

Still Buffering 358 Letters to Cleo

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[Intro, theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Did... Did either of you... uh... find yourself obsessively looking for pictures of people from the Met Gala earlier this week? [laughs]

Taylor: I was... I was following a TikTok who was livestreaming it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It was a lot of fun for me.

Sydnee: TikTok showed me some looks. And then I just had to know more. I don't really—Like, that's not usually my interest, right? Like that's not usually something that I care about.

But then I found myself like, "Well, I must know what everyone wore to the Met Gala."

I have no understanding of the reference. I know the name Karl Lagerfeld... field. I know that that's a person who did clothing stuff. So like, I under—but as far as like what that means in terms of theme or what things should look like, I have no reference for any of that. So I don't know why I was interested in it. But I was, like, obsessively looking for outfits.

Raleigh: Well, what'd you—

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: What'd you think?

Sydnee: Uh... I don't... I mean... Okay, can I preface this with like... I... I, um...like to wear... cargo pants and tank tops?

Taylor: You know, he famously said that sweatpants are a sign that you've given up.

Sydnee: Well... and I like sweatpants. [laughs]

Taylor: You do. I disagree with that man on many statements. That's one of them.

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: I... There seemed to be a lot of black and white and I like that. I don't—Well, I don't wear a lot of white because I have small children who spill things.

But I like black a lot. I wear a lot of black. So I don't know. I mean... So, I'm prefacing with this. So like, I don't know anything about the world of fashion. Like I don't know... you know?

Taylor: That's okay.

Sydnee: I know what I—I'm just... I'm just trying to make it clear I'm not an expert here. I follow—

Taylor: I don't think anyone assumed [laughing] you were.

Sydnee: [laughing] I just... I don't want it to sound like, "Well, Sydnee's an idiot. Why would she ever think that?" I mean, obviously I have no idea what I'm talking about.

Taylor: [fancy voice] "An eye on fashion with Sydnee."

Sydnee: [laughs] I thought many people look nice because they're like, beautiful, famous people who generally always look nice, right? Like, I don't

know. Like, do they look fabulous? Like, yeah, a lot of those people always kind of look fabulous. I thought that it was strange... There seemed to be a cat thing. Part of it was a cat thing and so—

Raleigh: He has a cat.

Taylor: Yeah. He has a cat. Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. Has a cat.

Sydnee: He—So that was part of it, was cats. And Jared Leto was dressed as one.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: And so was Doja Cat.

Taylor: As was Doja Cat, yeah.

Sydnee: But Doja Cat seemed to do it in a fashion way. Jared Leto did it in a literal... Like he dressed as a... He was in a cat suit.

Taylor: Yeah. I like—

Sydnee: Like a giant, oversized catsuit.

Taylor: I will... I... My personal preference would have been on Doja Cat's cat. Because I also like that she committed to the bit and only answered interview questions with little meows. [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh yeah? I didn't see that.

Raleigh: That was so good.

Sydnee: That's pretty funny.

Taylor: She's also just in the background of lots of people, other people's interviews, just vaping in the background. And however you feel about vaping, I feel like that's a very cat thing to do.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Now I... Man, I blame TikTok for any of... anything I know related to this. I was under the impression that the Kardashians had been uninvited, but then I saw them.

Taylor: Yeah, they were there.

Raleigh: I feel like it—[crosstalk]

Taylor: I guess 'cause the one ruined Marilyn Monroe's dress.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That is... was my understanding, is that I believe Kim wore Marilyn Monroe's dress last year and that it like somehow messed it up.

Raleigh: Yeah. I just wish... It was making me wish that Doja Cat had been there and been invited the year that they did camp.

Because they did camp and about 90% of the looks there were not camp, they were just like, "Oh, it's a pretty outfit." Or like, "That's a silly outfit."

Taylor: I—

Raleigh: It was not camp, and Doja Cat wearing that and committing to the bit by just saying, "Meow", that was camp. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. See, I think camp ultimately worked off because everybody did it so poorly that the whole thing—

Raleigh: That's true. [laughs]

Taylor:... as a unified movement was camp. 'Cause it was bad. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I don't know how to—I mean I think it's... I can understand... I am... I am advanced enough to understand the idea that like pieces of clothing can be works of art. I understand that.

And like looking at some of the construction and the color and the—all that—like I get it. Like “Oh, that's beautiful. That's a beautiful thing that someone created.” I understand all that.

I think what's hard is that as you're watching it—which like generally I don't ever look at this, but I don't know why this year it just fell into my algorithm and I couldn't stop—it has a vibe of, like *The Hunger Games*, the Capital.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then, because part of that, in *The Hunger Games* is that people have done, like, not just... it's not just about your clothes and your makeup and your hair and your jewelry, they've done like body modification to look more extreme in certain ways.

When Doja Cat came out looking like a cat, it felt like, “Oh, okay. So it is *Hunger Games*, the Capital.”

Raleigh: Yeah...

Sydnee: [laughing] Like, it's literally that's where we are. And then I don't know how to feel 'cause I'm like, “Your outfits are beautiful, but isn't this a problem?”

Taylor: I mean, it is... It's a nice... Like if you can just like forget—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ... the entire world and be like, "Look at the pretty people in pretty clothes", then it's nice. If you think too hard about it, then it... I was... I... I liked Bella Ramsey. I liked her Tom Ford suit.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: The pearl-studded... That whole look was awesome. I liked Pedro Pascal.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Pedro Pascal looked awesome.

Taylor: His... his little devil look. I'm going to be cribbing that style all summer long.

Sydnee: Um—

Raleigh: I liked that Phoebe Bridgers got invited to her first Met Gala and said "I'm just keeping my aesthetic" and just went with skeleton chic again.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I—

Raleigh: Just black dress with little pearls.

Sydnee: What's her name? Wednesday.

Raleigh: Jenna Ortega

Taylor: Oh yeah! Oh...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, she looked great.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She looked fantastic. Yeah, like I mean... And I can appreciate that. Like I know a ton of... I don't know how to make clothing, but I know enough people who do that I understand the time, the effort, the artistry, the skill that goes into creating these things.

I certainly couldn't do it, so I am not in any way shading that aspect of it. I think it's—

Raleigh: I just like pretending like I know enough to criticize or critique, because I mean, these people are all so wealthy—

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: ... and have the most expensive everything, that it doesn't matter if I say I don't like their outfit. But I like at least pretending like I know enough about fashion that I'm like, "Mm. I don't know if that's the right style for them. I don't know if that fits the theme."

I don't know anything. I just—

Taylor: But that's the—

Sydnee: I have no idea.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: ... like being mean. [laughs]

Taylor: It's the... it's the one... the one element of control.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like these people are infinitely more wealthy than we will ever be. And the world is dying. But you know what? I can make fun of your silly dress, haha!

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: Hey, what's the connection... Do you all know... So Chloe Feynman was there and like was hosting or something or...?

Raleigh: They have a lot of different people that—

Sydnee: ... interviewing?

Raleigh: ... like different individual news outlets or magazines will have celebrities host for them on the red carpet. And like they walk the red carpet. But then they stand there with microphones and interview people.

Sydnee: Well, and I—

Raleigh: So she was doing that for someone.

Sydnee: But she—Well, she'd been there last year too.

Raleigh: Oh. Well, maybe she does that.

Sydnee: So I was curious because she's like an *SNL* person. It seemed like a weird intersection.

Raleigh: Did you—

Sydnee: Like an *SNL* person at the Met Gala. You know what I mean? Like it...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: *SNL* feels like that's the place where you make fun of the Met Gala. You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Did you know she's also a Scientologist?

Taylor: Oh, no.

Sydnee: Oh... no.

Raleigh: Because I didn't until TikTok told me that and I... that blew my mind.

Sydnee: Now—

Raleigh: Maybe that's why—

Sydnee: How do you—

Raleigh: Maybe that's why she's there. [laughs]

Sydnee: How do you have the connections to get to... Now, now see? Now... [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, there was like a video that I specifically got fed that was like, "Cult members at the Met Gala!"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I was, like oh yeah, this is right up my alley!" [laughs]

Sydnee: I saw that! [laughs]

Raleigh: Just what I want.

Taylor: This is—

Sydnee: [still laughing] Why does—

Taylor: ... just my kinda spice.

Sydnee: [laughing] Sometimes your algorithm shows you something and you're like, "Oh no! That is me! Ugh!"

Taylor: Yeah. Yep.

Raleigh: I fell down a deep hole because all I get now are videos about Elizabeth Moss.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Oh, god.

Raleigh: And like I didn't know there was like levels and advancement and like ascension...

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: I don't know. But I didn't know that was a thing, but I guess she's doing all of this now.

And like, even though she was born into Scientology, now she's like doing it like hardcore. I don't know what that means, but it's all I can watch videos about now.

I don't even understand it, but it's just my entire "For You" page.

Sydnee: You uh... We did a, on my other podcast, we did an episode on the Purification Rundown once. Which is a Scientology—Anyway. You should check... It... it's weird.

Raleigh: They're everywhere. You don't know it. They're everywhere.

Sydnee: That's what makes me uncomfortable.

Taylor: Is that what happens, when you just have too much time and money in your life? You're like, "I guess I gotta get into a cult."

Sydnee: I don't... I don't... I mean, I—Listen, and I think I've said this on the show before. Justin and I like to watch cult shows. Like we've always— Those are the documentaries we do.

I've never been into murder shows very much, but I do enjoy cult shows. But we have both talked about like how... I can get—I'm not saying we're planning on this—

Taylor: [laughs] Well—

Sydnee: But I get, in the early days of some of these cults, especially some of the old ones when it's like, "Listen, we're just all about love and listening to chill music and dancing around. And maybe some orgies."

Like all that stuff.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And like, "There's probably drugs here." Like, I get it. "We live communally. We take care of each other. We... garden." Like, I like all that stuff. I would want to be in that cult.

Raleigh: Sydnee, that's how all the scariest ones started.

Taylor: But—

Sydnee: Well, I know but I feel like—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: We've talked about this. Justin and I both feel like we're the kind of people who the first time in a group like that somebody went, "And also I think I'm God!"

I would be like, "Okay, I'm out. I'm done actually. Good. We got to the point in the documentary when we peace out. Because now things go bad."

I just want to be in there for that first part.

Taylor: Well, but like that first part, that's just like... I don't know. That's just any given warehouse in Brooklyn. That's just like, yeah, a big people garden on the roof.

Sydnee: Yeah, I guess that's true.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: And have shows in their living room. It's fine. Like, I've done that, and no cult happened. There was no cult. Like, that's a whole other element that has to come in that—

Sydnee: It's just the commune.

Taylor: Yeah, I mean like... That's just... The community can happen without cults. I think. Maybe?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughing] I don't know. Maybe.

Raleigh: I mean, I just also know that—

Taylor: Nobody needs to be God. That's my statement. [laughs]

Raleigh: I just needed you all to know that I also saw that video about cult members at the Met Gala and the top comment that I saw repeatedly was people convinced that Jared Leto was in a cult.

And finally, they all came to the consensus that, "No, I don't think he is. He just looks like someone that would be in one." [laughs]

Taylor: He looks like someone that has a cult.

Raleigh: That leads one.

Sydnee: Yeah, he looks like a leader of a cult.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: He's the person who believes he's God.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: [laughing] In that cat suit.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I... [laughs] I don't know, man. Whatever makes you happy. I mean, that's what... I think people criticize him for wearing a cat suit, but like, I don't know.

I mean, y'all keep inviting him after he brought a fake head. Like his own head, like a fake—

Raleigh: I mean, he had a pretty stylish—

Sydnee: ... of his own head.

Raleigh: ... outfit on underneath, too.

Taylor: Yeah, well and it's all—it's.. It's what's her name? Anna Wintour's whole...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's... it's all her thing. Which you know what? I'm going to say it, 'cause I don't think she listens to this podcast.

Rileigh: [burst out laughing]

Taylor: Uh... Why does she never have to try?

Rileigh: [laughs hard]

Taylor: Why does... Why... [laughing] Why does she show up in, like, the same kind of, like -ish, every time and she doesn't get any flack. And then everybody else just has to like... It's the *Hunger Games* of fashion, everybody else has to, like, swing for the fences.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I saw someone on TikTok say, "Her commitment to never serving at her own event is astounding."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: You know, it's very true. The only... The only thing I will say is that this year I think it was kind of a serve to bring Bill Nighy as her date, I guess, introduce—I guess hard launching their relationship.

Taylor: Wait, what? Like the science guy?

Rileigh: Anna Wintour?

Sydnee: Yeah, no. Bill Nighy, from... I don't know from *Love Actually* is my reference.

Taylor: Oh! [laughs]

Rileigh: Oh.

Taylor: So, not Bill Nye.

Sydnee: No, not Bill Nye!

Taylor: [laughs harder]

Raleigh: [laughs harder]

Sydnee: N-I-G-H-Y? Isn't that how that's...? You know...

Taylor: Ohh man, I thought you were talking about the science guy!

Sydnee: No, not Bill Nye! [laughs]

Raleigh: I thought we were talking about the science guy too!

Taylor: I was like, "Anna Wintour and Bill Nye? Okay..."

Sydnee: [laughing] Anna Wintour and Bill Nye the Science Guy.

Taylor: How did I miss that?

Sydnee: If she did listen to our podcast, she'd be mad.

Taylor: That's fine. You know what? That's fine. I was...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, you know... But, I mean, speaking of Anna Wintour, I was there for Anne Hathaway.

Raleigh: Mmm.

Taylor: Anne Hathaway, who just ages like a fine wine.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Continues to grow in both grace and beauty. I don't understand what deal with some sort of fey creature she made, but...

Sydnee: Yep.

Raleigh: No, she's incredible. And—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, she looked gorgeous.

Raleigh: I was obsessed with the fact that there were two people wearing the same dress, just in a different color.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: I was like, “Has this ever happened before?”

Taylor: That's not supposed to—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: “This is crazy.”

Taylor: You know what? Anna Wintour, you didn't spend any time picking out your dress, so you should have had time to look over the looks and make sure they didn't happen.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That... Okay, I'm just gonna throw this—Here we go. Conspiracy theories.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: One of the two was Olivia Wilde.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Who has been like, enh, the media and everybody has a weird relationship with her recently, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: She's been, like, criticized.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: She's been vilified in some ways. I don't really know her, so perhaps quite unfairly, right?

Taylor: I mean, she destroyed her family for Harry Styles, but I feel like a lot of people would have done that. So... you know.

Sydnee: [laughs] Well and it's hard—

Raleigh: Yeah...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... because Jason Sudeikis, meanwhile, gets to play Ted Lasso.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: So like our perception of him is this like, sweet, quaint, adorable loving dad guy. And like now, everybody hates Olivia Wilde. And that's probably all unfair, right?

Like, we don't know what happened. We don't know what was going on there, nobody knows. But then you start to wonder, was this intentional?

Taylor: Oh, do you think somebody let her? Let her flop on purpose?

Sydnee: Somebody let her flop. What if somebody let her flop? I don't know. I don't know.

Rleigh: I also saw the debate that the way that the dress was styled and like tailored, looked different on the other person wearing it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rleigh: Not just like, "Oh, they're a different person, it fits differently." But like Olivia Wilde had those cuffs on that go with it. The other person wasn't wearing those. And like the middle part, like the design of the thing in the middle that kind of looks like a... liner...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rleigh: ... for you know, hygiene.

Sydnee: Oh.

Rleigh: That thing. That was, like, shaped differently.

Taylor: It did... It did kinda look like that.

Sydnee: Like a maxi pad?

Taylor: Yeah, it did.

Rleigh: [laughs] Kinda looked like a maxi pad.

Sydnee: Now, her—

Taylor: Well, I thought it looked that way on both dresses, honestly.

Rleigh: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. But I guess, like, that part of it was like dif— slight—I don't know.

Taylor: I can—

Rleigh: I saw people saying that it looked like it was not meant to look as good on Olivia Wilde.

Taylor: It's nice to—

Sydnee: Her—

Taylor: ... pretend these are real problems, right?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's true.

Taylor: It's nice to divorce your brain from reality and pretend.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Because it's not a real problem. They were both incredibly lovely women, who are incredibly well off, wearing beautiful garments that looked very different.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: It's fine. But it's nice to like—

Sydnee: Who cares?

Taylor: "Yeah, this is... I'm gonna... I'm gonna forget about the World War III brewing." [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "I'm just gonna look at these dresses."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just like that Karlie Kloss finally decided to know what camp was and announced her pregnancy at the Met Gala. Because that's about one of the wildest things you could do. Like, "Guess what?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [as Karlie Kloss] "There's my... There's my baby."

Taylor: Well, now she was the looking camp right in the eye person, right?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Because that's the thing. She delivered camp with that one-two punch.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: She did. She posted that—

Raleigh: With that post that said, "I'm looking camp right in the eye" and then showed up wearing like the most mundane little mini dress ever.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: It looked like if you buy like a five-pack of Barbie fashions.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like it's the fifth one.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, it's like somebody said, "This is fine. This doesn't matter. Just... We need five Barbie dresses."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Just put it... Just put it on."

Taylor: And it's like some lamés sewn together.

Sydnee: It's the one you put on your least favorite Barbie.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But the one-two punch of the post and then the outfit made it camp.

Raleigh: [laughs] That was camp.

Taylor: Yep.

Raleigh: You're right, you're right.

Sydnee: Uh, we've got a... Taylor, we've talked about the Met Gala way too long.

Taylor: We're not talking about the Met Gala today.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: We are talking about Letters to Cleo.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which is a band that I like, formed... Formed in the '90s in Boston. I... I don't know, I think the first... How'd they come into... Like they were very big in a lot of movies too.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like they were in the *10 Things I Hate About You* soundtrack. They were...

Raleigh: Oh.

Taylor: The lead singer, Kay Hanley, did the vocals for Josie's singing voice in *Josie and the Pussycats*.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I had all their albums. My favorite was *Go!*, I realized that as I was making like a compilation for you all. Like, I do like all their albums, all of my favorite songs are on the same album. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, I felt the same way, as you were sending us the... I realized as I was listening through your playlist that all the songs from *Go!*, I'm like, "Oh, these are the ones I know the best."

I know some of the other ones, like *Aurora Gory Alice*, I know some of those too.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But I... Yeah, *Go!* was the one where I was like, "Oh, this is the one I had on heavy rotation in my car."

Taylor: Yeah, that's...

Raleigh: Yeah, I—like with many bands that you all bring—had thought I had never listened to them before because I just like, have never consciously sought out that band.

But I definitely have heard, at least I think, "I Got Time" and "Here & Now," have been in soundtracks.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Because they came on and I was like, "Hold up. I know these songs. I have heard these like... a lot."

Because when you said *10 Things I Hate About You*, that makes sense. They very much have that vibe of that era of film.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's all—

Raleigh: So I definitely had heard some of these before.

Sydnee: They do. They have that vibe of that era of film that's very '90s. Their whole vibe is so like, such a '90s heavy vibe.

But it's also her voice, I think? There's... And I don't know how... I don't know exactly what I'm saying, so maybe you guys can help me. There's something about her voice as like, it is...

I mean, she's singing songs that they're not necessarily like, sweet. But her voice has this inherent kind of sweet... Like it's this little higher kind of a girlishness to it? And then coupled with this heavier kind of music underneath it.

There's something about it that's a very '90s like, pop-punk feminist kind aesthet—You know what I mean?

Taylor: Yeah, well, I think... 'Cause it's a bit like... There's like, riot girl bands that were a lot harder and a little rougher.

It's sort of the mainstreamification of that idea. Like—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: It's not... There's nothing wrong with that. I loved it. But it is kind of like... It's digestible riot girl. [laughs]

Sydnee: It is. Because her voice is very pleasing and not in any way like screechy or yelly or... you know? Like she's... she's angry sometimes or upset or displeased, but not in a way where you think she's going to punch you.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. There's something about that that's a very '90s... It's like the voice that would accompany a Delia's catalog.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't... I don't know. Like, if you imagined that somebody was reading—

Taylor: I don't know if that's a read, but it is accurate.

Sydnee: It's—[laughs] It's like if somebody was reading the clothing descriptions in Delia's catalog aloud to you, it would be that voice.

Taylor: This is the vocal equivalent of a glittery inflatable chair.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] But in some... In some kind of like neon, like not pink or purple necessarily, like some kind of like green or blue. [laughs]

Taylor: A blue, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Because it's not too girly, but it is... "We are definitely girls here," Like, that's what that voice says. [laughing] I don't know. There's just something about it. That was feminism in the '90s, Raleigh.

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I will say I always enjoy when there's a little bit of cognitive dissonance between the voice that you're hearing and the lyrics, because I think it always provides that moment of like...

Then you start actually listening to what is being said and you're like, "Oh, wait a minute. I was boppin' and that is not..."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: "That is not what's being said. A bop is not what is being said. But a bop is what is occurring just in my ears."

And then you have to take a minute and go back like, "Oh. Man. This is not what I thought it was." But I do like that 'cause I think that's a lot more interesting than...

I also think that is a lot more '90s. I think that's something you don't see as often, people doing. I think there's a very specific now like pop tone.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Both of like voice and vocal style, but also like songs and the same even with like, you know, alternative stuff or indie, whatever, like it all has very similar tones.

Sydnee: It—

Raleigh: You know exactly what kind of song you're getting into when you get into it.

Sydnee: Yeah, no—

Raleigh: That was not the case for this.

Sydnee: I think you're exactly right. I think you're hitting on a bigger thing, at least when I think about Letters to Cleo and music in the '90s and sort of like that generational attitude. I think you're hitting on something bigger there that I agree with.

Before we talk about that though, that's such a—

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Exactly. Let's go.

Taylor: Let's go.

[group message starts]

Sydnee: So, whether you're listening to Letters to Cleo or whatever your favorite music or podcasts, you probably want to take that with you wherever you go.

You know, these days we're always on the move and you need earbuds that you can count on to be high quality, to stay in your ears, to have a good, comfortable fit. And at a price that you can afford.

And a lot of times, you know, nowadays, you're paying for just a brand name and maybe not necessarily just for quality. And that's why Raycon wireless earbuds should be your choice.

Because you're not... In this case, you're not going to pay that extra premium just to say you got a certain brand. You're paying exactly what you need to for a great pair of quality wireless earbuds.

They're going to do everything that those more expensive brands do, but at a lower price. And that's their whole mission. Raycon says you shouldn't have to pay an arm and a leg for quality sound and the same sort of smart tech listening features that other products are going to charge you a lot more for.

They have an easy and free return guarantee. They offer two years of product protection insurance for just a few bucks. They have over 50,000 five-star reviews.

So it's not just me saying this. There are a lot of other people out there who have made the switch to Raycon wireless earbuds and have said, "You are absolutely right. I am so glad to have a pair of earbuds that fit that don't fall out of my ears."

That's a big thing for me, personally. And that still provide that quality at a lower price.

They have three customizable sound profiles. They've got earbud tap functions, noise isolation. I know that's huge. Justin is a big fan of noise isolation, especially if you're traveling. If you're on an airplane or a train or whatever, that can really be crucial so that you can just listen to what you're listening to and sort of, you know, zone out from the rest of the world.

They've got crystal clear call quality. They're water and sweat resistant. So if you like to wear your earbuds when you're working out or running, or if it's just really hot out, you don't have to worry about that.

And eight hours of play time. So Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Raycon, what should they do?

Taylor: They should go to buyraycon.com/buffering today to get 15% off your Raycon order. That's buyraycon.com/buffering to score 15% off. Again, that's buyraycon.com/buffering.

[Group message ends]

Sydnee: So I think this is... What you just hit on, Rileigh, is kind of interesting. And Tey, I would love to know your thoughts on this too. Because I feel like... I get lots of TikTok surfaced to me about generations. [laughs]

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: And what generations you belong in. And I find them really interesting because I've never really known... I know that technically my birthday falls just inside millennials, but sometimes the Gen X stuff I feel connects me more.

And I think what you're hitting on here is that sort of like '90s view of, "We'll talk about this really heavy stuff in a song, something really sad or devastating, or that makes us really angry."

"But like, we're not gonna make a big deal out of it." Because there's just this like, "Whatever. We expect that stuff is crappy. We don't have a lot— Like we've got a lot of nihilism and kind of ennui that we must be experiencing at all times."

That's a very Gen X attitude to put out there is like, "What's the point in getting all upset or yelling or screaming or making something sad out of this? Nothing will change anyway. Nothing ever gets better. So... whatever."

Like, [laughs], There you go. That is Gen X. That's the '90s.

Taylor: Yeah. I see... I see where you're getting that. Like there is... There is a lot of vulnerability in a lot of Letter—Like, many Letters to Cleo songs, there's a very... an open sadness.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But it is... Part of it is her voice. It's that she has such a lovely voice. And part of it is just like, it's like very pleasant music.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that is a bit of like a weird... Like it's not... It's not the screaming, the yelling, the like, "I'm hurt and I'm sad."

It's, "I'm hurt and I'm sad, but I'm gonna make... I'm gonna make a little bop out of it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that's... that is a bit of a dissonance that I guess, implies apathy? [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and I'm not saying that the people that write these songs or that the singer of Letters—I'm not saying any of these people are apathetic. I don't know. I don't know how they feel about anything.

But that very much typifies, you know, Gen X gets pinned with that all the time.

Taylor: Well, and that's what—

Sydnee: Which I—

Taylor: I mean, I feel like that's a... I don't know. I love music that does that because I feel like it's not just a generational thing.

Like when I... Like they're like some... Is it Del Shannon that does "Hats Off to Larry"? It's like an old, older song. And it's like... It's this incredible... Like, I... Very like, catchy, boppy, soft... I don't know. Soft rock, pop song?

But it's all about like, "I'm so happy that you broke my heart and then someone else broke your heart and utterly destroyed you. And then that makes me so happy."

It's the meanest song ever.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And it's like this super boppy, happy song. And then I feel like there's this balance that like, before we went hardcore rock, hardcore punk, where you could just, like, scream. Like you're mad so you're gonna scream. You're mad, so you're gonna sound rough. You're gonna sound angry.

It's like, "No, it's still gotta be digestible music, but we got—We can say what we want to say, but we gotta say it in a gentle way."

There's this weird, like, friction in that music that is always very appealing to me. And it... I feel like it does align with that '90s aesthetic, but it's not from there. It started before that.

It's the roots of punk music, honestly. Like you get that, where it's like, "I'm saying something really messed up, but I'm going to do it in a way that you like."

Sydnee: Well, and that... I mean... And I think like if you go deeper into that culture, for a lot of us growing up at that time, I didn't... Like, the expectation was, "You're gonna work really hard and fight the system, but you're probably not gonna change it, ultimately." And—

But there was no inclination ever to stop fighting, which I like to think we were playing a long game because, you know, now the kids are all revolutionaries, so... You know, we were just legacy building. [laughs]

Taylor: Hopefully, I mean—

Sydnee: It wasn't going to happen in our lifetime, but Raleigh—

Raleigh: I don't know if I'd call myself a revolutionary.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't know if we're out of the woods yet. [laughs]

Raleigh: I think I'm too sleepy to be a revolutionary.

Taylor: I think they got the—

Sydnee: Listen—

Taylor: A lot of 'em got the right attitude, but they don't got the... They don't have the right infrastructure.

Raleigh: No, that's true.

Sydnee: Yeah, but have you met Generation Alpha?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Is that like... below me?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I think technically Charlie and I are part of the same generation, but Cooper is not.

Taylor: That's wild.

Raleigh: I think that's where the divide has happened, and that's crazy to me. But then sometimes Charlie will say things and I'm like, "Yeah, you're... You're right. How are you culturally aware of the same things that are happening that I am? How do we have the same perception of the world?"
[laughs]

Sydney: I really feel like... I mean it's always a rolling thing. There's not really...

Raleigh: Right. I just—

Sydney: You know, we put people in boxes, but yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, it's the same way that like, I think technically you two are like Gen X and millennial, but not necessarily like, distinctly different, if that makes sense?

Sydney: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like where the common cut offs are technically, but I just think that's funny that Charlie and Cooper are like that. Like, technically, Cooper is Generation Alpha. Which makes sense.

Sydney: Well, I think... If you look at some of the very young people and the way that they feel and the lack of fear they have in speaking up about stuff that's BS, it gives me a lot of hope.

Because I think the difference is that, like, you know, I think when we were younger, Tey, I think we knew we needed to burn it all down, but like none of us were gonna, because we were working really hard to, like, get in it.
[laughs]

And like there was no room to burn it all down. I don't know... You know, Raleigh, when I look at your generation, you've been through so much, I don't know if you have the...

I don't know, that takes a lot of mental energy to burn it all down. But I think that you will reform it, you know. I think that when we look at like progressive values and stuff, young people are definitely on the right side of that trend.

But I think Cooper's generation will come in and burn it all down if we don't fix it.

Taylor: Exactly. Well, like I said, I don't... I fear the "burn it all down" mindset.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Because I think the people that are—get caught in the fire there—are probably the most marginalized people. So I don't know—

Sydnee: That is true.

Taylor: I don't know if I'm a fan of that, honestly. I think it's a very popular, very cool, like, image to adopt.

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: But I don't think we think through like who... Who fights that class war? Who's on the streets?

Sydnee: Well, you have... It's a privilege to be able to do that stuff.

Taylor: It is.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: There are a lot of people who are not privileged enough to be fighting for social justice because they're trying to like, pay their rent and feed their kids. And you know, like it's not... It's not realistic for them.

Taylor: I will take us back to *SLC Punk!*, the whole "You gotta be in the system to change the system."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I still do believe in that.

Raleigh: Yeah. I will say, this is a very limited and isolated and privileged example, but I was shocked by the fact that I am in a law school that has a lot of people my age. Some people are older, but a lot... Most of the students are about my age.

And I was always of the impression that like you go somewhere that's supposed to be like this, you know, high tier, elite school and you just kind of do whatever the professors say.

Like they're the ones that know the most so you just like, if you get screwed over because they do something unfair or they, you know, do something that, like, messes with your education, interferes, like, "Well, but they're the ones in charge." So you just do what they say.

I've been shocked by the amount of people that are so ready to be like, "No, I am putting myself into an insane amount of debt to be here. I am paying to be here. You are supposed to teach me.

"If you're doing something wrong, I'm going to complain and I'm going to make sure there's a difference, even if it doesn't affect me, I don't want people after me having these same things happen."

And that was shocking to me.

Sydnee: That's a good thing.

Raleigh: I mean, in a good way.

Taylor: Well, that is good.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. It's good.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And again, I mean it's a very limited like, "Ooh, I'm in law school and they're revolting."

But I mean, it's just... You know, it's a different mindset of people saying, "I deserve to advocate for myself and what I need. And also I want the system to change for the people after me."

Taylor: This is funny because I feel like what you're talking about is like... This is just how... This is proper, like, "I'm standing up for myself."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's like that... I feel like there's a meme around this, of like people saying like, "Oh, I'm in my villain era. And by that I mean I'm just going to like, say, when somebody makes me uncomfortable."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, "I'm just going to slightly advocate for myself." And I feel like that's... What Sydnee and I perceive as "burning it all down" is actually just "Hi. This isn't really fair and I'd like to talk about it." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughing] Like that's... that's...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, but I do think that—

Taylor: We didn't do that!

Sydnee: ... mindset—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, no, we didn't. We didn't. But I mean... And I mean, as I've gotten older, I think my... I've been able to break out of that.

Some of my colleagues have referred to it as “institutionalized thinking” in medicine.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: That happens a lot. You just accept like, “Well, I can't make that happen for you because insurance companies say no.” Or, “Administration wouldn't like it.”

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Or, “You know, Big Pharma...”

And like instead of locking yourself into that box, why don't you start from the idea that, “This needs to happen. And whatever I need to do to make it happen is now my job. My job has become this.”

And that leads you down the pathway to like real, fundamental change to a system. Is when you decide, “I no longer accept that because those rules exist that they're right or valid or should be upheld.”

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: “And some rules are bad and so breaking them is the ethically responsible thing to do.”

I think that mindset had to change first. And like if you look at a generation before ours, that is not the way people thought.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Wow.

Rleigh: It's like the modern conversations surrounding like raises or like promotions.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rleigh: Like now people say, "Well, yeah, if you've, you know, worked at a place long enough and you do hard work and you do more than anyone else, you should be able to go in and say 'Hi. I would like a raise.'"

That's not like an absurd offensive thing to do. But the conversation used to be like not too long ago, not in the distant past, but recently was, "No. That's not something you do."

Sydnee: I would have never—

Rleigh: "You wait until someone offers it to you." And I think that's the same thing you're saying of like, it's not being demanding or bossy or arrogant to go in and ask for more money. It's advocating for yourself.

It's almost like we all have become very... "The world revolves around me," but for each of us. But like, "I'm just going to do whatever is going to... I deserve and is good for me because if I can be a good... Like, I can get, you know, a good job that I have worked for. I can get the money I've worked for. If I can do all that, then I can do all of the things that are going to make the world better."

But you all have to start doing all these things, and like advocating for yourself and doing these things that we all deserve, so that we can get there.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rleigh: Couldn't be if you just... You know, if you don't then it just stays the same.

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: I do... I do agree with what you say about, "You have to be in the... Gotta be in the system to break the system." There's a line in *Hamilton* about that I think.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That sounds right. That's what... That's what he did, right? [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughing] I think—

Sydnee: So—

Raleigh: I think that happened. I think it was a line from *Hamilton*.

Taylor: [sarcastic] *SLC Punk!*, *Hamilton*. It's all the same.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [sarcastic] It's the same story.

Sydnee: So Tey, I have to assume that, from this playlist you sent us, your favorite song was probably the one about someone having a really great sister who—

Raleigh: [laughs] I did think about that.

Sydnee: ... they can always depend on and count on and who they wish they could see more. I figured that was probably your favorite.

Taylor: I mean, it is...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I will say, I know you're being glib, but no. Like that... That's probably one of my favorite Letters to Cleo songs, is the song, "Sister."

I think the album is called *Sister*, too. But um—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That song is something that I would listen to a lot. Like, especially when I first went away to college. Like I would... I would play that song and miss Sydnee. Rileigh, you were—

Sydnee: Aww.

Taylor: You were—

Rileigh: It's okay.

Taylor: Still a baby, but—

Rileigh: I assumed, yeah.

Taylor: I missed you too.

Rileigh: I wasn't [crosstalk]

Taylor: Now I associate it with both of you. But at the time, because I mean, I also liked to...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You, when Sydnee went away to college, actually that's probably more the time span there.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Is when Sydnee was, you know, across the... not far. Ten minutes away at—

Rileigh: [laughing] Ten minutes away?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was ten minutes away at college. [laughs]

Taylor: But I would... I would hear that song and think of her. I love that song. Think it's a... I don't know. It's sad. It's beautiful.

Sydnee: I do too. That one... That one was always on my playlist. I love that song. "Co-Pilot" was always on my playlist. I love that song.

Taylor: "Co-Pilot" is one of those songs that is stuck in my head. It's like... I don't know. You know like... Maybe everybody has something that just sort of defines what you want from a relationship. And "Co-Pilot" is it.

Like I don't... Like, boyfriend, girlfriend, don't know about that. Like, partner sounds cool because it's kind of like "partner in crime."

But "co-pilot" is it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like one of us has to keep this afloat at all times. It could be you. It could be me, but one of us has to be able to copilot this thing.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I feel like "Co-Pilot" is like the best, most like, jubilant, relationship song. That's what I want. I don't know when I'll—if I'll find it, but that's what I want. I want a co-pilot.

And that song is the soundtrack of the romance that I want. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, no, I think it very much is. I feel that way too. Like that's...

Taylor: Is—

Sydnee: That is exactly what I was always looking for and found.

Taylor: Is Justin your co-pilot? [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. He is my co-pilot.

Taylor: That's cute.

Sydnee: He is.

That's what... I wanted somebody that like... I don't know. If life is like getting in a Conestoga wagon and crossing the plains, somebody who I wanted to do that with. [laughs]

Taylor: I mean a little bit.

Sydnee: So life is the *Oregon Trail*. You get cholera sometimes. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughing] Sometimes you get dysentery.

Sydnee: [laughing] Yeah, you know, it happens. But yeah.

Raleigh: I was looking through the playlist to see which one I liked most. I was like, "Oh, those are both so nice. What did I like? What... Did I like something nice?"

And then I realized the one that I marked down as one of my favorites is "Because of You." But it's definitely not a nice like—

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: That's... lovely song. But I love it... Not like breakup songs, but ones that are like reflective on a relationship, that you're sad that it's over, but you also are like angry because you're finally getting to that point after where you're able to recognize, like, all the things that someone did to you that you didn't know in the moment.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like that sort of very specific niche moment.

Taylor: Well, I think that's one of the things that—

Raleigh: ... of reflectiveness. That's my favorite kind.

Taylor: And that—I felt like, especially for some of the breakup songs Letters to Cleo has, it reminded me a bit of the sort of... The composed vulnerability that Taylor Swift has, often. So I was like, "I think Raleigh will like this."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Because I feel like there's a lot of that—

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: ... that I really enjoy, where it's like, "We're not screaming and yelling." It's not like "You Oughta Know", Alanis Morissette.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's, "I am going to very eloquently and sadly talk about how much you hurt me." And that is powerful. Like it feels like a very informed attack on—

Like, one of my favorite songs is "Alouette & Me", which is... I mean, to me it sounds more like the end of a friendship than maybe like a relationship.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But I... That song is tied to, like, friendship breakups for me in that it's like this, you know, "I don't want to know you lately" is a very powerful phrase that's very concise. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, and it—It really is. I always love music that—and I know we've already talked about this—but you wouldn't, if you just heard this in the background at a party, you wouldn't know—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] ... the kind of levels that it was covering. You would just have no idea until you sat down and listened to the lyrics. Or, if you had a CD...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... read the lyrics in the liners. [laughs] We don't have those anymore, but back then we did and you could open it up and follow along the little lyrics on your CD liner with it. [laughs] You know. The good ol' days.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And you pop it in your Dodge Neon and you go. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Raleigh: I did that with Taylor Swift albums. I read the lyric book in the back seat of Mom's car.

Sydnee: Well, there you go. See?

Raleigh: [laughs] I don't anymore. I don't have a CD player.

Sydnee: Mom... Mom didn't—Dad had one of those six-CD changers in the back of his car, didn't he?

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: The ones that you had to get, like actually physically remove from the back to reload [laughing] a CD.

Taylor: I think... No, I didn't—

Sydnee: [still laughing]

Taylor: I was trying to remember that... Oh, gosh, that... green... What did I have in high school?

Raleigh: The Rodeo?

Taylor: The Rodeo!

Sydnee: The Rodeo!

Raleigh: You had the Rodeo?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: The Rodeo.

Taylor: That had a CD changer.

Sydnee: Yeah, it did.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, you had... That was... 'Cause that was Mom's and then you—

Taylor: I inherited it.

Sydnee: Got it, right?

Taylor: Yes. [laughs]

Sydnee: You inherited the Rodeo.

Taylor: Ah, that was a good car.

Sydnee: I miss... I miss that Dodge Neon. I mean, it'd probably be a little small for our whole family now, but...

Taylor: Yeah, that smelled like meat all the time.

Raleigh: Yeah, a little.

Sydnee: It did. It had that tortilla in the visor and...

Taylor: Yeah. Just always...

Sydnee: It was purple.

Taylor: Well, we ate a lot of Taco Bell in there.

Sydnee: Had my Weezer sticker on it. My Jimmy Eat World sticker. All the great stickers. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Didn't have a Letters to Cleo sticker, though.

Sydnee: I didn't. I do own that Letter to Cleo T-shirt—

Taylor: *Aurora Gory Alice.*

Sydnee: It's the same one that... Yeah, that. It's that one. It's what Ben Wyatt wears on *Parks and Rec.*

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Yeah, apparently, that led to a little bit of like, a resurgence of interest in Letters to Cleo when he wore that shirt.

Raleigh: Interesting.

Sydnee: Well, and then they played in that one episode.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: And he was like losing his mind because that was actually Letters to Cleo there. [laughs] That was pretty cute.

Taylor: They've had... You know of all the bands from the late '90s that have reformed and gone on tour lately, Letters to Cleo, maybe they did it a little bit earlier than everybody else, because they did have a little reformation in the mid-2000s and then, you know, because they...

They broke up a few times. There were replacements brought in, brought out. But they're not currently together. So I don't know. I mean they could... If they wanted to reform now, I feel like there's interest, but...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I would go see them happily.

Raleigh: I would go see them.

Sydnee: I always found their music infinitely enjoyable. You don't have to be, I think, in any—This is, personally, I don't have to be in a specific mood to put it on. You know what I mean?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like there is some music, if you're in a really good, happy, chill mood, there's some stuff that's like, "That is too sad and heavy for right now. I will be in that place at some point, but not right now."

Letters to Cleo is kind of an anytime music...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ... for me.

Taylor: Which again, it's funny because the lyrics aren't always anytime lyrics, but they hide it in very digestible pop songs.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Well, Taylor, I'm really glad you brought up Letters to Cleo—

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: ... because I added some songs to my summer playlist.

Taylor: Sydnee's Summer Playlist. Sydnee's Famous Summer Playlist.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Sydnee's Famous Apple Music—

Taylor: On Apple Music— [laughs]

Raleigh: ... Summer Playlist. [laughs]

Sydnee: I... That's normal!

Taylor: It... No.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Justin—

Raleigh: It's absolutely not.

Sydnee: Justin has really started critiquing some of my picks on there. He said that... I don't know. We should probably at some point just do an episode about the concept of a summer playlist.

Taylor: Well, no—

Sydnee: Because he said that a summer playlist should not have like, songs that are too heavy or dark or sad. Like a summer playlist—I mean, not that they all...

They don't all have to be fun, happy pop songs, but generally it should be a lighter mix. You know?

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: It shouldn't get too heavy if it's a summer playlist.

Taylor: I feel like I—

Raleigh: It should not be the moment that happened last summer when we were all on vacation together and Sydnee turned on her summer playlist and "My Heart Will Go On" came on because we just trusted Sydnee to shuffle her summer playlist to play by the pool.

Sydnee: [laughs] I—

Raleigh: That's... You need to be able to turn on your summer playlist on shuffle by the pool and be okay.

Sydnee: He got upset. He was like, "Do you have... Did I just hear back-to-back like [laughs] Jeff Buckley's "Hallelujah" and—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... Poison's "Talk Dirty to Me" and then "Creep" by Radiohead. You can't do that." [laughs]

Taylor: I was going to say, I know like a while ago, I guess when your summer playlist was in its early forms, you shared it with us.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And right away I was like, "No, no, no, Syd, this is not... This is not summer vibe."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Like there were some heavy songs on there. Like nobody thinks summer vibes by listening to like, I don't know, like look, I... I love some Elliott Smith.

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: But Elliott Smith should not be on your summer playlist.

Sydnee: I—

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: I didn't put Elliott Smith on there. I didn't go that far.

Taylor: [laughing] Are you sure? Can you check?

Sydnee: Well, I'll double check. [laughs] But thank you, because this is appropriate summer playlist music.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Maybe not—

Raleigh: Absolutely.

Taylor: ... everything on that playlist.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But some of those songs for sure.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Raleigh, what's next?

Raleigh: Well, because there are two things in life that are certain, that Taylor Swift will always be releasing a new album, and that *Scream* will always be releasing yet another addition to the franchise.

Taylor: Ah.

Raleigh: I want to talk about the new *Scream* movie that came out this year and just started streaming last week, I believe. So...

Sydnee: All right.

Raleigh: *Scream*... 6? Question mark? Six?

Taylor: It's based in New York City, bay-bee!

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Okay!

Raleigh: So...

Sydnee: I don't know, but I will find the new *Scream* movie and watch it.

Taylor: It is the least—

Rileigh: It's on Paramount Plus.

Taylor: I will warn you, it's the least New York movie set in New York I've ever seen.

Rileigh: [laughing] I did... I did think that. Like, there's a subway scene and I was like, "Oh, did they do this so that you remember it's in New York?" Because other than the one seat on the subway, you're like...

Taylor: Like, where did you film this?

Rileigh: ... this could be anywhere, yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, we will watch that for next week. In the meantime, you can get Letters to Cleo... Well, I got—

Taylor: On Apple Music. [laughs]

Sydnee: [dissolving into laughter] On Apple Music... There are probably other places you want to get it.

Taylor: Yeah. I don't... No, I'll... I... My...

Sydnee: You should share your Spotify playlist.

Taylor: It's public.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: If you look up my name you can find it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Now that I'm done with school, I'll take the time to convert Sydnee's Summer Playlist into one that we can all listen to on Spotify.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Please do that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughing] Okay.

Taylor: Like Spotify isn't great, but I don't... Apple Music isn't better.

Raleigh: It's better.

Sydnee: [still laughing] Okay.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm not arguing that it is. [laughs]

Thank you, listeners. Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to maximumfun.org for lots of great shows that you would enjoy. You can tweet at us, @stillbuff. You can e-mail 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 am Raleigh Smirl.

[outro, theme music plays]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am Still Buffering.

Taylor and Sydnee: [Sort of in unison] And... I... am... too.

Sydnee: We had like a glitch right there at the end.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I don't know what's gonna come out there.

Taylor: It looked like you just gave up. Like, "I'm not saying it. I'm not saying the tag line." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Your camera froze with your head down and it just looked like you went... I almost cussed just there.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Screw it. I'm not doing it." [laughs]

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