

Still Buffering: "GUTS" - Olivia Rodrigo

Published October 10, 2023

[Listen here at themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

[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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: It's been a big week of news for Swifties like you, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yeah, it has.

Sydnee: I've paid attention.

Raleigh: Have you?

Sydnee: And am aware. Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: What do you know?

Sydnee: Taylor Swift, uh, is dating a football man.

Raleigh: Not just any football man, Travis Kelce.

Sydnee: Yes, he is a football man. [laughs]

Raleigh: Who also has a podcast with his brother, who is also a football man.

Sydnee: Oh...

Taylor: *Football Man Podcast*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that what it's called?

Taylor: Probably.

Raleigh: Yep, yep.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: *Football Man Podcast?*

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know what? That would be very popular as a title.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like if... There are people like our father who would type in like [slowly] "football..."

Taylor: [laughs] "Football man..."

Sydnee: "Man..."

Taylor: ... "Podcast."

Sydnee: "Podcast."

Taylor: "Ah, here."

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: And then there it would come up and he'd be like, "Oh, this is for me. This is... This is for me." [laughs]

Raleigh: "Football man."

Sydnee: "Football man."

Rileigh: Yeah, they're both NFL players, which is kind of crazy. They played each other in the Super Bowl a couple years ago, but...

Sydnee: I... Okay.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Now that rings a bell because Dad cried about that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Rileigh: Well...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: ... their mom came...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: And she wore a jack— One of them plays for the Eagles and one of the plays for Kansas City, so she wore—

Taylor: It's like the Civil War, only football.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughing] She made a jacket that was like half green and half red and like had one of their numbers on one side and the other one on the other. Yeah.

Sydnee: And Dad talked about how hard that would be.

Rileigh: Yep. Like... [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Yes, I remember that part... I only remember it because I remember Dad getting really emotional. And they hugged at the end. And when he saw them hugging, he started crying.

Raleigh: Yeah. That was, I think...

Sydnee: I don't know which one won.

Raleigh: Travis Kelce won. Kansas City won.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Taylor Swift's boyfriend.

Sydnee: [laughs harder]

Raleigh: That's how... That's how people are referring to him on the Internet now, which is really funny to me that now we're, you know, instead of like, football players who we don't know their partners, we just talk like... And say like, "Oh, that's so and so's wife or girlfriend or whatever. And that's a sports guy and he's famous. I don't know who that is."

Now it's like, "Nope, you were reduced to Taylor Swift's boyfriend. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, I saw a lot of TikToks about, like, how to really make your... the football lover in your life angry.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, "Did you hear how famous that football player is getting now that he's dating Taylor Swift?" [laughs]

Raleigh: Which is true. He is... Like I saw that searches for him or like purchases of his jersey or something went up by like 400% after this weekend. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Aw... yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. And I saw there was something where, like they asked Bill Belichick what he felt about it.

And I was like, "What is this world we're living in where they're like, asking football coaches like, 'What do you think of that football man dating Taylor Swift?'" [laughs]

Raleigh: Did you see Bill Belichick's answer?

Sydnee: [laughing] Yes.

Raleigh: [as Bill Belichick] "He's made a lot of big catches in his career and this is the biggest." Like, alright. [laughs]

Taylor: God...

Sydnee: Which also is something our dad would say.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I know...

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: How... I mean, how do you... Like, are you supportive of her new relationship or...?

Raleigh: Yeah, I try to stay in the safe non-creepy area where like... I... Like, if she's happy, that's cool. As long as she keeps making music and like, enjoying her career? Cool.

I don't wanna like—

Sydnee: I like that you said you "try to stay in the non-creepy area."
[laughs]

Raleigh: I do. Well, it's so easy to be like, "Yeah, this is so exciting. Like, look at them! They hung out here and they're reports of them hanging out here! And she met his mom. And apparently they've been secretly hanging out for a couple of weeks. This wasn't their first time hanging out."

But I don't want to be like, you know, weird. I don't know if it's... they're actually dating. Yeah. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: But it will be very cute if they are.

Sydnee: I mean, they—

Raleigh: He pursued her, and a source online said that she liked that. So...

Sydnee: [sarcastic] Well, we all know that we can trust the source online.

Raleigh: [sarcastic] Yup.

Sydnee: [sarcastic] They're always telling us the truth.

Raleigh: Yup. He did make her a friendship bracelet with his number on it.

Sydnee: Did he really make it?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Or does he have—

Raleigh: To take to her concert.

Sydnee: Or does he have people for that.

Raleigh: Well, he said he made it on his podcast. I guess... I guess...
[laughs] If you were like the assistant for an NFL player, you could say, "Yeah, I'll do that" if they ask you to make a friendship bracelet.

Sydnee: I—

Raleigh: I don't know if he made it or not.

Sydnee: How much... This is just... Okay. If you— Let's say you're the assistant who had to make that friendship bracelet. I mean, maybe he did. I don't know. I don't know. I have... I'm just theorizing here. This is a hypothetical.

And like, so you made the friendship bracelet for Taylor Swift. You have to take that secret with you to the grave. You can't ever reveal that he didn't make it. You have to forever keep that secret that you made the friendship bracelet that football man gave to Taylor Swift.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: How much do you have to get paid?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: A good amount.

Sydnee: This... I mean this is like the generalizable question. You know what I mean? Like some of those personal assistants must know some stuff.

Raleigh: One of... One of those personal assistants has been managing a calendar where there may or may not have been meetings with Taylor Swift before this weekend.

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: They can't tell anybody.

Sydnee: Or vice versa. Taylor Swift's person—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... who was managing the calendar that had the meetings with football man.

Raleigh: Yep. Can't tell anybody.

Sydnee: Teylor, are you— Teylor looks like he's formulating a number.
[laughs]

Teylor: No, I—

Sydnee: Teylor's thinking in dollars right now like, "Well, how much would that cost?" [laughs]

Teylor: No, I think... I think I'm thinking that like... This is... It's Taylor Swift, this is... I feel like whoever... We will never know who she's actually dating. Whoever she's dating publicly as part of some sort of... some sort of riddle that she's laying out.

Raleigh: Mmm...

Teylor: This is nothing that... Nothing that has been revealed to us is real. I don't... I don't think it's...

Sydnee: Ohh does she... Now, did she ever do a football-themed album?

Teylor: What... What's his number? And if you divide it by three, does it equal something—

Raleigh: Well...

Teylor: And if you multiply... Like, I'm sorry, I just don't [laughs] don't think it's real.

Sydnee: Oh!

Raleigh: Now...

Taylor: I don't think it's real.

Raleigh: Now, on her first album, her very first album, she has a song called "Mary's Song." And there's a line where she's talking about like, being with someone when they're old.

And she says "You'll be 87. I'll be 89." And his number is 87. And she is about to come out with *1989*. But that's just... That's a coincidence. I just keep seeing everyone online talking about it. [laughs]

Sydnee: No, you don't think the relationship is fake, do you?

Raleigh: I don't think so.

Taylor: I... I think—

Sydnee: I feel like—

Raleigh: I don't think Taylor has time for that.

Taylor: I think that's all she has time for. [laughs] I think that's—

Raleigh: She's in the middle of a worldwide tour.

Taylor: [laughing] That's what she does.

Sydnee: I feel like... I feel like that, if she was like... If she came out and was like, "It was all just to publicize blah blah blah, haha, like it was part of the thing, did you decode it?" Whatever. I feel like her fans would feel kind of betrayed by that.

Taylor: Why do you—

Sydnee: I don't think she'd do that. Because that would be like a step too far like, "Oh, that's weird."

Raleigh: After—

Sydnee: "You faked a relationship?"

Rileigh: After how much heat she got for just being seen and hanging out with Matty Healy those couple times, I don't think she would like, risk being seen with someone unless she actually was like, with them.

Taylor: Well, no. But I think that that was her last relationship. And so it would make sense for her to have some sort of like distraction from that. And also if it plays into her next album, I don't know, I think that she's doing her mastermind thing. I think that's what she always does.

Sydnee: Do you—

Rileigh: No...

Taylor: I think anything we've been allowed to know about her is stuff we've been allowed to know about her.

Rileigh: No, I don't want to—

Sydnee: Do you think—

Rileigh: ... reduce her music to relationships. But—

Taylor: No, I don't reduce her music to relationships, I'm just saying that I think that anything that has—

Sydnee: No, the music was already there.

Taylor: Yeah...

Rileigh: Yeah, her next album is a re-release.

Taylor: Anything that's been made visible to us... it's something she's thought through, if we... If we're aware of it.

Sydnee: I... I... Well, yeah, I don't think she... she's not naive. She does not—

Raleigh: That's why—

Sydnee: She... Yeah.

Raleigh: That's why people were saying they had to have hung out at some point, this had to have been going on at some point. If we're seeing them together in public, it can't be the first time they're meeting and she doesn't know anything about him. She is being seen with him in public in front of millions of people.

Sydnee: Do you think like... I mean at that level do you have to get background checks on potential suitors?

Raleigh: Maybe.

Sydnee: I mean—

Raleigh: Did you see... Did you see this clothing set he was wearing?

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: After the game?

Sydnee: The... You mean his football uniform?

Raleigh: No, no, no. When they left the game.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: The outfit he was wearing. 'Cause like it's a thing, football players will wear the nice outfits to and from the games.

Sydnee: Oh, I didn't know that.

Raleigh: He was wearing an outfit on his way out, that was like a matching denim two piece set that was blue and white. And the name of the set online is the "1989 Bedroom Watercolor Something..." Some set. So, I'm just saying. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know. They—Well...

Raleigh: They both were born in that year, so...

Sydnee: There may just be some—

Raleigh: ... that's just the name of it.

Sydnee: Like, two teams of really smart PR people who are like, "If these two are going to date, we are going to make everything out of this we possibly can."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean it may just be that. Like they're dating and they're surrounded by clever publicists who are like, "We know exactly how to make this gigantic."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: On a side note, I want to show you all... You can't see this, but you all can describe what's happening. I'm wearing a fleece zip-up and then I hold this button. And... Oh no, my battery pack's out. I can't show you. This turns on and makes me hot.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: It warms up.

Sydnee: Yeah, it warms up.

Taylor: Oh, that's nice.

Sydnee: My... my sweatshirt warms up.

Raleigh: That's nice.

Sydnee: It's an electric... It's like an electric blanket, but it's a fleece.

Taylor: I hope that... I hope that... That sounds nice. I hope there's not a fire hazard concern for that.

Raleigh: That's what I was thinking.

Taylor: That's what I would worry about.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, now don't tell me that. [laughs]

Taylor: I'm just worried about it, you know?

Sydnee: I mean, I wear it while I'm awake.

Taylor: Electric blankets catch on fire. Yeah, don't fall asleep in that.

Sydnee: I don't. It's just... I'm always cold everywhere I go. And Justin got me this. It's heated on the inside. I'm very excited to wear it for the next, [laughs] six months.

Raleigh: Hey, it's back up—

Sydnee: Every day.

Raleigh: It's getting back up to 80 here. I know about you all, but I had fall clothes out for two days. Put 'em right back away.

Sydnee: I don't know. It was long enough to make my garden look [Muppet voice] pretty ragged.

Raleigh: Yeah...

Sydnee: Well, anyway, I just thought... I thought it was important that we give you a chance to talk about how you feel about the newest Taylor Swift news because...

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: It like... Somehow, I don't know what hap— I don't get a lot of Taylor Swift news on my TikTok normally. But something happened where it like... that was all that dominated my TikTok algorithm. So I don't know—

Raleigh: It listened to you.

Sydnee: Well, I don't know if it thought I was interested or if it's just all the people that I follow already were like, interested. Except—

Raleigh: It's also possible that's just all that was on TikTok.

Sydnee: Yeah, except you, Tey.

Raleigh: TikTok was only Taylor Swift.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't think so. I think that's definitely a specific— Because I was not... I got a couple of that like, kind of stuff, but I don't...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: There was other stuff going on. [laughs] There was a lot of videos of cats— speaking of which my cat is screaming—being doofuses set to that sound tone of Lin saying, [singing in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda] “Look at my son!”

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: And that's what my TikTok was for the whole weekend.

Raleigh: I have gotten a couple of those. I was on it last night before I went to bed and I got several of those in a row.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's... That's what like, now I just, anytime Jack's doing anything, I just look at him and go, [singing in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda] "Look at my son!"

And he's like, "What is this?" [laughs] So...

Sydnee: Yeah, I sent you all a cat TikTok, you didn't respond. That's all right.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I think the problem with sending TikToks is that — because I do it too — I send it and then... or I receive it, and then I watch it and I go "Huh. That's funny."

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And then I forget to, like translate that to message.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I just think—

Taylor: [singing in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda] "Look at my son! Pride is not the work I'm looking for."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] He look—

Raleigh: He looks so angry.

Taylor: [as Jack the cat] "There's something wrong." [laughs]

Sydnee: I know, he looks so pleased. He's like, "Get—What are you doing? Let me down!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: He's used to hearing this like 20 times a day now. [laughs] I just walk up to him and assault him saying, [singing in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda] "Look at my son!"

[cat scrabbling noises] Yeah, that's... that's fine. Do that.

Raleigh: I've have seen several of those. I saw one where a cat got his head stuck in, like the crumbs at the bottom of a treat jar.

Taylor: Yep.

Raleigh: And he was trying to shake it off and get it off. And then it came off and he just got the crumbs everywhere. It's all over his head.

Sydnee: [giggles] Oh...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I like cats.

Taylor: I realize... You know, there's this perception that like cats are like super smart and like dogs are dumb and like cat people like love, they're cats because they're mean and they don't love them and...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It's not... that's not the case. Like dog people will watch their dog do something stupid and be like, "Haha my dog. He's so stupid. Whatever."

A cat person will watch their cat do something incredibly dumb and say, "That is my child. I love him."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "He's smart. He connects with my soul. He's my one and only. That is my... That is my cat." That's... The animals are the same across the board.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's just the way you perceive them.

Sydnee: I know. My cat gets in the shower with me now.

Taylor: Ohh.

Sydnee: But she sits far in the corner, so she doesn't get wet. And like she's mad about it. Like, "Why is there water in here?" But she won't... But she always follows me into the shower. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Jack just paces back and forth outside. When I take baths, like once a week I take a real bath, but he does not like that at all.

He just paces back and forth outside of the bath like, "You're in water. I know water is bad. Water is definitely bad. You're doing a stupid thing." [laughing] And he just paces back and forth and screams.

Sydnee: [as Jack the cat] "Get out of there! What are you doing?"

Taylor: "This is definitely a bad idea." And I'm just like, "Oh, oh... [singing in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda] Look at my son!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just have these animals that yell at me every time I touch a plastic bag because they think it's food for them. [laughs] That's all I have.

Taylor: You just... You have carrot-driven animals. I don't know what... Very specific brand.

Raleigh: They've started doing the thing that cats do, where like, sometimes you'll catch them kind of looking around with their mouth just a little bit open and their tongue just a little bit out.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Now they do that, and I don't really know why, but it's... it's very... it's very cute. Just a little bit of a tongue.

Sydnee: I like that. Mm-hmm. Well, we need to talk about—

Taylor: *Guts*.

Sydnee: ... your album, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yeah. Continuing on—

Sydnee: Well, not your album.

Raleigh: [sarcastic] Yeah, my album that I wrote and produced and published. No, another Taylor Swift-adjacent topic, Olivia Rodrigo and her album *Guts*.

Sydnee: I didn't realize how often in my house I had already heard a song from that album.

Raleigh: Oh, which one?

Sydnee: Um... "Vampire."

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: My children have been singing it.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Explicit lyrics and all.

Taylor: Ooh.

Sydnee: For, I mean, I guess since the album came out, I don't know.

Raleigh: I... that song came out before the album. That was a single. I remember that now that you say that, last time I was home, Cooper singing that, and I was like, "Wait a minute. [laughs] What were you singing?"

Sydnee: I... I know. Well, and she sings it with such like... she really gets into it. And so like that f-bomb drops hard. [laughs]

Raleigh: There is a clean version, but if she already knows the, you know, F-bomb, I don't know if you're replacing it.

Sydnee: Yeah, I'm assuming that when she performed this song live, she did the clean version.

Raleigh: "Dream Crusher."

Taylor: [growling noise]

Raleigh: Instead of saying... that other word.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's the other thing. Like that's... It's not just that there's an f-bomb. It's specifically the... What that phrase means.

And I don't know how to explain like, "Let's not say it this way." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, there's no explanation for that. And both Charlie and Cooper will just sit there wailing it. And I'm like, "Oh my god." [laughs]

Raleigh: They just... They don't even know. They just... They're following the words.

Sydnee: No.

Rileigh: Yeah, so that and “Bad Idea”, right, were both were singles that came out before the album. But the entire album just came out, I think, close to the beginning of September. I think about three weeks ago now.

Yeah, it's her second album. We talked about “Sour” before. That was her first album. This is her second one. And I... Also Taylor Swift-adjacent as we continue to talk about her. You can't talk about her and not talk about Taylor Swift because there's supposed drama there. It's a whole thing.

I think Ticketmaster got their stuff together after Taylor Swift, before Olivia Rodrigo, because I got tickets for her tour. And it was the easiest process of my life, that took less than 5 minutes.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: So, I don't know. They got their stuff together before her tour, I guess—

Sydnee: Well—

Rileigh: ... after Taylor Swift. But...

Sydnee: Is... So do people still think there's beef there because of the whole like, songwriting credit fiasco?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay.

Rileigh: Because she had a song in her last album, I think it was “Deja Vu” that a lot of people said sounded similar to a Taylor Swift song. And she just, without saying anything, just credited Taylor Swift as a songwriter on it. So now Taylor Swift gets royalties for it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: After that, she didn't like, go to the Eras Tour. And the drama that was supposedly between her and Sabrina Carpenter and the boy that was on the last album?

Sydnee: Yes. Right.

Raleigh: Sabrina Carpenter opened for Taylor Swift and all of her Mexico shows.

Sydnee: Oh, so people are just... People are just assuming...

Raleigh: Yeah. But they were at the VMA's and Taylor Swift was loudly cheering for Olivia Rodrigo and... I don't know.

Sydnee: Right. Because she did the thing with the fake stage collapse or whatever.

Raleigh: Yeah. I see a lot of TikToks about that. People feel very strongly about that.

Sydnee: [incredulous] Really?

Raleigh: Like, not fans.

Sydnee: Oh, they thought it was bad or something?

Raleigh: They were just like, "What is going on?"

Sydnee: Like, it was too real?

Raleigh: A lot of people were laughing because they zoomed in on Selena Gomez's face at one point watching that and she was just kind of looking around like... "What... what?" [laughs] She did not look entertained. But yeah.

Sydnee: It did... It did look... Like, I saw—I didn't watch it when it happened, but I did see some TikToks about it. And I will say that like... It was confusing for a second.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It was so realis—it didn't look like an act or like, staged for a second, it looked like, “Oh, wait...”

Raleigh: Yeah, I agree. Um—

Sydnee: Which I don't know... I mean, I'm assuming that's what she wanted? Like she wanted the audience to get confused? [laughs]

Raleigh: I guess so? [laughing] I couldn't tell you.

Sydnee: I... I connect with that. No, I get that. I get that like, sometimes if people feel confused and uncertain about you and not sure what is going to happen next, that can be advantageous.

Raleigh: Yeah. Keep `em guessing.

Sydnee: So I don't necessarily think that's a problem.

Raleigh: Yeah. But yeah, this is her second album. I do want to say there are four songs that I've not heard that are on this album that I assume are on the deluxe version that has yet to be released.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: But they... There are four colors of the vinyl that came out and at the end of the vinyl, every edition, if you wait like a full minute after the end of the last song, one of the songs that is on the deluxe version starts playing.

Sydnee: Oh, secret songs.

Raleigh: But each one has a different one. Yeah, they all have secret songs.

Sydnee: Old-school secret songs.

Rileigh: So people have been posting them—Yeah. Yeah, people have been posting them on TikTok, like snippets, but yeah, you can't listen to them together.

Sydnee: That's how—

Rileigh: I guess unless you buy all the vinyls and then just skip to the end on all of them.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's how secret songs used to happen.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You used to have to let the CD keep playing or the cassette tape, you know.

Rileigh: Yeah. Well—

Sydnee: Or I assume vinyl, but like, vinyl came back. Like I wasn't... Vinyl wasn't big when I was... You know?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean, like, I had, like, little teeny records when I was little little.

But the first media I bought was on cassette, so...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Vinyl... Vinyl came back.

Rileigh: Well, you know, a lot of people—

Sydnee: And now it's very cool to say like, "Vinyl has a sound that nothing else can replicate."

Rileigh: Yeah. A lot of people have been saying that that is... have been talking about how that's like old-school secret songs. But her album also

kind of has like a... I mean, in my opinion, almost like an early 2000s, like late '90s kind of feel, music-wise.

Sydnee: It has a—

Raleigh: Like kind of like Avril Lavigne.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: Like, punk-pop.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: But like... I don't know. DO you know what I mean?

Sydnee: That's... that's exactly... yes. That is exactly what I thought listening to it. It's funny. Justin was listening to it when I was. And he... he said something that... I said, "You realize how, like, old man you sound when you say this?"

He said, "I feel like I could hang out with Olivia Rodrigo's parents, and we'd be friends."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I was like, "Uh... Why?" [laughs] And he said, "You can tell that she grew up listening to good music. Because you can hear it in her music."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I mean, definitely, there's Avril Lavigne in there, but it's a lot of the '90s, like Semisonic, like a lot of the... I hear Everclear in there sometimes. Like, I don't mean specific songs.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I'm not trying to say like... this isn't a Paramore situation.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I'm saying I hear that musical influence. There's a guitar thing where it's real high-pitched that was in a lot of music back in the '90s... Do you know I'm talking about Teylor?

Teylor: Yeah. No, she definitely takes a lot of notes from... I mean, I think definitely 90s more than 2000s.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like there's some Garbage notes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: There's some like garage-rock kind of feel. And it doesn't... I feel bad for how much she gets accused of copying because it's just like, well, this was what everyone was doing. She's just reaching back to that specific time period where there's, like, fuzzy guitars. And...

Sydnee: Yes.

Teylor: ... you know, like, I think a lot of her songs have that. Where it's like... you know. Even like the... the... the "I want him back" song.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like the speaking-talking.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like somebody compared that to like a... I think it was like a Butthole Surfers song. But like, "Oh it's the same thing." It's like, "No, that was just a style of songs back in the '90s that like was popular."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You had a kind of a spoken word on beat chorus and then you had, like a fuzzy guitar throughline.

Sydnee: Exactly.

Taylor: And that... She did that and like you can't accuse somebody of copying that. It's just...

Sydnee: A lot of—

Taylor: ... it's just a style of music that's out of date.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Exactly. A lot of music had that kind of... fuzzy guitar is the right way to...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That is exactly what it is. Like the... It doesn't... I think a lot of music today is a lot cleaner and more polished. And in the 90s, I mean, we're still like... We're moving away from grunge, but grunge was still very like present in that kind of music.

And that's... I mean, that's exactly what it was. It wasn't clean and polished. It wasn't studio. It wasn't like, packaged. It was supposed to feel like you were in a garage with a band listening to them record their first demo. And that was, you know, that was the vibe and you can feel that.

And not every one of her songs, you know, but a lot of it.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, it's interesting to me because it reminds me of that... the Miley Cyrus album that we listened to not too long ago.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Where I felt like every song I could say like, "Oh, that's clearly a Blondie nod. Like, that's clearly like a... You know, that's got like a pick up from the Pretenders or something.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like she's clearly referencing late-'80s music. And that was not called copying, but because Olivia Rodrigo is quote-unquote "copying" music from like more recent times, it's viewed as not okay. I don't... It's weird. Like it's not... It's... It's...

Sydnee: I... [sigh]

Taylor: It's... One can't... One can't be okay, and the other ones not okay, like...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I agree with you completely. I think... I think the problem, and I think she's... I mean obviously she's extremely successful so it hasn't hurt her.

But I think when it comes to people making those comments and looking for those comparisons, I think it really boils down to that one song. You know, the Paramore-like.

Raleigh: The Paramore one? Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Which I still—

Sydnee: I... I mean that... That one— Someone who listened to it should have looked at her and said, "You're going to get some pushback because this sounds so similar.

"The chorus is so similar and people are going to call you out for that and we should discuss ahead of time how we're going to deal with it." Because I think there was such like, an outcry, now people are looking for that. Now people are listening to her music, trying to find like, "Oh, you just stole this."

And I think that sucks, 'cause I really think it was just that one song—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ... that I listened to and went "Oh, that's really super similar." I don't think any of the other songs do. I don't... I mean, you know Taylor Swift's music way better than I do, obviously, Raleigh. I didn't listen to any other song and think like, "Well, it sounds like a Taylor Swift song."

Raleigh: No, that one that people said was similar is like how you're talking about, Tey, like just the spoken word thing was like a common way of making music.

Like the reason people said they were similar is because the chorus had like, of the songs, of the Taylor Swift song and the Olivia Rodrigo Song had the sung chorus and then almost like a yelled like, refrain in the background.

That was like the big part of the chorus and the bridge. And they both had that. And that was kind of it.

Sydnee: Yeah, see I don't... And I think at that point, my guess is she probably just had to like, whatever anybody said, roll with it to try to get the noise to die down. So that people stop getting mad at her.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, I... It's funny you said Avril Lavigne. There are moments in this album that remind me very strongly of the Avril Lavigne vibe, but not like... Not in a way that I would think like, "Oh, she stole."

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: It's just like, "Yeah, it's that vibe."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that's what the music is, it's that vibe.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, but that... I don't know. I feel bad because I feel like she's going to continue to get flack for that. I don't know. People will forget eventually. I mean, you know, there's always a... There's always a time limit on these things.

Raleigh: Well—

Sydnee: And, I will say, that the people who are complaining, I would guess this would be my guess.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Are more people from like, my generation.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: That's... Yeah.

Sydnee: You don't think so? You don't think it's older people who are complaining while younger people are just jamming?

Taylor: I have a hard time believing that just because, like...

Sydnee: Maybe not as old as me. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I just feel like... I don't know. I mean, sampling was part of what we understood as part of music. Like, yeah, like that's... A lot of music sounds the same, and then a lot of music like samples certain elements from other music.

I don't know. I don't think it's... I don't think it's a generational thing. I think it's a specific audience that likes to you know. tear young women down, no matter what they do.

Sydnee: Well, there is that.

Raleigh: Yeah. I was... That's what I was thinking, was kind of, I don't know if it is because her target audience, which I would guess is like my age and usually even younger, honestly than me.

Sydnee: I would have thought even younger than you too, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, I feel like I'm on the older end of her fans.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Which feels odd, [laughs] but I do think that most people that listen to her... 'Cause I mean she's younger than me. She's 20. So I mean, most people that are listening to her are probably younger than her.

But I don't know if it's just because we wouldn't have those connections to make. Like I didn't think to make that connection to "Misery Business" on the first album because I had heard that song before, but it was not something I listened to like a lot.

That song was one I had listened to much more on the Olivia Rodrigo album than Paramore. And maybe it's just, you know, there's my generation and

younger who's listening to all this music like not really recognizing a specific sound, it sounds like. Just thinking like, "Oh, this sounds kind of old school."

But then, you know, people slightly older that might listen because they see it's growing popular like, "Wait a minute. Well, that's just not old school it sounds like this." It's not like a not like a "you're copying" way, but almost like, "Here are the references you're looking for."

Taylor: Well—

Raleigh: "This is not just like, general '90s. Here are bands that if you like that sound and you're listening to that sound, do sound like that."

Taylor: Yeah, I feel like it's like... I don't know. It's like... Like skinny jeans, right? Like we all... Like I hear every day, I get another TikTok about, like "Skinny jeans are bad and ugly and everybody hates them."

I'm like, "I still wear them, I don't care." And then if I saw, like, some 25-year-old wearing skinny jeans and being like, "Yeah, this is the cool new thing", I'd be like, "Thank you. I did never put them down. I never got rid of them, but I'm glad that, like, the young people are no longer telling me that I can't wear these."

That's how I feel when I hear like, the grunge beats and like the stuff that sounds like Garbage or Hole or... or...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, like the stuff that I loved. Like, I never stopped loving that music, I never stopped listening to that music. It was cool for a minute. Then it stopped being cool.

And every female musician for a while was super-duper pop, and then it was kind of like this sort of romantic like, country-influenced pop. That was the thing for a while.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And now hearing like a, you know, a return back to the stuff that first influenced— I was like, “Oh, that's great. I love that. I love that for me because that's more music for me and I love that it's not... I don't get ridiculed for liking the things I like.”

So it's... It's weird to think that it would be old people that be like, “Oh no, you're copying like...” [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Yeah...

Taylor: Like, “Oh, thank you. Thank you. I could... I enjoy this more than a lot of the stuff that, you know, is popular.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Well, and I wonder too, even though I do think it would be older people who would recognize those influences more readily, right? Like we lived through that, so of course we're going to recognize it.

TikTok plays a big part in that whole thing. I heard the song and thought “That reminds me of that other song.” And that was as far as my brain went until TikTok played nonstop, people who were melding the songs together and running them side by side.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: And like, how many of those did you see, people who were like, “Look how similar. Oh my gosh, they're the same! Look at this! Look at this! Look at this!”

And like when you have that sort of just repeating and repeating and like it gets louder and louder. And then you're going to have some set of, some subset, of those people who are going to go, “That's not cool. That's wrong. I'm mad now.

"I feel outraged about this thing that has nothing to do with me and nobody really cares about." [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know? And then it... I mean, I think you're gonna... I feel bad because I think she probably suffered from some of that kind of echo chamber that we can get into. And this is not me hating on TikTok. I enjoy TikTok. I'm just saying. I think that it can do that.

Taylor: Well, I think it's—

Sydnee: It can push a narrative.

Taylor: It's... it's a narrative driven by people that don't understand how music works.

Sydnee: Sure, yeah.

Taylor: Which is again, like it's TikTok, so it's very young people.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Like, I have to remind myself constantly when I see things on the Internet that I'm like, "Why are... Why do people think this? This is insane." I'm like, "Oh, because these people... are 12." [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Like, these people are young. They don't have a fully formed understanding of things.

Sydnee: Their frontal lobes are still finishing. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, or even just like understand like, a lot of music is cyclical. Like a lot of—like, I don't know, like the Doja Cat song that's big right now. That that has the "Walk on By" line.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: As the bassline to it. Like that's a normal thing. Like it's normal for music to reference—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: ... itself. And it's not always like... I don't know. Like it's not like, "Oh I... This is somebody stealing from another artist. I'm gonna out them!" It's like, "No, that's just how music works, buddy. But it's okay that you don't know that 'cause you're ten. It's okay.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs] I forget that there are ten-year-olds out there on the Internet being mad about things.

Sydnee: Well, and it—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: A lot of it, I think, comes back to this music. I mean, as I was listening to this album, so many songs are like a very honest, just sort of like, not... Not fanciful, not looking back on things. Not nostalgic.

Very just like, at this moment, almost like diary entries. "Here's how I feel." A lot of it is about like, heartbreak and stuff like that. The things that are big to you when you're younger.

Not that they're not big when we're old—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Well, you know what I mean. Like, they're in that way that when you're 20, everything feels like the biggest deal and the most awful thing that's ever happened, to the most wonderful thing.

And like, they're all like that. And to me, that's exactly the language you speak to teenagers. This is an album that very clearly, will be loved by teenage girls. And teenage boys, but like probably a lot of teenage girls.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And anything that is made, not necessarily for, but will be loved by teenage girls, will be hated by society.

Taylor: For sure.

Sydnee: I mean, there's going to be a subset of people who make it their mission to hate on it and hate on its creator, because that's what we do for the stuff that teenage girls love.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, it's like that... Remember that article? We talked about it.

When the article came out that was like, condemning *Jagged Little Pill* like 20 years after it's release. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Talking about how, "It's too basic. It's too simple." And like... I think what you mean is it's too like... It's too relatable.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like people understand it and that— Like I... I hate that idea that, oh, because you're young your feelings don't matter. Because you're... You know, you're a young girl, specifically. Like, your feelings are kind of silly and small. Like, those are your only feelings at this time of your life. And they're allowed to have relevance.

Sydnee: Also—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Also like... you don't want to be the 40-year-old "pick me" girl. Come on, come on. [laughs]

Taylor: You don't wanna be the 20—

Sydnee: Trust me.

Taylor: ... year old "pick me" girl.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: From another 40-year-old like, going back and saying, "Actually, that was bad music and now I've realized that."

Taylor: "Actually..."

Sydnee: "Actually..."

Taylor: I reconsidered what my 20-year-old lead guitarist boyfriend said about *Jagged Little Pill* and I agree with him. No. No like... Like... I don't... I don't know. I was literally contemplating this week when I was talking to a friend about the pumpkin spice latte. Like, why do people get so mad about it? Like why?

And I don't know if it's just like, I'm sorry that there are certain things that women enjoy that like they will bring more pleasure to women than a man ever will. But that's not a reason to hate them. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's just stuff that women like isn't cool.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. No, it's just like... It's a... It's a...

Sydnee: I mean that's... that's... yeah.

Taylor: [incel voice] "Women don't like me, but they like this so I should hate this thing."

Taylor: Like, that's a you problem buddy. [laughs]

Sydnee: No, I... I enjoyed it. I mean, obviously, Charlie and Cooper loved it.

I was kind of surprised how many songs they knew other than the vampire song.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Because I thought like, "Well, that one..." And then the, "Seeing you tonight..."

Raleigh: "Get Him Back"... Or "bad idea, right?"

Sydnee: "Bad idea, right?"

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That one. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I was... Yes, that's what the title is.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I had heard that sound on TikTok a ton.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So, like, I recognized that immediately. I was like, "Oh, okay, I've heard... Yeah, I've seen this on TikTok." But Charlie and Cooper recognized several songs from it. I don't know where. I don't know how. They don't... It's not like there's a radio... [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... they're listening to. They're not listening to KeyFM here. I don't know what... I don't know how they're hearing these songs. But they were very into it. They were very excited. They did make me replay "Vampire" like ten times.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So that they could scream along to it. And I had to reiterate, like, "Don't sing that at school."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Please." [laughs]

Raleigh: They can sing the clean version.

Sydnee: But I thought it—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I thought it was fun. I enjoyed it. I love those sounds, like you said, Tey. That's the kind of stuff I enjoy 'cause it's the music... And I don't know. I do think there's a... there's always a risk, when your music is like that, like... I connect that music very strongly to a time of my life.

And I do think some of that music isn't as popular today, because we do sort of crystallize it as like, "This was that time." And I don't know. There is always that risk when you make music like that, like this is going to be very representative of 2023.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And... I don't know. Or maybe people will reference it forever and it will continue to have its own life because of artists like her. You know?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Who will dig back into the past and pull this stuff out and... But I thought it was a lot of fun. I don't know.

I really enjoyed listening to it and I will, if I have to listen to the girls' music, this is definitely much more preferable than that toilet thing everybody's listening to right now.

Taylor: I don't....

Raleigh: I don't know what that is.

Taylor: I don't want to know what that is.

Sydnee: Skibadee... dee Toilet?

Taylor: Ohh, that's just like a... No, Syd, that's a meme. Like, that's not...

Sydnee: No, you—

Taylor: People aren't listening to it like a musician.

Sydnee: Oh, no. My children are listening to it.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You can play it.

Taylor: Oh, well that's—

Sydnee: You can ask Alexa—

Taylor: ... because you have—

Sydnee: ... to play it and she'll play it.

Taylor: [laughs] ... you have toddlers. Like that's—

Sydnee: Well, I'm just saying.

Taylor: They're not... I would not put them on the same level. I think that's a disrespect to Olivia Rodrigo.

Sydnee: No, I'm not.

Taylor: I mean—

Sydnee: I'm saying that like [laughs] if I have to listen to my kids' music, this is great. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah.

Well, I mean, she kind of mystifies me. Because, like, again, like when I listen to this album, like, the first song with the... the... I guess I can't say the name. "The All-American B-word" like...

Raleigh: "All-American Bleep." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, the break into like that kind of fuzzy like, rock guitar bit, like it's so satisfying.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And it does remind me of a lot of the music that I loved growing up and the music that I... I mean when I... Like, a lot of the alternative like. I don't know like the riot girl music, like that kind of stuff.

Like that was not not mainstream. It was popular. It was maybe not... Like it... it wasn't pop, but it was still popular. And I'm glad that there is that as an offset.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That makes sense. Like it makes sense as a rebuttal to a lot of the very clean, formulaic pop music we've been getting for the last decade. So—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I just feel like this is the way things go. Like you kind of have a tendency towards that and then you have a rebuttal that's a little bit grungier, a little bit messier, a little bit like this. Which is great.

Sydnee: It—

Taylor: And I mean like the... Her willingness to take topics that are definitely meant for that specific age group, like the, what is it? "The Ballad of a Homeschool Girl"?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, that is—

Sydnee: Which, I like that one.

Taylor: Yeah! And it's not... It's not done ironically. It's... She is singing specifically through her problems, her age group, in a very like, meaningful way. Like, I think that that's an honesty that was lacking from music in the mainstream.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. There's an intimacy to it. I think that when it... Back when it was not so easy to share music. Back when it was harder to like, spread music quickly all over and everybody listening to the same thing at the same time, there was a little more intimacy to the experience of music.

And you would like buy a CD or a tape and sit together and listen to it, because not everybody owned it and you couldn't, like... There was no file sharing yet. Napster was still not there. [laughs] And there is something about it that like, it feels like when you're sitting at, you know, the YWCA—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... listening to some local bands play. Then you know everybody and there's, like 30 people in the room.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And there's something about that that is still... I don't know. That like sharing music that way is still very powerful. And of course, like, it's great that everybody can hear it at the same time. I'm not saying like, "It was better then."

But there is something about that that is very intimate and it's nice to see that in music.

Raleigh: Well, I think this is written a lot more like... Like an old-school album you'd listen to all the way through, instead of just a collection of songs that are going to go viral.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I mean, even the first song into the second song, the end of the first literally transitions into the beginning of the second.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, "All-American Bleep" ends with the—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: ... like, walking and the next one starts with the knocking on the door and the door opening.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Like it's so smooth, like seamlessly connected. It feels a lot more like something you're meant to sit down and listen to. And almost feels like it has a progression of a story more than some other recent albums.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Raleigh: I also just love that it starts out with a song that is like, half "This is what I should sound like as a 20-year-old girl in the public eye, in America, in 2023. "I'm grateful. I'm sexy and I'm kind and I'm pretty. And life is great and I'm, you know, whatever."

But then just breaks into screaming, but still saying those things like still saying like, "I know my age. I know my place." But screaming. I love that it starts out with that. That just... it's so much fun.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And also there's a part where you just literally scream. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I think then banking that with "Teenage Dream," the last song.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which just... Like, because it does. It makes it clear that she's aware that like, what I'm feeling is my age.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, "What I'm feeling is temporary, but like... when... when can I get past that?"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, "If all of my feelings are... they don't matter because of my age, then when can I... When do my feelings matter?"

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which is exactly what, you know, I think people would say about it. Like "Oh you're young. This is only relevant for a very small window of people."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, "Okay... [laughs] then when do my feelings matter?"

Raleigh: I will say though, I think it's interesting that a lot of these songs are almost more relatable, because we were talking about how her audience is even younger than me and younger than her. I think a lot of them and what they're talking about, are probably even more relatable for people in my age group than younger people.

Sydnee: Oh, yeah.

Raleigh: Like "bad idea, right?"

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And like, "get him back."

Sydnee: "Get him back", yeah. I was going to say that.

Rileigh: Those are things that like, I mean, young people are going to love listening to it. Like teenage girls are going to love it and are going to yell it.

But the actual like, things it's talking about, I don't know if... are quite meant for that age group, are almost meant for older. Which is interesting because she's younger than me, but again I guess if you grow up in the public eye like that, you're probably exposed to a scene that is full of a lot more older people. And almost expected to act older.

Sydnee: Well... It's also what you want to be when you're a teenager.

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: You know?

Rileigh: That's true.

Sydnee: There's a reason that like you hit that like preteen year and all you want to do is hang out with people older than you and be like people older than you and listen to music. And you start to fantasize about feeling the way the people who are singing those songs feel.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, I don't know what that's like. I haven't experienced that, but that's what it means to grow up is to feel like that. And so you connect with it, even though maybe you haven't experienced it yet, because you're longing to.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You're longing for heartbreak. You're longing for that kind of anger and betrayal and revenge. And... you know, that's part of it.

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. I thought it was very good. I really enjoyed it. I know we'll be listening to it a lot here.

Raleigh: Yeah, I'm a big fan.

Sydnee: Charlie and Cooper do not understand what they're singing about, but man, they love it.

Taylor: [giggles]

Raleigh: Yeah, I... Her first album is very good, but it's a lot of slow songs that are very ballad-y.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: That are almost very like... I don't want to say "sad," but like they're about sadder feelings and experiences. And this is just like so... It's got a couple of those. It's got "logical" and "the grudge" that are— And "making the bed" that are a little bit slower and more ballad-y, but it's also balanced out by a lot of just fun, energetic, you know, angry girl rock.

Sydnee: Yeah, I like that.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. Well, thank you all for listening.

Sydnee: Thank you, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, I enjoyed it.

Raleigh: Good.

Sydnee: Me too.

Raleigh: That's what I— When I first listened to it, I thought, "Well, we're obviously going to talk about this, because we're... we have to."

But also I'm glad that this is what we're talking about because it feels like something that bridges that gap between a lot of music you all have brought and music of today.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Which is cool.

Sydnee: I thought so too.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, that's a... It's interesting. You mentioned that it kind of like, gets comparisons to Avril Lavigne and it's like, in my day, Avril Lavigne was viewed as like a copy of—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... like, what, like riot girl or punk really was. And I don't feel the same way about this.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, I don't think that's a fair comparison. I would say that she's pulling directly from more prominent influences before that.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You know?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't... I'm happy to hear that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Not that Avril Lavigne did anything wrong. I think she got the same treatment in here day, but...

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: She did, she did.

Raleigh: Yeah. The teenage girl phenomena.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Well...

Sydnee: Well, and if anybody out there knows Olivia Rodrigo's parents, Justin McElroy would really love to hang out with them.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: If you're listening, he wants to be your friend, so...

Raleigh: Well, there you go.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Sydnee, what's next?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, something completely different. Searching for things that I thought would be okay for us to talk about, how about David the Gnome?
[laughs]

Taylor: Sure.

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: That was a cartoon that was on back in the '80s that I watched. Late '80s, early '90s here. And Raleigh's never heard of it.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: So...

Raleigh: I hadn't until today.

Sydnee: I believe it's on YouTube, so check that out.

Taylor: David the Gnome...

Raleigh: Well, all right.

Sydnee: All right. Well, thank you again, Raleigh. As always, all music is on Apple Music. [laughs]

Taylor: [sarcastic] All music is on Apple Music, yeah.

Raleigh: [sarcastic] Where everyone listens to it.

Sydnee: [laughing] Where everybody listens to their music—

Taylor: That's where you'll go.

Sydnee: ... just like me.

Taylor: [sarcastic] And we go. We all go there. That's where we go.

Sydnee: But you should check out, Olivia Rodrigo's new album, *Guts*, it's very good. Not just the songs that are on TikTok, the other ones are good too.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But thank you. Thank you, listeners. Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows that you can listen to there.

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 Teylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering.

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

[outro, theme music plays]

Sydnee: Yeah, I really gotta get my kids to stop yelling "fame blanker."
[laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Switch it out with that clean version, they'll never know.

Sydnee: I know.

Raleigh: It's like hiding vegetables in there.

Sydnee: I know. It's a little intense. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Audience supported.