

## Still Buffering 363: "Barbie: The Princess and the Pauper" (2004)

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[theme music plays]

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

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Rileigh:** And I'm Teylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Um... listen, all I know how to talk about is the show that I'm doing. I don't really have a great opening anecdote for anyone. Because we just live and breathe outdoor theater right now.

**Rileigh:** You know what sucks about the job that I currently have? It's the exact opposite, in that all you can talk about is SpongeBob. When you work a job where you have to sign a confidentiality thing, you can't talk about any of it! I just come home every day and just sit in silence. Just... all these thoughts, just in my head, silently stay up there.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, you can de-identify.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, it's just—Sydnee, here's the thing. We're in West Virginia. Everybody knows everybody [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Rileigh:** It's hard. [laughs] [crosstalk]

**Teylor:** [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] I mean... Cooper loves to hear a story of a good bloody something, but Mommy saved the day despite a bleeding. And so, like, I can de-identify some bleeding stories.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** Um, I work in a restaurant, so we don't have any confidentiality clauses. But it's also [laughs quietly] the last thing I want to talk about when I'm not there! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** So basically none of us have anything to say. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's a really terrible trait, I think, of most of us in medicine. Um, at least I know about physicians. I don't want to speak for everybody in healthcare professions. But, like, we tend to hang out with a lot of other people who do the same thing a lot, because we just want to talk about work. And so then we just talk about work the whole time. Like, Justin dreads going to any sort of—

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, you hang out with Justin a lot, though.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, that's different. Justin and I have other interests that we share and [crosstalk].

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Like being married to each other. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. But, like, when he has to come to, like, something for my office, like a Christmas party or something, it is just—he is... [wheezes] poor thing. He's so miserable. Like, he wanders around, seeking out any non-medical spouse or friend or someone. Like, "Please for the love of god, there has to be someone here who doesn't want to talk about blood and guts!"

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I know. It is a flaw we have.

**Taylor:** I think that's true in any industry, though. 'cause I think most—like, when I hang out with other restaurant people, all we do is complain about the job that we're so desperate to not be at and not talk about. Then we go out after work and we just sit there and be like, "Oh, man! Table 20! Did you

see what they did?" Like, "Oh, this sub that somebody asked me for! Can you believe?"

It's like, what are we doing?! [through laughter] Why can't we escape this?

**Raleigh:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** Do you think—I've always wondered if people—if after we order the pizzas we order, if people are complaining about us after work.

**Taylor:** Well, what's special about the pizzas that you order?

**Raleigh:** Well, you say this because one of your children—I assume you're saying this because one of your children likes... cheese and no sauce, likes cheese sticks, but in pizza form.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And one of your children likes sauce and no cheese.

**Sydnee:** Sauce and sausage with no cheese.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And then I get sauce with no cheese and chicken and green peppers and onions and pineapple.

**Raleigh:** Justin's the only one that orders a regleaur, normal pizza.

**Sydnee:** Justin just gets a regleaur old pizza. But... I always wonder if anybody has a conversation about, like... who are the—it feels like a trick we're playing. It feels like we're trying to catch them getting—I know that's how it feels. Like, "You're just trying to trip us up, right? Like, this is a such a ridiculous order it feels intentional so you can, like, complain and get a coupon or something. Like, it feels like a joke order." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean, to be honest, as some—and, I mean, I'm saying this as somebody that does this. I get more annoyed when my coworkers have a

big problem with mods, because we don't know why people are making mods. 'Cause I honestly—I mean, having kids in my family that I love, my first thought usually when I see a very... specific order I'm like, "Oh, it's probably a kid."

And then sometimes also it's like, people have allergies. People have food intolerances. People have texture problems. Like, we don't know why. So it's better to just try to do it and, like, that's just part of the job. Part of the job is just doing the—

And if it's like, you know, if it's an outlandish request—like I had somebody get angry with me because—I have two jobs in restaurants right now, and one of them is in, like, a burger place. And it's—we just have burger—everything comes on the same—we have one bread. The one bread, and it's a burger bun, and that's it.

And this lady just was not okay with the fact that I didn't offer rye bread. Of all things! Just—"But you don't have rye?"

**Sydnee:** On a burger?

**Taylor:** I was like, "No, I don't have rye."

"Why don't you have rye?"

"I—I didn't know—I don't know! This is a deeper question than I was willing to ponder at this moment. [laughs] I will—"

**Sydnee:** On a burger?!

**Taylor:** "—reflect on that and get back to you as to why we don't offer rye bread as a substitute for a burger bun."

She was inconsolable about this fact. But that's...

**Raleigh:** Some—hmm.

**Taylor:** Generally the response—the requests are just like, yeah, that's leaving something off. That's fine. That's easy to do, you know.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's what I always hope. Often my customizations, my modifications are like, "Leave this one thing off." And I always hope, maybe it's easier to just not put a thing on there.

**Taylor:** Leaving something off is easy. Adding things on for some reason [through laughter] is just—it's harder. And then making up things, that's usually where I draw the line.

Like, no, I don't. I don't have that. It's not here. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well and I try to make up for, like—most of the time I just order things as they come. Like, it's rare that I will... even if I don't want something on there, I'll usually just be like, "Meh, It'll be fine. Whatever." [laughs] I mean, I'm very—like, if we're gonna order pizza and you're gonna get to pick your toppings, you may as well pick what you like. But for most foods it's not like that, right? You just kind of order whatever's on the menu. And if whatever arrives at my table is wrong... short of being raw, short of being like, will make me sick and kill me, I will never say a word about it. I will eat it in peace. I will thank you for it. [through laughter] And I will tip you well. And no one will ever know but me that it was wrong.

**Taylor:** The thing that bums me out about that is that I feel like the understanding customers are the people that could say, "Oh, man. This isn't what I ordered. Can I get something else?"

'Cause that's always within anybody's realm to do that. Like, you know. Some restaurants are dysfunctional, and they punish servers for mistakes, or just the kitchen's mistakes, but most places don't do that. Usually it's like, "Oh, you're cool with it? Great. I'm gonna get you what you want."

It's always the people that have the kind of ridiculous demands that will then also demand that things go back to the kitchen. Like, it's never the people you want to hook up. It's never the people that you want to be like, "You

know what? You're right. That was—you asked for no sauce and we gave you sauce. Let me fix that for you."

That's fine, no problem. It's never those people. It's always the people that already started out being a problem [through laughter] that continue to be a problem.

**Sydnee:** I don't—I just can't. The only moment where I've ever admitted an order was wrong—and, like, not in a way that I expected anything to be done—we were at the park the other night ordering fast food again. Uh, through a delivery app, because that's what we've all been eating for weeks. And we had ordered food for me and Justin and the girls. And when the guy showed up he had one bag, one tiny Wendy's bag. And I looked at the tiny Wendy's bag. And, like, I didn't know what was in it. But I knew it wasn't everything. [laughs quietly] I knew there was no way the number of chicken nuggets and fries—there were no drinks, and we ordered four, so I knew the drinks weren't there.

But I looked at this and he goes, "Are you Justin?"

And I said, "No, but I mean... "

**Raleigh:** "Yes.

**Sydnee:** "Yes."

And he was like, "Here's your food."

And I took it. And I said, "There's no way you have more in your car, right? Like, this is all?"

And he was like, "It's all they gave me."

And I said, "Okay. Thank you, man. Have a great day." [laughs] Just thinking, like, which one—it was one chili. One chili! [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** Cooper told me about this. Did Mom tell you—Did Mom tell you—

**Taylor:** Somebody [crosstalk]—somebody won the hunger games, literally.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, did Mom tell you the adventure she had to go on the other night?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Rileigh:** She ordered food for me—

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah!

**Rileigh:** —and her and the girls. Your two children, of course. And it was kind of late. I mean, it was, like, 9 o' clock. But we ordered pasta, and I was so excited. I was like, "Oh, man. I've barely eaten today. Like, pasta's gonna be so good."

And the girls were gonna get some noodles. It was gonna be great. And Mom's tracking them and she's like, "Alright, they're about to come up the hill."

And then all of a sudden says, "Oh. It's delivered."

So I of course run to peek out the door, and there's nothing there.

So, "Well, Mom, it's not."

And she said, "It says it is."

And she texts the number and said, "Hey, you know, we're looking around. We only have the one porch. We don't have somewhere else it could be. We don't have, you know, like another door. So did you—you know, what did it look like?"

And they described a house that is very definitely not our house.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And Mom was trying to get them to be like, "Well, can you at least tell me, was there a number on the house?"

Like, we know they were within a very close range where we live. So Mom was just trying to ascertain, like, is there—can I figure out whose house this got sent to and go try to find it?

**Sydnee:** Was she gonna go try to find the food?

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Because they were—the guy straight up refused on the phone. He was like, "Hey, man. I followed the GPS. I went where it told me. I dropped it off on the porch. That's all I can do. Sorry."

And wouldn't say, like, anything else, and then discontinued the conversation, as you can do on those apps.

[through laughter] So Mom just starts driving around. Like, I mean, we know that he had made it pretty much to the bottom of our hill where we live, so we knew he was somewhere very close. So Mom drove around to a few houses, and eventually stumbled upon one that matched the description he gave pretty well. And the people insisted they did not have our pasta. But—

**Sydnee:** She knocked on the door?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Mom, no! Oh, god!

**Rileigh:** And just said, "Hey, did you get a food delivery by accident?"

And they said, "Nope."

She said, "Okay, sorry, just checking. Ours got delivered to the wrong house." But...



**Sydnee:** I cannot believe she went looking for the food. Like, even if she found it—

**Taylor:** That could be dangerous, honestly.

**Sydnee:** —I wouldn't take the food.

**Raleigh:** Well—well, okay. Here was my thought, though.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause, like, if you get free pasta you're gonna take a bite of it. I mean...

**Raleigh:** Here was—okay, but here's what I was thinking.

**Sydnee:** You're only human.

**Raleigh:** You know, it was so fast, and a lot of—like, we order contactless, and they don't even, like, knock on the door or ring the doorbell when they do that. They just leave it there. So in my head I'm thinking, "It's been, like, three minutes since this guy said he delivered it, and maybe he didn't knock on the door, maybe he didn't ring the doorbell. Maybe it's still just, like, sitting on someone's porch." You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, or—or—

**Raleigh:** Like, he just dropped it there and left, and maybe it's still just sitting right there, and we can just, fwoop! Grab it.

**Sydnee:** You know what happened to it.

**Raleigh:** He ate it?

**Sydnee:** That bear.

**Raleigh:** Oh, that bear.

**Sydnee:** There is—

**Raleigh:** We had two—we had two bears.

**Sydnee:** Have had two—

**Taylor:** There's a bear?!

**Sydnee:** We have had two bears in our neighborhood.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** Like, right around the woods around this—I mean, seriously, like, within half a mile from our house, there have been two bears hanging around here.

**Raleigh:** See, Mom did this. She made the gophers feel safe, and then she made the deer feel safe, and now the bear's like, "Me too? What about me? You got food for me?"

**Raleigh:** And he took the pasta.

**Taylor:** Well, okay.

**Raleigh:** "This must be for me."

**Sydnee:** It's been so West Virginia, though. And I don't really want to get into the whole story of the bear. If you're local, you know the story of the bear, and I don't wanna—it's sad, and I don't wanna get to the sad bear part of the story. But, uh, all these people have been videoing the bear, like, out in their yards, and then posting videos on Facebook of like, "Look! The bear's here!"

And then everybody immediately starts commenting, "Don't tell the cops! Don't call anybody! Don't tell anybody! You gotta protect the bear! Everybody protect the bear! Don't tell anybody there's a bear here!"

Seriously, though! That's every video, like, "Look at this! There's a bear in my yard!"

"Don't tell anybody about the bear!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** Protect the bear, I agree with that.

**Sydnee:** I know! It's been very West Virginia. "Nobody tell any—don't tell the law about the bear!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Don't be a snitch! We don't need the government down here taking care of this bear!" Except for one person who was like, "Do you think the government's releasing bears?"

I was like, "What?!"

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** The government typed that.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Let me—just—just to help you as somebody that works with these delivery apps, just let me give you two facts. Just a little behind the scene knowledge. One, when an order goes missing, if it's a seamless Grubhub situation, UberEats, whatever, it is so much more cost-efficient for them to just—they will replace it. The restaurant still gets paid. We still get paid. We're just asked to remake the order and we get paid again by the big app.

So before you get in your car and drive around [through laughter] and try to bounty hunt your pasta, just let the app know that your food was not delivered, and they will either refund you or reorder your food for you.

**Raleigh:** No, they immediately refunded Mom, pretty much within, like, ten minutes someone was able to refund it. The restaurant was closed by the point that it had supposed to have been delivered and we realized it was nowhere in sight, so we couldn't get it replaced. Um, so, yeah. Honestly if it hadn't been for Charlie and Cooper needing, like, sustenance, if it would've just been me I'd have been like "Mom, you know, just get your money back. I'll make something else." But when you have Charlie and Cooper just sitting there staring at you with that look in their eyes that... I don't know where they get it from, when they get so hungry they just a little angry. I don't know where it comes from, but it's a little scary.

**Sydnee:** I have no idea. I don't know anything about it.

**Taylor:** Yeah, who knows about that?

**Raleigh:** Who knows? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I don't know anything about that.

**Taylor:** Both of you!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Both of you!

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Are terrifying when you're hungry!

**Sydnee:** I don't know why you're throwing shade, Raleigh. [laughs quietly] I will say that—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Neither of you can say that!

**Sydnee:** There is something that happens sometimes where you're watching for your food, 'cause you're really hungry and you've been waiting, and so you're, like, watching the delivery driver and you're like, "Ahh, here they come. They're driving. Okay."

And then you start seeing them go the wrong direction and you're like, "No, uh-oh! Took the wrong turn!"

And then they're going way the wrong direction. You're like, "Wait! Wait! Where are you going?"

And then you see 'em stop. And then they say "Your order has been delivered."

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** And you realize, like, they ate my food! [laughs] They ate my food! There's something about that. It's a kind of chaos that I can appreciate. Like, I'm always kind of like, "You know what? Well done."

'Cause my guess is that if you do that, eventually they won't let you drive for them anymore, right? Like, at some point if you eat the food, they're gonna be like, "We can't let you keep driving 'cause you keep taking the food and eating it."

So you must decide, like... this chili looks so good. [laughs quietly] Screw Grubhub, screw this job, I'm out!

**Taylor:** Uh, well, here's the thing. If there are people working the math that there's this massive food conglomerate delivery service—which, let's be real, the way they make their money is they take money from us, the restaurants. We have to pay them. And then the delivery drivers also, like, are—there's an amount of their sales that go to them. So they don't do anything. They just exist as an app, and they take money from all of us that are doing our jobs. If delivery drivers—and I know when it happens. It happens probably twice a night. Different delivery drivers, but twice a night at one of my jobs.

An order will not, quote, unquote, "get delivered." Or it'll get delivered to the wrong place. I know what happened. And we just go, "Okay, so you're gonna reissue the order? Great."

And we remake it, and somebody else shows up and takes it.

And yes, you as the consumer absolutely have to wait a little longer for your food. But for the amount of money those delivery guys get paid, like, c'mon. If your food looks so good that they just need to have it... you know. Let 'em have it. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, no. I mean, that's generally my feeling on it is like—I mean, it really is a kind of, like... I understand that decision making process. Like, "[sighs] This isn't really good for my rating or whatever probably, but man..."

**Raleigh:** Hey. I get it.

**Sydnee:** Our Wendy's chicken nugs looked too good. No, that poor guy didn't know. He did not take our chicken nuggets. He genuinely thought he had brought the entire order. That was all on Wendy's.

**Taylor:** Well, I was also gonna say my second point is if you—if you have a food come wrong in a restaurant, we're not afraid that you have a problem with it. We're afraid that you're gonna make a big deal about it. So if you're cool, and you're like, "Oh, it's not a problem," that's all you need to do. Nine times out of ten, just be cool about it. Don't use it as an excuse to, like, be abusive to us, and we will hook you up.

**Sydnee:** Hey, listen. My entire goal in existence is not to inconvenience anyone, ever, at any time, at any moment. That's it. [laughs quietly] If I can succeed in that goal of never inconveniencing another human for a second. [laughs] I'll feel I have lived my life well.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, you—you are inconveniencing me in this moment.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Because we are 17 and a half minutes into our podcast and we have yet to talk about the one thing I want to talk about!

**Taylor:** I'm sorry.

**Sydnee:** I'm so sorry.

**Taylor:** That's my fault. I went on a weird aside about restaurant stuff.

**Sydnee:** I think we all did.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** It wasn't just you.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And then Sydnee brought up the bear.

**Sydnee:** Sorry.

**Raleigh:** C'mon, Syd.

**Sydnee:** I know.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** The bear is gonna be on my heart for a while.

**Taylor:** "Then you brought up the bear."

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** I think the bear just now becomes, like... for any time somebody takes a topic wildly out of hand, "Oh, you brought up the bear." Okay.

**Sydnee and Raleigh:** You brought up the bear.

**Raleigh:** Um, you know what the bear was reminding me of, though, was that it was—people were saying there were two bears.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Right? Because they look just alike. But they were, like, being—

**Sydnee:** 'Cause they're just, like, they're bears.

**Rileigh:** But they were being spotted in these different places. Like, all at the same time, people posting videos. So it's like, there must be two bears! But what if it was really one bear? And what if these two bears look just alike? And they sang a song... together?

**Sydnee:** You've lost the metaphor, but we're talking about Barbie.

**Rileigh:** We're talking about the Princess and the Pauper, the Barbie movie. [laughs quietly] What if they sang a song where they held hands? And they said, "[singing] I'm just like you." Except it'd probably be...

All: [bear noises]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** To be fair, statistically, like, it is our state animal. There are lots of black bears in West Virginia, so. There could be two.

**Rileigh:** You know, they're really not that—they weren't that big, though. The ones that people were posting videos of?

**Sydnee:** They're two. Two years old.

**Rileigh:** Two?

**Sydnee:** Two years old.

**Rileigh:** They're little tiny bears.

**Taylor:** Little bears.



**Raleigh:** Little bears. Anyways, Barbie.

**Taylor:** Barbie.

**Raleigh:** This movie I thought we could talk about in preparation for the live action Barbie movie that comes out next month. Um, that I personally am very excited about. Because when I was young, more specifically I believe this one came out in 2004, the Barbie franchise made a series of movie musicals, and this was the first, Princess and the Pauper.

**Sydnee:** I, uh—I like—first of all, Cooper really got into it.

**Raleigh:** That makes sense.

**Sydnee:** Charlie was having some issues. One with the animation, I think. 'Cause it's just old school.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it's, like—it's like the early computer kind of stuff.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Computer animation, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Where everything sort of looks, like, stilted and weird, you know?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And then two, I think she just isn't as into princesses as she used to be. Cooper was way into it. I like that it showed, like—so there's the two princess—or there's the princess and the pauper who look exactly alike, even though they're not related.

**Raleigh:** Which is a really funny moment when it's these two strangers. It's like, you have very dark, solid brown hair, and have completely light blond hair. Except for that, we look just alike!

**Sydnee:** I mean, also 'cause they're both Barbies.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's the thing. They're both played by Barbie, which I think is funny. If you look at the description online it's like, "This one's played by Barbie and this one's played by Barbie. And this guy's played by Ken, and this guy's played by Ken." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know, that's what I said. "Oh my gosh, it's the Kens. We've got the Barbies and the Kens."

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** Um, it's just the brunette ones and the blonde ones.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I liked, too, that the brunette Barbie had a sort of theme where, like, blue was kind of her thing.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** And then blonde Barbie kind of had a theme where pink was her thing. Which, like, those—

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk] 'Cause that's the—well, that's the Barbie colors.

**Sydnee:** Well, those are the two things you can be growing up. [laughs quietly] The blue one or the pink one, with brown hair or the yellow hair.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That was a very definite distinctive personality... like, test, in my youth.

**Sydnee:** I feel like when I was little there definitely were those, like, you could buy the Barbie that was blonde and she would have pink her—er, not pink hair, pink on. Like, pink themed.

**Raleigh:** That's just traditional, like, OG Barbie.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Or you could buy the Barbie that had brunette hair, and she's still named Barbie, but her hair is brown, and everything's gonna be blue. And, like, that's a different thing you can be.

**Taylor:** The two genders of Barbie.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Those are the two Barbie genders you can be.

**Raleigh:** I always questioned why they had named them all Barbie, and why they stuck with that. Because, like, I thought for a while you've got, you know, vet Barbie, doctor Barbie, teacher Barbie, mom Bar—whatever.

**Sydnee:** Astronaut Barbie.

**Raleigh:** Astronaut Barbie. You've got all these career iterations of blonde Barbie, usually in the early days of career Barbie. They were all the blonde Barbie, but they had different jobs. But then you get all these different kinds of Barbies, but they're still Barbie. It's like, can we—do they not get names? And if they're little, is that when they're a—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] But they're all Barbie.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** Is that when they're a Scout? Or whatever her name is? You know, the little—the little sister?

**Sydnee:** Midge?

**Raleigh:** Not...

**Taylor:** Skipper. No.

**Sydnee:** Skipper.

**Rileigh:** Skipper. Yeah. The doll.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** There's also the other little—

**Taylor:** Is this like a Pokémon evolution?

**Rileigh:** That's what I'm wondering! Is, like, you go from Skipper—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] There's also the other little one.

**Rileigh:** —to Barbie and, like, then do you maybe evolve into brunette Barbie who's still Barbie? But, like, Ken, you're just—you come out a Ken?

**Taylor:** You stay a Ken.

**Rileigh:** You're Ken if you're a male in the Barbie world.

**Taylor:** Kens are Ken. This is...

**Rileigh:** [laughs] It's a weird dichotomy we're creating. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I think that—I think that—okay. What I think that Barbie—and I don't know—and I feel like once we see the Barbie movie that has come out, or that is coming out, the new Barbie movie—

**Taylor:** Everything I see about it says that it's gonna tell us lessons about God and man and creation—

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Yeah.

**Taylor:** —so I'm very excited for it. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I know. Exactly. Exactly. But I think it also—like, it alludes to this thing that like, Barbie is not a doll. Barbie is not a character. Barbie is a—

**Raleigh:** Is God.

**Sydnee:** Barbie is a concept.

**Taylor:** Barbie is an idea.

**Sydnee:** Barbie is an idea.

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** So the whole thing, I think, the reason I think they're all Barbie... and I'm sure someone knows this, because there are, like, how many cultural histories of Barbie probably out there in theses, forms, and whatever? But, like, my perception has always been that if all of them are Barbie, then anyone can be Barbie. You can be Barbie. I can be Barbie.

**Raleigh:** I see what you mean.

**Sydnee:** We can all be Barbie because Barbie is all of these things, all these ways of looking and being and acting and things you can do with your life. All of that is Barbie.

**Taylor:** Is Barbie just, like, living your best life? Is that ascending to Barbie?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** [laughs] You answered so quickly!

**Raleigh:** I was still thinking about it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You were like, "Yes, that's it. Yes."

**Sydnee:** It's like a Buddha, right? It's like—it's like the Buddha? Like, you can ascend—right?

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] They both start with B.

**Sydnee:** Isn't that, like—I do not practice Buddhism. But isn't that, like, you can, like—your goal of, like, ascending to the level of Buddha?

**Taylor:** Whatever you could be, like your career, your clothes, your trappings, those are all ephemeral. Like, your ultimate self is just yourself, there.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Is the Barbie.

**Taylor:** The Barbie.

**Sydnee:** And it is the Barbie. And then you have become the Barbie.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** I guess that makes sense in a more practical sense that, like, once they—'cause, I mean, we can acknowledge for a good while Barbie was only making, you know, thin, blonde, blue-eyed dolls.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** That were all Barbie. After a very, very long time, Barbie started trying to diversify the kinds of Barbies they have. And I guess that makes sense in a practical way of like, you want all consumers to see a Barbie that they can identify with that is still Barbie.

**Sydnee:** Now—

**Raleigh:** You don't want to be relegated to, like, a... [laughs] I don't know. I want to say someone's name and come up with, like, what would be the second class of Barbie!

**Sydnee:** Well, but that's true—

**Raleigh:** What's the second tier on the pyramid to, like, self-fulfillment and self-realization. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Because if this is what a Barbie is and she's the main character, and she can do anything and be anything, but then we decide that every doll we make with brown hair is named something else... well, that's automatically gonna be a secondary character, right?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I mean, still in the world—

**Sydnee:** So, like, if you have brown hair you can't be the main character.

**Taylor:** It's worth noting that in Barbie: Princess and the Pauper, the pauper is, in fact, the Barbie with brown hair! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Who—okay. Can we just—

**Taylor:** I—please, go ahead.

**Raleigh:** Go ahead, go ahead.

**Taylor:** Well, I just was gonna say, song like, "[singing] I'm just like you, you're just like me," like, no, no. One of you is an indentured servant—

**Raleigh:** Yep! Thank you.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —and the other one is a princess! So no. Like, it's cute that brown-haired Barbie was like, "Yeah, we're the same." But, like, you know she's thinking "No, actually I have to walk a mile for my egg and pay for it. You get an omelet in bed. We're very different."

**Rileigh:** It's one of the most genuinely—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] No war but class war. Can we do this? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. It's one of the most genuinely comical things I've seen in a very long time, is watching that where Erika, brown-haired Barbie, Erika—

**Taylor:** Brown-haired Barbie. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Pauper. Brown-haired Barbie.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Pauper.

**Rileigh:** I didn't know what their names were until I watched it this time. I never knew what their names were. I couldn't have told you their names were Anneliese and Erika! I said "Princess and Pauper."

**Sydnee:** Princess and Pauper, just like all brown-haired people. Like, you know, we are all paupers.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Actually, I probably said Barbie and Pauper.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** But anyways. [wheezes] When they're sitting there singing that song together, and Erika gives, like, kind of an emotional, like, sung-spoken monologue about how hard her life is as an indentured servant... and Barbie's like, "Yeah! I ring a bell and my maid brings me eggs in bed, and then she brings cookies, and my life's so hard. We both want to be somewhere else. Hmm!" [laughs] No! No! No.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And Erika's just there smiling like, "Huh, wow, yeah! We both have it just as hard."

**Taylor:** Totally the same. [laughs]



**Rileigh:** Totally the same! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I feel like they could've—see, they could've fixed that by focusing on the fact that Princess Barbie is being forced to marry someone, even though she doesn't want to. And that—that sucks. And, like, you can—I mean, you could get a gritty, dark version of this where, like, we'd talk about the reality of the monarchy and [laughs] medieval times where a young woman would be forced into a marriage against her will. And, like—

**Rileigh:** Well, [crosstalk].

**Sydnee:** —I don't think Barbie's interested in that story.

**Rileigh:** Well, do you know a more recent version of this story? This is my thesis. Is the Princess Switch of course, with Vanessa Hudgens and Vanessa Hudgens.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] [unintelligible]

**Taylor:** Oh, well, clearly, yes.

**Rileigh:** Well, yeah! It's baker instead of pauper, and it's princess and princess. I mean, it's—for anyone who [laughs quietly] has not seen Barbie: Princess and the Pauper, it's the very, like... I mean, it's been done many, many times in many different forms. The story of, like, two people. They look alike, neither of them are happy with—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] They switch places.

**Rileigh:** —their lives. They switch places. And they both, like, realize either they want this new life and they don't like what they had before, or they wish they had what they had before, and then they both inevitably fall in love with someone who thinks they're someone else.

**Sydnee:** Except that, like, in this one, like, Barbie got kidnapped.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And, like, Martin Short convinced Barbie's mom, the queen, that she was dead. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's rough!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** The—the—that whole subplot, that character's whole idea of how to get the throne was "I'm gonna steal all of their gold from their gold mine, and then I'm gonna show up and be like, 'Oh no, all your gold is gone! But look, I happened to stumble upon all this gold.'"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "How can you refuse?" [laughs] Like, it is not the—like, wait! So, all our gold got stolen under your watch, and now you have all this gold? Nobody's gonna put...

**Raleigh:** Nope.

**Sydnee:** Nobody's gonna question? Also can I say that in the opening when they're like, "We're gonna have to make Barbie marry the prince of this other country because it's the only way we can stay financially afloat," because the queen walked to the mines and was like, "There's no—we're literally outta gold. 'Cause I spend it the second it arri—like, I have spent through every gold lump you sent me... like, immediately. Like, you don't know how fast I spend those gold lumps."

Like, were you not investing anything, lady? Was there no—was there no sustainable business plan, other than—

**Raleigh:** No! Her daughter was upstairs getting eggs and cookies in bed!

**Sydnee:** "Get gold lumps and immediately spend them on eggs and cookies"?

**Taylor:** This was not—I think that there are bigger questions about this monarchy than—than are asked in this movie. [laughs] What?

**Sydnee:** I just thought, like, you don't—like, the idea that the queen went down—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] The whole system is corrupt.

**Sydnee:** —to the gold mine and was like, "Oh no! We're out!"

**Taylor:** I just... well, you know.

**Sydnee:** "We're done!"

**Raleigh:** A cursory glance at the outside of the mine is all it takes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "It's empty."

**Sydnee:** "We're done!"

**Raleigh:** "You done got it all."

**Taylor:** I mean, it's good that blonde Barbie is a scientist, 'cause that's her whole thing, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Like, that's the—that's the trade-off is like, brown-haired Barbie is like, "Yes, I am going to have to work for the next 40 years of my life to pay off—'cause me parents sold me into servitude?!" Is that—yeah?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's it, yeah.

**Taylor:** "Okay, so that's my life."

And then blonde Barbie's like, "I want to be a scientist, but instead I have to stay in bed and eat cookies. And that's... " but at least that, 'cause what her solution is—like, she starts an industry [through laughter] with...

**Sydnee:** Geodes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** With geodes!

**Sydnee:** That's, like, the nerdiest dream. Is like, "I'm gonna save a kingdom with geodes"?! [through laughter] I'm gonna—I'm gonna create a geode industry to keep my kingdom afloat, and then marry my sexy rock teacher!

**Raleigh:** I forgot about this.

**Taylor:** Sydnee, you laugh, but that's your exact—

**Raleigh:** I know!

**Taylor:** —dream. What are you talking about? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] 'Cause that's her whole thing! She's in love with her geology teacher! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I gotta say, I forgot about this entire subplot until watching it this time.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It comes outta nowhere.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's her—her knowledge of geodes saves the kingdom, and saves her poor mom from having to marry... I can't believe he's gonna make the old lady marry him at the end.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** He's an old dude.

**Sydnee:** Well, I just—I can't believe he's like—I don't know. You just don't usually see that plot.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And the queen's like, "Eh. Okay." [laughs] "I guess."

**Sydnee:** "I guess I have to marry you."

**Taylor:** I just—[laughs quietly] can we talk about the, um... the accent, like, dispersal with the animal characters? [laughs] Like... this is a world where all the animals can talk, but they can't talk to humans, so they have to abide by the humans, but they also definitely have sentience. And then there's a dog, and he's got a gold tooth, and he's from New York, I guess?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know? He's, like, the most Yonkers dog I've ever heard.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Like, there's a French horse that is—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** —complicit in all the evil plans? Uh, I don't... it's a lot! A lot of accents!

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** There's that cat that barks.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, there's the cat that barks.

**Taylor:** What was that supposed to represent? I think it's just about a cat that barks.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I don't know.

**Sydnee:** That was the cat that brown-haired Barbie had, right?

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Was the cat that barked.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause she's quirky? Or different? Her cat barks?

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] She's different. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's different.

**Rileigh:** It's also—

**Sydnee:** Except she also is a beautiful singer.

**Rileigh:** Okay, yes.

**Sydnee:** Her interest is music and singing.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Which is—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Which is, like, the—

**Taylor:** Go ahead.

**Sydnee:** I was gonna say, that was the clue right along as to which Ken was gonna get which Barbie.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** 'Cause the one plays three instruments, and then the one Barbie sings. But... this is a thing we've talked about before. This was in, like, the High School Musicals, when there's a musical thing but then somebody sings as, like, a thing that stands out from the fact that everybody sings. Like, wait, but do people hear this person singing? Because everybody sings! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Especially when you have two characters who are convinced they look and sound so much alike that they can trade places. That blonde Barbie's like, "Wow! She's really good!"

It's like, yeah, but then you sang together and you have the exact same voice.

**Sydnee:** You have the same voice!

**Raleigh:** They're literally voiced by the same person. Did you know that?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** Oh, I thought—that's—

**Raleigh:** It is one person.

**Taylor:** That's actually impressive voice acting, because she clearly used her spoken voice differently to make them sound a little bit different.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, that's true. They did. They did. They did. The one sounded, uh, daintier, you know? More royal, and the other one—

**Taylor:** Well, because she's blonde.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah. Well, that's how blonde people talk. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I was incorrect.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Um, they—the same person did the speaking voice for both of them.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** They had different singing actors.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** And the voice actor didn't sing for either of them. Two different people sang for both of them.

**Taylor:** Oh, interesting.

**Rileigh:** Same for King Dominick. He had someone else sing for him.

**Sydnee:** They got a lot of people involved to make this Barbie movie.

**Rileigh:** [crosstalk] It's a classic.

**Taylor:** It's a great film.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] King Dominick.

**Taylor:** The amount of—

**Rileigh:** It's a good film.

**Taylor:** The songs that, like—I was like, "Oh, god. I know every word to this song. Why?" And it wasn't my era, so I guess it's just Rileigh, when you were a—but a babe, and how often this played in our house. [laughs]



**Raleigh:** When I was four, watching this on repeat.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Yes.

**Raleigh:** I mean, I remember watching it so much that they had a—of course the limited edition probably Pantene or something shampoo and conditioner that of course, I makes sense in my head, the blonde Barbie was the shampoo and the brunette Barbie was the conditioner.

**Sydnee:** Right, of course.

**Raleigh:** Right. I don't know why it makes sense, but it made sense. But the bottle was, like, an entire doll. I mean the whole dress and head and everything. It wasn't just colored the colors. It was the whole doll.

**Taylor:** Did you have a Serafina, though? I feel like I remember you having, like—I just—about to call action figures. They're not action figures. They're dolls. But—[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Hmm... probably. Yeah?

**Sydnee:** I remember that.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] I feel like I remember that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** I remember that shampoo bo—why is shampoo pink and conditioner blue?

**Raleigh:** I don't know! It's like how, like, math is red.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Red.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Science is green.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** English is blue. Social studies is yellow.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Why—I don't know why. But that's what it is.

**Sydnee:** I feel like Teylor's gonna disagree.

**Taylor:** No, no.

[pause]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Do you have strong feelings—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] I mean, I just don't know why.

**Raleigh:** —about the colors of subjects, Teylor? [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, no! We've talked about this before. I feel like we all agree on these. I was more just trying to understand why shampoo was pink and conditioner is blue. And I think it's because—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I don't know why.

**Taylor:** —you know you need shampoo. You don't necessarily need conditioner. And that... owes itself to the secondary nature of brown-haired Barbie, which I think is unfair!

**Raleigh:** I think that's true.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** It's always a shampoo day. It's not always a conditioner day. You got the—like, the star and then the backup.

**Sydnee:** I don't understand why you would not use conditioner? I have al—  
I thought—

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, shampoo is for cleaning.

**Sydnee:** I know, but you always have to condition after you clean.

**Taylor:** Okay, but all of us produce too much oil, so you don't always need conditioner. And, uh...

**Raleigh:** We are an oily people. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I have never once shampooed without conditioning. Never in my life.

**Taylor:** Well. Um... uh, we can talk about that... off the podcast. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Off the podcast.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Charlie has started conditioning first.

**Taylor:** And she has no guidance as to tell her why that's not—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Nope!

**Taylor:** —a thing, so.

**Sydnee:** Well, she told me after! She said she saw it on YouTube that you're supposed to do that to make your hair so soft. And, I mean, I didn't know how to say, like, "Well, it's already done." And then her hair was fine. I don't know. It was fine afterwards!

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk] You know that going forwards she's going to shower again, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like, at some point in the future she's gonna then wash her hair again. And this is how habits start.

**Sydnee:** So...

**Raleigh:** And this is how she ends up at her first—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Is she just washing out the conditioner?

**Raleigh:** She ends up at, like, her first pool party or sleepover and they're all, like, taking their showers and getting ready for bed, you know, and washing their hair, and she casually says, like, "Oh, you know, don't you all do conditioner first?"

And then it's that moment where everyone's like, "Uh... no? Sorry? What?"

**Sydnee:** I don't know! I don't—

**Raleigh:** And she says, "Well, my mom said it was okay!" And then you've—there you go.

**Sydnee:** Well, I just—I guess it was more like an experiment. Like, I thought, "Well, let's dry and brush her hair and see what it's like," and it was fine. I mean, it was nice and soft and clean and shiny, and... I don't know! I don't know what any of it does! I know that my hair is bad before and good after.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And it's taking the pink out.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** That's a brown-haired Barbie take, I think.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] That's a brown-haired Barbie take!

**Sydnee:** I like to sing, I sew dresses, and I have brown hair.

**Raleigh:** Um... yeah. So anyways, the movie ends with a double wedding.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay. Why do they have a double wedding?

**Raleigh:** I don't know. It's especially confusing when you remember that, like... from what I'm remembering from watching this the other night, Anneliese and Julian are, like, immediately like, you know, after the events of the movie end—

**Taylor:** They've known each other for a long time, they love each other, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** They know they're in love. It's just, like, a well-kept secret. They're ready. But Erika is like a world-famous singer for a minute, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I love that she's like, "Listen. I do want to marry you... but not yet."

**Raleigh:** "I gotta go have my world tour first."

**Sydnee:** And so she goes on a world tour for a while.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I kind of like that. That's very un-B—

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's very un-Barbie, un-princess, un—you know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** It's very brown-haired Barbie. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** It—yeah. Brown-haired Barbie. They do what they want.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Uh, it was very surprising. It was such a funny thing, though, 'cause it was like, "Oh no, now she's performing in front of an audience, she realizes that the only audience she cares about it is her future husband." [laughs quietly] So I don't know how progressive that narrative was.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Her wealthy monarch husband.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** She'll settle for having the same problems as her blonde-haired counterpart. At least they didn't make her dye her hair.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Now you will assume the role of princess Barbie. It's time for the blonde. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Is it just like a transformation moment? Just like a, shwoop? There you go. Now you're blonde.

**Sydnee:** There you go. Now you're blonde. Now you're Barbie. "No, my name's Erika."

"No, it's Barbie!"

**Raleigh:** Why does blonde Barbie have a name that's not Barbie? Why isn't she just Barbie?

**Sydnee:** Barbie is the actress playing [through laughter] both characters.

**Taylor:** Yeah, Barbie is—that's why it's the same voice actress. It's Barbie.

**Raleigh:** Oh, you're probably right! I wonder if that same person voiced, like, future Barbies.

**Taylor:** Probably.

**Sydnee:** Do you think there were—okay. I saw that there were, like, outtakes at the end.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** I didn't watch 'em.

**Taylor:** Oh, I remember them from, like, somewhere deep cemented in my memory. Especially, like, when Julian starts doing, like, the weird dance?

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** That—I don't know why I remembered that one so much.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I was hoping in the outtakes it would just show, like, Barbie throwing a wig on real fast to do the other part and, like, filming both of them. They don't clarify?

**Taylor:** No, no. It's—it's clear... there's two Barbies, according to the outtakes, even.

**Sydnee:** Hmm. And two Kens, I suppose. You know, Ken's finally getting to—'cause, I mean, I would say that as much as Barbie is a concept, Ken was not. Unless your concept is, like, "Guy who hangs with Barbie."

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think that's it.

**Raleigh:** Guys. This—

**Sydnee:** That's it. Um—

**Raleigh:** This—I just—I need everyone to know. This woman was Barbie in, like, every single Barbie movie musical and movie that was ever made.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** Well, she's got the most Barbie voice ever.

**Sydnee:** It is a very Barbie voice.

**Raleigh:** Like, she is just Barbie. I mean, all the way up until—

**Taylor:** Mark Hamill's been the Joker in, like, 30 properties.

**Raleigh:** That's true. 2015 was the most recent one where she was Barbie. That's, like, a full decade plus.

**Sydnee:** I think it's funny that when they finally started making—'cause, I mean, they've made different Kens, right? Like, Ken just isn't the blonde—blonde hair anymore.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, but Ken never got the same treatment as Barbie in the sense, like, you didn't get packs that were just like... I don't know, here's Ken with a different job.

**Sydnee:** Well, no. The things that Ken got to do is have different hairstyles and outfits.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like there's the Ken with a man bun.



**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And the Ken with the spiky hair, and the Ken with, like, the flat hair. And then Ken gets to have different colors of hair. And they made different, like, skin colors of Ken. But they're all Ken.

**Raleigh:** There's no—yeah, there's no, like, specialization of career for Ken. He's just Ken.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's interesting though, because it feels like—is that supposed to be, like, intentionally... is that a comment they're making? In our world, Barbie is multidimensional.

Barbie can be all things for all people, and all... professions, and can be anything. But all Ken can do is change his hair and clothes.

**Raleigh:** I do agree that Barbie is not inherently—

**Sydnee:** Is that commentary?

**Raleigh:** It's not an inherently feminist ideal, or product.

**Sydnee:** No, I wouldn't say that.

**Raleigh:** But in that sense, that Ken is always an accessory to Barbie, you don't just get a Ken that has a life and a story on his own. You get a Barbie, and then you need a Ken to go along with the Barbie.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] No, Ken's thing is that he's Barbie's friend, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Well, boyfriend.

**Taylor:** Which is how most women are used in media.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Usually in jobs it's like, oh, that's a male that's a lawyer, a doctor, a businessman, and then he's got a beautiful wife.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] What does Ken do?

**Raleigh:** Ken doesn't do anything except exist to just be like, "I'm Ken."

**Taylor:** "I go alongside Barbie."

**Raleigh:** "I go alongside Barbie."

**Taylor:** "I will match her in color scheme, or career adjacent, or, you know." Yeah, that's fair.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Ken is a sexy lamp.

**Raleigh:** Why do I feel like Ken is usually a lifeguard?

**Taylor:** Well, he's that—

**Raleigh:** That makes sense for Ken, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah, he's been that a lot too, sure, yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, sometimes Ken, like, has a skateboard or a surfboard or some... roller skates.

**Raleigh:** Well, there you go. Ken—

**Sydnee:** Ken engages in sports! [laughs] Occasionally.

**Raleigh:** Ken's getting the same treatment as a lot of women, where it's like, oh, they exist to be, like, this sexualized, like, part, partially naked accompaniment to the powerful man. No.

**Sydnee:** Barbie is a concept. Ken is a sexy lamp.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** Well, but I mean, I think this goes into a broader conversation about, like, the male and female gaze. Because of course it doesn't matter that Ken is an accessory, because young boys aren't buying Kens, necessarily, to play with.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** There are male fantasies out there—and this is obviously very gendered, what I'm saying. But, like, that's what they're engaging with. Whereas Barbie is meant to be sort of a female fantasy of, you know, this man is an accessory to you based on what you need. He's an emotional support accessory [laughs] based on what you're doing.

**Sydnee:** Which is also why my Barbies always chose to date either the New Kids on the Block or the guys from 90210.

**Taylor:** Ohh, you were not about the emotional support Ken.

**Sydnee:** No. I don't even know that I had a Ken, because I had those other dolls.

**Raleigh:** I had a Ken. But... usually the blonde Barbies were dating the brown-haired Barbies. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. Sydnee would never, uh, like a doll that just emotionally supports her doll, and maybe cooks or bakes or, like, you know, has—

**Sydnee:** Hey, that's not—! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —emotionally awareness, who respects her needs. That's not a—

**Sydnee:** My husband is not a sexy lamp!

**Taylor:** She wants—she wants a cool—no, I'm not saying that! I'm saying that I think that [through laughter] maybe... maybe... I don't think Ken's just a sexy lamp. I think that it maybe plays into the idea that a, uh... a fantasy is to have somebody that complements and supports your goals in life.

**Raleigh:** When I envision myself and my partner as a Barbie and a Ken, would we be wearing color coordinated outfits, and would he look good—or she—alongside my designated career kit that comes with me when I come in my little package? That's what I think about. The answer is yes, then there you go.

**Sydnee:** Well, then you're a Virgo. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Don't you ever think of, like—you've never thought about what would be little accessory pack?

**Sydnee:** Uh...

**Taylor:** Oh yeah, absolutely.

**Raleigh:** You know what I mean? Yeah! Like, what—if some—'cause, you know, like when they buy, like, the... the teacher Barbie, you've got the Barbie. But then she's got, like, a chalkboard, and she's got, you know, like, papers to grade, and there's a desk. Like...

**Sydnee:** Justin has said actually—it's funny you say that. He—one time my—he was emptying out the pockets of my work fleece that I always have with me at Harmony House 'cause it's cold there.

**Raleigh:** There's your accessory kit.

**Sydnee:** And he was emptying out the pockets, and he said, "If you were an action figure, these are the things that would come with you."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it was, in addition to the fleece itself, a pulse oximeter, a tube of Burt's Bees, and a thing of Narcan.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Taylor:** That's the most intense Barbie ever.

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Well, those are the things that are on my person at all times.

**Taylor:** I would have a drawing tablet, um, a cocktail shaker, and, uh... uh... a... hmm.

**Raleigh:** Cat?

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah. Jack would be there, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Jack? Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But I don't know, I guess I'm not—[laughs] I'm trans, so I'm not a—I'm not—I don't get my own narrative 'cause I'm not a Barbie anymore! I guess I'm a Ken. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Hmm...

**Sydnee:** Well, Ken's getting a narrative now.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm really excited about the new movie.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] You could have a man bun.

**Taylor:** No. Never, never.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, everything we've been talking about has made me excited about the new Barbie. Like, the idea of Ken just existing as an accompaniment to Barbie. Like, from everything I've seen in the trailers, Ryan Gosling is just... empty-headed, no thoughts, blank stare Ken, who's there to be next to be next to Barbie. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well, I'm excited for it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, me too.

**Taylor:** I also will say I genuinely enjoyed this rewatch of [through laughter] Barbie: Princess and the Pauper.

**Raleigh:** Oh, good.

**Taylor:** It was very goofy—

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I know it's silly but, like—

**Taylor:** —but it was fun.

**Raleigh:** It kind of holds up okay, too. Like, it's not one of those old movies where you watch and you're like, "Oh, god, why did I ever like this?"

It's like, no. I get why I liked this. This is an enjoyable hour and a half I just spent.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, no. I mean, I enjoyed it. It made me laugh, and the girls loved—well, Cooper especially. Charlie lost interest, but Cooper was glued to the screen the entire time.

**Raleigh:** Well, there are many other Barbie movie musicals, that I will not make you watch on this podcast. But for anyone else listening—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] You can. It's fine.

**Raleigh:** —who wants to take a deep dive back—yeah, well, you know.

**Sydnee:** Nice.

**Raleigh:** Eventually I might have to circle back, but yeah. There's lots. I was a fan of them all. So thank you all for watching.

**Sydnee:** No problem.

**Raleigh:** What's next, Sydnee?

**Sydnee:** I just want to talk about the thing that I'm doing.

**Raleigh:** Sure. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Um, we're doing SpongeBob the Musical, so I want to talk about SpongeBob. And I'll talk about the musical. But we can just talk about SpongeBob. The property, the cartoon, the whatever your thing is, whatever your favorite iteration of SpongeBob.

**Raleigh:** Spanned, like, all of our generations.

**Sydnee:** It's been around forever.

**Raleigh:** So...

**Sydnee:** So... SpongeBob.

**Raleigh:** Sounds good.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Um, well, thank you. Thank you both.

**Raleigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Raleigh. Thank you for having us watch a Barbie movie.

**Taylor:** Absolutely.

**Raleigh:** Of course. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, we found it on... where did we find it?

**Taylor:** I paid to watch it on Amazon Prime. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's where I also watched it.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah?

**Sydnee:** I rented it, yeah.

**Taylor:** Okay. You gotta give that Barbie from money.

**Sydnee:** I did not buy it. [laughs] I rented it. Um... but there are lots of those Barbie movies, though. Charlie swears there's one called Princess and the Pop Star that she wanted to watch, but I couldn't find that.

**Taylor:** Did Charlie just make up idea that maybe... it will something someday.

**Sydnee:** Maybe she incepted it. Maybe it will be.

**Raleigh:** It—you know what? She is absolutely correct. It came out in 2012.

**Sydnee:** Well, that's what she wants to watch.

**Raleigh:** It is like the—and you know—you know what? You know what main Barbie looks like?



**Sydnee:** What?

**Rileigh:** She's blonde and she wears a pink dress. You know what secondary Barbie looks like?

**Taylor:** Oh, is she brown-haired and with a blue dress?

**Rileigh:** Well, she's brown-haired with a purple dress.

**Taylor:** [whispering] Ohhhh.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Ooh!

**Rileigh:** So... but yeah, she has brown hair. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Of course.

**Rileigh:** There's also a Princess and the Pop Star Veggie Tales?

**Sydnee:** I don't remember that.

**Rileigh:** So there's that. Anyways. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, anyway, thank you, listeners.

**Taylor:** Are you gonna ever—you've never brought Veggie Tales to the table. Are you gonna make us watch that one day? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh no...

**Taylor:** You should. God knows we did.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Oh, no, I haven't! But now I will!

**Sydnee:** I've—I've—I've sheltered my children from it.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** To—no lo—no longer can you shelter them from Where Is My Hairbrush? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you, listeners. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out a lot of other great shows you would enjoy. Um, 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 am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

**Raleigh:** That Preminger song is a bop, guys.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** What?!

**Raleigh:** It's a good villain song.

**Taylor:** The How Can I Refuse Song?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** It's [unintelligible].

**Raleigh:** Still...

**Sydnee:** Preminger?

**Raleigh:** ... bop.

**Taylor:** I like that, like, he just keeps singing his evil song, like, all the time. Like, you're revealing your plot, dude! Like, why are you doing it?

**Sydnee:** Stop!

**Raleigh:** He's just like me.

[all laugh]

[graduation music plays]

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

[crowd murmuring]

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

**Speaker 2:** This is great!

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

**Speaker 3:** What is happening?

**Speaker 4:** This is not the speech we approved.

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

**Speaker 3:** [loud gasp]

**Speaker 2:** Spill the tea, JV!

**Speaker 4:** Security!

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

[crowd cheering and applause]

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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