

Still Buffering 341: "Gremlins" (1984)

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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: So, um, Christmas is over.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Gee, thanks, Syd. For reminding everybody. Bringing the mood down.

Sydnee: Did people forget?

Taylor: I think they know.

Rileigh: No, I've just been in that wasteland of time and space between Christmas and New Year's.

Sydnee: Do you know what honestly the day that I look the most forward to that has passed?

Rileigh: The day after Christmas?

Sydnee: No. The day after solstice, when the days start to get longer again.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I am so excited when I know we are moving in that direction on the planet.

Taylor: That's fair.

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: These short days do not sit well with me.

Raleigh: And the weather got warmer this week. Went from, you know, below zero to 50 degrees this morning.

Sydnee: Was it a polar vortex? Is that what was happening?

Raleigh: I don't know what it was.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't... I don't know if it's good for, like, the Earth and stuff to go from 2 degrees to 60 degrees. But it's good for us, in the moment?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: At least it was incremental, I guess. We had—it was several days of like, oh, getting maybe above 30? Oh, maybe? Oh, there we are. Oh, a little bit above 30.

Sydnee: 'Cause I had said it had to be above freezing before the kids could go out in the snow, but I was outvoted.

Taylor: Hm.

Sydnee: And I just said, "That's fine." If somebody wants to take the kids out in the snow when it's 22 degrees, it's not gonna be me. I don't do that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Also it's not snow. It's ice.

Raleigh: It was ice.

Sydnee: It was crunchy ice.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: It was, um, not playing material.

Sydnee: It was great for making snow cones. We did scoop out a lot of it to make snow cones with.

Raleigh: Which is always good.

Sydnee: Which in retrospect, maybe that's why everybody got stomach bugs?

Raleigh: I didn't eat any of those snow cones.

Taylor: I saw a microbiologist on TikTok melt snow and swab it on agar plates to see how much bacteria it was compared to—compared it to, like, sterile water and dirty snow, and it wasn't that bad. Like, fresh fallen snow.

Sydnee: I've always seen that if you, like, brush off the very top layer and then get right below it. Not all the way down to the ground, but like the middle, that that's safer. Not that—I'm not advocating that you eat snow. But, like, your kids are gonna do it, so... [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I mean, I did it just a couple years ago in college and made snow cream, so...

Sydnee: Yeah, we didn't go full out with the cream. We have some snow cone syrups. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: You have many, many snow cone syrups.

Sydnee: I have snow cone syrups in my house all the time because I'm married to Justin McElroy, and it's just the kind of fanciful thing we could appreciate, so we could just scoop up snow and pour snow cones...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You got yourself a snow cone.

Raleigh: Which the kids love, of course.

Sydnee: No, they did. They did love that. So, Raleigh, you got a present for Cooper that was dicey at first.

Raleigh: I did. Well, it felt fitting to talk about, because we were talking about weird little creatures this week, so it felt fitting. Um, I got Cooper—anyone familiar with Matthew Gray Gubler, I guarantee you it will be many people listening to this podcast. I know you looked at me like I was crazy when I told you that, but I bet you it'll be many people. Um, anyways, he has a little online zine and story and, like, stories of characters he's created.

And he made one called Rumble into a stuffie and sold it, and it's like a little two foot tall guy who's green. He's got kind of a long neck. I mean, he's drawn 2D and he's, like, a 2D cartoon brought to life. Like, just big. Like, both eyes are on the front. He's got, like, three pieces of hair, a little banana peel for a hat. I think he's cute, but he's kind of weird looking, and that's the whole point, because his tag is like, "I'm a little weird, just like all of us."

Um, so I got it for Cooper because I just saw it and I immediately was like, yeah, she would be into that. I know a kid who would like that. And she opened it and said it was too scary. And then I gave her the worst experience that adults can ever have, where you're talking about someone and then they're walking up behind you as they're talking about you.

Um, I did that to her accidentally when I walked up behind her to tell her goodbye on Christmas Eve and she was asking you, "Do I have to take this home?" [laughs] "It's too scary." And I felt bad. Not because it hurt my feelings, I just felt bad I got her something that scared her. But now she sleeps with him every night and has named him Bob.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. She drew little lips on—he has a big, long, straight line for a mouth. And then she drew, like, these little heart-shaped...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like a perfect little...

Raleigh: Purple lips.

Sydnee: Kissy lips on him. And colored something, maybe his nose, purple or something. Something else.

Raleigh: His teeth. His two teeth.

Sydnee: His teeth, that's what it is. His teeth are purple. And then she liked him better.

Taylor: He just needed a little lipstick. Now he's not so scary.

Raleigh: Yeah. The reason she gave me, though, for sleeping with him every night—because she told me that and said, "Keep it a secret, but I'll prove it to you." And then just said, "He was on my bed this morning." Like, there you go. There's proof that I slept with him.

Um, but the reason she gave me for sleeping with him was that he takes the bad dreams. And I was like, "Oh, that's good that he does that."

And she said, "But that's because he loves bad dreams, and he hates good dreams. So he takes the bad dreams out of your head so he can have them, and gives you his good dreams because he hates bad dreams." [laughs] Or he hates good dreams.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: I don't know how to feel about—

Raleigh: I don't know where she got that lore from.

Taylor: It's a useful guy to have around, though, it sounds like.

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah. I think we would all appreciate something we could put next to us that take all of our bad dreams.

Raleigh: Sure, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um, so yeah. She loves Bob. And it's also designed to hug you. Like, it has little Velcro on its hands so it's supposed to hug you around your neck and just kind of ride around on you. She doesn't love that.

Sydnee: Well, it's not tight. Like, it's safe, but it's just close enough that I think it feels weird. It's like wearing a turtleneck, you know? Like, it's not so tight that it would be dangerous for her to do that, but I just don't think she loves the way it feels.

Raleigh: She also—Charlie put it on her yesterday and the first thing she said was "No, it's embarrassing!" [wheezes] And I was like, "Who—who are—who are you embarrassed in front of? It's just us."

Sydnee: She picked that up from Charlie. We were driving around looking at Christmas lights night before last, because we didn't do it before Christmas. And Cooper was singing, and she had her window rolled down. And Charlie started saying, "Cooper, that's so embarrassing. Roll your window up or stop singing."

Taylor: Aww.

Sydnee: I was like, "Okay. First of all, nobody can hear her. And secondly, no it's not!" [laughs]

Raleigh: She's four. [laughs] She can sing.

Sydnee: She's doing that teenagery thing, Charlie is.

Raleigh: Oh yeah, she is.

Taylor: Is she already there? Is that...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Somehow.

Sydnee: I mean, she's eight, so not technically, but... she has taken on that persona.

Taylor: I knew she was reading above her level. I didn't know that she was just full on, just passing...

Raleigh: Reading other people beyond her level. [laughs]

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: She is. She's very much a little adult.

Raleigh: Yeah. It's like she saw someone stop being a teenager in the family and she was like, "Well. Time to take up the role."

Sydnee: One thing we did have to—I don't know where she picked it up. But she sometimes would, like, sort of snap in your face.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like she burns you and she's like, "Oh!" And she'll reach over and, like, snap in your face. Like, "Ha ha, got you!" I don't know where that come from but I was like, "We're not doing that. We're not actually gonna—no."

Raleigh: No. She did that to me once and then flipped her hair and put her hand on her hip and walked away. But it was like an intentional strut away. It was not just a walk.

Sydnee: I don't even know where she picked that up.

Raleigh: I don't know.

Sydnee: I can't think of any shows she watches where that happens. I don't know. Does Taylor Swift do that?

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: 'Cause they have been—

Raleigh: Taylor Swift's anti-mean girls.

Sydnee: They have been watching Taylor Swift music videos nonstop.

Raleigh: Oh, I know. [laughs]

Sydnee: For the last several days, so.

Raleigh: Um, yeah. I'm partly to blame for that I think, but also they just love watching music videos, period, so...

Sydnee: That's true. They also watch Lizzo, Katy Perry, um...

Raleigh: Taylor Swift just makes some good music videos.

Taylor: Yeah. Taylor Swift definitely claps back, but it would be in an intricate series of clues in a music video or dance that are somehow burning you, but burning you in a secret code. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Which, by the way, I'm just calling it right now because today is the day before New Year's Eve. I think Taylor Swift's gonna be in New York at the Times Square thing on New Year's Eve in some form. I don't know if It'll be in person, or virtually, or announcing something, or singing something, but she'll be there.

Taylor: [laughs] In some form.

Raleigh: They take a video—the New York Times Square whatever TikTok account took a video of the ball close up and said "It's bejeweled this year,"

which is her song, with the song playing in the background of the TikTok. And then it said "Meet us at midnight," which is like the catchphrase of her album that she kept saying. "Meet me at midnight" before it came out. Um, and did all of her drops at midnight. So I don't know what she's doing, but I think it's something, guys.

Sydnee: Taylor, if you could just head over there and check it out for us.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: You'll be closest. So I'm sure that that will be an easy— just bop over there, check it out. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. You know, of all of my years in New York, I don't think I've stepped foot in Manhattan [through laughter] on New Year's Eve.

Raleigh: You know you could always do what Justin did when he said he saw Mitchel Musso and met him and signed a piece of paper and gave it to me. You could just say "Hey, I walked by and I saw Taylor Swift. Here's a signature." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I could. I wouldn't. That would feel deceptive.

Sydnee: I also would hope you wouldn't fall for that now. You were very young when he did that.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, but I believed it for a good five years after that. I was 13 before I realized it was not real.

Taylor: What if I just signed my name? And I'm like, "Yeah, I got 'Taylor's' signature for you."

Sydnee: "Look."

Raleigh: Well, I would like that too.

Taylor: It's the wrong Teylor. Haha!

Sydnee: Just spell your name wrong.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [crosstalk] I mean, no. Technically it's spelling my name right. Let's be clear.

Sydnee: Nah.

Raleigh: Eh.

Sydnee: Nah. Alright. We're not supposed to be talking about that.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: You did bring up *Midnights*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Speaking of things you shouldn't do after midnight... I don't know. I'm really trying, here.

Raleigh: [crosstalk]

Taylor: Don't feed Taylor Swift after midnight.

Sydnee: Don't feed Taylor Swift after midnight.

Raleigh: She'll drop something. That's not... we're not...

Taylor: Gre—*Gremlins*.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: *Gremlins!*

Rileigh: [crosstalk]

Taylor: *Gremlins*. It was my choice for a Christmas movie. Then we didn't talk about it before Christmas, so... I don't know. [unintelligible] Little late present.

Sydnee: We're in the Christmas season.

Rileigh: See, I think this is the perfect movie to talk about this time though, because you're still in that season. Like the decorations are still up, your tree's still up, you're still, like, going through your presents and getting readjusted to normal life.

Sydnee: You leave that up till the epiphany.

Rileigh: But it's not Christmas Christmas. That's what I think about *Gremlins*.

Taylor: You did not think *Gremlins* was clearly a Christmas movie? There was gift-giving, it takes place on Christmas Eve, there's Santa Claus lore involved in it...

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Yes. See, I just always—the distinction in my brain between a Christmas movie and a movie that's good to watch at Christmas is does it just take place at Christmas, or does the central plot revolve around something to do with Christmas?

Taylor: Yes! The thing that starts it off is that the dad gets a present for his son that is the Mogwai.

Rileigh: [sighs] I guess that's true.

Sydnee: Can we talk about...

Rileigh: I guess it is a Christmas movie.

Sydnee: ... when he receives the Mogwai. [laughs quietly] I was thinking about if I gave my children a newly discovered species that they had never heard of, that I had never heard of, that I didn't know existed, that didn't exactly look like anything else that had ever existed on Earth, and that also sometimes said English words.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I feel like they would be freaked out at first. And everyone in this family is like, "What an adorable brand new species on Earth." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, he starts playing the piano. And, what, Billy is the son?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Is just like, "Oh, that's cool." Like, that's not a pet thing to do, you know. That's a... sentient living creature thing to do.

Sydnee: Well, and I mean it's saying, like, "yum yum" pretty early. And "Bright light." It says that really early. I mean, I know some of it they sort of give you the impression, like, "Well, the Mogwai watched TV, and that's why they learned some of this."

But part of it he just speaks English sometimes.

Raleigh: Well, other animals watch TV and don't repeat human words.

Sydnee: Right! [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, I guess birds do. But, you know.

Raleigh: True, true.

Taylor: That's a whole other... birds are their own thing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. They're dinosaurs.

Raleigh: I gotta know, were Furbies a thing before this?

Taylor: Furbies come after Gremlins, and they looked so much like Gremlins that I believe there was actually—wasn't there a lawsuit?

Raleigh: Really?

Taylor: That it was a likeness infringement? I believe this is true.

Sydnee: I feel like this is right. I don't know, but as you're saying it, it feels right.

Raleigh: I had never made that connection before, but I was having this epiphany rewatching it again that, like, oh man. Furbies look just like gremlins, and they're weird little things that kind of talk and make noise and kind of do sentient human things. Um...

Sydnee: I'm looking to see if there was—there is a—by the way, as I'm looking this up... the Mogwai—there is a Gizmo Furby.

Raleigh: Makes sense.

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: They do look like gremlins, though.

Sydnee: This looks like a much longer story than we can read live on the podcast.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Yeah. Maybe there was, I don't know. But yes, it did come after, and they do look strikingly like a Mogwai.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I would believe that if you—yeah, if that was—there's some sort of connection or whatever between them, or a legend.

Taylor: And it is, I mean, the design of Gizmo. And the other ones, before they become evil gremlins, it's very cute.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, yes. Yeah, they're very cute except for when they eat. No matter what form they've taken, when those things eat, it's disgusting. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: It is upsetting.

Taylor: [laughs quietly] Yeah...

Sydnee: When they're eating that chicken, the girls were like—by the way, I watched it with Charlie and Cooper, so.

Taylor: Oh, what? This—well, I definitely watched this movie as a kid. And I know it was kind of marketed—well, it's the 80's. It was '84 when this came out. And they were like, "Maybe it's a kid movie?" Like, there's death in this movie. There is a horrific retelling of, like, the death of Phoebe Cates' father when he's dressed as Santa. There's a lot of stuff that I don't think is for kids in this movie, but I definitely watched it as a kid.

Sydnee: We fast-forwarded through the Phoebe Cates' dad part.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: Because the kids were with us. We both knew what was about to happen and we were like, "We're just gonna real quick... "

Raleigh: Just boop-boop-boop.

Sydnee: And they were like, "What? What was she saying? Why doesn't she like Christmas?" And I was like, "Oh, you know, she just had a really bad Christmas once, and didn't get what she wanted." [laughs]

Taylor: That's fair. That's accurate.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Um, no. So I was asking Justin as I sat down. I was like, "Can we watch this with the kids?"

And he said, "Well, you know, it was a kids movie."

And I said, "What's it rated?"

And he said, "Well, you know, that's interesting. They created PG-13 for *Gremlins*."

Taylor: Really.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydney: Before then it was PG—well, G, PG, and R. And they knew it wasn't R, and so they were gonna make it PG, but there were still—obviously there's death. [laughs quietly] And, like, sometimes the *Gremlins* are kind of scary. And, I mean, I would argue that when they get, like, 'sploded in a microwave or thrown in a juicer, it's intense. So they came up with PG-13 because of *Gremlins*.

Taylor: Huh.

Raleigh: Interesting. I think that makes sense. I think if I had to recommend it to someone and say, like, "Yeah, if your kid's, you know, older than 13, they're probably good. But if they're younger, maybe sit with them and skip through the dad Santa Christmas [crosstalk]."

Sydney: You know what was strange? Charlie was actually pretty cool with it all. Cooper was partially watching, partially playing with a toy. And I would just sort of distract her when, like—like, for instance when the mom totally owns all those gremlins. 'Cause that's intense.

Taylor: Yeah, that's—

Raleigh: I feel like Cooper would've liked that, though. It is intense, but she's... I mean, she loves [crosstalk].

Sydnee: They freaked her out.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: The gremlins freaked her out a little bit.

Taylor: There's a lot of goo in that scene. There's a lot of—it's a very gooey movie in general.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] There's a lot of goo.

Sydnee: It is a very gooey movie. It is incredibly impressive that those are all puppets.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. I don't know. And I know this is, like, a... old—old man yells at cloud situation. But man, any movie that has practical effects before the dawn of VR just, to me, looks so much better. The fact that this is all just practical effects is just so cool.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I—I think that—I mean, there are moments when you have close ups on their faces and their eyes are sort of blinking in a way that, like, okay. Well, that looks—

Raleigh: Like Furbies blink, yeah.

Sydnee: Right. I can see in those moments why computers have improved those sort of little details. But when you have wide shots, like in the movie theater with all those gremlins...

Taylor: [laughs] I love that scene.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It looks—it looks so real. In a way—I mean, because it is, in the sense that, like, these are actual physical objects in the seats—that I don't think you can quite replicated.

Taylor: Well, I think it's just a crossroads of, like, whatever in our brain triggers the uncanny valley, I feel like—I can tell that something exists in the real world, even if it doesn't move exactly like—like if it's a robot or a puppet or an animatronic. My brain still says "That's real," 'cause it is. It's in the real world. When it's computer effects, there's still an element where my brain goes "That's not real. That's not there." And it takes me out of it more than when I can tell something's an animatronic. I don't know. That's just for me. If you feel differently that's fine. [laughs]

Sydnee: No, I agree completely. And I would say the comparison I would make is recently, Justin forced me to watch *Avatar* again.

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: [laughs] I was just thinking *Avatar*. 'cause we saw an ad for the new one last night. And dad just kept saying, "But it's—it's animated! It's not real people." 'Cause they were talking about all the people in it. And he was like, "But it's not real people!"

Sydnee: Well, I mean, that was—so we were watching—and the only reason, I should say, is because Cooper went on the *Avatar* ride, and then liked one of the baby *avatars*, and—anyway. So, we watched it. And I was sitting there and I looked at Justin and I said, "Legit, I'm not trying to troll you. Why was this impressive? Like, help me—"

I understand it was in 3D, and we're not watching in 3D, and I hate— honestly, I hate 3D. That's me personally. It makes me want to vomit. Like, because of my motion sickness stuff. The 3D stuff makes me pukey. So, like, I don't like 3D anyway. But, like, why is this better? I feel more visceral sort of reaction to *Gremlins* than I do to *Avatar* as, like—

Rileigh: [splutters] Sorry, sorry. [laughs] [crosstalk]

Teylor: You've got weird little green guys.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] It was supposed to be this technological achievement!

Teylor: Weird little blue guys. I get it. It's a fair comparison, yeah.

Rileigh: It's the same movie.

Sydnee: But the big blue guys are clearly just computer generated! Like, there's no part of me that's like, "That's a real big blue guy." Like, no. I mean, that's not a real big blue guy.

Rileigh: Well, it just—it looks like a video game.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, video games have that element that's slightly more real than a cartoon or an animated film, I think, that is—I don't know if it's the motion capture stuff or what. But I feel like video games feel a little bit more real. And *Avatar* just looks like a video game, right? I mean, it kind of looks like a video game, but you just don't play it. I don't know. I don't get those big blue guys. If you do, that's fine, but I don't. [laughs] I don't get it.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, to each their own, but I've just never understood it.

Rileigh: I think if you made *Gremlins*, like the exact movie in terms of the plot and the things that happen with the *Gremlins* and everything, like the basic things today, but you used modern technology, it would not be PG-13.

I think it would be more acceptable for younger kids, and probably less accepting in terms of some of the gooey stuff. Because with the computer generated stuff, I just think that there's an element where, like, you know you're not watching something real. But when you're watching those puppets, like, there's part of your brain that's like, "I know this isn't real. But it sure looks like this is something that could maybe happen and exist in the real world." It looks just real enough. [laughs]

[pause]

Rileigh: You know what I mean?

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah.

Rileigh: Like, I feel like if they were animated, interacting with real people, it wouldn't have the same... effect.

Sydnee: I know what you're saying, in the sense that, like, we had told the girls, like, these are puppets. These are not real. There are no—'cause they kept asking, "Are there really Mogwai? Are there really Mog—" no, no, no. There are not really Mogwai. There are not really gremlins. This is all made up. That's a puppet.

And I was explaining, like, the shots where he goes to pick up Gizmo how, like, you can tell. You never seen him, like, close up picking up Gizmo with his hands, because it's a puppet and it would look weird. So you always have these, like... I tell Cooper it's movie magic. Where they, like, go to his face for a second, and then they go back to his hands, because now the puppet's been properly placed so that it looks like a living thing. And, like, I assume he's... puppeting it sometimes? Right?

Taylor: Well, I think it's partially animatronic. [unintelligible]

Sydnee: Well, but I assumed sometimes the way he's holding it that his hand is actually inside it?

Taylor: I don't know. I don't know about that. I did not look up the mechanics of how to operate a...

Raleigh: [simultaneously] That's upsetting to think about. [laughs]

Sydnee: [crosstalk]

Taylor: ... a gremlin.

Raleigh: How do you operate a gremlin?

Sydnee: But I was explaining all this. And she said, "So when he was in the juicer... was it just—is the puppet filled with goo?"

And I was like, "Well, no. No?"

Raleigh: Maybe.

Sydnee: I mean, I don't—but probably not, right? They probably, like, put the puppet in the juicer and then squirted goo everywhere.

Taylor: Yeah, I'm sure they he'd something rigged to shoot goo. [crosstalk]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [crosstalk]

Taylor: It's movie magic.

Raleigh: You think a lot about the internal happenings of gremlins.

Taylor: Yeah, that would be like a wild way of staging that scene. "So we're gonna actually blend up this expensive puppet. So we gotta fill it with goo first."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] One take.

Taylor: Yeah, one take!

[all laugh]

Taylor: This is a \$10,000 puppet. We're gonna throw it in the juicer, see what happens. I mean, that wasn't even true for the orange. That whole orange thing was just—that was way too much orange juice that came out of that orange. Clearly not.

Sydnee: Yeah, there was no way that came out of one orange.

Taylor: Even the orange was gooey. That's the scene that really—of all the gross stuff in the—I was like, "That's really gross. I'm really grossed out by how much orange pulp is all over this kitchen right now."

Sydnee: It was! It was gross. It didn't look right. It looked off. It was like, that's not—that's not what oranges look like.

Taylor: Too much.

Raleigh: I'm wondering. I don't even know—I don't know what kind of movie technology, movie magic existed in 1984. I don't even really know what kind of movie magic exists today, if I'm being honest. I don't really know how any of it works.

Um, but did they have that many puppets, do you think? Or do you think there was some element of, like, replicate... like, could they do—you know what I mean?

Sydnee: I think they had that many.

Taylor: I think, yeah. I was wondering that in the scene, the movie theater scene, but no, I think that's just all gremlins. I mean...

Raleigh: Imagine that storeroom or prop room somewhere.

Taylor: Ah...

Raleigh: Wherever. [through laughter] That's just filled...

Taylor: I just want to know where they all ended up. 'Cause you know they all got auctioned off to a bunch of weirdos. I would love to be one of those weirdos. It's like, "Here's my gremlin. This is gremlin number 82."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] My original gremlin.

Taylor: Yeah. [laughs] The one that was wearing popcorn on its head.

Raleigh: [laughs] I love that guy.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh. I know, the one wearing popcorn his head was great. I was also thinking about the scene where you see them all walking down the street when they first image. That's stop motion.

[pause]

Sydnee: That's incredible!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That they moved each of their little puppet feet! [muffled laugh] I mean, that's incredible!

Taylor: It's weird that, like—like, I don't know. It's not—like, a lot of times practical effects are cheaper than virtual effects, but not always. Like, it seems like it should be the opposite. Like, that should cost a lot more money to make a bunch of little guys. But it doesn't. It's just fascinating.

Raleigh: Well, and all the people that are responsible for moving and operating said little guys.

Sydnee: It must've been an expensive movie, though. Because, like, Spielberg had already made *ET* at this point, right?

Taylor: I believe so.

Sydnee: So I'm assuming he was allowed to make an expensive movie. You know what I mean? Like, he had the latitude to do that.

Taylor: I mean, it was 11 million. It made 212 million.

Sydnee: Wow.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: I don't know what that means.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't know in today's terms.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Now movies cost, like, billions of dollars.

Raleigh: Is 11 million a lot? I mean, yes, in money words it's a lot. But in movie money budget words...

Sydnee: [slowly, under her breath] What is 11 million dollars in 1984?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, man. I just—I don't know. Like, some of the sequences where it's like, all the little gags. Like when—right when the gremlins kind of first attack and the whole city—like, there's just sparks flying out of everything, and all the lights are going off and on, and there's the gremlin that pops out of the car and the one that flings through, like, hanging on something. Just, like, how fun would that be to be on that live set? Like, okay. Go, weird car gremlin! [through laughter] Like, go! Hangy boy, go!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Man.

Sydnee: That's what—as the movie went on the girls got into it. 'Cause when they first appear and, like, the mom has to fight them, and the science teacher scene...

Taylor: That's a little disturbing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I said that they had knocked him out. That the gremlin had knocked him out.

Taylor: I kind of forgot that they killed people. Because he's laying on the ground and he's got the needle in his butt and I was like, "Oh, they just—they're gonna explain that, right? Later he's gonna be, like, sitting up with a headache." Like, no. Oh, no, they kill people. Oh. Oops.

Raleigh: I had fully forgotten that. I had no idea. I guess it's been so long since I had seen it that I had to stop and take a minute. Like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute. There's murder?"

Sydnee: I had the same reaction. I was like, "Uhh... " And I said, "See that needle in his butt? They just knocked him out. They used medicine to knock him out."

And they were like, "Oh, okay, cool. Moving on."

Raleigh: I mean, I think that one is—yeah. That one's a little bit more explainable as potentially not murder.

Sydnee: But the scenes in the bar... Charlie and Cooper just loved.

Taylor: I... I feel like that scene planted itself in child Taylor's head, and that has something to do with why I became a bartender. I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: 'Cause I—it's supposed to be scary. But in my kid brain, and even now watching as an adult I'm like, "That looks pretty fun. I'd wait on those guys."

Sydnee: They loved it. Charlie and Cooper loved that scene. They thought it was hilarious. Like, "They're drinking beer!"

Taylor: That's great.

Sydnee: Like, they don't see smoking in movies now. You know, there aren't kids cartoons or shows or movies that have smoking in them anymore. And so when the gremlin is smoking it's like, "[horrified gasp]"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Look how bad! He's so bad! He's smoking a cig—nobody smokes cigarettes!"

Taylor: Well, and I—I forgot how much the gremlins are just armed with tiny guns. It's like, you'd think, like, oh no, why are the gremlins dangerous? Well, because they're packin'. That's why. [through laughter] They might shoot you!

Sydnee: I know. When I—that scene when he's like... [laughs quietly]
"Water! Gun."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I'm like, "Oh... man. Different time."

Taylor: I know! It's like they don't try to scratch you or bite you. They just—someone made a bunch of tiny guns, and gremlin size. I don't know where they got those.

Raleigh: I gotta be honest. I don't know if it was just it'd been so long and this is my brain's creation of what I thought the plot was, but going into this

I knew I'd seen it, and to me it was "These are little guys that become bad when you feed them after midnight. And they become scary and they can, like, attack people. And they've gotta control the scary gremlins so they can go back to being cute gremlins." That is not at all...

Sydnee: No.

Rileigh: In my head I was like, "Yeah, they're not—I mean, they're just little guys. Like, they're not scary. They're not that bad." It's... why did I—did I just block out the fact that I was maybe—maybe mom and dad skipped past the murder and the... I don't know.

Sydnee: Maybe it was the same thing. Because, I mean, they are murderous.

Rileigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And they get 'sploded.

Taylor: A lot.

Rileigh: A lot!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: There's a lot of goo. [laughs]

Sydnee: They blow up a whole movie theater.

Taylor: Well, there's a very graphic scene in the movie theater after they blow it up of just gremlins running around on fire. I was like, "Oh no!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's intense in a way that—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [continues laughing] It did make me laugh, though.

Sydnee: We realized this was not great for even 13-year-olds. [laughs] Like... uh, maybe this is more adult content.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, but that's—there are a lot of movies that I—I've—when it comes to horror movies, I always like horror movies that have, like, comedy. Almost like, you know, like *Looney Tunes* kind of violence in it. That stuff always, I don't know. Like, I feel like my favorite movies always hit that sweet spot. Like *Ghostbusters* is kind of the same, and *Ghostbusters* was the same time period. Like, there was some scary stuff in *Ghostbusters* that I don't know if kids today would be allowed to watch.

But in that time period there was a lot that kind of existed in that weird middle ground. Of, like, I mean, it's cartoon violence, it's just in reality. That's okay, right? You can watch it when it's Tom and Jerry. You just can't watch it when it's real people. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, I know what you mean. It definitely doesn't feel offbeat for the time. It feels offbeat for kids now. Now you watch it and you're like, "This was a kids—?" But, I mean, it was very much like a family film. This wasn't—I mean, you weren't supposed to, like—I mean, I guess probably teenagers went on dates. But, like, I don't know. I know I watched it as a child.

Raleigh: You know, there's a lot of goo in *Ghostbusters* too.

Taylor: Yeah, it's a goo movie.

Raleigh: Was there just some development in film technology at this time where they figured out how to make a goo that everyone was just like, "Yeah, I wanna put that in there somehow. That's a good-looking goo."

Sydnee: We gotta use that goo.

Raleigh: Gotta use that goo.

Taylor: You know, I did watch... there's a... there was an episode... it's that—where they competed with special effects. *Face Off!*

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Taylor: They had an episode where they talked about Hollywood goo, and they each had to make their own goo. It was really cool to see. I—I think there were a lot—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] [through laughter] Hollywood goo.

Taylor: Right? Like, there were a lot of movies in the 80's that were just sort of fueled by, we figured out how to do something cool. Like *The Howling*. Like, making the werewolf transform on camera. That's a great movie, but a huge part of that movie is just like, "Look at this cool thing we figured out how to do."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: [crosstalk] a really exciting time to be in special effects.

Raleigh: That's what I thought about *Ghostbusters*. Like, "Look at that ghost. Look at Slimer. He's there!"

Taylor: The filming it so it's, like, a real 3-dimensional ghost that is Slimer, but they then film it and superimpose it so it looks like a ghost, like a see-through thing.

Sydnee: It's cool, 'cause if you think about it, like, there's a lot of goo in *Ghostbusters* 1, but then *Ghostbusters* two is, like, entirely goo-centric.

Taylor: It's just all goo, yeah.

Raleigh: It's all goo.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] It's just all goo. Pink goo. Yeah.

Taylor: [simultaneously] It's about goo. Yeah.

[pause]

Sydnee: Um...

Taylor: Well, I mean—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I think that trickled into kids toys, especially in the 90's. I was talking about a friend with this the other day. Like, the 90's were just really gooey. There was a lot of... like, all of our toys were gooey. We ate goo. It was a very big goo time.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Well, then Nickelodeon started with the slime, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Gak.

Taylor: Just a decade of goo.

Sydnee: Gak and floam and... uh... there were, like, four different products that were just various consistencies and textures of goo.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, I guess now the kids have slime, but...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's what I was gonna say. Are we reentering a goo era with slime?

Sydnee: I mean, they do—

Taylor: Does this have something to do with the recession? Is it a predictor?
"Oh, the kids are playing with goo again."

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Oh no.

Sydnee: I wonder, because it is—I will say, like, the thing a like about
slime—and there's not much to like about slime...

[someone snorts]

Sydnee: But the thing I do like about it is I learned, like, the principles of
how to make slime. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And I can make sli—I don't need a slime kit to make slime. You
can get 'em if you want, like, the glitter or the little foam balls and stuff to
put in there. But generally speaking, you have what you need to make slime
in your house.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: And you have understood the principles so well and made it for so
long now that Charlie, in turn—I was helping Cooper make slime with a slime
kit she got, 'cause Cooper's not quite as, like, up to snuff with how you do
things and make it a certain way. I mean, she's—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Slime savvy.

Raleigh: She's four. Yeah. [laughs] Um, but Charlie—I was asking Charlie.
Instead of, like, looking in the instructions I was like, "Charlie? What—it's too
breakable. What do I add? Charlie, it's too sticky. What do I do?"

And she just—she knew, every time. She was like, "No, baby sis. This is
when you add the clay, because that makes it fluffy, buttery slime."

And I was like, "That's not a thing."

And then I did, and it did!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Put clay in slime! What?

Sydnee: Yeah. That makes the real fluffy, ice creamy looking slime.

Taylor: Wow.

Raleigh: I was trying to incorporate the little foam—foam—foam balls for Cooper, and they just kept going everywhere. I was losing my mind. Like, "What do—how do you do this!?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Those things are so light that, like, with static electricity they'll just stick your hand.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So you can't, like, get them off. Like, you just put your hand in the bag—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I mean, it's basically Styrofoam.

Sydnee: —and they're just all over you. And you're like, "Ahh!"

Raleigh: But we are reentering the goo era.

Sydnee: Um, so... I, uh... we haven't really gone over the plot. I feel like we took for granted that everybody knows the plot.

Taylor: I mean, I feel like the plot is... here's some weird little dudes. Like, that is... I think that's the showpiece of the movie. But yeah, there's this... this... traveling salesman encounters a Mogwai. He gets it for his son for Christmas. There are two rules with the Mogwai: you can't get it wet, and you can't feed it after midnight. They break both rules, and that leads to the

Mogwai multiplying, and then the ones that multiply that then eat after midnight transform into horrible scary versions of gremlins, and then they take over the small town that they live in.

Sydnee: And then Billy 'splodes them in a movie theater. And...

Taylor: Yeah. And then... [laughs quietly] it just shines a bright light on the final one, and melts it! In a horr—that's also a very gooey scene, when he melts the final gremlin.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: We did not show the girls that part. It's pretty gruesome.

Taylor: That's—that's very gruesome.

Sydnee: Yeah. And then they get their Mogwai taken back away, because...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. I guess the lesson is, like, man cannot... man can't just accept natural beauty things. Like, we have to mess with them and tamper with them, and... I don't know. Something. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, there was a—there's a moment where—there's a bit of dialogue where the dad, the traveling salesman, is like, "Oh, everybody'll want one of these."

Like, thinking of merchandising it. I feel like there could've been a more, like, present message. But they at some point decided, like, "No. Don't worry about that."

Sydnee: "It's the '80s!" [laughs]

Taylor: Like, let's just... just shoot more cool little guys.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: And you're exactly right. It's what you said about, like, they figured out how to do a thing and that was the movie. I feel like there maybe was an original, like, meaningful message that was more obvious. But then they started doing things with the gremlins and they realized [through laughter] all the cool stuff they could do with the gremlins. They were like, "Never mind. Never mind. Scrap all those scenes with more dialogue. Get rid of it. More scenes with goo and gremlins."

Taylor: Just any scene where they can sing, sort of. Just that—that over message, any day. When they carol in front of... what is it? What's her last name? Dougal?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Is that what it is? So when the one—and they roll up to her house like, "[Gremlin voice] Dougal. Dougal. Dougal."

[all laugh]

Taylor: And then she opens the door and it's just them with their little caroling books, just for the gag, the one minute gag. It was like, "[snarling]" and then they're singing the theme song. I love that. I don't know. I don't need a message. Just do that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and they do—there is some sort of central morality I think they're trying to convey. Where, like, the science teacher is trying to experiment on the Mogwai. Like, he looks tortured and sad. And he gets it. [laughs quietly] And then there is Ms. Dougal, who at the very beginning of the movie... wants to murder a dog.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: In a very gruesome way! Like, there's a description of how she wants to murder a dog.

Raleigh: Ooh, you're right.

Sydnee: It's intense. Like, she's a really mean lady. Um, and then there's the guy who, like, his whole thing is complaining about foreign cars and stuff.

Raleigh: Is this like a pro animal, anti-animal cruelty and all that stuff, like, and pro-environment?

Sydnee: Well...

Taylor: There's an environmentalist message that's buried under all the goo.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's something under there. Maybe. But then it—I don't know. But then I think you're right. Then they're like, "But the goo."

Raleigh: "But the goo. Look what we can do with it." I just don't understand. I mean, it's a movie and it was the 80's. But was it—was it more believable back then that someone would've found this little creature that can speak human English language, and also do things that, like, sentient humans do, and it was like, "Aww, cute!"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Not, "Wh—what?!" Not upsetting?

Taylor: Uh... I mean, we have monkeys.

Raleigh: Yeah...

Sydnee: [laughs] "We have monkeys."

Raleigh: I mean, yes. But—

Taylor: I mean, monkeys are kind of like—like, right? Like, don't they sort of overlap with the stuff that Mogwai can do? They don't have, like, verbal skills. But monkeys can, like, laugh at jokes.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] They don't go quite as far. It's true.

Taylor: And... and all sorts of stuff.

Sydnee: No, they can. And you've gotta remember, this is before the internet.

Raleigh: You're right.

Sydnee: This was before Encarta. [laughs] You had no way to look up all the animals on Earth. You had an encyclopedia.

Raleigh: Before what?

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Raleigh: I don't know what that—I've never heard [crosstalk] before.

Sydnee: Encarta was an encyclopedia on CD-ROM that you could buy.

Raleigh: [laughs] What?

Taylor: There were different letters on different discs. Like, it wasn't all on one disc. You had to, like...

Raleigh: Buy the set? [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah. Took up a lot less space than a set of encyclopedias, though.

Raleigh: Well, yeah.

Sydnee: But, I mean, I guess the idea that there are things that exist in the world that we don't know about was very obvious. Like, well, of course. How would I know about it? Like, you know, there's all kinds of stuff on Earth I've never seen, 'cause I don't have internet yet.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I think there, like... I don't know. There's also the whole element in the 80's of, like, kids are kind of just doing stuff without their parents knowing they're doing it. 'Cause they're parents are—we assume, since it's the 80's, like, buying something.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Wearing shoulder pads. Using cocaine.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] That's it.

Sydnee: It's the 80's. They're at a party where everybody is wearing, like, sequins.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. The hair.

Taylor: Although you gotta—you gotta give it to the mom in this movie. The mom is not a passive mom.

Sydnee: Mm-mm.

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: She is an active—the most brutal scene I think, outside of maybe the ending, is the scene where the mom just goes full-on Rambo [through laughter] against the gremlins, alone in her house.

Sydnee: Without hesitation.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, she's ready to kill.

Sydnee: No, she goes straight for the juicer. And then, like, escalates to the microwave.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: There's a history there. She has a background I want to know about. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I want a prequel about when the mom encountered gremlins once before.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I want a backstory. [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know. Just... she had a lot of pent-up mom rage.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Do you get that?

Sydnee: Yeah, I understand that.

Taylor: You think you'd be ready to just go ham on some gremlins, given the opportunity?

Sydnee: I mean, if I was stuck in the kitchen making those giant gingerbread men cookies.

Taylor: Very disturbing gingerbread cookies.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Right?

Taylor: Too big.

Sydnee: They're way too big! That's why she could only make four of them.

Raleigh: They're very big.

Sydnee: They're huge! What's that all about?

Raleigh: What's the message, there? [laughs]

Sydnee: What's the message there? What are you trying to tell me?!

Taylor: I don't know. She's got the husband too, that just—his life seems to be making inventions that make messes. It's the 80's. You could make a living on that. [unintelligible] Good for you.

Raleigh: It reminded me, like, of *Rugrats* dad.

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh yeah. Or *Honey I Shrank the Kids* dad.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. That just '80s dad?

Taylor: Where did wacky inventor dad go in media?

Raleigh: [laughs] When did wacky inventor dad become football watching, work going, passive dad?

Taylor: I think those were two different dads. I think they coexisted.

Raleigh: Really?

Taylor: At some point. We haven't had a current wacky inventor dad anytime recently, I don't think.

Sydnee: I would like to get back to the central idea that when this man gifts his... I mean, adult son, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: His adult son with this small animal that requires a ton of time and attention, as well as following very specific rules so that it doesn't, you know, die or replicate or become a murderous monster.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Or murder you.

Sydnee: Yeah. Um, why—why does he think that's... you know what I mean? Like, does this guy not have anything else going—I mean, like, he's got a job. He's got Phoebe Cates he's trying to... get with. Like... you know?

Taylor: But you know what? He was doing an okay job, if it wasn't for old Corey Feldman. Spilling water on him.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I just don't know why—why would he want that responsibility? It's like he got a kid before he even, like... got to kiss Phoebe Cates.

[all laugh quietly]

Sydnee: It just seems like, "Here. Here's a small child for you to care for."

Raleigh: Well, yeah. I mean, I do think the idea of—unless, like, you have an adult. 'Cause, I mean, he is an adult. Unless you have an adult child who specifically asked for some sort of living thing to take care of, it's kind of like, "Oh. You've just—"

Taylor: Well, son, you have a girlfriend. You can... [laughs quietly] figure that out.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: He's already got a dog that the neighbor lady is trying to kill

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Just giving me a responsibility.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know? That was a very *Wizard of Oz* moment, too.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's how you know the villain right away. He wants a dog dead. That's the bad guy.

Sydnee: Yep. She's the bad guy. Um, I feel like before we wrap up we should mention that if you have not seen *Gremlins* and you do want to watch *Gremlins*, first of all, I don't really think it's for very young children. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: It's PG-13. Use your best judgment. You know your young people in your life better than me. But it is gooeey, and there are moments that are kind of scary with the gremlins. There are, like... there's not blood and guts, 'cause it's gremlin goo.

Raleigh: It's goo.

Sydnee: It just looks gooeey. But it is gory and violent, and there are guns in it. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [through laughter] So many little guns.

Sydnee: [through laughter] And chainsaw. Um, and 'splosions.

Raleigh: Really makes you question the scale of these gremlins and everything around them when they're [through laughter] holding those little guns.

Sydnee: And I think we all know that the depiction of Chinatown and the guy who runs the store where the Mogwai is initially stolen is obviously racist, and insensitive, and not the way we would depict people in film today.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, hopefully. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So I feel like that has to be noted. Any 80's film. That there's gonna be something where you're like, "Oh!"

Taylor: "Ahh... "

Sydnee: "Ugh! Oh!"

Raleigh: "Oh no!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Nothing holds up 100% these days.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: No. It's the same with anything from the 90's.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, Taylor, any last thoughts about *Gremlins*? I'm glad you had us watch it, 'cause I had not—literally, I don't think I had seen it in two decades.

Taylor: No, it's—I mean, I just—I don't know. Any movie with weird little guys and a bunch of practical effects, I'm gonna be into. So I'm glad I got to watch it again this year. I mean, I would've anyway, but you know.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, it's fun. It was a lot of fun.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, Raleigh, what's next?

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, I want to talk about *Wednesday*. And not the day of the week.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: The girl in the Addams Family that now has a series on Netflix.

Sydnee: Yes, the show.

Raleigh: The show. Um, thank you. Not the girl. [laughs quietly] The show. The Netflix program, *Wednesday*, because it has blown up and broken, you know, the internet, so.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, I've already watched it, so I'm ready.

Raleigh: I have, too.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, if you haven't seen *Gremlins*... classic. Um—

Taylor: Christmas movie.

Sydnee: It's a classic Christmas movie.

Raleigh: Uh-huh. So you gotta wait a year.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Nah, you can go ahead and watch it now if you want. It's okay. Dip in early. Or late. Whatever.

Raleigh: It doesn't matter—mm. Time doesn't—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Time is a flat disc.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Uh, thank you for listening. Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org for a lot of shows you would enjoy. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. I hope everyone has a wonderful New Year. We will see you again in 2023. Um... which is, like, just a few days away. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: Wanna hear my Mogwai voice?

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: "[high pitched] Hi, Billy!"

[all laugh quietly]

Rileigh: That's pretty good!

Taylor: That is pretty good.

Rileigh: That's pretty good!

Sydnee: I know. The girls really love that.

Rileigh: I bet they do.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Can you sing the Snow White and the Seven Dwarves? You know, when they're singing the 'Hi ho" bit?

Sydnee: "[high pitched singing] Hi ho, hi ho—" no, but they're are scary ones.

Taylor: Well, Gizmo sings it too.

Sydnee: "[high pitched singing] "Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work we go."

Raleigh: That's really good, Syd!

Sydnee: Thanks.

[all laugh]

[graduation music plays]

Janet: My fellow graduates, for 500 episodes my podcast, the *JV Club* with Janet Varney, has gathered story after story of all the scandalous things we've done throughout our childhoods.

[crowd murmuring]

Janet: Stories like how Jameela Jamil survived a horrific house party, and she was on crutches!

Speaker Two: This is great!

Janet: Or how Hal Lublin learned a Shakespearean monologue in his pajamas.

Speaker Three: What is happening?

Speaker Four: This is not the speech we approved.

Janet: Without your love and life tragedies, there would be no podcast. In fact, I have an exclusive look at how Maggie Lawson's mom confronted her after a sneaky basement meet up with her crush.

Speaker Three: [loud gasp]

Speaker Two: Spill the tea, JV!

Speaker Four: Security!

Janet: Uh—listen to the *JV Club* with Janet Varney, Thursdays on Maximum Fun! Class of—[mic screech]—forever!

[crowd cheering and applause]

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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