

## Still Buffering 365: "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)"

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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:** I dreamed of food I wanted to make last night.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** [laughs harder]

**Sydnee:** I think it's TikTok's fault.

**Raleigh:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** I don't know what I did to my algorithm, but all I see now are people making... Like a lot... I get a lot of videos of like, "As a professional chef, people always want to know what do I make for myself when I get home at the end of a long day."

**Raleigh:** Oh, I've seen those.

**Sydnee:** I get so many of those.

**Taylor:** Mm. Well, as a professional chef, it makes sense that you do.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I... They just... They know I want that for some reason and they always... It always starts with like, a big pan where they're sautéing like onion and garlic and like some beautiful tomatoes or something. It always looks so good. I was like, I just want to do all that and put it on zucchini.

**Taylor:** So that's what you're doing, Syd?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And then making some pasta.

**Raleigh:** Love a pasta.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I've gotten a lot of good recipes from TikTok, not like... I don't follow them specifically, but like inspiration for flavor combinations or just really easy ways of putting together a sauce.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I dunno, I'm happy to get those videos.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I sometimes wish I got more of those than like, I don't know, my algorithms all over the place. Sometimes it's like, "You want 10 tarot card readings, all in a row," or... I don't know, like, "18 videos of spooky clips from closed circuit television."

**Sydnee:** Here's what I have to be careful of. Sometimes it'll show me like a Karen video and I'll be like, "Ha! Get that, Karen. That's right. Tell her what's up." And I watch too much of it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then my algorithm's like, "Oh, you want to see more Karen videos, huh? We got loads." And then I'm like, "Oh, no, no, no, no, no. Now I'm just annoyed. Now I'm frustrated. No, just the one."

**Raleigh:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** "Just the one where they told that lady what was up about masks and that—now I don't want to see anymore."

**Taylor:** Yeah, you gotta be careful. You go to that, you click on it, you look at the comments, you go to the page for part one and then that is just... that's gonna to be your algorithm—

**Sydnee:** Yep.

**Taylor:** For at least a couple hours. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I did go down the rabbit hole of private chefs in the Hamptons.

**Taylor:** Oh... Yeah. You know what's funny? I am actually friends with one of those TikTokers that's a private chef in the Hamptons.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Taylor:** She's not... I don't think she's one of the, like, big, big accounts. But I have a friend who is... We recently followed each other on TikTok, and she's... that's her content. I mean, that's what she does. Like, "Oh wow." Like, "You're just a real person in the world, but you're also that." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** I know. Well, the main thing... I like to watch the cooking, but like the herb gardens just kill me. They're just gorgeous. Their herb gardens are always gorgeous and I just need more land.

Or probably, let's be honest, some... a professional person to tend to my garden instead of me. [laughing] That's probably what I really need.

**Taylor:** Well, I think that you and Mom have the same problem where it's like you guys both grow a lot of nice stuff, but then every time I come home, I'm just met with like an armful of herbs.

Like, "What can we... What... what do with this?" Especially mom. She's like "Here is... Would you like to take this home in a bag? What can you do with this?" Like, I don't [laughs]... I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Can you imagine flying home to New York and your bag gets randomly searched? And they're like, "Hmm, this is interesting. You have six Ziploc baggies of various herbs."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, "That really is oregano."

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "It really is!"

**Taylor:** Well, and it's... I mean, I don't... I'm sure the stuff grown fresh in West Virginia tastes better than what I can get in a supermarket. But at the same time it is... We do have rosemary in New York City.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** We do have thyme. Yours definitely tastes better, but I don't know if it's, you know, worth sneaking it on to an airplane. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was most proud of my shishito peppers.

**Taylor:** Hey.

**Sydnee:** They're so pretty and shiny and sweet and spicy and delicious. And I was just very proud of those.

**Taylor:** Did you ever—

**Raleigh:** I—

**Taylor:** ... blister `em? Do something with `em?

**Sydnee:** I ended up... I... By the time... Mom didn't use them and they were getting soft, so I stole them back. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** My shishitos and poblanos. And I ended up making this sort of like... I don't know what you call it. I threw those in with some onion and some black beans and some garlic and like some cumin and made some kind of saucy kind of thing. I've put it on like chicken, I've put it in with eggs. I've put it in with like six different things now.

**Taylor:** That sounds good.

**Sydnee:** Whatever that is. I don't know what you call that. I called it like a relish, but it's not really that. I don't know what it is.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I dunno.

**Sydnee:** It's delicious though. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Taylor, I just fear at one point that Mom and Sydnee's little gardening hobby that they both have become very good at—Their skill, if you will, not a hobby. One day we're just going to come back and it's going to be like they've gotten a farm. Sydnee's like, "Guess what, guys? I finally did it. I got more land."

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** And then it's just Mom and Sydnee have a farm just full of earths.

**Taylor:** See, and I don't think that's a fear. I think that's an eventuality that I've accepted.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And—

**Sydnee:** I—

**Taylor:** And she's been pretty open about, in Sydnee's ideal future, we all live together on some sort of commune.

**Sydnee:** Or—

**Raleigh:** Well, that's why this is my fear.

**Sydnee:** I mean—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I'm like, well, as soon as she gets the farmland and has all these acres and acres, then it's like, "Okay, well, now we've got a room for you and we've got a room for Taylor." And then, "Oh, look, now we just don't have rooms for you all, now we have homes for you all on our farmland. Look, we have animals!"

**Sydnee:** It's a—

**Taylor:** [singing to the tune of "Hotel California" by the Eagles] "Living it up at the Hotel Sydnee McElroy..."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [singing to the tune of "Hotel California" by the Eagles] "We got goats and stuff..."

**Sydnee:** It's a home—

**Taylor:** [singing to the tune of "Hotel California" by the Eagles] And some shishitos too...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's not a commune. It's a homestead.

**Taylor:** Sure, sure. Sure. Just...

**Raleigh:** Okay, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** I will say I—

**Taylor:** It's definitely not a cult.

**Raleigh:** Nope.

**Sydnee:** Not a cult. No! There's no religious element to this whatsoever. I just... I love growing things and I wouldn't mind having like, some chickens or goats or whatev—I mean, I can't have 'em here. My big problem is like we have so many other animals that live in close proximity to our house.

I mean, like we are surrounded by deer and bunnies and foxes and really big scary birds. I don't know what the birds are.

**Raleigh:** Really big birds.

**Taylor:** You do have big birds.

**Sydnee:** That—They're those turkey vultures that are scary looking.

**Taylor:** You got hawks.

**Sydnee:** There are hawks. Anyway, they're all around us and like, if I try to grow anything outside the fence, it's just decimated immediately. So... And like I don't want to fence in everything. You know what I mean? I need a greenhouse. This is what I need.

**Taylor:** That's... That's the first step, I guess.

**Sydnee:** I'm going to—I want to grow sunchokes next. And garlic. I'm going to plant that for next season.

**Taylor:** Scapes are really in... are in season right now.

**Sydnee:** Yeah! I'm going to grow—

**Taylor:** Scapes all over the farmer's market.

**Sydnee:** Listen, I'm going to grow a bunch of garlic and then like let the scapes... Like let some of `em... So if you let `em form the scapes and you don't cut them off, they'll use so much energy making the scapes that the bulbs are teeny, teeny. So you have to make the decision. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, I dunno. I guess but—

**Sydnee:** I want both.

**Taylor:** ... scapes are in. They're all over—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... menus. And you can pickle them too, apparently. That's... so... And I guess you can pickle garlic, but...

**Sydnee:** You can—

**Taylor:** Pickled scapes sound better.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, and you can make like a pesto with them.

**Taylor:** Oooh!

**Sydnee:** With like... I saw somebody make a pesto out of the tops of carrots instead of basil.



**Taylor:** Interesting.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I love that idea of using something that I don't... Like I don't... I never know really what to do with. I mean, I eat all kinds of leaves. My herbs—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** My herbs got—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Somebody please isolate that!

**Sydnee:** Sorry. Go back.

**Raleigh:** [laugh-crying]

**Sydnee:** [laughing] My herbs got all mixed up. My seeds were like... I don't know, they were cheap. My seeds were like, labeled wrong. My herbs got all mixed up this year and I have a pot that is growing... Some of it is basil. Some of it is lemon balm, I think. There's a mint in there.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** I think there's more holy basil, which is a totally different flavor profile from what you think of as basil. I have like... And then there's like some lavender trying to come in at the bottom. And occasionally the girls will want to make me a—

**Taylor:** “Hey, guys! Hey, room for me? Hey! Hey!”

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, like, “Can I... Can I get up in here? It looks like everybody's invited.” [laughs] But like it's all in one pot and the girls will want to make

me salads and I'll tell them they can put herbs in it. 'Cause I like herbs in my salad. So they'll go out and pick some leaves off of different stuff. And they know like, don't pick the sage because you... They... that's not really good raw, you know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But anyway, I have taken a bite of so many things that I'm like... "This is so perfume-y." [laughs] Like this is not... Whatever this is is not an eatin' herb. This is like a tea herb. This is a fragrant herb. This is not an eatin' herb that I just ate." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You're like messing with some pea plant genetics over there.

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

**Raleigh:** Mendel-ing all over the place. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I've got this beautiful... I had purple basil and red basil and of course, you know green basil. Most basil's green.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And then in the middle—

**Raleigh:** Is that just basil?

**Sydnee:** ... is this variegated plant that has grown up in the middle with green and purple on all the leaves.

**Taylor:** Oh wow. They made a baby.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's gorgeous.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** Is that how you explain reproduction to your children?

**Sydnee:** I haven't yet. They still don't want to know. Well, Cooper is too little, but Charlie still refuses to let me tell her about reproduction.

**Taylor:** That's...

**Raleigh:** Well...

**Taylor:** Well..

**Raleigh:** Use the basil.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Let her be on her own time frame there. See, I don't... I've been making salads... Like, I'm a big fan of salads with no, like, not... I think of it as "nonsense lettuce." Iceberg, romaine.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, honestly, like spinach is... At least spinach has some flavor. But anything that's just like... it's there to be a vehicle for your dressing? No. I don't want that.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I want my salad to be completely like... I love using just a ton of cucumber as like the base of my salad.

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** And you can use like the... I use the radish greens. Like I'll slice radishes, but then I also use the greens for it. And like a ton of either dill or depending on the salad, sometimes cilantro. I don't want any nonsense greens. I want flavorful greens all the way down.

**Sydnee:** I'm totally with you on that. And I love—if I need more for a base, if I don't have a ton of herbs at that moment, I will just like... We have a Slap Chop. Remember the Slap Chop?

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** "Stop having boring tuna. Stop having a boring life." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Trying.

**Sydnee:** Slap Chop.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** Trying.

**Sydnee:** I will slap chop up a bunch of like, celery and carrot into like little... Like a chopped salad, basically.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like little, teeny bites. Even like, the girls have started, because they like to make salads now, they've started throwing in raw asparagus. But man, if you chop it up small, that's still really yummy, you know?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't usually eat raw asparagus, but I will in that salad.

**Taylor:** Well, or like a whole... Just tomato, instead of lettuce as your base.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's a great... Just... I dunno. Just—

**Sydnee:** Shave some Brussels sprouts.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah, I love to shave Brussels sprouts.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, you don't have to cook `em.

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** Anyway—

**Taylor:** I used to out and like, go on dates. Now I talk about shaved Brussels sprouts on a podcast.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [giggles]

**Sydnee:** It's just also... It's so satisfying when you take... when you do it, when you grow it and then you eat... It's so satisfying.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Anyway.

**Raleigh:** [aggressively] Anyway.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's a big week here.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Guys, we have to... We have to dive in. It's another week here at *Still Buffering* where I make you all talk about Taylor Swift with me—

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** ... for 45 minutes.

**Sydnee:** I had this thought leading up to this episode, I got worried like... I don't know... Will there be a point where we run out of things to say about Taylor Swift?

**Raleigh:** I mean, presumably at some point we're going to talk about all the albums. So I mean after that...

**Sydnee:** I guess.

**Raleigh:** I guess so.

**Taylor:** She's just going to keep doing... I mean... I think the only way that we stop talking about Taylor Swift is if we all outlived [laughing] Taylor Swift.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Because she will continue to make herself relevant whether we like it or not.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Well, I have been trying and I've, you know, it makes it good because we space them out.

But I've been trying to not talk about all of her past albums until she re-releases the ones that she doesn't own.

**Sydnee:** Gotcha.

**Raleigh:** There are still a couple that we haven't talked about that she does own that... Well, I think actually just one. But I've been waiting for the ones that she doesn't own until she has her version. To not prompt listens of the stolen versions, if you will.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** So at least we have another couple years, probably, I don't know, to keep us going with those other three she has to re-release. But yeah, *Speak Now: Taylor's Version* just came out.

**Sydnee:** When I tried to play it initially, Charlie wanted it playing while she was taking a shower, which is... Like the Alexa is nowhere near her shower.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So she just puts it on Alexa and then turns it up like to absolute full blast. And then—

**Raleigh:** I do that anyways and it's right outside of my shower.

**Sydnee:** ... screams along with it from the shower. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And you can hear it in the whole house. But she said, "Will you get it to start?" And so I asked to play, and I said, "Taylor's Version."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** But like, it didn't do it right.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it started not playing *Taylor's Version*.

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Sydnee:** Charlie lost it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** Like, "Stop. No! Stop!" I mean...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like so upset. Not like, at me, just like, "No, you have... No! What if Taylor finds out that I did that?"

**Raleigh:** [As Charlie] "What if she finds out?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She was like, "Mommy! No!" And I was like, "I didn't mean... I know you said Tay—I said, "Taylor's Version." [laughs] We stopped it. We stopped it immediately.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She was like, ready to throw Alexa. She was like, ready to pick it up and throw it across the room. Like, "Don't ever again!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I always—

**Sydnee:** Why is that not the default?

**Raleigh:** Well, I always feel that way whenever... They have an "Every Taylor's Song Ever" playlist that she's curated on her Spotify that has literally all of her songs on it. And that's just like, when I'm driving for long distances or whatever, that's usually what I put on.

But for some reason, her own team that has curated this playlist has not removed all of her original albums from it. They've just added the Taylor's Versions. So like the sounds... I mean the point is that they pretty much sound the same. So it takes me a minute if I'm not looking at the screen actively like, "Oh no! This isn't a Taylor's Version, this is an old one they've left on there."

It is... It is a very jarring experience.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well they—I mean, I really feel like they should just... It should just be that.

**Raleigh:** Well, I guess they—I mean you can't remove the old ones, I suppose. I guess they still, you know, I don't know, exist out there.



**Sydnee:** Will it select for it if we keep asking for that enough?

**Taylor:** I dunno.

**Raleigh:** If that's how the AI works, I guess.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Anyways—

**Sydnee:** Someone tell the AI we only want Taylor's Version.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Someone tell the robots [pronounced "ro-butts"].

**Sydnee:** Does someone speak AI? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I think a lot of people do. I think that's how you make AI right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Don't have to be able to speak it. *Speak Now* is... for anyone who's unfamiliar, is by an artist called Taylor Swift.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] It is her third album. Originally it came out in 2010, the first time, and this is her version that is all the songs from the original with six vault tracks.

Which are tracks that she adds to her versions of albums that she wrote at the time of the original album but never made it onto the album.

She said before she wrote 40 or 50 songs for *Speak Now*, so this is just... I think there are like 20 on the original album or something like that, maybe 18? So this is like, you know, obviously a fraction of that.

But it is entirely written by her. There are no co-writers on any of the songs on the entire album. Which is pretty cool because she was 19 when she wrote it.

**Sydnee:** Wow.

**Raleigh:** So... Yeah.

**Sydnee:** What album was this for her.

**Raleigh:** Three.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** This was... She was on tour for *Fearless*, her second one but really her first big album, and wrote all of these songs while she was on tour. And has said that like all of the people at the... The album before this, *Fearless*, is really what blew up her career.

And everyone was criticizing her and saying she's not really writing her own songs and she's just this young country girl, and that's all she can do is just write these country songs. And this might be a big album now, but nothing else is going to come from her, pretty much.

So she said she knew that this album had to be, like, great. It couldn't just be like, another country album from that girl. It had to be something special. And it had the potential to either make her career even bigger or end it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And that's why she chose to write everything herself. So that no one could even say, like, "Oh, well, there are co-writers because she didn't really help write any of it. She just helped a little bit and her cowriters did all the work.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** Now, I didn't see the music video you showed Charlie and Cooper. But Taylor Lautner is in it?

**Raleigh:** [laughing] Yes. She dated Taylor Lautner during the *Speak Now* era, originally.

**Sydnee:** Are any of the songs about him?

**Raleigh:** "Back to December" is about Taylor Lautner.

**Sydnee:** Okay. Okay.

**Raleigh:** Which is one of Taylor Swift's only songs where it is about a breakup but it is her pretty much apologizing and saying she was in the wrong.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** Which is interesting. She has a lot of breakup songs that are about, you know, being heartbroken and hurt and sad and angry. And this is not.

**Sydnee:** Well that that would make sense if he's the only guy who's been like, "Yeah, I'll show up for that."

**Taylor:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There are rumors that—

**Sydnee:** I mean, you don't see the other guys clamoring to like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "I really want to be a part of this again."

**Raleigh:** Oh, John Mayer's not ready to hop up on stage and do backflips.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** Um... Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because that's what... That's what that's about, too, right?

**Raleigh:** "Dear John."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh. Which... He tried to sue her for that, actually, and say "This is obviously about me. You're defaming me." And she said, "No. One, your name's John. That's pretty generic. Two, there's nothing in here that's about you. And three, 'Dear John' is like, you know, like a 'Dear John' letter."

**Sydnee:** That's an established...

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it's a thing. So, it's not about you.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** I mean it is, but...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** She also wrote... I mean, "Ours" is one of like, the sweetest love songs she's ever written.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And that was also about John Mayer.

**Sydnee:** Ohh!

**Raleigh:** So, you. It's obvious she wrote this over the span of a couple of years because she's written nice songs and then break up songs about the same people on here.

**Sydnee:** Has she admitted that those songs are about him?

**Raleigh:** No, I don't think she's ever... I could be wrong.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I thought that was her thing.

**Raleigh:** Her—

**Sydnee:** That she doesn't admit it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, she doesn't. But I mean, there are clues.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like when she said she was 19 and she was too young?

**Sydnee:** There are clues.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** He was... he was 32.

**Sydnee:** Raleigh has a chart in her room.

**Raleigh:** He was 32.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] There are clues.

**Taylor:** But I feel like—

**Sydnee:** I mean...

**Taylor:** That's one of Taylor Swift's writing skills, right? Like, I feel like if you are ever the [laughing]... the victim of a Taylor Swift's hit track, you know it's about you,

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** But it's with enough room to escape liability. That's like—

**Raleigh:** Ex—Yes.

**Taylor:** ... better than revenge, right?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Everybody knows who that's about. And there are a lot of details, so it's like, "Well, clearly, like, you're talking about, not... Whatever, enough vintage dresses won't make you whatever..."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I know you know the lyric.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like, I'm sure that someone heard that and went, "Oh, that's about me."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And people that knew that person went "Oh, that's about that person." But it's vague enough that anyone can just, you know, listen to it and enjoy it.

**Raleigh:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, and also like, who wants to claim it?

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, that one... My favorite thing about that one is it tells you exactly who it's about, but only if you are also a fan of that person.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Rileigh:** Because it is about Joe Jonas. And he had a song... Well, the Jonas Brothers did, called "So Much Better" that was about how much better he was doing after he broke up with the girl that, like, had teardrops on her guitar or whatever, which is another Taylor Swift song.

And started dating like, you know, better girls, basically. So there's a refrain in "Better Than Revenge" at the end where she's like, "Oh, because you're so much better now. You're so much better." It's about him.

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Taylor:** But that song is taking aim at the girl.

**Rileigh:** Yes. And that one actually, I'm glad you brought that one up, because it has gotten similar treatment as like "Misery Business" by Paramore.

**Taylor:** Mm. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And there's a lyric change in Taylor's Version that is just one line, but it is the only time she's re-recorded a song and changed it at all from her version. Well, her original version.

When she says... In the new one she says, "He was a moth to the flame/She was holding the matches," I think.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** In the original one it's, "She's not a saint, she's not what you think/ She's an actress/She's better known for the things that she does/On the mattress."

**Sydnee:** [shocked] Ooh.

**Raleigh:** That is the original line.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Raleigh:** And it has gotten very similar flack as Misery Business did, where, you know, Hayley Williams then said, "Okay, well, I'm not going to do 'Misery Business.'"

Taylor couldn't take "Better Than Revenge" off of like, you know, the market per se, but she just quietly changed it without saying anything on this version.

**Sydnee:** I... Huh.

**Raleigh:** That's it.

**Sydnee:** I noticed that lyric, but I didn't know it had been changed. I would not have known that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's interesting because that song... I mean, you say it's about the... a Jonas?

**Raleigh:** A Jonas.

**Taylor:** A Jonas.

**Raleigh:** Yes.



**Taylor:** But it, again, it's taking claim at the girl.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And people know who the girl is. I don't... I know I looked at it. Like it is an actress that is well known.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So people know who it is. But it... That was the only one... Like maybe because this is such an older Taylor album, I feel like this is the first relisten and then I'm like, "This feels weird now."

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** Because even though that one lyric is... it's good that she changed it. The whole song buys into that old thing of like, "Oh, he's just a man."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** "It's not his fault that he was seduced away and cheated on you. It's really that evil woman's fault."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And not like, "Hey, your boyfriend left you. He's to blame, not the woman—"

**Sydnee:** He sucks.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "... who you wrote the whole song about." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Right. Yeah, that's actually something a lot of people have said about it. And I listened to it for the first time with my friends, and we all kind of agreed that, like, "Fearless" and "Red" that she re-recorded, a lot of them...

"Fearless" is just very much like her original country album. It's very... Like some of the songs are kind of young. You wouldn't expect a 30-year-old woman to be singing them.

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Rleigh:** "Red", a lot of them have like older themes, so it makes sense. But this one there are a lot of songs that are very much, and very clearly, like 19-year-old angst—

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rleigh:** ... that sound kind of odd for a 32-year-old woman to be singing them.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rleigh:** Like, her voice sounds noticeably older.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rleigh:** And in the original one it's like, "Oh, well, that's a young girl that's singing this. That makes sense."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rleigh:** And it does sound a little odd for some of these songs, and that's one specifically that I think her new voice doesn't quite match. And the lyric change while I know why she did it, she wrote the new lyric as 32-year-old-Taylor.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rleigh:** But put it into the song that was written by 19-year-old Taylor. And I—You said you couldn't notice it, so maybe that's just me knowing what the

lyric was supposed to be. But to me it's noticeable. Like, "Well, this doesn't quite match the vibe of the rest of the song."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I don't think an angsty 19-year-old would write, "He was a moth to the flame/She was holding the matches." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, that makes sense when you put it that way.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I think it's more that, for me, my exposure to Taylor Swift is all sort of current.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because I didn't listen, other than the songs—

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** ... that were big enough to be on the radio...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** ... I never listened to any of the albums until you had us do it on the podcast, so...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or unless Charlie is wailing along with it in the shower.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Also because of me.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes, also your... fault? Are we... Fault? Is that...? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** My contribution.

**Sydnee:** [laughs harder]

**Raleigh:** To her upbringing, is her love of Taylor Swift.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. So that song... I do love that song and—

**Taylor:** Oh no, it's an incredibly catchy song. Like, I enjoy listening to it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And I feel kind of the same way about it as I do when we talked about Paramore and "Misery Business."

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Where it's like, "Yes, I understand what the issue with it is." I agree in a broad sense.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Like, yes, that is not a good stereotype to perpetuate about other women. But, there are still many men that are making songs today, making them in the year 2023, calling women, you know, lots of bad names and saying similar things about women.

And we're not making them change the lyrics. So, you know, I know why she did it. And I know why she's just going to do it quietly and never say anything about it.

But you know...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It's also just like, "Come on. It's just a good song. [laughs] She was 19."

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, I mean that—

**Raleigh:** Let it be.

**Taylor:** Yeah, at the end of the day like... And similarly, Hayley Williams was super young when she wrote "Misery Business."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like this is an impressively skillful song for somebody of that age to write. And that's exactly a feeling you're capable of feeling at that age.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So, I don't know why—

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Taylor:** ... there has to be some condemnation over it. I don't think she needed to change it, honestly.

**Sydnee:** No and it's—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's also hard, too, because what you're.. What you... What artists do with music is connect with their audiences through, like, shared experiences or emotions. Or like, by making you... "Yeah, I've felt that way before. I've thought that before."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And we all experience emotions and feelings and react to things in ways that we wish we wouldn't.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Things we—you know?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** We've... Most of us have been there, where like, our blame should be focused on somebody. But maybe because we don't want to believe that about them, we focus our blame on the wrong person.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And target them instead with anger. And it's wrong. But we've all done it and so it's hard too, because that's part of what an artist does is say, "Here's an ugly part of me that you may also have..."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "... been ugly in this same way."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "And I'm telling you that you're not alone."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And... I don't know. There's value in that. But it's hard when it's part of a larger cultural conversation about misogyny and women and...

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** Well that's... I have to ask, and I actually know 'cause I looked up the story, that *Speak Now*...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** How many fantasy weddings has Taylor Swift broken up?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs hard]

**Taylor:** [laughing] Like it... It's more than one and more than one is weird.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, again, that's like one of her... Like, "Love Story" that's about like Romeo and Juliet.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** This is her like, "In my dreams I'm fantasizing about interrupting a wedding and [laughing] telling the groom I love him," I guess.

**Taylor:** Well, 'cause isn't there a later album—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... where she's got the whole imagery of, like, her showing up at the wedding in the red dress and like—

**Raleigh:** Yes!

**Taylor:** ... eats the cake.

**Raleigh:** Yes, that's the whole music video.

**Sydnee:** That's—

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that she made.

**Sydnee:** ... "I Bet You Think About Me"?

**Raleigh:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [proudly] Heh?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. She shows up at the wedding in the red dress. Good job, Syd.

**Sydnee:** Charlie and Cooper love that one.

**Raleigh:** I'm sure.

**Sydnee:** I've seen it multiple times. Cooper loves when she grabs the cake and it's red velvet or whatever.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** And then eats it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, she loves that part.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah... Yeah. [laughs] I'll be honest I don't know why that's the titular song for this album. It wasn't even a single for the album, ever.

**Taylor:** Oh, weird.

**Raleigh:** And it wasn't what she wanted the name of the album to be. But for some reason her label was like, "That's the one. That's the song."

**Sydnee:** Wonder what she wanted it to be?

**Raleigh:** She wanted it to be *Enchanted*, is what she wanted the name of the album to be.

**Sydnee:** Ehh. I think—



**Raleigh:** But...

**Sydnee:** I think from a marketing perspective, it makes more sense.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. *Enchanted*, I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Sounds a little juvenile.

**Sydnee:** *Enchanted* sounds... Yeah, it's a little floofy. You know, like—

**Raleigh:** Well then, I mean, then you also had the Disney movie—

**Sydnee:** It doesn't—

**Raleigh:** ... that was named *Enchanted*.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It doesn't sound strong and... Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it doesn't sound like "I'm declaring a new musical voice."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And like, "I am the next big thing." It sounds more like, [princess voice] "This will be lovely."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It is funny though, when you think about that she had a guest spot on *New Girl* and interrupted Cece and Shivrang's wedding.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's true.

**Raleigh:** And ran off with him, like in "Speak Now."

**Taylor:** This is a—

**Sydnee:** What is that..

**Taylor:** This... And you know, I don't know, maybe this is one of those moments where I'm like, "I was never like other girls." Is interrupting an ex's wedding a common fantasy that she would be tailoring her music to? Haha. Tayloring.

**Raleigh:** Tayloring. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uhh... Oh man. I mean, it certainly has never been something I've fantasized about, but...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I think... I think as... As...

**Taylor:** How about you, Raleigh?

**Raleigh:** As a 20—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, well, I mean, everybody's different though. I don't know.

**Taylor:** That's true. That's true.

**Sydnee:** Maybe it is.

**Raleigh:** Well, as a 22-year-old teenage girl, [laughs] I think that it's... Not... Maybe not specifically interrupting a wedding.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** But the idea that someone you'd broken up with or that broke up with you that has moved on and is with someone else, and you think is happy. And then one day, would all of the sudden be like, "Actually, no, I've loved you the whole time."

Like, I think maybe that general fantasy of like, "When he broke up with me and dated this new girl, it's not because he liked her more. Like he still loved me." Like, "He still wants to be with me and he'd come back to me if I asked." Like, maybe that kind of idea—

**Taylor:** "I'm the best thing that ever happened to you."

**Raleigh:** ... is appealing.

**Taylor:** Kind of.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I... That—

**Raleigh:** Like, "Even if you're at the point where you're willing to get married to someone else, if I showed up and I said, 'I want to be with you' then I would be the one that would make it so you'd not want to."

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I think... I think that is more normal when you put it that way.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because I think that the level of maturity you have to have to be at a point where, especially if somebody like really burned you.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** To still be like, "You know, I know they really did me wrong, but I care about `em so much and I'm just so glad they found happiness and I just really celebrate their happiness." The level of maturity you have to achieve [laughs]...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like... I don't know. Not everybody even ever gets there, I don't think. I don't think it's fair to say like, "Well, you grow up and you're just happy for all your exes." No, because if they really... you know...

**Raleigh:** It's interesting you say that, 'cause...

**Sydnee:** ... screwed you over. You're probably not.

**Raleigh:** ... she has a song on *Evermore* which I think we've talked about on here, called "Happiness" that's a... It's a faux story of a relationship. It's not about one of hers.

But it's about a couple that was together for seven years and has ended. And the refrain is, "There will be happiness after you/ But there was happiness because of you/ And both of these things can be true."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** She was like, "Okay, we're done. We're moving on."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** "But there was good in our relationship and you'll be happy after and I'll be happy after and that's that."

Which I think is an interesting progression to see from, you know, her being a teenager to her being a mature adult with lots of life experience.

**Taylor:** Interesting.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, and I—

**Raleigh:** She did recreate a fake little wedding at her concert every night, though, for “Speak Now” on that tour.

**Taylor:** [laughs] I really—Again, I think... I mean... We've all recognized this about Taylor Swift, but no matter what she's a brilliant businesswoman.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** She knows how to pick themes that will sell to people, that people will embrace, and that includes—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... popular fantasies. So I don't... I'm not knocking the hustle. It's just a... It's a constant hustle. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It is... yes. Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean... I mean, I can see where that's probably... I bet if you polled people, I bet the idea of, like, dramatically breaking up a wedding to declare your love for some—and having it reciprocated.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It... You know.

**Raleigh:** I mean it's in rom coms.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like, we've seen it in movies.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like, it's just one of those popular tropes that like, in real life, probably doesn't really ever happen that often, but...

**Sydnee:** I've never been to a wedding where it's happened. But...

**Raleigh:** I mean, I've only been to like, two.

**Taylor:** That would be so awkward.

**Raleigh:** And yours was one of them. So...

**Sydnee:** It would be so awkward, but I also would like...

**Raleigh:** Love it?

**Sydnee:** I mean...

**Raleigh:** The drama? [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, no. You gotta... Especially like if you're part of like, I dunno... If you care about either of the people up on that altar, I think you gotta pull like a *Spartacus* moment.

Like someone stands up and says, "No, I love you!" Then you gotta stand up and be like "I love you too!" And just hope everybody follows suit.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And everything's so bizarre that they just go back to the wedding.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I think that's the move.

**Sydnee:** "Never mind."

**Raleigh:** "[coughs] Anyways..."

**Taylor:** "We all love you. Yay, you're getting married!"

**Sydnee:** "Yay!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Go back to the marriage." And everybody claps and then let the marriage happen.

**Sydnee:** That was a fun joke fun.

**Raleigh:** Then you move on.

**Sydnee:** Fun joke. No, I don't know, because we did... with that show... What was the show where they get married and they...?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** ... have all the pods?

**Taylor:** [laughing] That was...

**Raleigh:** *Love is Blind?*

**Sydnee:** *Love is Blind.*

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I will say that just watching that moment on television was a lot for me.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** So maybe it wouldn't be that great. Just watching the moment where they're like, "I actually don't want to marry you."

**Raleigh:** I don't...

**Sydnee:** [Shudders] The people... The people at the wedding? God love those people. [Shudders]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "Now what?"

**Raleigh:** Yeah. The vault tracks, I wanted to talk about, because one of them has Hayley Williams on it, who we were just talking about. "Castles Crumbling."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Which she wrote, obviously, as she did with all of these, wrote it at the time she wrote the *Speak Now* album. And she described it as kind of like her antithesis to "Long Live," which is one of the most popular songs from this album that's dedicated to—I mean, she's said before it's for her fans.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Like it's about the moment she has made with the people who listen to her music and she's become successful because of them and it's for people that listen to her music and stand by her.



This song she wrote as the opposite of that, because this was right after— She was writing this after the Kanye thing happened, where he took the mic from her and embarrassed her on stage in front of all the people.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. I remember that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. People were booing when she was up there and they were booing him, but at the time she thought they were all booing her and agreeing with him.

**Taylor:** [sadly] Oh...

**Raleigh:** So she was convinced that, like, “Oh yeah, everyone hates me and thinks I don't deserve this either. And I'm a fake and a failure and my career is over.”

So she thought *Speak Now* was going to be like her end of her career, basically. So “Long Live” was like, “All our memories are gonna live forever. You all did this for me. It's over now, but it's great.”

And this is like her seeing all of it fall down.

**Sydnee:** [sadly] Oh...

**Raleigh:** Her being like, “I used to be great. I used to be a hero. They used to chant my name. Now they're saying they hate me.”

**Taylor:** This is really—

**Raleigh:** Like that's what “Castles Crumbling” is.

**Sydnee:** That's sad.

**Taylor:** That's really heavy for, how old was she again? 19?

**Raleigh:** 19, 20. Yeah.

**Taylor:** That is a lot for a 19, 20-year-old to contemplate.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm also sad that this didn't make the original album—

**Raleigh:** [whispers] I know!

**Taylor:** ... because there would have been so many sick, like music videos with clips of Cersei and Daenerys from *Game of Thrones*—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** ... if this had been around.

**Raleigh:** God, you're right.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I know.

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

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It is.

**Sydnee:** It is a good song.

**Raleigh:** And Hayley Williams said she liked being on it because she experienced similar thoughts being another young, teenage girl in the spotlight, basically.

**Taylor:** See—

**Raleigh:** So...

**Sydnee:** And poor, poor Taylor Swift.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, you know, looking back on it, where we are now, that was one of the least wild things—

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Sydnee:** ... that Kanye would do.

**Taylor:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** And she had no way of knowing then that like—

**Raleigh:** None of us had any way of knowing what he would become.

**Sydnee:** This is just an opening salvo for... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't—

**Sydnee:** ... for what's to come.

**Taylor:** I mean, I don't... I... Hm. You know, for as much as she sings about revenge, and she does, a lot, like...

**Raleigh:** She does.

**Taylor:** I feel like she got it. Its Taylor Swift actually some sort of supreme sorceress? [laughs] Who is—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She sings about karma a lot.

**Taylor:** Her enemies are greeted with a firm hand. I don't know.

**Raleigh:** I mean... I wouldn't... I wouldn't be surprised if she was secretly like some... You know.

**Taylor:** It's a lot of symbolic imagery. I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But you know, I do—This is... It's funny that this song was left off the original release and now, as much as we were talking about some of the songs that were released don't really make sense in her voice, this one super did.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Like it would have been weird to hear a 19, 20-year-old sing this. It totally makes sense for her now.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** After how much she's dealt with in her career.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, absolutely. That one and then "I Can See You", which is my personal favorite because it's just so friggin' fun.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** That one people joke that it was left off because her mom... Her mom used to be very involved with the choreography she would do on tour and very much wanted her to be family friendly.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Like, "Little girls can come see your show. And parents are never going to worry about little girls looking up to you. There's nothing you're ever going to do that's going to look the slightest bit inappropriate," basically. She had a very wholesome, almost Disney Channel-esque—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** ... first few albums. But "I Can See You" is kind of... it's kind of sexy.

**Taylor:** [sarcastic] Uh-oh!

**Raleigh:** And it was left off and I can see why because I think it would have been weird hearing her sing that along with some of these other songs.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like along with "Speak Now", the song, that would have been a little... Would have felt out of place.

**Sydnee:** I can see that.

**Raleigh:** Um... But yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or like, "Mean."

**Raleigh:** Yeah, or "Mean."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which I like.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I like that one a lot.

**Raleigh:** You like "Mean"? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I heard it and I was like, "I remember this. I like this song."

**Taylor:** It is a good song.

**Sydnee:** I always liked that song.

**Raleigh:** I did have a moment with my friends, we were listening to it back when I was visiting with them in DC last weekend, where we were having some... having some *Speak Now*-themed drinks that Taylor helped me create.

And we were listening through the album and "Mean" came on and we all started tearing up like, "Yeah. And now we're living in a big old city!"

**Taylor:** [laughing] Oh...

**Raleigh:** "Now, all of them are just mean!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Because it came out when we were like, 10.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that is—

**Raleigh:** You know?

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

**Taylor:** I like that song. I feel like it has the same energy as said, Syd, I know you like this song, the "I Am Sensitive" song by Jewel.

**Sydnee:** [laughing] Yeah.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It does. It definitely does.

**Taylor:** You know? You know?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like I think that's not like... That's... Those are good. Those are... I like both of those songs for the same reasons.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh man, now you bring up Jewel and I gotta think about the line, "I was thinking it might do some good if we robbed the cynics and took all their food."

**Taylor:** "And then what they believe would have taken place and we'd give it to people that had some faith."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughing] Ohh... Yeah.

**Taylor:** [inhales] No.

**Sydnee:** Maybe that's why I like it. I do. I was like, "I really like that song."

**Raleigh:** I can see that.

**Sydnee:** I don't know why.

**Taylor:** Well, I think both of them are good in that we tend to—

And you know this is something that actually she talked about in her documentary, Taylor Swift did, about how she understands that everything that's happened to her should make her hard.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** But she doesn't want to be hard, you know? Like, because her songwriting comes from her connection with her emotions or other people's emotions.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's the funny thing. That "Speak Now" was actually inspired by a friend whose ex was getting married, so...

**Raleigh:** Ohh...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I didn't even know that.

**Taylor:** I just... I was looking it up and I was like, "Oh, interesting." Because it's... Again like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** She uses this imagery of a wedding being broken up a lot, but this was actually inspired by a friend.

**Raleigh:** Huh...

**Taylor:** But she's in touch with emotions and understands the importance of them, so that's important to her success and her songwriting.

And I don't... I think we generally associate like, cynicism and negativity, with adulthood and hopefulness and kindness with immaturity.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And I feel like the opposite is true. But you don't get a lot of songwriting, writing in general, that approaches that. And I appreciate that whenever you come across it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well, and I think she still has that complexity there because like, a little bit of that does come through from time to time.



**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I think you can tell that like, the industry has done a bit of a number on her.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And she is not... Like she's honest about—Like, she's aware of it.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She knows that that comes through. And I don't... you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I appreciate that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The anger is there sometimes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I do have to mention that she said herself when re-releasing this, that both the saddest song and the most scathing song she has ever written are on this album.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Raleigh:** She says that “Last Kiss” is her saddest song ever, which I have to agree. And that “Dear John” is her most scathing song ever.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** Which I think is interesting, because again, she's written, what? Seven more albums? Since this one, all into adulthood, and she still says some of these ones she wrote when she was like 19 are at like the top of her

list for emotions. Which, I mean, part of that probably is because she wrote them entirely on her own.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah, and that's your most vulnerable age.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** All that—I've seen so many tweets that say, "It should be illegal for any girl to be 19." [laughs] It's like the worst age.

**Sydnee:** Nineteen... We shouldn't let anybody make any major life decisions at 19.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Nineteen, you just take a pause. You get to still live. Just no big decisions, just little ones. Like... you know—

**Raleigh:** If someone had let me write an entire album...

**Sydnee:** ... fries or tots, that's as big as we get when you're 19.

**Taylor:** [giggles]

**Raleigh:** If someone had let me write an entire album and publish it for millions and millions of people at 19... Oh my god... [laughs] It would have been horrible.

**Sydnee:** Well, we're all working through some stuff at that age.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** But yeah, "Dear John" is uh... It's that... It's that song.

**Sydnee:** Now, when we were discussing this album, Charlie told me that if I were a true Swifty I would know that "Enchanted" is the best song off this album.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** And should have been my favorite.

**Raleigh:** That's what Charlie thinks?

**Sydnee:** That's what Charlie said. She said, "If you... If you were a true Swifty, you would know."

**Raleigh:** Well, I will say that she got a lot of heat because when the Eras Tour started, obviously Eras Tour, so she's doing songs from all of her eras. But she only has one song from "Speak Now" and has like at least like three or four from every other era except for her debut one. And the one song is "Enchanted."

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** So... I mean it's a great song. She actually wrote it about a member of the band Owl City, like the one that sings that "Firefly" song.

**Sydnee:** Hm.

**Raleigh:** She met him one night, just randomly, I think at like another concert or something and wrote that song about him. And he wrote a response to the tune of "Enchanted" of him saying "Yes, Taylor, I was enchanted to meet you too."

**Taylor:** Aww.

**Raleigh:** It's very cringey. It's very cute.

**Taylor:** That's really sweet.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's very cringey. Yeah, he, like, published it on Tumblr, I think is where it came out.

**Taylor:** Of course, yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's the perfect place for that, actually.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** But "Last Kiss" is also about Joe Jonas. The intro to that song is the same number of seconds as the voicemail that he left her breaking up with her. Because he left a voicemail breaking up with her over the phone.

**Taylor:** [whispers] Mastermind.

**Raleigh:** So she made that... the voicemail length the same as the intro for that song.

**Sydnee:** Oh my gosh.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I'm terrified of Taylor Swift.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Me too.

**Taylor:** [laughing] I don't...

**Sydnee:** Don't ever dump her.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** We... No, we see what she publishes for all the world to see. What goes on that we don't know?

**Raleigh:** I know!

**Taylor:** She's got people trapped in puzzle boxes somewhere.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I... That's... It... There's a Jigsaw element. We talked about it.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** But, believe it.

**Sydnee:** You remember that movie, *The Cube*?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She built that.

**Taylor:** [laughs hard]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Everybody at the end of that movie that's questioning why was it made? But why was it made? It's just Taylor Swift being like, "Cause I could." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's The Cube and Joe Jonas and John Mayer...

**Raleigh:** Jake Gyllenhaal.

**Sydnee:** Jake Gyllenhaal are all in—

**Taylor:** [As one of Joe Jonas, John Mayer or Jake Gyllenhaal] "What do we all have in common? Oh, wait, we... we know."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Taylor Lautner was in there, but then she let him out.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She was like, "You know what? Actually I'm gonna give you a pass. That was on me. That was on me."

**Raleigh:** He and Harry Styles are the two that I think everyone's okay with. [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** They're just the guards to The Cube because they're okay. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's a lot of the songs, she wrote about people on one album.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, 19. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, there you go.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. That's what... That's most of them, though, I think if we're talking about like people she actually had relationships with...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** ... on that album. Because there's some about Joe Jonas on *Fearless*, which came before, and then they're on this. And then John Mayer is all up in there.

"Innocent" is actually about Kanye. That's about the incident that happened with Kanye, and that was her forgiving him, basically, and trying to, like, bury the hatchet and say, like, "It's okay, we all make mistakes. You're still an innocent. I still... You know. I still love you."

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** How—

**Rileigh:** It's interesting now.

**Sydnee:** How old were you when that happened? When did that happen?

**Rileigh:** It happened 2000... eight?

**Sydnee:** So you probably weren't watching that?

**Rileigh:** No. I knew it happened because they wrote about it in like, *Tiger Beat*... but...

**Sydnee:** I remember watching it happen and it was a wild moment.

**Rileigh:** I still... I... Yeah, I mean... Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I remember watching that and like wanting to melt into my seat.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, she was like, 17 when he did that, too.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** She was like a child.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um—

**Sydnee:** No, it was super mean.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And Taylor Lautner was the one that hugged her on stage.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Because he was the one presenting the award. And that's why in "Back to December," she says, "You held me in your arms that September night, the first time you ever saw me cry" is that night.

**Sydnee:** Are her and Beyoncé cool?

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah. Beyoncé brought—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... Taylor up When Beyoncé won an award later—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** ... Beyoncé invited Taylor up on stage to finish her speech.

**Sydnee:** Aww...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So...



**Sydnee:** That's nice.

**Taylor:** Queens supporting queens.

**Sydnee:** Aww.

**Raleigh:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** Very nice.

**Raleigh:** Yes. Yes. The only other thing I wanted to say that I think is a fun fact is that "When Emma Falls in Love," which is a vault track, is about Emma Stone.

**Taylor:** What?!

**Raleigh:** When she was dating Kieran Culkin.

**Taylor:** No!

**Sydnee:** [laughing] Really?

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughing] Yes.

**Sydnee:** I didn't know they dated.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I assumed that was about Taylor Swift just like, removed.

**Raleigh:** It is about... It is about Emma Stone.

**Taylor:** Huh.

**Raleigh:** Interestingly, she played it the other night, the day after the album... the day the album came out.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Which she usually she doesn't do—Like she likes when people sing along. So for her surprise songs at her show, she will play ones that have been out at least for a couple of weeks, if they're new, so that people can sing along.

But she played that one the day it came out and said, "This is for my friend Emma." And I guess that was... People thought it was about her and Andrew Garfield but I guess at the time it actually would have been written... would have been—

**Sydnee:** Her and—

**Raleigh:** ... when she was with Kieran Culkin.

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Raleigh:** So, yeah.

**Sydnee:** I had no idea they dated.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Raleigh, did you say what your favorite song off this was?

**Raleigh:** It didn't. You know.... I think... Ugh, that's such a hard question. There are so many good songs. I do think that "Last Kiss" is one of my favorite Taylor Swift songs, because it is one of the saddest songs she's ever written.

But in a way that's like, perfectly 19. Like it's sad that way that you only can be when someone has broken up with you and you're 19 years old.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** But I do think that out of all of them, my favorite favorite is probably "Haunted" or "Back to December."

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I liked “Haunted” a lot.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I love that one.

**Sydnee:** I did too. I like that one.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. They're all just... They're so good. It's a very—When you listen to it in order, which I hadn't done in a while, and then I did when it came back out, it's a real roller coaster of an album. Go up and down a lot.

Like “Never Grow Up” is in there, which, man, still makes me cry. Especially listening to it as an adult. Now I think of your kids whenever I listen to it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Made me cry. But yeah, there's a lot of great songs, a lot of her best songs in my opinion, are on there still. What about you all? Did you all have a favorite?

**Sydnee:** I mean, I really like “Mean.”

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, I liked “Haunted” a lot, too.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was gonna name that as one that I really liked, but... I dunno.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's good. It's good. "Mean" is a good song. I like that song.

**Taylor:** I mean, I think just because, I think, sonically, it's a lot closer to the type of music I enjoy. I... "Better Than Revenge" is the song that I would put on a playlist.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like... Because it does sound... It's pop with a hint of punk. It's *pop!* punk. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's what I think is crazy about this album is it's still classified as a country album.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Some of the songs, but not all.

**Raleigh:** And some of them... I mean like, "Mean."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** It is, yeah.

**Taylor:** Very country.

**Raleigh:** But most... A lot of them, I feel like just aren't.

**Sydnee:** No a lot of them aren't.

**Raleigh:** Which is—

**Sydnee:** She was in that liminal space. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The crossover moment.

**Raleigh:** She'd just left firmly country and was about to enter firmly pop, and wasn't quite there yet.

**Sydnee:** Shania Twain had taken her by the hand and was showing her the way.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Taylor:** I think my... The songs that I think I would actually listen to again most likely are actually all the vault tracks.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** In that I liked "Electric Touch." I like the Fall Out Boy track. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I do too! I didn't at first.

**Sydnee:** I liked that too.

**Raleigh:** But the more I listen to it, it's really grown on me.

**Taylor:** I know. That and "Castles Crumbling" —

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... were probably the two that I went back to and was like, "Oh, I can't... These aren't really on this album, so they don't count. But I like those the most."

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I do like listen—Because I listened to them standalone at... Was listening just because, like, I wanted to know what they were. Those were new ones.

But I do think when you listen to them in conjunction with the rest of the album, you can see how they all would have been written at the same time.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** A lot of people say, "There's no way she actually wrote those when she wrote the album, she just wrote them now and is going to put them with another album that she thinks they match."

But I think... Like, I do think that they sound like not songs Taylor now is writing. I'm surprised you didn't like "Timeless" more. It's one of those real cheesy love ones that I feel like you... Like when you liked, "The Only Exception" most, by Paramore. "Timeless" feels like that.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I liked it. I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I just...

**Raleigh:** I just... I thought of you when I was listening to it. I was like, "Oh, I bet Sydnee would like this."

**Sydnee:** I also was listening to it with Charlie—

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** ... and she was singing along when she knew stuff, so it was a different...

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** We were cleaning out her closet and talking and... I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was in a different mindset.

**Raleigh:** I gotta say, that's why... That's why I just... I'll say it a thousand more times probably in the next like year of my life alone. I just love Taylor Swift so much because, well... I...

Like I was almost Charlie's age. I was maybe a year older than Charlie when "Speak Now" came out the first time. And was listening to it on a CD in the back of Mom's car when it came out the first time.

And now Charlie is listening to it for the first time, and it's its whole own thing. And it just is still... I mean yes, it's the same album, but it's different, and it's new and it's.. I don't know.

That just... It makes me a little emotional. Like, "Oh, I was listening to this 13 years ago and now Charlie's here who wasn't here 13 years ago, and she's listening to it and discovering the songs for the first time." Yeah.

That's why every Taylor Swift album is meaningful to me.

**Sydnee:** Well, you can hang out with her when she belts it in the shower again—

**Raleigh:** Oh, I—

**Sydnee:** ... later tonight.

**Raleigh:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Probably.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I'll sit outside of the shower.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I'll just... I'll sing along with her.

**Sydnee:** Naw, you gotta check her head for conditioner. Because sometimes she doesn't get it all out. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, that's... Everybody misses that sometimes.

Well, thank you all for listening to this.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** It obviously will not be the last time we talk about Taylor Swift, but I do appreciate it every time you all are willing to.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I enjoyed it.

**Taylor:** Has she has she given clues what she's releasing next?

**Rileigh:** Yes, actually I'm glad you asked. She did release a music video for "I Can See You" that came out Friday. She premiered at her concert and Taylor Lautner's in it.

And it is basically her getting broke... breaking the original *Speak Now* out of its prison of like the past era and claiming it back for herself.

And as they are driving away in the getaway van, she drives under a bridge that has a sign at the top that looks like it's marking the height of the bridge. But really it says "1989 TV."

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Taylor:** Oh...



**Raleigh:** So I think *1989* is coming next. She also... Well, she did another music video. She has a nail that's painted for each album on her tour because she has 10 albums, so she has 10 nails. A color for each one.

And the other music video she was holding a cup of coffee with a clock on the top and the *1989* nail was by the eight on the clock. And the reputation nail was by the two.

So a lot of people think we're getting like *1989* in August and then *Reputation* in February. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** She premiered that... She—

**Taylor:** That was more of an answer that I was [laughing] expecting.

**Raleigh:** She premiered that when I was at the concert.

**Sydnee:** She made the cube.

**Raleigh:** That music video, the concert I was at, was when she premiered the one with the nails and the coffee. And everyone looked at me like I was insane when they showed that clip and I yelled, "She's got her nails next to the numbers! *1989* is next to the eight!"

And everyone looked at me like, [whispers] "What are you doing?" [laughs]

Like, "Sorry, I just... I'm excited. I'm noticing a Taylor Swift Easter egg for the first time that no one else has ever seen before because she is premiering this music video for us right now."

**Sydnee:** Go to the blogs. I bet you're not the only one.

**Raleigh:** Well, I mean, they all caught it after when she released it that night obviously.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I just couldn't put it out there because I was at the concert. But yeah, I think *1989* is next.

**Taylor:** Alright, I guess we should—

**Raleigh:** I think she'll end with her self-titled album. I think that makes sense.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Her very first one I think, will probably be the last one she releases. But we'll see.

**Sydnee:** We'll see.

**Raleigh:** We'll talk about it at some point. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, when it comes.

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

**Sydnee:** Well, we mentioned it last week that we should do it. And so let's just do it. Let's do *Fight Club*.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Not... not do fight club. Let's talk about the movie *Fight Club*.

**Taylor:** And if—

**Raleigh:** Well we can't—

**Taylor:** Well—

**Raleigh:** ... talk about *Fight Club*... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, just the movie.

**Taylor:** Even if we were doing fight club, we absolutely would not tell you.

**Sydnee:** We would never talk about it.

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But no, watch the movie *Fight Club*.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Um, well, thank you, Raleigh, thank you.

**Raleigh:** Thank you all.

**Sydnee:** You know, I'm sure, like everybody else, I found it on Apple Music that's where everybody finds [laughs] all their music, right?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Can't believe you're still not using Spotify.

**Taylor:** Sydnee foraged for it—

**Raleigh:** I know you have a Spotify plan.

**Taylor:** ... out in her garden. Found it under a rock. Hieroglyphs.

**Sydnee:** I bought the CD. And put it in my CD player. [laughs] Anyway, thank you listeners. You can find other great shows that you'd enjoy at [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) where all their great podcasts are. And you can listen to them.

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.

**Taylor and Sydnee:** [not quite in unison] And... I... am... too.

[outro, theme music plays]

**Raleigh:** I got more... I got more Easter eggs if you wanna know about `em.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Do you have a chart?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** A spreadsheet?

**Raleigh:** She posted pictures of Polaroids for the 4th of July.

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Raleigh:** Polaroids were in *1989*.

**Sydnee:** I remember that.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I remember what that looks like.

**Raleigh:** So... Selena Gomez was there, too.

**Sydnee:** Mm. [sarcastic] Everybody knows what that means.

**Raleigh:** [Not sarcastic] Everybody knows what that means.

**Taylor:** I don't know what that means!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [whispers] I don't either.

**Taylor:** [unsure] Okay...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

[ad break]

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