

## Still Buffering 368: "Stick Season" - Noah Kahan

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, my children have started expressing interest in extracurriculars.

**Rileigh:** Oh my. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I know. I felt we should discuss this. I'm very stressed about it.

**Taylor:** What kind of extracurriculars?

**Sydnee:** Well, so they'd already both taken dance classes. But in that way that, like, it wasn't—you know? It wasn't—

**Rileigh:** That without takes dance classes?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Like, a lot of people when they're younger will just sort of take—like, I took some dance classes. I was never serious about it. I am not a dancer, and I didn't want to be one. But, like, a lot of people took dance. And so it was kind of like that. It was, like, once a week. It was chill. That was it.

Um, but now Cooper wants to do gymnastics. Which...

**Rileigh:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Which, like, if you're gonna do anything fun in gymnastics, I feel like you have to devote at least a little bit of time. You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** To, like, learn flips and stuff? Like, you can't just casually flip.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's true.

**Taylor:** I mean, she's pretty young. She could learn how to, like, pro flip now. If she started now, she'd be good. She'd get there, be good.

**Sydnee:** Well, she wants to do—

**Raleigh:** You can foster an Olympian.

**Sydnee:** —gymnastics. And then Charlie wants to do tennis.

**Raleigh:** Oh boy.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Taylor:** Yeah, the family legacy of tennis. It has to be upheld.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I'm trying to—I want her to explore whatever she wants, but I wish she would explore softball, perhaps.

**Taylor:** Wait, wait. What is the difference there?

**Raleigh:** Because you played softball?

**Sydnee:** I played tennis too.

**Raleigh:** Well, but, like, you mostly played softball.

**Sydnee:** I played softball, and soccer, and tennis, and I dabbled in basketball. [laughs quietly] I played all these things.

**Raleigh:** That's what Charlie should do. Charlie should play basketball.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, Charlie should not play basketball, in fact.

**Sydnee:** That—I was worse at that. I was worst at that one.

**Raleigh:** I can imagine.

**Sydnee:** Well.

**Raleigh:** I, also, would be very bad at it. So...

**Sydnee:** I—no. I don't know. My recollection of having participated in all these various sports is that on my softball team, I felt, like, very—like, I have very positive memories of the team aspect. I felt very supported by my teammates. I felt very supportive of them. Like, I remember when someone would, like, strike out or drop a ball, feeling like, "How can I help make them know it's okay and make them feel good?"

**Taylor:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean? Like, and I felt like that was the attitude. It was a very—especially for a bunch of young girls, it was very, like, women supporting women kind of positive bonding... that was my experience of softball. I felt good, and I felt good about the people around me. And it

made me feel good about myself. I would not say that my tennis experience was like that.

**Taylor:** I feel like I had... the exact opposite experience.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Taylor:** 'Cause I—I mean, my main sport was tennis, but I also played softball, and in softball, uh, sometimes—I mean, my mistakes weren't just my mistakes. They were, like, a dozen other people's mistakes that they had to deal with, so that was a lot of pressure. And then sometimes even if I did good, someone else could do bad, and I was still a loser. And that was awful. Whereas at least with tennis I was on my own, and if I won or I lost, it was up to me, and it was my shame or my victory, and I did not have to deal with the burden of anybody else's emotions on me.

**Raleigh:** That is also why I enjoyed tennis.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Team sports are a nightmare.

**Raleigh:** That is why I only played tennis, yes.

**Sydnee:** But I don't—but the thing that I didn't like about tennis is that in order to get into your position, like your... seat? Right?

**Raleigh:** Seed?

**Sydnee:** Seed? You play each other.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** But then at the end of it, once you're all in your spots, and that's settled, now you're just supposed to become a team.

**Raleigh:** Well, only in the loose sense that, like, you're all playing for the same school. But not in the sense that, like, you have to go out there and work together.

**Sydnee:** But, see, that really bothered me, 'cause would go together and call ourselves a team and, like, practice together, and like, somebody's Mom or Dad would bring us all snacks together. But, like, we weren't really a team, 'cause we all kind of lowkey hated each other by the time we played all the matches for who—you know? Who got what seed.

**Taylor:** No, w—w—why was there hate?

**Sydnee:** There was!

**Taylor:** There was hard-won respect. Like, "I have bested you, thus I am seeded above you, and you respect me now."

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** Hmm. No.

**Sydnee:** No, there was a lot of anger, especially animosity at s—my—especially my feeling was that since I came in kind of late to the tennis game, I was not, like, a from-cradle tennis player... [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I disrupted the natural order of the tennis team—I wasn't the best, but I wasn't the worst, and I think I should've been the worst.

**Raleigh:** See, I just felt—I just felt hate. Um, because I went and played tennis at Catholic school. So that's, like...

**Taylor:** I don't think Catholicism is anti-tennis.

**Raleigh:** No, but we all know the kind of people that Catholic school... you know? Can—can create, right? Right? We all went there.

**Sydnee:** Now, listen. We all had a vague foray into Catholic school.

**Raleigh:** And I'm not... poopin' on anybody or any faith. I'm just saying that my—

**Taylor:** Don't poop on anybody.

**Raleigh:** I'm not poopin' on anybody or any faith.

**Sydnee:** Please don't poop on things.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** I'm just sayin' that in my personal experience, some of the people I met there... were not very nice.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I would say that about my public school experience, to be fair.

**Taylor:** See, I—I feel like—

**Raleigh:** Well, but Catholic school's so much smaller. You don't have as wide of a—as wide of a net to cast to try to find nice friends. It's like, oh, there's six other girls in my class? And they all don't like me? Well, that's it. [wheezes] I don't have any more!

**Taylor:** You all just looked at this the wrong way. 'Cause I too was not... I mean, I was one of the captains of my tennis team because I was high enough seeded that the top two spots were captains, and I was not a tennis girlie. I didn't have a fancy coach or anything. But I won. And so they had to deal with me, because they needed me to win. And that was my angle. [laughs] Like, "I know none of you like that I'm here, but I've worked hard enough to become your boss, and you need me to win."

And we did win! And I made them wear tie-dye. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I just wanted—wanted us all to be, you know, supporting each other. And, like, when somebody would lose or whatever, like, "Oh, it's okay. Like, c'mere, give me a hug and let's do a cheer together, and we'll... "

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** "... share a slice of pizza in—"

**Raleigh:** No, I didn't want to do cheers with anybody.

**Sydnee:** "—in the dugout. And... we'll all just, like—and then we'll have slumber parties together, and... "

**Raleigh:** I can see myself resting somewhere in between both of you all in this debate, because I did not like team sports. I, like Teylor, wanted my victories and my losses to be my own. Um, but I also hated competition. I played competitive tennis and I hated the competition. When would do practices and, like, we would just do, like, scrimmages, I was great. Like, I was good. I would win. I'd do good! And then as soon as I was out there and it was a game that mattered, I... did bad. Did bad. Real bad. Made me nervous.

I also probably had anxiety at that point that just wasn't diagnosed, so there's also that.

**Teylor:** See, I will—I mean, I don't think—I think competition is a tricky thing. I do not consider myself competitive now, or rather the person I try to compete against is just myself, yesterday. I feel like that's a healthy way to go through competition. Uh, at the time I felt like I had something to prove.

Because it is. Like, I mean, tennis. I get your hesitancy with tennis, 'cause let's be real, tennis is also—it's a sport for very rich kids. And—

**Raleigh:** Thank you, yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** This was the problem with Catholic school tennis was, like, you're already there among—

**Teylor:** [crosstalk] say it.

**Raleigh:** You're already there among very privileged people, and [crosstalk]—

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] I got ripped apart for, like, wearing, like, t-shirts and shorts. Like, cutoffs to practice, because everybody had their cute little matching tennis outfits that they spent a lot of money for.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I did not have those.

**Sydnee:** I—I remember the moment that I realized that those tennis skirts sometimes have little shorts under 'em that have pockets—

**Raleigh:** For balls.

**Sydnee:** —for balls.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I remember thinking, like, "Well, I would've worn a frickin' skirt if I'd known there was a ball pocket!" I always wondered! Like, where did they just tuck that ball?! They had the ball, and then they're all magicians, too! They're tennis players and magicians, and the ball disappeared! How did I make it—I was top-ranked doubles player and I didn't figure that out for the longest time.

**Raleigh:** Well, you had a teammate to hold your balls for you.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Apparently!

**Raleigh:** I remember the first time I walked into a middle school tennis practice and one of the girls that came in was carrying one of those giant bags for rackets that had, like, six pockets in it, and took up your whole back. And I remember looking at her just like, "Why do you need so many? Why do you need so many rackets?! I have one racket! I have this one, and I have a tiny bag I put it in that's the exact same size as my racket and it has a strap on it, and the only reason I have it is so I can put it over my shoulder and carry it conveniently. But why do you need six rackets? What is it for?"



**Taylor:** I remember the first time I had a string break. It was during a practice but, like, everyone was just like, "Well, just get a di—use your other racket."

I'm like, "I have one. I have one."

**Raleigh:** "What do you mean, other racket?!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** And you know, I went to Dad like, "I need a—people have more than one racket."

He's like, "Oh, well, we gotta get you a second racket," and he got me a second racket. Like, you know.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** But that was a foreign concept. I didn't know you... you got the one. Surely they gotta give you, like, a... a time out to figure something out. No? You lose the match? Oh! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** They just expect you to whip out a second one. Yeah.

**Sydney:** You're just supposed to have a second racket. I don't know. I told her—we played Wii Tennis today, and...

**Raleigh:** Um—

**Sydney:** ... I was hoping that would maybe satisfy the tennis urge.

**Raleigh:** You know, when I was her age, I played at some camps, um, tennis camps. But they played with, like, the big—I almost said softballs. They're not softballs, like, that you play softball with. Like, they're, like, the bigger size, like, foam ones that you can learn how to play with so that, you know, they don't hurt.

**Sydney:** I told her I would take her and teach her. I don't want to send her to lessons at some of the places where you take lessons with other kids,

because she's just—she's gonna be there with kids who've been playing tennis since they were big enough to stand, you know?

**Taylor:** But she's still so young, though, Syd. Like, we started when we were in our teens.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, but the kids we played with had started a long time before us. I just don't—I want to teach her at least the fundamentals first. Like, here's how to hold a racket, here are the rules, here's what scoring is. I can show her that stuff. And then I'll... expose her to other kids that play tennis.

**Raleigh:** She could learn pickleball. That's all the rage now.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, pickleball's huge right now.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] That is a big then. I think that's—

**Raleigh:** You know that in pickleball sc—pickleball scores have three numbers?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** Three numbers for two teams. Why—

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

**Raleigh:** Why do you need that?

**Sydnee:** But isn't that also a rich people thing?

**Raleigh:** Well, I mean—

**Sydnee:** I can't tell. I don't know who plays it. It plays—it happens on tennis court, but that's all I know.

**Raleigh:** And watching the crowd of people that play it, I'd assume so, but then I look to—because my friends play it a lot and I was like, "Well, maybe I should get paddleball paddles to, like, play, that sounds fun."

And they're really not that expensive. Like, they're much more affordable than a tennis racket.

**Taylor:** Well, I don't—the equipment was never the part that implied that you had to be rich to do tennis.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It was just the... the... the air around it. It was the...

**Sydnee:** You know, it's tennis. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** The local pickleball courts have a lot of olds on 'em. So maybe it's, like, a retirement sport. You know?

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Yeah. I don't know.

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

**Raleigh:** Like, you just have a lot of free time.

**Sydnee:** I just—I love that they do theater, and if they want to do dance, I'm gonna keep—that's fine. That's good.

**Raleigh:** I think sports are fun. I think if you find a sport you enjoy it's a fun way to—I mean, I remember always being very, like, good tired after, like, a long tennis practice. Like, "Oh, I feel good. I've done good work. I'm very tired. I'm gonna go to bed good."

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] Listen. I have already extolled the virtues of softball. I had a wonderful experience. I wish I was still on a softball team. I wish I could play softball now.

**Taylor:** Um—

**Raleigh:** I fell like the potential for injury is lower in tennis. Like, serious injury.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's probably true.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I mean, you can get seriously injured in tennis. But...

**Sydnee:** I also played soccer and I got seriously injured in soccer, and watched many others get seriously injured.

**Taylor:** Have you considered maybe, like... track, or cross country? Maybe trying to move 'em in that direction?

**Sydnee:** [sighs] I could try, but...

**Taylor:** That's a very therapeutic sport. There's no direct confrontation. I mean, it is competitive, but it's also—it's a lot of mind over matter. There's a lot of zen to be a good runner. I feel like it's a very good sport.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I had a lot of friends that loved cross country. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's a very healthy, like, healthy for your mind sport. Because you can't do it without kind of finding a peace with yourself, I'd say.

**Raleigh:** Although—

**Sydnee:** This is why—this is why I'm the wrong person to get them into it, because that's why I can't do it.

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

**Sydnee:** I can't—I can't—

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** There is never a peace in my mind.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Sydnee can't be alone with her thoughts for that long!

**Sydnee:** Like, literally—

**Raleigh:** Sydnee can't find Zen.

**Sydnee:** —I can't. I can't be alone with my thoughts. Liter—I mean, that's absolutely, 100% the truth. If I'm alone for longer than 10 minutes I just start to unravel.

**Raleigh:** Um...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** ... you know the downside if your kids do cross country?

**Sydnee:** Hm?

**Raleigh:** I learned? I dated a guy that did cross country, and if you go to watch the meets—it's not like track where, like, they're right there on the track in front of you. They just kind of start all at one place, and then because it's cross country and it's long, then they just, like, go off into the woods and run, and you don't s—there's nothing to watch. You just have to sit and wait for people to start showing up again. It's not even fun. It's not fun to watch.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's fair.

**Raleigh:** At least tennis is fun to watch.

**Sydnee:** I just wanted them to be little theater nerds like we were.

**Taylor:** Sydnee, you cannot—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] We were all both.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I guess I did the other stuff.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** We all did both, yeah.

**Taylor:** You cannot control—

**Sydnee:** They're gonna be theater nerds too. Like, they're—well, they'll—I mean, they like that. They still want to do theater.

**Taylor:** Just let them be what they want to be.

**Sydnee:** I am. I am supporting them in all these endeavors. Gymnastics! I'm supporting Cooper in gymnastics.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I don't know why we just skimmed over that and focused on the tennis versus softball thing. Which, like, that's a conversation. But gymnastics, I think there's a lot more... problematic—

**Sydnee:** I should clarify. Gymnastics started today. We have already launched into gymnastics. I can't—

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] Gymnastics is really hard on young—young bodies, and there's a lot of really... dangerous thinking that goes on in that.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yes.

**Raleigh:** I'm not typically a fan of gymnastics, or endorser of it.

**Sydnee:** I'm not either.

**Raleigh:** But, but, Cooper is a child that loves to throw herself at things, like literally physically throw herself and, like, jump off things and do flips. So

maybe at least this is how she learns to do it in a way where she, like, won't break her neck?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. My thought was, it's a once a week—it's very much just a tumbling for fun kind of course for little kids, and that is all I am willing to commit to.

**Taylor:** I think there's a second factor that you need to consider here where every new skill that Cooper seeks out, she is arming herself [wheeze-laughs] for the future.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [unintelligible] She's gonna learn gymnastics—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] That's 100% true.

**Taylor:** —and then maybe archery, and, uh, then, I don't know. Like, she's just gonna collect her skills, and then no one will be safe.

**Raleigh:** Oh, she would do archery.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You know what Charlie told me yesterday? Speaking of collecting skills, we were at Best Buy. It was me and Dad and Charlie and Cooper. And Charlie and Cooper kept running away, because we were waiting for someone to help us with somethi8ng. I was like, "Wait. You guys can't run away! You gotta stay here with us, because someone big could grab you and we wouldn't be able to save you."

And Charlie said, "[scoffs] Baby Sis."

And Cooper started laughing at me.

And I was like, "What? What?"

She said, "[scoffs] I know Tae Kwon Do."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And Cooper said, "Yeah, she knows Tae Kwon Do."

And they both were laughing at me! I said, "Charlie, I love you. If someone that is ten times your size comes and grabs you, I don't know if your Tae Kwon Do's gonna help you."

And she said, "Um, just because someone's bigger than me doesn't mean I couldn't flip them over and take them to the ground."

**Taylor:** Okay, I don't—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You should see—when she starts doing the spin kicks over and over and over again, it does—it is that, like, "Make yourself too much trouble to bother with" kind of energy.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's definitely what it looks like. Like "Whoa. Whoa! You know what? Never mind."

**Raleigh:** "Never mind."

**Sydnee:** "Never mind."

**Taylor:** Like, I never want Charlie to actually be in that situation, but I would love to see, like, a demo of what that situation looks like, where Charlie feels like "This person's trying to attack me. I need to use my dangerous Tae Kwon Do skills. This is the moment." [wheeze-laughs]

**Raleigh:** "I'm gonna flip this grown man over."

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I want to see that so badly!



**Raleigh:** She was confident! She was not kidding. She was serious. And I was like, "Okay. You know what? I believe in you and your skills. I still—I want to keep you in my sights, please."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. No, she's very confident. Cooper's always confident that Charlie could defend her.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Cooper was! Cooper was laughing at me—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Cooper also would just—

**Raleigh:** —for not thinking it.

**Sydnee:** She would just creep somebody out.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. She'd look at 'em and drag her thumb across her throat one time. Like, "Oh, never mind!"

**Sydnee:** She listens—they listen to the Beetlejuice Musical soundtrack all the time now. They love that soundtrack. And they play the song Dead Mom over and over again to me.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Wow!

**Sydnee:** And, uh... we were out picking blackberries—

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Sydnee:** —which is so wholesome. We're out picking blackberries, and as we're kind of on a hillside, and I took a step and I slid just a little bit. I mean, I didn't fall or anything, but I caught my balance.

And Cooper goes, "Heh. Be careful or you're gonna be a dead Mom!"

[laughs quietly] I was like...

**Raleigh:** Oh my god. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Jesus!" [laughs] "Okay, thanks! Five-year-old!"

**Raleigh:** Oh my god. I made the mistake of telling her I knew the songs from that show, and last night she looked at me and said, "Do you wanna sing Say My Name?"

And I said, "Oh, doesn't Charlie sing that with you?"

And Charlie said, "I'm busy."

I said, "Okay, am I Beetlejuice or Lydia?"

And Cooper said, "I'm Beetlejuice, because Beetlejuice has more lines. He's literally the name of the show."

I said, "Okay." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Do you know how mad she gets when she asks Alexa to play Say My Name... and the song—

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** "[singing] Say my name, say my name."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "When no one is—" she gets so mad! [laughs] Just like, "No! Put on Beetlejuice!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Oh, man. Um, anyways, it's been 20 minutes.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Okay, we've gotta talk about—we've spent way too much time—

**Raleigh:** I know, I'm sorry.

**Sydnee:** I know. We need to talk about your musical artist.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, we're, uh—we're not talking about Beetlejuice. We're talking about Noah Kahan. I think that's how you say his name. I think in interviews that's how he said it. It's spelled like Kayhan, but I think it's Kahan. Um, and his album, *Stick Season*, in parentheses, *(We'll All Be Here Forever)*."

Which I had you all listen to for this week.

**Sydnee:** Yes. It was definitely a vibe.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah. It's different than the Taylor Swift I've brought.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Charlie was, uh, with me while I was listening to it, and she said, "Mommy, are you sad?"

**Raleigh:** [wheeze-laugh]

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, it's a heavy vibe.

**Raleigh:** It is a heavy vibe. Um, yeah. I—so, this album, the first iteration of this album, like the standard version, came out I believe of October of last year, of 2020. Yeah. And this extended version just came out June 9th of this year. Most of the songs are the same. There are just a couple that were added towards the end. Um, to the extended version.

Um, he's very popular on TikTok for his song, *Stick Season*, the titular song, and for the song *Dial Drunk*.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** That one is currently very popular on TikTok.

**Sydnee:** I liked that one a lot, and it also... it was like, something in my brain... connect—like, I've heard—I don't know. You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There was something in there. It was also Charlie's favorite.

**Rileigh:** Really? Interesting.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I don't know.

**Taylor:** Huh.

**Sydnee:** She was looking for something with a beat. She was, like, clapping on her leg. She was like, "Yeah. Yeah, I like this one." [laughs]

I was like, "Okay."

**Rileigh:** She—she wasn't listening too close to the lyrics, I guess. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** No, she was not listening to the lyrics at all. She was just bopping her little head.

**Rileigh:** Um, I think the reason I like this so much—and he talks a lot about how all of his songs are about how he grew up in New England in, like, a very, very small town. And although we did not grow up in New England, I feel like there are a lot of things he sings about and writes about that we can relate to, having grown up in Appalachia. It feels very similar. Um, in terms of vibe-age.

**Taylor:** Well, especially with the kind of folk beat to it. But he's like, "Yeah, this is about, like, growing up in New England."

Like, "Oh, this is—this is folk. Like, it's not... [unintelligible] the sound you associate with New England, but... "

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Well, I had no idea. When I first heard his music, I heard, um—I heard Stick Season and Dial Drunk, and then the next song I heard was, um... oh, what's it called? Oh my god. All My Love. Which talks about, you know, it's like a song to an ex, basically, but saying "If you ever need me, there's no hard feelings. You have all my love. You're out there chasing your dreams and doing cool things, and I'll be back here where I've always been, in our hometown." And he says "With the pills and the dogs," and is singing about, like, being here in the song, like, um... You're Gonna Go Far.

**Sydnee:** Where is he from?

**Rileigh:** Has very similar vibes where it feels—um—

**Taylor:** I think Vermont.

**Rileigh:** I think you're right.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Rileigh:** I think Vermont. Um—

**Sydnee:** Well, I don't know anything about Vermont. [crosstalk] very helpful.

**Rileigh:** I also don't know anything about Vermont.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] To say, like, "Hm, that sounds like Vermont." I have no idea. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, but I heard those songs that both talk about leaving, like, your small, rural towns before knowing he was from New England. Which of course when you listen to the first song, Northern Attitude, talks about he's being—he's—he was raised in New England. But I don't know. I almost feel like it's more... I can't say it's more relatable than if you're from [wheezes] New England, because he is. But you know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** Well, you know—

**Raleigh:** Like, I feel like I can relate to a lot of what he's singing about.

**Sydnee:** There's a—there's a—okay. I think when we talk about New England—and Teylor, you live there, so like, I feel like... [laughs quietly]

**Teylor:** [unintelligible mumbling]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Oh, you don't? Okay.

**Teylor:** Well—

**Sydnee:** Is this a point of contention?

**Teylor:** I don't think it's a point of contention. I just think, when you think New England you think, like... like, I don't—

**Raleigh:** Boston.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Vermont. I did not think New York City.

**Sydnee:** No. I guess I don't—but, I mean, technically.

**Teylor:** New York City's its own thing. Baby.

**Sydnee:** Well, I would—I would argue—

**Raleigh:** Let me search "What is New England?"

**Sydnee:** I would argue that New England has several different—like, I would argue it's not one thing. Right? 'Cause there are parts of New England that are almost—'cause I often think there's some, like, Canadian folk music—y kind of stuff that feels very relatable to me. Like, I've heard a lot of music from rural parts of Canada that I think, like, "This could be from West Virginia." Like, I vibe—like, this is totally our vibe.

And I think there are parts of New England that are similar to that. But, like, that's not Boston, you know? I mean... you know what I'm saying?

**Rileigh:** Um, I hate to break it to you. The internet is telling me New York is not a part of New England.

**Sydnee:** Well, what technically is New England, then?

**Rileigh:** Well, I will tell you. It's Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

**Taylor:** That sounds right.

**Sydnee:** How—how'd New York get left out?

**Taylor:** 'Cause we're New York. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Well, there is the next question it suggest to ask is "Why is New York not a part of New England?" [laughs]

Oh! Um, because it was first settled by the Dutch.

**Sydnee:** Ohhh.

**Rileigh:** It's not actually—it's not—

**Sydnee:** 'Cause you were New Amsterdam.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Old New York was once New Amsterdam.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I just—see, I'm just working on—

**Sydnee:** Why they changed it, I can't say.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] They liked it better that way.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I'm just going off vibes, 'cause I feel like New England has a vibe, and New York has a vibe, and I'm not judging either vibe. They're just different.

**Sydnee:** Hmm, but you do live in New York, so I think we could kind of guess which one you're judging. I think we could kind of figure. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I just—y—no! I just, you know. Especially those places you named. Like, that's, like... I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I guess—

**Raleigh:** I have not been to many of those places, and I'll be totally honest, this is not shade at all, they all are basically the same place in my head. Like, that's all just kind of one Northern American blob up there.

**Taylor:** The great Northern American blob.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And it's just like, when you're going from Vermont to Maine to Massachu—like, it's all just—that's all... that's all up there. It's all the same.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I feel like—I feel like there's different vibes up there, but then I can't attest to that. Because if that's all of New England, I've been to Boston.

**Taylor:** Well, and I think b—

**Sydnee:** That's it.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, that's all—I mean, like, that's all I know of New England, apparently. So I can't—I mean, I don't feel like I can—



**Raleigh:** Well, that's the first place I thought of when I heard New England, so.

**Taylor:** The vi—see, the vibe of Boston is so different from the vibe of Massachusetts that I just don't know. I think big cities do their own thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And like—okay. Is Connecticut in New England?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Okay. I don't think Boston and Connecticut are the same in my head. Like, those are two very different vibes, right?

**Taylor:** Well—

**Raleigh:** Well, but New Hampshire and—or not—uh, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

**Taylor:** Yeah, like if you go outside—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Are they the same?

**Taylor:** —of Boston to just, like, a small town in Massachusetts.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Is it Connecticut? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [crosstalk] states.

**Taylor:** I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Talkin' states, not cities.

**Taylor:** I feel like everybody's got a—a—a—a wharf. And...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** ... some... some crabs. Yeah. Uh...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And, uh, I don't—

**Raleigh:** Cold beaches.

**Taylor:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** Dawson is there. And Joey, and Pacey. I don't know.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** The Gilmore Girls. They're up there, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, the Gilmore Girls are there.

**Raleigh:** They're up there.

**Sydnee:** The witches from Practical Magic are up there.

**Taylor:** Some witches.

**Raleigh:** Salem's up there.

**Taylor:** Salem's pretty cool. I feel like there's a lot—

**Raleigh:** Honestly, New England sounds like a pretty cool place.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, New England—

**Taylor:** Like, a lot of apples? Just apples? A big—

**Raleigh:** Apples.

**Taylor:** —apple place.

**Raleigh:** Orchards.

**Taylor:** Cider.

**Sydnee:** Like, a lot of lovely gardens.

**Raleigh:** Like, it's always fall in New England?

**Sydnee:** Right? Isn't it always fall there?

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] It's always fall.

**Raleigh:** I think so. They have a different climate season [crosstalk].

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk].

**Taylor:** I fully believe that someone could make an album of sad rural songs from New England. It's just not... it's a—it's—we relate to it, but it's not the same as what we grew up in.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I—okay, I get that. That was kind of my feel was like, "Ah, it's kind of like how sometimes people from Canada write these songs and I'm like... is that Canada? It sounds like West Virginia. Huh. It's just—"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] It's Canada.

**Sydnee:** Apparently there are parts of Canada that are a lot like West Virginia. And vice versa. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Hey, when something's good, multiple cultural will—cultures will come up with it all at the same time. Why does every culture have a way of putting meat on a stick? I don't know. Must be good.

**Raleigh:** That's a great question.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] You'll never know, Tey. You're not gonna figure that mystery out.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] It's one of your life's great unanswered questions.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, you have to do more research, and you're never gonna know.

**Taylor:** I ate meat for... 30 years. I—I—the research is—it's—everybody came up with the same good idea 'cause it was a good idea. That's it.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I answered it.

**Sydnee:** Uh, anyway.

**Raleigh:** Anyways. Um, I—I—so I like the—I like the album because I feel like it's very Appalachian, in a way. [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Despite everything we just said!

**Raleigh:** I do! Despite everything we just said.

**Sydnee:** Appalachian New England!

**Raleigh:** I feel like it's Appalachian New England.

**Taylor:** Hey, those mountains. They—they go up there. They go up into...

**Rileigh:** They go up there!

**Taylor:** They go up there.

**Rileigh:** They go up there!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** The mountains go up there. [laughs quietly] They go up there!

**Sydnee:** They go up there!

**Taylor:** They go into Pennsylvania, right? That's where the Appalachians start?

**Sydnee:** But Pennsylvania is not New England!

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] That's not New England.

**Taylor:** Oh, so no, never mind, never mind. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Never mind.

**Sydnee:** Those are Dutch people too, right?

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I mean, the Pennsylvania Dutch is a thing. I don't know if it's their whole thing.

**Sydnee:** Now, but those are Germans. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh. I... just had to avoid saying three different curse words, 'cause I kept subbing one out for the other and none of them were fine. Uh...

**Sydnee:** We don't know.

**Raleigh:** We're not trying to offend anyone we don't know. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Bad geography podcast! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's always been the subject I've been worst at. I don't know where things are. I'm never gonna know where things are.

**Sydnee:** All the stereotypes we've thrown out there about New England have been largely positive.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Or just like, "It's fall there," which is kind of a neutral thing to say.

**Raleigh:** I love fall.

**Taylor:** Seafood and lovely weather. That's fine.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, and they have nice gardens, I think.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] They have seafood.

**Sydnee:** And seafood.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And the houses always look so pretty in movies.

**Taylor:** And flannel.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Like, I—I only have—

**Raleigh:** And the Gilmore Girls are up there.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, exactly. Stars Hollow is there. So, like, these are all positive. I think there are much worse things that are routinely said about West Virginia, to be fair.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It's true, it's true. That's... true.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Um, also, not gonna repeat what I said, because it wasn't accurate.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I also like it because [laughs] of...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** He, um—he's—he's very... he's been very open about what the songs are about and, like, how he wrote them. And he has been very honest about how there are, like, parts of himself that he acknowledges, like, aren't necessarily good or, like, need worked on. Things that aren't just, like, things he doesn't like about himself, but things that, like, have been damaging to other people in his life about himself.

Um, and the song Dial Drunk is one of the, I think, best examples of that. Because it's from his perspective, technically, like the narrator's perspective, of him I guess getting pulled over and a cop, you know, arrests him, and he's wanting to call the same person. Um, who I—I believe we are to presume is, like, an ex that, you know, isn't answering.

Um, and talking about that song, he's talked about how you're not supposed to listen to this and be like, "Oh yeah, he's in the right."

Like, you're not supposed to feel bad for him. You're not supposed to be like, "Oh, man. This is sympathetic."

Like, he acknowledges that this is a side of him that has come out and has existed with people in his life, um, and isn't necessarily good. Which I like, because I think it's not often that songwriters will explicitly say, you know, "This is about how I've been kind of a... not great person to people I love, and that love me."

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

**Taylor:** It's interesting, though, because I don't think anyone's gonna listen to that song, which I really like that song, and think, "Oh, yes. This is a bad person. I'm going to enjoy thinking that this person is a bad person."

It's like, no, you like it because you relate to it on some level.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Because...

**Sydnee:** Well, it helps that he sounds so—like, his music has a very vulnerable kind of raw sound, right? Like, it doesn't sound too polished. His voice is kind of, like, wavering at times, you know? In that high falsetto. It has that little bit of a, like, quiver to it. You know? Like, it makes him seem... like "I am baring something maybe uncomfortable for me."

He's not bragging. He's not glamorizing. You know?

**Raleigh:** Right. That's a better way of putting it, I think.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um, and I mean, he said—I know lots of artists say this, but I've seen lots of videos from his concerts where he says constantly, like, "I never thought about having to sing these songs in front of stadiums and crowds of thousands of people, because I never thought I would be singing these songs in front of thousands of people. Like, I thought I would just be writing my folk music in Vermont, and my friends would hear it, or my mom would hear it."



Um, so you can tell it's very, like—it wasn't written for the masses. But he's gotten very popular.

**Sydnee:** When you talk about writing your folk music in Vermont, that is literally all I can think of is fall. I'm just thinking of, like, flannels and a campfire.

**Raleigh:** Right?

**Sydnee:** I mean, it's delightful.

**Raleigh:** It's a fall album.

**Taylor:** But this was his—his first album, he originally had more of, like, a pop vibe going, right? And then this was his sort of redirection?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, and from what I can tell, which I was not familiar with him with his first album, um, I only listened to this one because this is what was out that I became familiar with, um, this—this—again, I don't think he was as massively well known for that album. I don't know if maybe—I haven't actually seen what he's said about that. I don't know if maybe that was his attempt to be, like, marketable and appealing to wide audience, and now this was just, like, him writing music. Um, I don't know. It's a good... it's a good question. But, um... yeah.

**Sydnee:** It occurs to me—I mean, I listened to the whole album, but what is stick season?

**Raleigh:** Um, like, the song?

**Sydnee:** No, what is that referencing?

**Taylor:** What is the season of the—

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** [singing] Must be the season of the sticks, yeah.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** What does that mean? I was kind of wondering that too.

**Raleigh:** Is it, like—

**Sydnee:** Is it Stick Stickly?

**Raleigh:** Well, like, in my head—

**Taylor:** PO Box 963.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Stick Season, like, returning to the sticks, you know what I mean? Like, in the sense that it's fall and it's winter and, like, there's literal sticks, but like, you're also out in the sticks? Stick season? Like, it's—you're returning to family, and...

**Sydnee:** Is that...

**Taylor:** He apparently explained it. I just Googled it.

**Sydnee:** Oh. Well, what was it?

**Taylor:** He said it's the grim transitional time between autumn and winter when the foliage hasn't fallen and the snow hasn't arrived.

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** Oh, the foliage has fallen, sorry. So it's—

**Sydnee:** Oh, and the snow hasn't arrived. When everything's sticks.

**Taylor:** Everything's sticks.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Taylor:** It's quite literally sticks.

**Sydnee:** That makes sense. That makes sense, and it also is, like—I mean, I totally get that vibe. It is sad to me.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And that is why a lot of it read as, like, music that I would probably listen to more likely if I was feeling, like, bummed out. And just wanted, like, to, you know, indulge in my... bum—bummed-out-ness for a little bit. Experience some catharsis. Um, 'cause that is—especially—man, around here, you don't know if the snow's coming.

**Raleigh:** It's true.

**Sydnee:** You may just get sticks all season.

**Raleigh:** It's true.

**Taylor:** Sticks all season, that's true.

**Sydnee:** That happens in West Virginia, mm-hmm. Yeah. Just a whole stick... winter.

**Raleigh:** I'm, uh—I'm looking back at the lyrics, 'cause I was looking to see on Genius if there's anything about stick season. And I'm realizing that, like, there are videos of tons of people, like, yelling this chorus, because this is, like, I believe his most popular song.

Um, but it's, like, really sad. Like, it's, like—I mean, he says "I love Vermont, but it's the season of the sticks, and I saw your Mom, but she forgot that I existed, and it's half my fault, but I just like to play the victim. I'll drink alcohol till my friends come home for Christmas."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like... it's—it's very sad. But something about that beat!

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I mean... I mean, I don't... I don't know. Like, I think that the whole point of this album is—is sad, right? Like, the song Call Your Mom?

**Raleigh:** Oh, god. Oh, man. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Jeez! And it's beautiful. It was another one that—one of my favorite songs. I'll definitely listen to that song when I'm feeling bummed out. [wheezes] Like...

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Charlie asked me to stop that one.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that one, uh—

**Sydnee:** She's like, "Could we—could we move on?" [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** I feel like when I first listened to this—I can't remember exactly. I feel like I was driving back from DC or to DC. I was just in the car for a long period of time and kind of just zoning out. And this song came on, and I was kind of just listening in the background, and then I replayed it, 'cause I was like, "Wait. I didn't listen to the words. I need to listen to that again."

And when I realized that he says "Don't let this darkness fool you. All lights turned off can be turned on." I just started, like, sobbing. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, uncontrollably. Like, oh my god, that's beautiful. And also, it just—I don't know. It's... and also that the song is called Call Your Mom.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Then I called our Mom.

**Taylor:** Well, and that's a—I mean, it's such a powerful chorus that it's just like, "I will call your Mom. I'll be the person that will, you know... I don't know, come through for you and try to take care of you."

Like, it's very sad. But...

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It's a lot of, uh—there are a lot of songs that feel like breakup songs, that feel like acknowledging the end of, like, a romantic relationship. But... it's interesting, because most of them that feel like they're very explicitly about the end of a romantic relationship feel like an admittance of, like, fault in the ending of that relationship. It's not like... angry, or like, "You broke my heart," or like, "You did this wrong," or "You did that."

It's a lot of, like, "I'm sad and I'm heartbroken and I miss you, but also, like... I am the reason that this—that we're not together anymore."

**Sydnee:** Well, and he talks a lot about—there are several different references to, like, alcohol, and inherited darkness and stuff. And, I mean, I don't know. I'm not gonna sit there and—you know, an artist writes from many different perspectives. But, like, I also wonder if in that part of the country, if that's another thing we have in common, around here. Is, like, a lot of people... with—

**Taylor:** Substance abuse disorders?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, with substance abuse disorder, and a lot of people who are, you know, struggling with that. Whether it's alcohol or drugs or whatever.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That also—like, that sense of loss. Or like, "I'll call your Mom... " you know. That makes me think of that, too.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. There's a, um—I really like—there's a—well, I mean, I don't enjoy it. I think—I appreciate it as art. Um, the—in Dial Drunk there's, like, a slight shift between the two verses in I guess the bridge. There's, like, two—it's almost a repeat of the same thing, but it's slightly different. And he has a

line in there about how he goes from being charming to being, like, a—I forget the exact word he says. But basically how he can flip a switch and be a different version of himself when he's not getting what he wants and, like, things aren't going his way when he's drinking. And that bridge is split into the first verse of him trying to get the cop to let him call this person, like, being nice, like "Please, I beg you." Like, and then the next one he gets a little bit harsher, and saying like, you know, "F you, just let me do it." Like, "I'll do this, I'll do that." Like, angrier.

Um, I think that's a really smart way of kind of demonstrating what he's hinted at as like, "Oh, this is what you mean." This is—this is you becoming that person.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] I forget exactly what he says.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I know what you're talking about.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um...

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It was good, though.

**Rileigh:** Charming to alarming. That's what it is. "I'll go from charming to alarming in seconds." Um, which that is very... that.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Um, yes. It's very that.

**Sydnee:** What, uh—what is your favorite song on the album?

**Rileigh:** My favorite song is You'll Go Far, because—or You're Gonna Go Far, because it makes me cry. It's—it's him singing to someone about them leaving their town, and how all of here, you know, we're always gonna be here if you wanna come back, but I'm happy to know that you're not here, that you're doing this and, you know, you're—we're not mad at you for leaving. We love you. And we miss you. And we're always gonna be here.

Which is, like, I feel like a double meaning of "Everyone that's here is always here," which I feel like is very relatable in Appalachia. I feel like it's a lot of, like, people don't necessarily leave a lot of the time when they're born here.

Um, but also like, if you ever want to come back, we're always all gonna be here. And that's why the little parentheses on the album is (We'll All Be Here Forever). It's 'cause that's the refrain in that song is "All of us are gonna be here forever. If you want to come back, if you don't, no matter what. Everyone that's here is gonna be here forever."

**Sydnee:** I also wonder if they have the same phenomenon there that we have there, which is a lot of people do come back.

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

**Sydnee:** Like... much later. Like, they are eager to leave when they're young adults, and then they wind up back here sort of when, like, they've retired, or the kids have grown up, or whatever life change. That's a common theme in this area.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

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

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Uh, hearing that one, the line where he says "Pack up your car, put a hand on your heart. Say whatever you feel, be whatever you are. We ain't angry at you, love. You're the greatest thing we've lost."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Hearing that while I was driving away from here to DC was, um... absolutely heartbreaking. [laughs] It's a beautiful song. But...

**Taylor:** When I first listened to that song I'm like, "Oh, I think I know why Raleigh likes this album." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "She relates to—this song in particular probably matters to her."

**Raleigh:** It's just—it does, and it's very, like—I can imagine that anyone who has left a small town feels that way. Um, but more so just the, like, um... recent-ness of it all, of my life changing, and coming back here for the summer, and about to leave again, and all that. Just, um... yeah. Very... get a little—getting a little emotional. But yeah. It's very meaningful.

What about you all? What did you—

**Sydnee:** Well, I'll be here forever, so.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** Don't worry.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee's gonna start a commune here.

**Sydnee:** I'm trying.

**Taylor:** Well, not in like a sad, like, "Ugh, I'm in my small town." Like, you could go anywhere. You're just happy there. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** Let's just—let's recognize that.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah. No, not—no. I don't mean that in a sad way. I just will be. This is where I am, and I have rooms for both of you, so.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Tombs? Did you say tombs?

**Raleigh:** Tombs?



**Sydnee:** I said rooms!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I have suites for both of you.

**Raleigh:** Suites?

**Sydnee:** With your own bathroom.

**Taylor:** Sweet, sweet release of death? Is that what you said?

**Sydnee:** No!

**Taylor:** With your own bathroom! [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** You can—you can build a home on my land.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Hm. Already.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Justin knows woodworking. I'll help you garden.

**Raleigh:** Is that your—your Ken's job is build?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Game, build. We're still working on [crosstalk].

**Taylor:** Podcast. No, you have podcast Ken. What are you talking about?

**Sydnee:** I have podcast Ken. He does podcast.

**Raleigh:** Um, what about you all? What were your all's favorite songs on the album?

**Sydnee:** Well, I really liked Dial Drunk, but other one that, um, I liked—the Village is one. What is it? The View Between Villages.

**Rileigh:** View Between Villages, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I liked that one a lot.

**Taylor:** Um, yeah. A lot of the songs we've talked about I really liked. Uh, but I think one that we didn't mention was She Calls Me Back.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I don't know. 'Cause it's such—I mean, so many of these songs are so heavy, and I don't think this one is not heavy. But I do think it's a beautiful sentiment of like—especially because I would say that the place he's writing from is so sad that it's just like—that the tiniest gesture can mean so much when you're in a bad place.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. It's true. I do like that song. Um, it's also funny, if you're interested in looking it up, people jokingly called him Folk Malone instead of Post Malone, because he does kind of look like Post Malone, but obviously he does folk music.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And they just released a remix of Dial Drunk that is Dial Drunk featuring Post Malone.

**Taylor:** I saw that.

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

**Rileigh:** Yeah. It's pretty good. [laughs] I don't listen to Post Malone. I listen to Folk Malone. But... yeah. Thank you all for listening. I know it was kind of a bum album.

**Taylor:** No, it was beautiful.

**Raleigh:** Um, but yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was beautiful.

**Raleigh:** I really enjoy his music. I think it's, um, very worth listening to if you haven't.

**Sydnee:** Now we know everything about New England. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** We are experts in New England and geography now.

**Sydnee:** At the very least we know what states are in it.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And I'm not, so.

**Sydnee:** And you're not.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I've already forgotten.

**Sydnee:** I feel stupid about that. I guess I didn't really think it was England, I just thought, like... I don't know.

**Raleigh:** I had no idea. I thought it was, like, the general area.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, just that part where people... colonized first.

**Raleigh:** English people. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, yes. Obviously.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Obviously, yes, now I have figured that out. But I just thought it was like, you know, it was the part that colonized first up there.

**Raleigh:** No, that's true, that's true.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that makes sense.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** What's—[laughs] what's next, Sydnee?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, something completely different.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, continuing with trying to avoid struck media, I thought a video game would be acceptable. Um, so I want to talk about Mario. Now, there's a lot of Mario, but I feel like, uh, if we focus in on, like, Mario Kart, that would be a good place. Um, because I know we have all played quite a bit of Mario Kart. And if you wanted to dig in to a little bit of, like, your standard Marios, you know, the original big three Marios, that's okay too.

**Raleigh:** When you say original big three Marios...

**Sydnee:** Mario... Super Mario... Super Mario 3.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Just the—you know.

**Raleigh:** The basics.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** You know, the basics, the standards.

**Raleigh:** We've played those.

**Sydnee:** I don't—I mean, I don't wanna get too much into, like, Yoshi stuff, or Luigi Haunted Mansion, or...

**Taylor:** [through laughter] "I don't wanna get too much into Yoshi stuff."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I don't—I don't—I—

**Raleigh:** I like Yoshi stuff.

**Sydnee:** I will stay away—

**Raleigh:** But that's alright.

**Sydnee:** I will stay away from Mario RPG: Search for the Seven Stars, because I...

**Taylor:** That makes me so sad, 'cause I know it's your favorite.

**Raleigh:** What about Mario and Sonic at the Olympics? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** They played tennis there.

**Sydnee:** And of course we will avoid talking about the film.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** As well. So... we'll focus in on... Mario the concept? [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [singing] The vision of Mario.

**Sydnee:** You know, as much as, uh, Barbie is an idea, I think Mario's an idea.

**Taylor:** Oh no. We're gonna get the Mario—a new Mario movie? Another one? But from, like, a conceptual basis.

**Sydnee:** Live action.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But like a—no, they've already done that. But like, it'd have to be more serious. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know what that looks like. [laughs] Um... alright. Well, thank you, Rileigh.

**Rileigh:** Well, of course. Thank you all.

**Sydnee:** Thank you for sharing that music. It was really good. It was very beautiful. I will probably revisit it in the fall. I think it will be appropriate autumn music.

**Taylor:** [laughs] It's a pumpkin spice latte and some sadness.

**Rileigh:** During the stick season.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. You can find that on Spotify, I bet.

**Rileigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** And other music places. [whispering] Like Apple Music. It's on Apple Music too. [laughs quietly] That's where I listen to it. Don't tell—don't tell anybody.

**Rileigh:** We—we know.

**Sydnee:** Um—[laughs quietly] thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) and check out a lot of great podcasts there that you would enjoy. Um, you can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org). And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

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

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

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

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

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** I can help you start your first gardening plots out back.

**Raleigh:** Oh my gosh.

**Sydnee:** We can—we can work on permaculture.

**Taylor:** What about plots? Plots for us?

**Sydnee:** Gardening plots, yes.

**Raleigh:** Cooper has plots.

**Sydnee:** We'll build a food forest. I'm just learning about food forests, but we're gonna build it. You wanna help me work on my pollinator garden?

**Taylor:** Hmm...

**Raleigh:** Hmm...

**Taylor:** Hmm...

**Sydnee:** I'm growing sunchokes now.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

[all laugh]

[dog barks]

[music plays]

**Alexis:** Are you tired of being picked on for only wanting to talk about your cat at parties?

**Ella:** Do you feel as though your friends don't understand the depth of love you have for your guinea pig?

**Alexis:** When you look around a room of people, do you wonder if they know sloths only have to eat one leaf a month?

**Ella:** Have you ever dumped someone for saying they're just not an animal person?

**Alexis:** Us too.

**Ella:** She's Alexis B. Preston.

**Alexis:** She's Ella McLeod.

**Ella:** And we host Comfort Creatures: the show where you can't talk about your pets too much, animal trivia is our love language, are dragons are just as real as dinosaurs.



**Alexis:** Tune in to Comfort Creatures every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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