

Still Buffering 348: Lizzie McAlpine

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[Intro, Theme Song 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.

Sydnee: Well, we had a day of summer.

Raleigh: We did?

Taylor: [singing] One day of summer...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [still singing] That's all you get.

Raleigh: It's supposed to snow here tomorrow, so that's fun.

Sydnee: Oh man. Yeah, you all are both getting snow this weekend, aren't ya?

Taylor: Uh... yeah, I think it's possible. We also had hail like, day before yesterday.

Raleigh: My gosh.

Taylor: I've only ever experienced hail as like something that just happens for like a couple minutes. But this just like... It hailed for like... It was a while. It was like a solid hour of hail.

Raleigh: Wow.

Taylor: Like is this... What's going on?

Sydnee: That's scary.

Taylor: This the end times? Is this train rain? What's going on?

Sydnee: No, I have been following the train derailment situation closely 'cause I was very worried with us here in Huntington, right on the Ohio River.

Taylor: Yep.

Sydnee: But they diverted—we were getting our drinking water from the Guyandotte now, so, just in case.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: Just in cases.

Taylor: That's... That's good, right?

Sydnee: So as far as we know all is well.

Rleigh: I guess it's a better option. Is it a good option?

Taylor: [laughs softly]

Rleigh: I guess that's yet to be seen.

Sydnee: I don't know. Everybody keeps referencing a movie called White Noise and a book called White Noise?

Taylor: Yeah I...

Sydnee: I'm not familiar with it.

Taylor: I too have seen those references to that book and movie but I do

not know what it's about.

Sydnee: I don't know! And I'm like, "Should I seek this out or will that alarm me?" [laughs nervously]

Taylor: I mean it sounds like it's just, that is the plot of those pieces of media, is the thing we're currently experiencing. So maybe you don't need to seek it out, just watch the news!

Sydnee: Yeah. I know. I've read a lot of things about it and what I think we know right now is we don't know. That's what we know. We don't know.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: We don't know if there will be or what they will be, long term effects, we don't know. So... Is that lack of knowledge comforting to you all?

Taylor: Uh, no.

Sydnee: [laughs wryly]

Rileigh: I just generally feel like a lack of knowledge about most things, is my constant state. I'm just constantly just reading, you know, cases in law books from 150 years ago. So that's kind of where my brain goes.

And you know what? Sometimes it's not that different.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: When people say, "I don't know", I find it extremely comforting because I think they're telling the truth. I think that generally, especially people in positions of authority, don't like to admit when they don't know. They like to make stuff up over saying they don't know.

Because if you don't know it's like all the sudden people question like, "Well, are you competent? Is because you didn't... Like you didn't do enough work to figure it out?" So when someone just like openly says like, "Ah, you know? I don't know." I feel like, "Ah, that's genuine. I'm comforted by your

honesty [laughs wryly] even if we don't know."

Taylor: Well, I don't know. I think being able to say, "I don't know" is a sign of confidence. Like, that's somebody that probably does know their stuff because somebody who can comfortably say, "You know what? I don't actually know that."

Especially if it relates to their field, probably they're like, "Yeah, I know I'm qualified and I know what I'm supposed to know so you presented me with a piece of information I do not know. I'd like to know that."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I think it's a sign of somebody that's good at their job. [laughs]

Sydnee: I think so too. I always tell students and residents that. That I am never scared by a resident or student asking me a million questions.

I'm scared by the ones who don't ask any questions.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause if you have no—if you walk in the door and you have no questions about anything, something's wrong. You're missing something. You're doing something wrong. There's no way. There's something you don't know. There has to be.

This is too—it's too big for you to know it all.

Taylor: I've been training in a new restaurant job and I've... I just go by the philosophy of it's better to ask a stupid question than to make a stupid mistake.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I do that.

Taylor: So I ask a lot of questions. Yeah, right?

Sydnee: Yeah, in my field that's like, life or death. [laughs wryly]

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, I agree with that completely.

Raleigh: Um—

Sydnee: Um—

Raleigh: I just wanted to tell everyone that I found the theatre kid group at law school.

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: And we have our show tonight, it's the day of the show y'all. And the final number of the show, it's a sketch, like comedy and parody variety show so it's got like lots of little bits.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But the last number is a parody of the 4 Non Blondes song, "What's Goin' On" or "What's Up" or whatever it's called. You know the one.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And it's called "Forgive My Loans."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And I get to... I get to sing it and it's pretty good. So...

Sydnee: [laughing more] I'm very excited about the existence of this.

Taylor: Can we here just like a sample?

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: Just like maybe the chorus?

Rileigh: Well, I mean—

Taylor: I feel like I can guess it.

Rileigh: You do the... You do the "Hey, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah..." and then, "I said 'Hey! Forgive my loans!'" [dissolves into laughter]

Taylor: [laughing] Okay. I was anticipating that.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Sydnee: The rest of the lyrics are actually the same.

Taylor: Yeah, it's—

Sydnee: It's just the— [dissolves into laughter]

Rileigh: It's just the chorus over and over again. No one else knows the rest of that song anyway. Everyone else just... Everyone just knows the chorus, so...

Taylor: That's... great.

Sydnee: [still laughing]

Rileigh: No, there is more. Yeah.

Sydnee: Do you do any like, commentary pieces?

Rileigh: I mean they're all supposed to be funny, but like there's one called "Anti-female" that's a parody of "Antihero" but it's about the Dobbs case.

Sydnee: Oh! I like it.

Raleigh: There was a line in it that directly referenced Clarence Thomas, but he used to teach at my school so we had to get rid of it.

Sydnee: [outraged] So they censored you?

Raleigh: They censored us.

Taylor: Wow.

Raleigh: To be fair—

Sydnee: [shocked] Censored you...

Raleigh: ... it said, " While Clarence Thomas rots in H-E-double hockey sticks." [laughs] So, I think it's fair they did that. We make other jokes about him in the show, but not as... I don't want to say aggressive.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Not as aggressive, honestly. Yeah.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: [unconvinced] Mm.

Raleigh: So...

Sydnee: So are you gonna record like an uncensored version to share with people later?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm just gonna...

Sydnee: Here—

Raleigh: We have like a recorded version of the show and I'm just gonna do a little voiceover of just me saying, "Clarence Thomas" instead of whatever the line is.

Taylor: Commentary.

Sydnee: "Here's what they didn't want you to see!"

Taylor: "It's the Raleigh cut!"

All: [laugh]

Raleigh: "Unedited, unfiltered."

Sydnee: "It's five and a half hours long!"

All: [laugh]

Sydnee: Well, is the cast party going to be at Oliver's afterwards or...?

Taylor: Or Applebee's?

Raleigh: That's the thing about DC, man, is we... There are none of those big, huge, you know, chains. Like big ones for us to go.

Sydnee: [skeptically] Oh, oh.

Raleigh: Like big—

Taylor: They're there.

Raleigh: Like, big-sized.

Sydnee: Hold on. Hold on. Google—

Raleigh: Not down where we are.

Sydnee: [Googling] "Applebee's..."

Raleigh: I...

Sydnee: [Googling] "... in DC."

Taylor: I was... I'm sure they're there.

Raleigh: Not down—

Taylor: They're just all sequestered somewhere.

Raleigh: Yeah, not down where we are. A lot of those restaurants are over by like, Union Station or... Even up Capitol Hill.

Sydnee: I have so many Applebee's locations in Washington, DC right now.
[laughs]

Raleigh: Well...

Sydnee: Not so many.

Taylor: But not the world's largest Applebee's. That's in New York City, bay-bee.

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: No, one of our directors, who's—

Sydnee: I got... I got reviews. I don't know that they're great, but they exist.

Taylor: I wanna meet the kind of person that's like, "You know what I gotta write a review for? This... This Applebee's in Washington, DC." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [As Applebee's Reviewer] "The people need to know! People don't know what to expect when they walk into an Applebee's, so they gotta know. So I gotta tell `em."

Sydnee: Hey, Tey, may I... May I humbly suggest, and now everybody's gonna know about this, there is a group that I am a member of... 'Cause it's a local group, so not everyone may be interested, but it is called West Virginia Area Restaurant Reviews—

Taylor: [shudders audibly]

Sydnee: ... on Facebook. And it is people... I mean sometimes they're reviewing restaurants that are like, local to... And it's all of West Virginia, so it's not just our area.

But like, there are a lot of reviews of Taco Bell or an Arby's or an Applebee's or any other variety of fast food or sit down chain restaurants. And like, now I know that there are certain Taco Bells that are on point in this state and certain Taco Bells that, mmm, just aren't showing up, you know? Like, I know that now. [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean I think if you partake in Taco Bell in Huntington long enough there's only like three, in the actual city limits of Huntington, so you're going to have opinions once you've had from all three.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: I guess so...

Sydnee: Well, there's four now.

Raleigh: [surprised] Four?

Sydnee: [laughs] Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Wow. I've only been to—

Sydnee: There's the one down in the West End. There's the one... the new one in Kinetic Park.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: There's one on 5th Ave. And then there is the one out Route 60.

Raleigh: Do you know what I discovered—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: ... exists not far from where I live now?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: A Taco Bell cantina where I could go get—

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: Oh, yeah!

Raleigh: ... get liquor put in my Baja Blast. [laughs]

Taylor: Get Baja Blasted!

Sydnee: That's a new one at Kinetic Park, is a cantina.

Raleigh: No it's not.

Taylor: Those cantinas are fun.

Raleigh: No it's—

Sydnee: Yeah it is.

Raleigh: Syd, no.

Sydnee: It is! It says it on the sign.

Raleigh: I've been there.

Sydnee: But it says it's a cantina.

Raleigh: No it doesn't.

Taylor: Cantina in name only. Where's the booze?

Raleigh: They don't have booze. They're also not open like half the time. Dad has very strong opinions about that Taco Bell. [laughs]

Taylor: Is he... is he ghostwriting [laughing] some of these reviews?

Raleigh: [laughing] Probably.

Sydnee: He would.

Taylor: You know, I was going to say that is... I have heard so many like intense reviews about like an Arby's in Huntington from Dad. Like, "Let me tell you 'bout this Arby's and the service there."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, we got him turned on to that group. We were like, "Dad, you would love this group."

Raleigh: He would.

Sydnee: And he does. He loves reading those reviews in that group.

He should have put his Kentucky Fried Nothing review in there.

Raleigh: Oh man.

Taylor: [laughs] Burn.

Raleigh: That would've... that would've done so well in that group.

Sydnee: Long story short, Dad went to a KFC and they were out of some stuff. That was it. [laughs]

Raleigh: They were out of chicken. [laughs]

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: [still laughing] I don't think they were out of chicken.

Raleigh: They were out of all of like the—

Taylor: That's good—

Raleigh: ...non-tendered chicken.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: So like, all of the actual—

Taylor: And that is—

Raleigh: ... like, pieces... Yeah. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I was there and I was like nine and it was one of the most humiliating moments in my life. To watch my father say, "This isn't a Kentucky Fried Chicken. This is a Kentucky Fried Nothin'."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughing] I still have nightmares about it.

Sydnee: [still laughing]

Raleigh: He was a Karen before we knew what they were.

Taylor: Oh no...

Sydnee: What's a guy Karen, again?

Raleigh: We've talked about this.

Taylor: Is... Is it Kevin?

Sydnee: Kevin. That's what I've seen, Kevin.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I think it's Kevin.

Sydnee: Okay. Well that's not—

Raleigh: That's not what we're talking about.

Sydnee: We've spent too much time on Kentucky Fried Nothing.

Raleigh: No, we're talking about an album of music by an artist I like called Lizzy McAlpine and it's called *Five Seconds Flat*. This came out last year, came out in April, I believe, of 2022. Yeah. It's one of my personal favorites to listen to on a regular basis.

Sydnee: I liked it too. I... we listened to it as well, obviously.

I also checked out—I was reading about her and I checked out her Tik Tok.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Is that like... Did she start there?

Raleigh: You know, I think... I get her confused with a few others that I watch that also use TikTok to like promote...

I think that she started there by promoting her stuff that she had already like been writing. And like she already had been trying to be, you know, like a signed singer. I was trying to think of the best way to say that.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: So I think she used TikTok to promote it, if I'm remembering correctly. And—

Sydnee: I saw some song about how somebody made her hate her favorite band.

Rileigh: Yeah. That blew up as like her first super viral TikTok, from what I remember. 'Cause I remember seeing that and that drove me to go look at the rest of her music.

And that's where the phenomena -Phenomenon? Phenomenomenon? Of like people posting 30 second snippets of a song that they've written and then leaving that on TikTok and never like writing the rest of it or sharing the rest of it blew up. That was the first one I saw of that.

So like she wrote this, you know, minute long snippet of this song and posted it. And then once she released this album everyone was yelling, like, "You have to record this other one! You have to record "The 1975", 'cause that's what it's called.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And she... is not. Basically said like, "I write a ton of stuff. The ones that I decide to post just because it's what I happen to be working on are not the ones that I like the most or that I even still like.

"I just happen to put them on social media and now it's all people associate with me."

Sydnee: So... people post songs on TikTok that there really isn't any more too? That's a common thing?

Raleigh: Yeah. Like we'll say, "Here's a song I've written or like been working on." But obviously there's a time limit on TikTok and it wasn't until, not that long ago, that it was expanded to three minutes.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: It used to be like, a minute. So people would share like a minute of a song, or just even like a chorus, and then that blows up and it goes super viral and the song or the sound is used by a lot of people.

And there's like a push to release the whole thing. That happened with like... Do you remember—have you all heard the alphabet one?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: [singing] The, "A-B-C-D-E..."? Yeah, that middle part blew up and then it was like, "Okay, I'll write the rest of the song." No one knows the rest of the song. Like—

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: Everyone still just knows that chorus. [laughs]

Taylor: I feel like that's a lot of pressure 'cause I feel like I've seen that go sideways a few times, where you get like a trendy verse on TikTok and then when they finally release the whole song... I mean it seems to be a shared experience of like, "Oh, the rest of the song isn't that good."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs] Like...

Sydnee: Now, is the "A-B-C-D-E-F-U"...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Is that the same song as the other one, where they're like, "A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I love you so", that one?

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Or is that an answer song?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Or was that somebody stealing that and then making like a—

Raleigh: Yeah. That was someone stealing that and making it like a thing. Like, "Let me flip it."

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: You want to know the crazy—

Sydnee: 'Cause Charlie gets upset about the "F-U" one and is like, "No. Sing the 'I love you' one."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: But does Cooper like the "F-U" one?

Sydnee: Much more.

Taylor: I was gonna say, there's one for each of your children.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. The cra—

Sydnee: Yeah, none of that's hard enough for Cooper. [laughs]

Raleigh: The wildest part is the A-B-C-D-E-F-U girl, that's like... Before that, I mean she had been making TikToks and kind of like promoting her stuff but she really didn't have like a ton of followers.

And I'm pretty sure that was just last year that she put that out there and

that blew up. She is now going on tour with Taylor Swift as one of her openers.

Taylor: [impressed] Wow!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That worked out.

Sydnee: Really?

Raleigh: I know. I know. So there's the power of TikTok.

Sydnee: What's her name?

Raleigh: Gayle, like G-A-Y-L-E.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Wow.

Taylor: Is she just one name, Gayle?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's—

Raleigh: Just Gayle.

Taylor: [laughing] That was one of the... I mean one of the things about... about Lizzie, I keep... McAlpine. I keep... I was calling her Lizzie McGuire, I was like, "No that's not right."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] I know!

Taylor: "That's different." Like, "Lizzie McPoyle. No, that's *It's Always Sunny*." It's like what is... She does not have... I don't want to... Like, this is not a bad thing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, her name didn't have that sticky like, "This is a celebrity name"-ness to it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: This is just a person's name.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It's a good name there's nothing wrong with it, but...

Raleigh: It's also a name that I didn't realize I'd never said out loud before until telling you all to listen to it on the show last week. 'Cause I mean I've just like seen it on my phone.

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: And just talked about her music and usually say like "Lizzie" or like the name of the track or the name of the album. That was the first time I'd ever said her name. And then I realized that it has the same structure as your last name, Sydney.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But not pronounced the same. She is not "Mackalpine." [laughs]

Sydnee: What if she is "Mackalpine"?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughing] I feel like she's not.

Sydnee: Have you thought about that? Maybe it is "Mackalpine."

Raleigh: I don't—

Taylor: I like the idea that there's just many strains of "Mackals" out there.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: There's the "Mackalroys", and the "Mackalpines."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "Mackalmore."

Taylor: [laughs hard] Hey!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean... I think my last name, it was not mine first so I don't get to make this call, but I feel like it should be "Mick-elroy."

Raleigh: Yeah, you know—

Sydnee: It's not.

Raleigh: I never understood why—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it looks like that.

Raleigh: ... people think that right off the bat, but after looking at her last name and that's my immediate instinct is to say "Mick-alpine" that makes

sense to think you would then be "Mick-elroy."

Sydnee: Well, it's not "M-A-C" it's "M-C", so "Mick."

Raleigh: Mick.

Taylor: Well and that's... mean phonetically, from where the name comes from that would be the traditional pronunciation, right?

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, I would assume. I would assume. I mean there are "M-A-Cs." Like people who do the... But it's "M-A-C" before the whatever else.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I don't know, but I don't get to... I don't get to decide that.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: I don't think I get to like, get married, take the name and then change it. Like actually—

Taylor: [As Sydnee] "Now that I'm here..." [laughs]

Sydnee: Now that I'm here.

Raleigh: [As Sydnee] "This is how you say it."

Sydnee: I'm gonna remix this name. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, I will say I answer to either freely and I tend to not correct people. There are people like, in my professional life, who still call me, you know, "Mick-elroy" and I just...

Raleigh: Does... does Charlie... Does she...?

Sydnee: Uh...

Rileigh: I feel like she has strong feelings about how you say her name.
[laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. Charlie would correct people for sure.

Rileigh: Yeah. That makes sense.

Sydnee: Charlie would correct you even if she was wrong about something.

Rileigh: That's true.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: That's true. So yeah, Lizzy "Mackalpine", um...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: She... [laughs] I like her on TikTok. I like her album. The funniest part is that album came out a year ago, almost a year ago now, and just recently over the last like month or two one of the songs from it has blown up like exponentially as a TikTok sound and prompted her to make a music video for it just like two weeks ago.

Taylor: Is that "Ceilings"?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Rileigh: The chorus, like the...

'Cause that song has what a lot of people refer to as "the plot twist", because that song is all about like hanging out with someone and being in love and them driving you home and you know all that stuff.

But then at the end it's like, "Oh, but it's not real and you don't exist and you know I just think about these things and I don't remember the last time I was kissed and all that."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: So like that "plot twist," quote-unquote "moment" in the chorus has blown up as a TikTok sound.

Sydnee: Um, I don't know if I've heard that one as a TikTok sound. I was not familiar with any of this music. I was surprised. I had now... I mean even when I looked her up on TikTok, I had not seen those TikToks.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I don't know. I don't listen to a lot of music TikToks, so maybe that's why.

Raleigh: Yeah, the sound is sped up. Like the song is sped up in the sound, so I mean it's the same but it's like high speed. But she used the music video to hard launch her boyfriend. Do you know what a hard launch—?

Taylor: [laughs] I saw that.

Raleigh: Do you know what a hard launch is, Syd? 'Cause you look like you don't.

Sydnee: No...

Raleigh: It's like...

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like, okay, so like if you—

Taylor: Wait, what do you think it is?

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah!

Taylor: [laughs] Just extrapolate.

Sydnee: I mean, it sounds like... Is she helping his career?

Taylor: Hmm. I don't think it does.

Raleigh: I mean... Well, I guess, yeah, if he had a career that would be furthered by being on the Internet with someone who's popular, yeah.

No. It's like if you start dating someone and if you do a soft launch it's like maybe you like, post a picture of you holding hands with someone, but you don't like show their face. Like, you don't tag someone.

But like it's a picture that suggests you're in a relationship, but without saying who.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But if you hard launch it's just like, out of nowhere on your social media, like "Boom. Here's me with another person I'm tagging. This is who I'm dating."

Sydnee: I mean is he somebody... Like, is he somebody who also has notoriety? Like that it would be like...?

Taylor: No, 'cause reg—

Raleigh: No, regular people do it too.

Taylor: Yeah. Just like letting social media know you have a partner.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Okay...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Wha—

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: I don't... Okay. I understand the idea of like, becoming social media official.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like putting it out there for people to see. I understand why that would exist.

I think what I'm struggling with is the idea that you would need the soft launch because... I... Oh... Any way I say this is going to sound mean. Why... Why would the assumption be that everyone else is that...?

Taylor: [laughs] Why would they care?

Raleigh: Why everyone cares.

Sydnee: ... concerned. Why—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean like that you would need to soft lau- You know what I'm saying?

Taylor: Oh, Syd...

Sydnee: Like the buildup. Like wha—I mean...

Taylor: Because in our horrific capitalist endgame that we live in, everybody's a brand and so it's like, "How is this going to play out in my metrics? I'm gonna tease the idea that I have a partner.

"Ooh, maybe that's not gonna play so well. Alright, I don't have to commit to it 'cause I just did a soft launch."

A hard launch is committing to the bit.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "Nope, I'm incorporating this other person with my brand identity. I have partner."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's what it is.

Raleigh: That's exactly it.

Sydnee: But if... But if you don't have a... brand...

Raleigh: Everyone does.

Sydnee: We don't—

Taylor: Everybody does.

Raleigh: Everyone's a brand.

Sydnee: [sadly] No....

Taylor: Everyone's a brand.

Raleigh: Sydnee, you're a brand.

Sydnee: [sadly] No...

Taylor: Yes, everyone's a brand.

Sydnee: [sadly] No...

Raleigh: Sydnee, you are quite literally a brand.

Taylor: Well, I think young people that grew up with—

Sydnee: I mean, but I do—

Taylor: ... with an awareness of social media presence have that kind of outlook on it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like it is an identity that affects me that I have to have—

Raleigh: Even if—

Taylor: ... corporate control over. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Really?

Raleigh: Even if it's not like a marketable...

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, trying to make money off of it or make it your career brand. Like I have a soc- Like I have an Internet brand.

Like I have a way that I curate the things that I present about myself online that tells a specific story about me that maybe isn't necessarily like, all of me, when you meet me in person.

Sydnee: I mean... I—

Raleigh: It's not fake. It's just not everything.

Sydnee: Sure. And that idea is not like... I'm not... I mean, I'm not naive.

Like I know that that is a... We've all done that our whole lives.

Like even pre-Internet like you present the version of yourself to other people, whether it's in person or on the phone or on the Internet, whatever, that you want other people to see.

You try to put the best parts of yourself or the things you are most proud of or like the most out there first and then draw them in before you show them all the wack stuff that you're trying to hide from them. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, I mean, right? [laughing] Like that's how all relationships are kind of formed. Like you hook 'em, so that once they get to the like, "Oh, you like that?!" like it's too late. They like you.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Is that what I'm doing wrong? 'Cause I usually lead with the wack stuff, 'cause I don't wanna like...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ... I dunno, trap anybody.

Sydnee: I mean, I don't know. Like, it's normal... I think it is very normal to like... There are certainly arenas where I walk in the room and I think like, "Well I'm gonna be... Like, I'm going to be Dr. Sydnee in this room. That's who I'm gonna to be.

"And I will be my doctor self and I won't... I won't use profanity in this room. And you know, I'll chuckle politely at things." I don't... I don't know! [laughs]

Raleigh: Doctors don't curse and they chuckle?

Sydnee: You know what I mean!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like I think we've all done that.

I think what's interesting to me is the idea of codifying that into the concept of a brand.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well I mean it's like a curated self.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Is what you're putting on the Internet. It's not... I think what you're talking about is more like having restraint when like... in proper situations you know [crosstalk]

Raleigh: Reading the room.

Taylor: ... and stuff like that.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You're not necessarily curating an identity that you would like to be perceived as.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Whereas the separation on the Internet kind of allows that. And I guess that's... a curated identity is kind of a brand.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Sydnee: That's so... I mean, I recognize... Again, I recognize that we do podcasts and obviously we talk about certain things and we have certain

per—this is not a personality, like this is just me.

But like it is... I don't know. I mean, I understand all that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And so I understand like the things I talk about on the Internet and the things I talk about in public fit with all of the other ideas and thoughts I've put forth in my various media outlets. So I get all that.

But in my personal life, I don't know. It's harder for me to like, on my Facebook, which is just my people I actually know, you know? Like in real life. Like actual family and friends.

I don't... It's just stuff. You know what I mean? I don't think about it.

Raleigh: Well, now Syd, I don't include Facebook in the list of social medias where people start to curate their brand because that's not necessarily a popular tool among the youths. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't... Well, where do you go then? Like I—

Raleigh: Instagram, TikTok, not even really Twitter anymore, you know?

Sydnee: Well, Twitter's bust.

Taylor: What... Did Snapchat like hit and fade, 'cause I feel like I don't hear about that as much now that Twitter's here... Or Tik Tok.

Raleigh: Yeah, I mean it's like... I feel like people still use it to communicate.

Like it's become a go-to for me and some of my friends to have like a group message via Snapchat because not everyone has like an iPhone so you can make a little Snapchat group message and that works.

But in terms of like content and stuff I feel like that it's rapidly become less popular with TikTok. It's just a lot of like sharing TikToks, honestly.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it's too visual. I don't... See, that's the problem.

Raleigh: It's a thing. Everything's visual. Like people don't—

Sydnee: I miss—

Raleigh: When you're scrolling, no one wants to stop and read. We are simple creatures.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm just being honest, I don't wanna stop and read.

Taylor: That's true.

Raleigh: I like the pretty pictures.

Sydnee: I feel obsolete in that realm though. Because I don't want to share images. I want... I mean like—

Raleigh: Well that's not how you—

Sydnee: I want to share like—

Raleigh: ... social media, and that's okay.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, but I mean... But I think the problem is like there's no relevancy for that in the current social media landscape.

Because I think sometimes like, "Oh I have a thought or an idea about this that I think would be helpful for people."

Like, "I have knowledge about this. We're talking about a public health thing or whatever," like this is something I could share with people that would be maybe useful.

And like, Twitter's a mess. Nobody's on Facebook. I have to put my face on TikTok!

Raleigh: Here's exactly—

Sydnee: I have to put my whole face there!

Raleigh: This is exactly what you do, Syd.

You will become so popular for this, you'll be the only person on the Internet doing this. You make an Instagram and a TikTok just for you to write Facebook posts like about these things you want to talk about.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: You write them and you screenshot them and you post pictures of them on Instagram or you just like, put the screenshots in the little like green screen video on TikTok and that's it. [laughs]

Sydnee: People do that.

Raleigh: I know.

Taylor: Yeah, they do.

Sydnee: I have seen these.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I have seen TikToks of tweets.

Raleigh: There you go. That's your... That's your brand. The one who writes Facebook posts and posts them on other social medias. [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm almost 40, if this is the direction we're going I'm going to have to cave and get Botox, I think.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: If you want to. I mean [crosstalk]

Raleigh: TikTok has enough filters.

Sydnee: I don't really want to.

Raleigh: Like no one ever looks like themselves.

Taylor: No, it is... There's like one that just automatically comes on, so you don't even have to have the guilt of, "Should have put a filter on?"

They're like, "Here, how about this? You want this? You gotta go out of your way to turn it off. How about you just leave it on?"

Sydnee: That's presumptive, TikTok.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, and it's called the "beauty filter."

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: [disappointed] Oh...

Raleigh: Like, sorry? All you've done is make my face a little bit blurrier.

Taylor: Yeah, it's just like—

Sydnee: Is that- [laughs]

Raleigh: That's really it. It just like smooths it out.

Sydnee: Now I'm worried. Like is it... it's automatically on?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Have I posted TikToks with this filter on and didn't know?

Taylor and Raleigh: Probably.

Sydnee: Oh... Now I'm questioning everything I think about myself.

Raleigh: I mean it doesn't make you look very different. It's like a like an auto-enhance, kind of like smooths out your skin, brightens your like undereyes, whitens your teeth kind of thing.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, I think that's it.

Taylor: It's just sort of a soft focus.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [reluctantly] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like to give... Yeah.

Raleigh: It doesn't make you look like a different person. Some of them do.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: That one does not.

Sydnee: Yeah, I see everybody's doing that new teen one.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That shows your teen self.

Raleigh: I did that and it makes me look like a literal baby.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Well you... You still look like a teen.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Kinda are.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I know you're not, but you kinda are.

Raleigh: I'm basically. I'm in my teens of my 20s.

Sydnee: More or less.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um, anyways...

Sydnee: Well, now I understand social media again.

Raleigh: [laughs] I'm glad that we've had this conversation again.

Sydnee and Taylor: [laugh]

Raleigh: We've only done like 360 sub-episodes of this podcast.

Taylor: But for now we just have to update you on, you know, like... ideas.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I mean... I really... I knew I was going to be lost at sea once Twitter went away. I knew that like... Well, not that it went away. You know what I mean.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like it's useless now. But once that happened I knew I was just going to be like, "No, I don't know what to do." [laughs]

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Well, anyway. Music.

Taylor: Lizzie.

Raleigh: Music. Lizzie.

Taylor: 'Ol Lizzie.

Raleigh: Lizzie "Mackalpine." I will share that I like this album.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I said it. Um—

Taylor: It would be weird if you didn't and did a whole episode on it.

Raleigh: Actually, here's an album I'm gonna make you all listen to that I really hate.

Taylor: [as Raleigh] I hate it!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That'd be a twist.

Raleigh: No, no.

Sydnee: Yeah I liked several songs. It reminded me a little of Dar Williams.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Gave me some Dar Williams vibes.

Taylor: I could see that, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's what I was going to ask you all, if there was any other references from previous eras that it... that you thought of. I feel like everything kind of sounds like a reference to something in some way at this point.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um...

Sydnee: Well, I mean there's definitely that sort of like sad indie girl kind of vibe that the '90s helped us give birth to. It was pop-ier back then for the most part, but we were headed in this direction.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well and some of the slower songs also reminded me of that other—who did...? Olivia Rodrigo?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That you had us listen to?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I could see why you like both of them.

Rileigh: Yeah. It is very much like... 'Cause Olivia Rodrigo also has a lot of that very pop-y stuff, like heavily pop.

But if you like took the more acoustic slower stuff out of that album that she made and made it like its own thing I feel like you're right, yeah. This would be... it would be this.

Sydnee: Is she young?

Rileigh: Yes. I wanna say she's only a couple years older than me.

Taylor: Hm.

Sydnee: Yeah. I always enjoy that. I like list- I like to look back at the lyrics and think about like... Obviously, it's not where I am in my journey on earth at this moment. I'm much older.

But I remember feeling that way. I like reading lyrics written by younger people who are still having those thoughts and feelings that like, "I remember that." Or, "I miss those days." [laughs]

Rileigh: She is 23.

Taylor: Okay.

Rileigh: So basically my age. Also, apparently her full name is Elizabeth. I guess that makes sense, but she did try to condense her name to be a stage name. Just not the... not the last name.

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: I don't—

Taylor: Go ahead.

Sydnee: I don't know. I mean I think there is a bravery in sticking with your given name, but I also... It's tricky because there are so many... I feel like there are so many artists competing now with things like TikTok that can...

You can like immediately gain an audience if you're good enough. There's so many people out there, the need to have a name that is instantly memorable... I don't know. Maybe that has become more pressing.

I don't know.

Raleigh: That's the interesting thing about TikTok though, is if that's where you start—and I could be wrong, but I'm pretty sure that she was already writing music and trying to make that a career and then TikTok kind of helped her like blow up and gain notoriety.

If you use TikTok in that way, like you have a username that's usually not just your full name. So people come to recognize like your little tag there at the bottom of your videos with your username in it and that's what they see.

And then when you have to translate that to like an artist name, it's like, "Oh do I just... Do I use my username? No that'd be kind of weird.

"Do I extrapolate? Do I use my full name? Do I come up with something different?"

Sydney: Mm.

Raleigh: I think in this case it's like, "Well what's going to be most recognizable to people that looks most similar to what they're used to seeing?" It's your full name.

Taylor: Yep.

Raleigh: Um—

Sydney: Hmm.

Raleigh: I think on this one I do have a favorite that I think I listen to on a daily basis and there's something about it that I think causes some sort of chemical response in my brain—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: ... to just like, immediately be happy.

And that's "orange show speedway" the very last one on the album.

Taylor: Yeah, okay.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Something about like the... even though it's not necessarily like the happiest lyrically, like none of them are really happy lyrically.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And this one isn't. But it's just something about the guitar and the tempo and the chorus that I just... I can't stop listening to it once I turn it on.

It's like I've gotta listen to it four times in a row if I listen to it once.

Taylor: It's interesting 'cause you said none of them are really happy ones.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: 'Cause sometimes I mean... You know like with Olivia Rodrigo the songs are very separate. Like, "Here is kind of a pop-punk song."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "Here is a very poppy song. Here is a sad song." And you know, "This song is about this relationship. This song's about whatever... like school. This song is about friends."

All of these songs... And I don't know 'cause I listened to the album several times, and like it's- I enjoyed all of it, it's lovely- but all of them seemed to sort of circle around loss and there's a lot of references to ghosts.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And sort of like, you know, missed opportunities people that... I know that there are specific subjects in some of these songs.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like I was really touched by, what was it? "Chemtrails"?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: The song that's devoted to her father.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: About her dad, yeah.

Taylor: But it is that sort of like, a meditation on... Every song feels like the same meditation on themes.

Raleigh: Yes. I think that's very right, yeah.

Sydnee: I think that's true. I found that. I found that to be true, too. Not just listening through them but then like reading back through some of the lyrics.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I will say that I liked "orange show" that was what I was going to say was my favorite.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: I don't know why, there's just something about it. I just... like it a

lot. I mean I like the lyrics too. Um, but... yeah. I like the- I mean—

Taylor: I like the opener a lot. I like "Doomsday."

Raleigh: "Doomsday"? That is my second favorite. I love that one.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: A lot of people... And I'm interested to know what you all think because you all were theatre people as well. A lot of people say that she writes like someone trying to write pop music for theatre kids.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like a lot of her songs tell a story almost.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: It's not just like chorus-verse-chorus-verse-bridge-ending.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like there's some sort of evolution in the story or like break from the pattern of the song and then you know a plot twist or something.

Like in "ceilings" when that happens. Like in "doomsday" when it's all kind of pretty like low and somber and then you have that little break in that bridge it's like, "I would have married you if you'd stuck around."

And then it goes back into where it was. And I hadn't really thought about it that way but I can see why people would think that.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. I can see that. I can see that, too, from just reading them.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah, I can see that corollary where you're telling the story and so

that will...

And that's risky too, because like the magic of a pop song, sort of the reason it gets stuck in your head, is the return to form, usually.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Is that repetitiveness. And if you choose to abandon that there's a lot of risk in that because it's not... it's not going to have that catchiness from one listen, you know?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's what surprised me when you told me that this was a TikTok musician. Because- And now like I've heard the "ceiling" clip that's sped up. I get why that catches on.

But like she doesn't have that... It's not a bad thing, most of the musicians I like also are like this where there isn't a catchiness to it. Like I didn't get a lyric stuck in my head from this. I got feelings and ideas stuck in my head.

Rileigh: Yeah. I think that's—

Sydnee: Well—

Rileigh: ... what... Oh, go ahead.

Sydnee: Well, I was just saying more of like an Ani DiFranco kind of...

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah. Vibe. Like—

Taylor: Like kind of meandering. Like yeah, I...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm

Taylor: It's not coming back on itself.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I think that's what I like about her stuff, coming from TikTok, more than a lot of songs you hear get popular on TikTok and then become full songs that are released.

Is a lot of people write these catchy choruses that blow up and then everything else around it is just kind of a repetition of what you've heard on TikTok because they want to emulate what was popular.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: So they just like extend 45 seconds of what's popular into a minute and a half of what's popular.

And I think that she obviously has some of those sections that are popular on TikTok or like that she started in a video and then expanded into the songs.

But she doesn't just repeat the parts of it that are popular. I mean even "ceilings" like that part of it that is sped up that's super popular now, that's not like the entire song.

Like it's not just like that repeated is what you get if you go and listen to like the full three minutes instead of just listening to the TikTok clip.

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Which probably distinguishes people who started on TikTok and

people who have been utilizing TikTok, you know?

Raleigh: I think you're right, that's the difference. That was—that's a better way to put it than what I was trying to say. She utilized it but that is not like how she started first sharing her music with other people.

Sydnee: It doesn't give me the same vibe as like the "Victoria's Secret" song.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which is played in our house a lot. There's no shade on that song. Like it is played in this house, I would say daily, if not more.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: Multiple times every day. And now also when we go to the mall, Charlie—

Raleigh: And you pass Victoria's Secret.

Sydnee: ... every time we walked by Victoria's Secret, she's like, "Don't go in there. Don't ever go in there."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: There's a whole generation of young people who hate Victor—they've never set foot in Victoria's Secret but they hate it.

Raleigh: It's not a bad thing.

Taylor: I wonder... Is like the way that, I don't know, I hope it doesn't have like a bad effect on songwriting that it's like, "You just have to write 60 seconds of something catchy and then when it's wildly popular you just gotta tack on like a minute before and after and there you go." Like...

Rileigh: This... Yeah that is what I was gonna say.

Taylor: I dunno.

Rileigh: I fear it is expanding into the realm of people who are already popular musical artists.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: That now are trying to like, stay relevant. Specifically, which—I like this song and I think it's a good song and I think it's a very catchy—

Taylor: I wonder if you're going to say the exact same one I'm thinking of.

Rileigh: I was going to say “Unholy.”

Taylor: Yes!

Rileigh: Yeah. By Sam Smith and Kim Petras. Which, again like—

Sydnee: I like that song though. [laughs]

Rileigh: ... it won a Grammy. It's very catchy, that chorus gets stuck in your head for days when you listen to it. But it's one that like, that 30 second chorus of Sam Smith singing, “Mommy don't know daddy's getting...”

Like that blew up so much on the Internet. And everyone was so excited for the full song to drop, like, “This is going to be so great.” And the full song drops and everyone's just like, “Oh... the... just the catchy...”

Taylor: Just waiting for you to sing that part that I like.

Rileigh: Yeah, like no one takes the time to memorize the rest of it. When they go see the performance it's like, “I can sing along to this part.”

Taylor: It's like the redux of, I don't know, I remember when like a radio song would hit and then you'd get the full album 'cause that's how to buy the song.

And it's like, "I mean, these other songs are cool but I really just want to go to the song that I know."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like it took a while to come back around like and get into the rest of it. And sometimes you didn't.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Sometimes it was like, "I don't actually like the rest of this album. I just like this one song."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Which was a shame 'cause back then you had to just commit.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You had to go buy the whole physical thing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And except that like, "Well, I'm just going to be skipping to this track every time." Imagine when that was on a tape.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [giggles]

Raleigh: I was going to say I feel like that still could happen now.

Sydnee: Fast forward, rewind. Fast forward, rewind.

Raleigh: Yeah. Of people releasing singles and you liking a single and then the album comes out and you don't really like the rest of the album.

But the benefit of streaming is that you don't necessarily have to buy an entire album. You can spend money on a song.

And you don't have to rewind or skip through you can just tap your little box and there you go. Little phone box.

Sydnee: That's tricky. That's gotta be such a rough game to play though because then you do have artists who are creating whole albums that tell whole stories that are fantastic and you really do want to listen to the whole thing as a composition.

But TikTok is such a useful way to promote stuff.

Rileigh: I wonder if that's why this album is very much like, I don't want to say they all sound the same, but they all sound very similar. There isn't a ton of like—

Some are. I mean some like "orange show speedway" and "all my ghosts" those are a little bit more upbeat in terms of like tempo and less acoustic.

But I wonder if that's why they're all very similar is because people don't usually sit down and listen to a full album now.

But at least if you happen to stumble upon the full album version of like, you like "ceilings" and you find the full album there's like a 90% chance that the song you happen to play next from that album is going to be decently similar.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And then maybe you keep listening 'cause they're all like what you're used to and what you're expecting.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Yeah. I can see that. No, it is. It's a vibe.

Raleigh: It's a vibe.

Sydnee: It's definitely... yeah. I used that right!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah I tried to... I tried to first put it on when I was going for a run and I'm like, "No."

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: "I'm going to just sit down in the grass and like weep softly if I try to do this." Then I like— [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ... put it on while I was just chilling in my house, I'm like, "Now this is good chilling in my house music."

Raleigh: It is, yeah. I can even turn it on when I study and usually I can't listen to anything with words when I'm studying, but this is like, it flows enough it's... It's enough of a vibe, that I can turn it on in the background.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. No, and I always think, like I was referencing, I always think it's kind of nice like... At 23, I guarantee you haven't made such huge mistakes that you have to feel all that regret. [laughs]

I guarantee that you don't have to worry about missed opportunities, you're going to have so many more. But I also... I am not so old that I... I do remember that feeling.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I do remember that sensation that like, "I'll never have a chance to..." whatever. Right this wrong or make up for that or get that back and it's like, "Oh. I know. I remember that."

Taylor: It's like the sweet spot for feeling things 'cause you're so young that like, you know... You're... You haven't... I don't know what.

You haven't been deadened to life [laughs] quite as intensely.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: So like you can... But you're also experiencing significant emotional events.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: So you can talk about them in this really beautiful way and then you know when you get older it's like you've gone through all sorts of stuff that would be great content, but you're just also to the point where you're like, "Oh, that happened? Well that sucks."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: "Okay."

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, no, and it's that... You do not experience like regret and missed opportunities the same sort of bittersweet way [laughs] when you're looking at 40. It's just bitter. [laughs]

Taylor: Well... Well, I mean it's good and bad 'cause it's like, you know, when you go through your first big break-up, your first big loss, it's like, "How does anyone recover from this?"

And anyone you've recovered from it like three or four times it just can't... it can't...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know it can't hurt you that much 'cause you know there's a way out of it. Which does take something away from it, you know?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like there is some sadness to thinking like, "I can get over anything, probably."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like... but it's also strength, so I don't know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's why I like the—

Taylor: We have young people to make us feel.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, the young angsty people music like a Olivia Rodrigo and Lizzie "Mackalpine" I like it. It—

Taylor: Oh, that's what a feeling was like. Thank you.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They're still in it.

Raleigh: It's very... Very feeling. Well, thank you all—

Taylor: Raleigh, you should still be having feelings. You're still of a feeling age.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Well—

Sydnee: Yeah, you're younger than her.

Raleigh: I'm... Yeah, well, barely. But like I'm of the small niche of people that's in professional school while also still very young. So it's kind of just deadened me to anything outside of professional school.

Taylor: [laughs] As a lawyer—

Raleigh: So I feel very strongly about law school.

Sydnee: I don't—

Raleigh: I have very strong emotions about how I feel about my life at its current state and how much time I spend not doing things that cause me to feel feelings.

But I don't have the time—

Sydnee: [laughing] Raleigh really just said, "I don't feel things. I'm a lawyer."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: You know... you know what? I stand by that. I could talk about that for an hour. We have to sit here and read all these casebooks of like the worst days of peoples' lives and then just like talk about 'em in class.

Just like, "Tell me what happened in two sentences."
"All right. Now what did Antonin Scalia say about it?"

Like... [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, you know... Like between like the medical field, the study of

law, and restaurant work [laughs], it's a—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: It's a hard road for feelings in this family. [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh man... You're... not wrong. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Well thank you all for listening to this. This is um... This is one of my favorite albums of recent times, of all like... Of all times [crosstalk]

Sydnee: Well, thank you. It was—

Taylor: It was lovely.

Sydnee: It was... I liked it.

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: I listened to it a couple times through, it was good.

Raleigh: Well good, thank you.

Taylor: Thank you.

Raleigh: Um, Syd, what's next?

Sydnee: Um, well it's musically adjacent, but it's a movie. I want us to watch *That Thing You Do*.

Raleigh: Alright.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Now, they used to show it on TBS like every other day, but I don't know if anybody watches TBS anymore.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Probably the same people that could read your Facebook updates.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh my god.

Alright, so that's next week.

Raleigh: Well, I'm excited. You all showed me *That Thing You Do* once at the beach, probably over a decade ago, and I haven't watched it since so...

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Oh, it's so good!

Raleigh: Now I gotta watch it again.

Sydnee: [disappointed] Ohh... Alright, well that's next week. Thank you again Raleigh. You guys should check out Lizzie McAlpine, probably not "Mackalpine" but—

Raleigh: No, I just... Now I'm saying "Mackalpine" because it's just...

Sydnee: We don't know.

Raleigh: I don't know.

Taylor: I like "Mackalpine."

Raleigh: It comes—

Sydnee: "Mackalpine" is fine.

Taylor: That sounds like a little woodsy creature.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, I don't know, something mythical.

Sydnee: Ooh, it's a Mackalpine!

Taylor: Yeah. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: It's a Mackalpine!

Sydnee: [laughing] I'm thinking of getting a pet Mackalpine.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But thank you all. You should all go to maximumfun.org and check out a lot of other great shows you would enjoy.

You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering.

Sydnee and Teylor: [sort of in unison] And I... am... too.

[theme song plays]

Sydnee: Cats were over here hugging.

Teylor: Ohh!

Sydnee: Stretched out next to each other and they sort of intertwined a little.

Teylor: Aww!

Sydnee: They actually hugged. And then Amelia got mad and left.

Raleigh: [laughs] It's like Charlie and Cooper.

Sydnee: Yeah.

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