmed in Tybee Island, right? Before we had been there one year. And that was why Dad started the rumor that Miley and the Jonas Brothers would come to the condo at night after I would go to bed to play *Rock Band* with everyone. And Dad convinced me that you all played *Rock Band* with Jonas Brothers and Miley Cyrus after I went to bed.

Sydnee: Yeah... you believed that.

Rileigh: I did. And I believed that when we went to a hotel in Miami that I knew Miley Cyrus had been to that Mom and Dad paid extra to get the specific pool lounge bed that she had been on. I believed that to be true. And Mitchel Musso, who I knew from *Hannah Montana* the television show, I believed—

Sydnee: Oh, he was on that show.

Raleigh: Yes, he was Oliver. That was how I knew him. I believed to have a signature from him. But really it was just Justin had written down Mitchel Musso's name on a piece of paper. I have believed so many lies around Miley Cyrus because I just wanted to meet her and be a part of her life for so long!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I feel like you've been so burned by this that someday you're gonna actually, like, happenstance meet Miley Cyrus and you're gonna be like, "No... "

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "Who is this? It's not you. Justin?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Take the wig off.

Raleigh: That's why I— I don't wanna say I lie to your kids. But, like, that's why I tell your kids some ridiculous things and just see if they'll believe me. I think it's just in retaliation for all of the things that you all told me for so long that I believed. [crosstalk] disappointed.

Sydnee: Now, Justin really— he really did see Mitchel Musso at... he was in LA doing something.

Raleigh: He saw him in passing doing a signing while Justin was also in LA. Justin just didn't stay. [laughs]

Sydnee: He could've— he considered standing in the very long line to get his autograph, but instead he—

Raleigh: With all of the other girls I'm sure that were my age.

Sydnee: [laughs] Yes.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, that was part of it. He really did. That was part of it. Part of it was the line was really long, but the other part of it was he was like...

Rileigh: [through laughter] Can you imagine Justin standing in that line with just a bunch of, like, 12-year-old girls?

Sydnee: Well, 'cause he was a kid.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, he was a child.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And so Justin was—

Rileigh: [crosstalk] teen.

Sydnee: Yeah. Justin was like, "I just don't feel comfortable." [laughs] "I don't..." and I was like, "Well—" [laughs] "Tell him it's for your niece." [laughs] And he was like, "Oh yeah, yeah."

Rileigh: Niece?

Sydnee: Well, I didn't think sister-in-law would make sense.

Rileigh: Yeah, I guess that's fair. Um... yeah. Anyways, you mentioned "Flowers," and "Flowers" just came out, and it is about her and Liam Hemsworth. And it's to the— well, not to the tune of. It's kind of like sampled parts of and lyrics of "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars, which I guess Liam Hemsworth dedicated to her at one of their engagement parties, or weddings, or something like that. Um... and it was filmed in the house that he supposedly rented to cheat on her. So...

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: How do you get away with renting a whole house and your spouse doesn't know about it?

Rileigh: When you have a lot of money, I guess.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I guess you have people for it. That's the thing. Yeah, other people do it.

Raleigh: Like, he's a whole Hem— like, his brother is Thor.

Taylor: [through laughter] He's a whole Hemsworth?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: He's a—[laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] He's a whole Hemsworth.

Raleigh: His brother is Thor!

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: That is true.

Raleigh: Do you know there's a third— do you know there's a third Hemsworth?

[pause]

Sydnee: Hmm. What does he do?

Raleigh: I don't think he does anything, um...

Taylor: Aww.

Raleigh: Like— like, uh—

Sydnee: Well, I'm sure he does something!

Raleigh: I just meant like music or film. I was trying to figure out the best way to say, like, entertainment industry-wise.

Taylor: Oh, man.

Sydnee: Aww. The lost Hemsworth.

Taylor: I feel bad for the third Hemsworth.

Rileigh: His name's Luke. Oh, well, he was in... he is an actor. Now I feel worse because I didn't—[laughs]—know he was in anything. Um, looks like he's done TV.

Sydnee: It's gotta be tough for the other Hemsworths when the one is Thor. You know?

Rileigh: Yeah...

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Like, one of you is Thor. And then the other ones, like, now what? [laughs]

Rileigh: Well, Liam had his moment when he was in *Hunger Games*. Because that of course was, like, the film of that... era, and blew up. And he was one of the main three. But after that I don't really know how much he did. 'Cause after that is when *Avengers* and *Thor* started becoming bigger. Then Chris was the more famous Hemsworth.

Sydnee: Um... and that is why supposedly in the music video she's wearing the gold dress.

Rileigh: That Jennifer Lawrence was wearing at a red carpet that she was at with Liam during *Hunger Games*.

Sydnee: Now, I saw on TikTok somebody referencing an interview that they did with Liam Hemsworth at the time where they were like, you know, "What's the toughest part about doing all this?" And he was like, "The kissing scenes."

Rileigh: Hmmm.

Sydnee: Because he said they're like brother and sister.

Raleigh: See? And then there was an interview at her— of her, Jennifer Lawrence, wearing that dress, where they said "Have you ever shared a kiss with Liam offscreen?"

And she was like, "Well, you know, he's an attractive guy. Like, we're friends. He's an attractive guy."

And everyone was like "Oh my gosh, look! She kissed him!"

I don't know why— maybe the internet just wasn't the same as it is now back in, like, 2011 or 2012 when this came out. Because I don't know why we weren't— why wasn't— why weren't all the teenage girls freaking out about that back then? [pause] Maybe they were. I wasn't. I don't know.

Sydnee: I don't know— okay. You all are more plugged in than me. So, Miley Cyrus, if this is true, if that gold dress really is secret shade at Jennifer Lawrence... who wins that? 'Cause I feel like Miley Cyrus has a pretty devoted fanbase.

Raleigh: Oh, you mean like among the fans?

Sydnee: Yeah. And, like, I like Miley Cyrus. And then, I mean, on New Years, her with Dolly Parton? Just forget ab— I mean...

Raleigh: I mean, I'm gonna say Miley Cyrus because I've, you know.

Sydnee: But isn't Jennifer Lawrence beloved? Isn't she, like...

Taylor: She said that weird— I mean, this is all in, like, the, you know... celebrity sphere. None of this I think is reality. But—

Sydnee: Right, these are not our personal feelings about anyone. Just, like, what's the perception?

Taylor: Because... there was that weird sort of backlash where it's like, "Oh, J-Law, she's just like the rest of us." And it was like, "Don't you think she's a little too much like the rest of us? Don't you think it's an act?"

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh, 'cause she likes to eat. That's her—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's the big thing, 'cause she said she likes to eat.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] And she likes pizza.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well—

Sydnee: And everybody was like, "No way!" [laughs quietly]

Taylor: But it was, like, to make her relatable. Like, but I feel like it was something that she was probably instructed to play up to, like, make her more relatable. 'Cause it was like every interview. It's like, "What are you doing? What projects are you working on?"

And her answer was always like, "Pizza!"

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, every time. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, you also gotta— I mean, I think that in today's kind of zeitgeist, that doesn't make as much sense. But if you think about when you and I were younger, Taylor, like, there were really— they would interview attractive female celebrities and musicians and stuff, and they would talk about not eating. They would talk about having incredibly restrictive, dangerous eating habits openly. Like, the joke about people eating cotton balls and stuff. Like, people talked about that. And so at the time, someone saying "Hmm, I eat food. Like, I just eat food. I like to eat food and I eat food, and yeah." I don't— I mean—

Raleigh: Well, and a lot of people in the media were saying she was, like... quote, unquote "big" back then. Because she was playing Katniss.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Yes, she got criticized for that.

Raleigh: And everyone was saying, like, "Well, Katniss is supposed to be, you know, super, super thin, and they're from District 12, they don't have money.

They don't eat very much. Like, Jennifer Lawrence is way too big to play that role."

Which obviously she was also very thin. But people were calling her heavy back then, during that era.

Sydnee: Yeah, which is all ridiculous.

Taylor: Yeah. And I don't know... I don't agree with any of the judgment against her. I think that's just what we do with especially, like... young women celebrities or musi— I think [unintelligible] in a different way, the same thing happened to Miley Cyrus where it's like, "Oh, we love her. She's great. We want more of her. Oh, she's awesome." And it's like, "Ope. Too much now. No, we don't like her anymore. We actually hate her now."

And it's like, what happened? Where did that turn? Poor ol' Anne Hathaway, they did the same thing. What did Anne Hathaway ever do to anybody? [laughs] Other than be a delight? [laughs]

Sydnee: I know. I don't understand that. I mean, I've always loved Anne Hathaway. And I feel— like, I don't want Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Lawrence to have beef, because I really enjoy both of those people. [laughs]

Raleigh: Well, and the same thing kind of happened to Miley Cyrus, too. There was an era where everyone in the mainstream media was hating on her.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Oh yeah, definitely. Now, I don't—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] So, it's just... being a woman.

Sydnee: —I don't care— I don't have any strong feelings about Liam Hemsworth.

Raleigh: No.

[pause]

Taylor: Well, and there was also—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't— somehow I went— the algorithm fed me all the Miley Cyrus, Jennifer Lawrence... stuff. That around from that same time period there was an interview where Jennifer Lawrence made a not necessarily related to them, but a comment sort of vaguely about how... I think someone asked her if she was seeing anybody. And she said no, and then she said something like, "Sometimes I kiss people withou— I need to be better about figuring out if they're seeing anybody."

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Oh...

Taylor: Like some sort of veiled comment to maybe hookin' up— smoochin' somebody that had a partner and she didn't know it. So it could've been referencing that she didn't know that Miley Cyrus and the—the—the lesser Hemsworth were together.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think— I think that, um, fans can create much more interesting, exciting, and dramatic lives for celebrities than they actually lead. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: Um, really quickly, as we're wrapping up here, does any have a Miley Cyrus song from any period that stands out to them specifically? I'm curious.

Sydnee: I mean, I think I've made clear my favorite Miley Cyrus song already.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Yeah, "We Can't Stop," I know.

Sydnee: I do. I really liked "Flowers," by the way. I would not— I would not say it was, like, my favorite ever. The music video's very compelling. Um, all that exercise. But... I, uh—[laughs] I mean, she looks great doing all that exercise, but yeah. I... it was good. It was not as good as "We Can't Stop."

Taylor: A lot of off of *Plastic Hearts* did it for me. Just 'cause there's so clearly— like, you get the reference points of the songs that they're pulling from. Like "Midnight Sky" is clearly the Fleetwood Mac song. Uh... what is it? Is it "*Plastic Hearts*" that has the opening that's from, um... uh... the— what is it? "Can You Guess My Name" or the— "Sympathy For the Devil."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. As the— like, I love all those little nods on that album. But specifically I also really liked the song "Angels Like You" off of that album. I think that's a really sweet song.

Raleigh: Yeah. That whole album is just— I love.

Taylor: Yeah, it's really good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: What about you, Raleigh?

Raleigh: I just— I'm a fan of the classics. I'm a fan of the throwbacks. I gotta say.

Taylor: You like to party in the USA?

Raleigh: I like to party in the USA. I like "When I Look At You," which is also off *The Time of our Lives*. And I like "Seven Things," because it's a bop about... Nick Jonas. [pause] If you didn't know that.

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Raleigh: Taylor Swift dated Joe Jonas. Miley Cyrus dated Nick Jonas.

Taylor: Man, when are Taylor Swift and Miley Cyrus gonna collab?

Raleigh: I know!

Taylor: And just— all of the men in Hollywood will cower in fear. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I know.

Sydnee: If they did— if they worked on a project together that would be— yeah. I mean, and uniting all those fanba— ooh. It would be huge.

Raleigh: So much overlap from the early 2010s.

Sydnee: And get Dolly Parton in involved.

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Amazing.

Raleigh: Well, thank you all for listening to and talking about Miley Cyrus with me. She has long been my— one of my favs. I used to be convinced that we were destined to be friends because our names rhymed, so.

Taylor: Miley and Raleigh!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Aww...

Taylor: That's cute.

Raleigh: Yeah. So...

Sydnee: You know she's— you know, this is my plug for— I don't know if you ever watched the Bill Murray Christmas special, *A Very Murray Christmas*, but she's in that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. I love her in that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Raleigh: So, what's next, Syd?

Sydnee: Uh, next, I wanted to do something a little different? I thought we could talk about King's Island.

Taylor: Oh!

Raleigh: Alright!

Sydnee: The amusement park. [laughs]

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: I know that's not our usual thing, but I wanna...

Raleigh: So do I need to go to King's Island sometime in the next week, or...?

Taylor: Yes. I don't know how to do the research for this one.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just recall your fondest memories of King's Island. I'll do a little— I want to get the exact years right for a few things. But we've all been to King's Island. We all love King's Island.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Many times.

Sydnee: The theme park in Cincinnati Ohio. So...

Raleigh: Of course. Alright.

Sydnee: Uh, well, thank you all. Hey, if you all haven't ever heard of Miley Cyrus, she's a young lady who... [laughs quietly] recorded music. Um, sometimes alongside another recording artist with blonde hair named *Hannah Montana*. Um, the two of them would collaborate at times. [laughs quietly] Raleigh's ignoring me, 'cause she doesn't wanna...

Raleigh: I don't want to acknowledge that.

Sydnee: She won't—

Taylor: No more lies.

Sydnee: No more lies. No more lies.

Raleigh: I can't accept it.

Taylor: Just a lot of *Hannah Montana* based trust issues you've instilled.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, really.

Sydnee: Um... and thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there. You can email us at max—at—mm, nope. Stillbuffering@maximumfun.org.

Taylor: [laughs] There you go.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] And you can tweet at us @stillbuff. 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: [singing quietly] We can't stop... and we won't stop...

Raleigh: There you go. [unintelligible]

Sydnee: Can't you see [unintelligible]. Can't you see it's me [unintelligible].

Raleigh: Great job, Syd.

Sydnee: Thank you. I changed it to "me."

Raleigh: You did.

Taylor: I was gonna say. That's... alright.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Hi, I'm ketchup.

Speaker 2: And I'm socks.

Speaker 1: And I'm ball bearings.

Speaker 2: And I'm pigeons.

Speaker 1: And I'm water towers.

Speaker 2: And I'm cardboard?

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