

Still Buffering 379: "American Weekend" by Waxahatchee

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[theme music plays]

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: I wanted to tell you all about a personality test I took.

Taylor: Okay.

Rileigh: Oh?

Sydnee: Yes. It was a *Star Wars* character personality test.

Rileigh: [chuckles] Mm-hmm.

Taylor & Sydnee: [chuckle]

Taylor: Did you time travel back to like, the heyday of BuzzFeed? What is going on?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I uh... We were in a— [laughs] I was with our Uncle Michael.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: We were in a hospital waiting room, and trying to fill the time with, you know, distractions that would keep you off of maybe other sad things that were going on.

Taylor: Sure.

Sydnee: And... And he said, "Hey, have you taken this [chuckles] *Star Wars* character personality test? [chuckles] To find out which *Star Wars*

character you are?" And I was like, "No, but now I want to." [laughs]
"Now I really need to." So I took— It was a very good— I thought it was a really good personality test. [chuckles]

Taylor: Who did you end up with?

Sydnee: I was surprised. Justin guessed this immediately, I said I took it, and he said immediately who I was, without me telling him.

Taylor: 'Kay.

Sydnee: I'm Han Solo.

Taylor: Yeah, I figured that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I did not.

Taylor: Who did you think you'd be?

Sydnee: I don't know. I was a little worried I would be a Sith. [chuckles]

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: As I took it and answered the questions, I started to get worried like... I don't know, I'm not very zen. And I feel like the people who, you know, use the Force are all very like chill and zen a lot. And so I started worrying like, "Oh man... I'm not chill. I have no chill."

And so... Which like it's one of those personality tests where it tells you like you're— like, the highest percentage of you is Han Solo, but then like here were your next matches. You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And it gives you like— Like the next highest I was was Darth Vader. [chuckles]

Taylor: Okay. Yeah, I could see that too.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: But not— Why didn't you give us headway?

Raleigh: I know.

Taylor: So we could take it as well? Now I wanna know who I am.

Raleigh: Now I just had to look up "What *Star Wars* character am I?" and had to sift through like all these quizzes that are comin' up in my face.

Sydnee: Hold on. I just clicked on it and it keeps— Okay, "take the test again." Now I can send you the—

Taylor: Alright. Okay, I'll— [chuckles] While you're doing that, I'll say why it makes sense that you're Han Solo. 'Cause I think like the thing about Han Solo is his character is, and he's probably my favorite character in the *Star Wars* universe, but his whole thing is like, "Ugh, I'm like a bad guy, rebel. Like whatever. I look out for myself." And then everything he does is anti that.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: He is absolutely like ride or die for his friends, he makes stupid decisions all the time.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And honors what he thinks is right. You know, he turns around a ship when it— If he was just like the hardcore like, you know, mercenary that he says he is, he woulda left them. And he doesn't, he comes back. He leads with his heart.

There are other— I mean, we don't talk about *Harry Potter* anymore because JK Rowling, but lots of people made the point like Han Solo would be a Hufflepuff.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: 'Cause he ultimately is more caring than anything else. And that makes sense for you. 'Cause you're a little fiery, you're quick to anger, but ultimately you lead with your heart.

Sydnee: Well, I appreciate that. I was just surprised because he's very cool.

Taylor: No, but he's not, that's what I'm saying. He tries to be cool.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: He presents cool, but in—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: — a moment of duress, he's—

Sydnee: He tries!

Taylor: Yeah. He's not like some cool guy who doesn't care, he cares too much.

Sydnee: Well, and that— I mean, I did like, as I thought about it and like a— They were describing the character, like, "Here's why this is you," they talk about that like the times where he's like a "bad guy" quote unquote, like he does stuff that would be like bad.

It's because he thinks people deserve it. Like they're bad people. Like I don't have to take care of you because you do bad stuff, and so I'm not worried about you. But like he's on the side of good, even if he doesn't say that.

Like he's going to look out for good and try to do good, and the people he's like ripping off or whatever are people he genuinely believes to be bad people anyway. And I could kinda connect with that. It said that it— like I would be willing to shoot first, if I needed to, and I do—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, not literally. [chuckles] Not literally, I would never, 'cause I don't mess with guns, it's not my thing, just don't like 'em. But like... metaphorically shoot first, yes, I do that. I definitely will do that.

Especially if I feel like somebody is wrong or harming people, or on the wrong side of something and acting unjustly. Unjustly. Anti-justly. Disjustly. Unjustly.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: As long— If I feel like somebody's acting unjustly, I will—

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: I have no problem shooting first, calling them out, trying to start a conflict with them... in some way. Much to Justin's chagrin.
[chuckles]

Rileigh: Alright, I sped ran, I speed ran this test. I got 95% Princess Leia.

Taylor: That also makes sense.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [wheezes]

Rileigh: I did get equally 70% Luke, Yoda, and Darth Vader. [chuckles]
So.

Sydnee: That's weird.

Rileigh: Those are my second places, but I am 95% Princess Leia.

Sydnee: Why are you like Leia?

Rileigh: Well, let's see. "As a princess, Leia was expected to play a certain role by people around her. She could've led an easy, comfortable life if she had done as she was told and acted as a figurehead. The only— There was only one problem with this – Leia had other ideas.

She gives all to the causes she believes in, she takes on a central role in the rebellion, she's willing to put herself in dangerous situations to further causes she believes in. She has an incredible ability to gather people around her and rally people to her cause." It's all it tells me.

Sydnee: I think that sounds like you.

Rileigh: "Her sense of duty is unparalleled, even if it can sometimes lead to her being slightly over-serious." I can get behind that.

Sydnee: I think that sounds like you. Yeah, I think that all sounds like you.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You do have a sense of duty.

Raleigh: Ha-ha.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Doodie. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Now, Princess Leia probably would not make a doodie joke.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: To be fair.

Sydnee: That does not sound like her. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Well.

Sydnee: No I think that suits you, I can see that.

Raleigh: My lowest was Han Solo.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: My lowest was Yoda.

Raleigh: Well.

Sydnee: That's 'cause I don't— I mean, they had a lot of questions about like stopping and thinking things through. And that's just not—

Raleigh: And you said, "Two thumbs down." [laughs] No.

Sydnee: Two thumbs down, that's not my strong suit. No, I am not— I'm not a thinker, I'm a doer. I... I would rather take action quickly than sit and ponder. No, which is why—

Like that's why I was really afraid, like as I was taking it, like, "I feel very strongly I'm going to be on the Dark Side, [chuckles] because I— [chuckles] I just wanna— " I'm not— I— Really, I am not seeking peace. I'm seeking justice. [chuckles]

Raleigh: See that's what I put, but I didn't— I guess I had a little bit more of the peace in there.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, but Princess— I mean, that's why you're not Yoda, though. Because—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: — Princess Leia is also like seeking justice.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, she's willing to kill people. She's willing to fight.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You know.

Raleigh: I, too, am willing [chuckles] to kill people.

Sydnee: [chuckles] Well I don't wanna kill anybody, I'm just— [chuckles] I mean more like metaphorically. Like in this— If you're in the *Star Wars* universe.

Raleigh: [chuckles] Metaphorical killing.

Sydnee: It— We're putting ourselves in *Star Wars*, where we're fighting a fascist regime, who's trying to like commit genocide. And so in that case, the stakes are higher, so I think—

Raleigh: Sure, sure.

Sydnee: — our actions are more justifiable, is I guess where I'm going. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: [sniffs]

Taylor: I had two equal results, so I have to— I'm trying to retake it—

Raleigh: Oh no.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: — to get it—

Raleigh: Oh no.

Taylor: I was 90% both Luke and Yoda. [chuckles] But I feel like I want— I didn't get the description of what that means. [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh no!

Raleigh: That's really interesting that we all got—

Taylor: Keep talking, I'm finishing it. [laughs]

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: We've all gotten different ones. That's really interesting.

Sydnee: It was— When we sat there in the waiting room, Uncle Michael was Luke Skywalker.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Makes sense.

Sydnee: And I mean you're both Capricorns.

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: And the... Kyle was also Princess Leia.

Raleigh: Makes sense.

Sydnee: Yeah. It felt right.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: That felt— I mean those all felt appropriate to me.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I have to make Justin take it. No, I have not—

Taylor: Where do you think he might land? Are you enough of a *Star Wars* fan to think what he might be?

Sydnee: Hmm...

Raleigh: Yoda.

Taylor: [giggles]

Sydnee: Oh, he's definitely gonna be more Yoda.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That was my first thought.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Was like he would be more Yoda. He's very slow to anger, and he's very much about let's talk about things and think about things and make a plan and... He would rather keep the peace, you know, in a situation like... Sometimes I just feel the need to make sure everybody knows they were wrong. [chuckles]

Raleigh: [chuckles] I get that.

Sydnee: And he doesn't have that same need, always. [chuckles] But, I don't know. It was— And I think it's more similar, like from the question they're asking, I feel like this is a derivative of like a Meyers Briggs kind of thing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know what I'm saying.

Taylor: Oh no, is this one a— It's just gonna get sent to— It's gonna be sent to all of our future employers.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So they can figure out if they can hire us or not.

Sydnee: [chuckles] "Are you sure you wanna hire her? She's Han Solo."

Taylor: That was a thing though, right? That those—

Sydnee: It was—

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: — were actually used by companies to like rig hiring procedures.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I mean that definitely— Which is so wild, 'cause like the thing about them— I think, and I don't know if this is a disclaimer we should say, tests like this are a lot of fun.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I think, you know, you get to think about— Especially if you're a fan of something and then you get to think about yourself as a character. And if you get a character that you like, it's like, "Oh, that's cool." Like it's cool to be Han Solo.

But they're— Like, there's a ton of flaws in them, in their methodology, and I think that if you're doing it for fun to talk about with your friends, that's cool. If you're trying to base life decisions off of this stuff, or like craft who you are and how you interact with other people, and all that—

Like this is not therapy. This isn't— You know what I mean? [chuckles] It's not actually helping or fixing or informing as much as like it's fun. It's fun and, you know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's a lot with personality tests, like there's a whole— I think there's a whole documentary on that, like how dangerous they can be and detrimental.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: I just took it again and I got different percentages, but still exactly 95% Yoda and Luke, so I don't know. That's all I got. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Rileigh: Yoda and Luke.

Taylor: Yeah, my lowest was Palpatine, followed by Han, followed by Vader, then Leia. I had 90% Obi-Wan, but it seems to be Yoda and Luke for me. So.

Rileigh: Yoda and Luke.

Sydnee: Did it give you any feedback as to why you're either.

Taylor: No. It says— It just says that we cannot give you a description because you scored equally. I wish I could read it, that's obnoxious, but oh well.

Sydnee: I can ask Michael—

Taylor: No, it's alright.

Sydnee: — what his Luke Skywalker—

Taylor: It's alright. I feel like that makes sense in both directions though.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: 'Cause really, I feel like Yoda and Luke are kind of on the same trajectory, right? Especially when we see Luke in the later movies.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I would've said you were—

Taylor: And he's a little grumpy old man. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I would've said Luke for you.

Taylor: I think that's the Luke that I am, though.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: I'm not Luke in the original trilogy.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: I'm Luke in the new movies. When he's just an angry old hermit that drinks weird milk all day.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: That's absolutely me. [laughs]

Raleigh: [giggles] I uh—

Sydnee: [giggles]

Raleigh: I took a personality test on that same website that was supposed to tell you which *Winnie the Pooh* character you were.

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: And I was like, "Oh, that's cute. I'll see which *Winnie the Pooh* character I am." What it doesn't tell you until you're done, and you're lookin' at that little chart with your percentages, is it assigns like a mental illness to each of the *Pooh* characters, that it think the character's representative of, and then tells you which [through laughter] one you are most like!

Taylor: Raleigh, that sounds like one of those conspiracy theories you would've told us back in the day that really—

Raleigh: I know!

Taylor: — all of these were Christopher Robin's mental illnesses—

Raleigh: Well.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: — that he was manifesting and interacting with.

Raleigh: Yeah! And that's what it said, that they're each representative of a different like mental illness or like some sort of like condition, and—

Taylor: What's the mental illness of really loving honey?

Raleigh & Taylor: [laugh]

Raleigh: Like—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, Eeyore was like, depression.

Taylor: Well, sure.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: Natch.

Raleigh: Um...

Taylor: What I—

Raleigh: One of `em was anxiety, maybe Rabbit. No, Rabbit was OCD. And... And...

Sydnee: Was Piglet anxiety?

Raleigh: Piglet was anxiety maybe?

Taylor: What was the owl? He was just like a chill, smart dude.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I forget. I forget, but like each one of `em, each one of `em had one, and I was like, "What— I—"

Taylor: What was wrong with Pooh?

Raleigh: "I just wanted to know which *Winnie the Pooh* character I was like."

Sydnee: Yeah, what does Winnie the Pooh have?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Hold on, now I gotta look. [laughs]

Taylor: Are they gonna say he had like, an eating disorder? `Cause that's deeply messed up.

Sydnee: No, he just loves honey, he's a bear! He's a bear, he loves honey.

Taylor: That's his whole thing, it's his schtick.

Sydnee: [laughs] That's why— This is where they're dangerous! Like it's fun if you're like, "Aw, it's fun, I'm like whatever *Star Wars* character. Like that's cool, whatever." But then when they start diagnosing you with mental illness based on a test you take online, that's bad! That's bad.

Raleigh: It's called the "Pooh Pathology Test."

Taylor: Oh, well alright.

Raleigh: And it says—

Taylor: It's right there in the name.

Raleigh: Professors— It's got two professors here that are doctors, like MDs or doctors, said they studied the characters of *Winnie the Pooh* and concluded that each of them could be linked to a definite psychiatric diagnosis.

Sydnee: [sighs]

Raleigh: [giggles]

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: What?

Sydnee: Listen.

Taylor: Syd, you gotta get your doctors in line.

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: 'Cause they're doin' some wild stuff with these moneys they got. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Okay, let me tell ya. The problem is that that's under the realm of "popular medicine." That's "pop medicine." It's like it's not real medicine, it's just like— It's like that's what Dr. Oz is.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Just popular medicine, like, it has nothing to do with like science or anything, it's just like, "This is wild! We'll talk about poop for a whole episode, 'cause oh my gosh!" like whatever. You gotta be so careful with that stuff. I'm not gonna say I've never engaged in that sort of whimsy.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I have talked about like, you know, illnesses that Santa might have, based on characteristics that Christmas carols have given Santa. Like I've done stuff like that. But you've gotta put the disclaimer like, "This is fun. This is just a joke. This isn't real."

And you don't wanna apply it to people taking it— Like that's where it goes too far, right? Like you don't want people to take that test and think they have a diagnosis.

If you wanted to write a funny article about you think that Piglet had anxiety and here's your argument for why, that could be like a funny little, you know, silly thing you write.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But it's gotta be couched in that— You can't be like, "I've analyzed the characters of *Winnie the Pooh*, and if you associate with Eeyore, you may need to see your doctor about a major depressive disorder." Like. [chuckles]

Taylor: Do you think anybody's taken that test and been like, "Yip, that's me. I got a diagnosis. It's official 'cause two doctors were involved."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: 100%, I guarantee you that's happened. I guarantee you that's happened.

Raleigh: "My diagnosis is Piglet."

Raleigh & Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I will— I know that's happened, because— I mean, I have not experienced this, but I have had people tell me "I am worried I have XYZ because I saw in TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, a test I took online." You know, "I have seen this and it told me this, and now I'm worried, and it

caused me anxiety. And I'm coming to ask you this question." Absolutely this stuff does.

Taylor: Do you feel anxiety now that you've been diagnosed as Han Solo?

Sydnee: No, it made me feel cooler. [laughs]

Taylor: Alright. Alright, that's good. Well that's— That was a harmless test and that's fine.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That was— That made me feel better about myself! Like, "Oh, okay." Michael was like, "I'm a little jealous," and I was like—

Taylor: Michael always wanted to be Luke Skywalker.

Raleigh: Michael— Yeah.

Sydnee: Right?! And Michael was always cooler! Michael was always like... the coolest!

Raleigh: Well.

Taylor: So.

Raleigh: We are not talking about all these personality tests today.

Sydnee: No. No.

Raleigh: Although it would seem that way, based on how long we've been talking. [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah, I will say although, if I can take the Luke part of my request, I like that we got the core three as a trio.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: On this show.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That we have Luke, Leia, and Han represented here. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm. [chuckles]

Rileigh: I think it makes sense.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think it makes sense. I like it.

Taylor: Although I think people might've reshuffled those results without knowing us intimately, but you know. Like the young one that doesn't know as much, the—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, the strong like princess character, I think that that would've been the rebel.

Sydnee: You would've been the rebel.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I feel like it makes sense to us.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But other people would pick differently.

Sydnee: No, I think you're right. I think you're right, I think definitely people would've guessed different, based on our perceived archetypes.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm. Keep you guessin'.

Taylor: Alright, but yes.

Sydnee: But what are we talking about? [chuckles]

Taylor: I brought a— the Waxahatchee— Their first album— Well, her first album. This is from when she was just a solo act, *American Weekend*, which came out in 2012.

A very— It was— It's one of those— It's funny, I was reading an article like a retrospective article about it, how this was sort of the era of like men going to cabins and producing an album all on their own.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: And that a lot of that got kind of pretentious and like over-saturated. But this one's actually cool, 'cause it's just like a woman did it while she was stuck in a snowstorm, and it was great and awesome and a very beautiful album.

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: All made in just— Yeah. Literally on her own, very lo-fi recording. Released by Don Giovanni Records, which is where I encountered it, because I used to go—

This was back in my cool 20s, where I used to go to like lots and lots of shows, and I would always go every winter to the Don Giovanni Showcase, where they would show off all their— a bunch of their acts in their labels would play, and I believe that's where I encountered Waxahatchee.

Sydnee: What— 'Cause I didn't read anything about it, I listened to the album and that— So I have no knowledge otherwise.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Where does the— "Waxahatchee," where does that come from?

Taylor: It's the name of a creek in Alabama, I believe, where she grew up.

Sydnee: Mm...

Taylor: Yeah, Waxahatchee Creek in Alabama, and that's where Katie Crutchfield, who is the main— That's the singer songwriter of Waxahatchee.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's where she grew up.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: And like since then, there are a bunch of— Now it's more considered less of a singer songwriter project and more of a— I don't know, more of like a band project. Like she brings in other people.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Taylor: Her later albums are more produced, they have more of like a band element to it, but this one was just her. Her alone, in a room, makin' an album.

Sydnee: That's interesting. I mean it has that sound. Like I buy that, like listening to it, it feels that way.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But I'm surprised that's actually what it is, you know? Because I feel like sometimes artists go a long way to make it sound that way.
[chuckles]

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Even though they're actually in a studio and there's people, and like they're intentionally making it sound that way, but it does feel that way. It feels like you're alone in a room when you listen to it.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well and it— The sound I think is just as much like... off-putting as it is intriguing. By that I mean I don't think it—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like it makes sense she did different things after this, because I think if every album sounded like this, it wouldn't have worked. But I think as a standalone piece, it works really well.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like this is the only album that really has that kind of crunchiness to it, like the recordings. I don't— I think it's purposefully like that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But it is this like kind of crunchy, literally sounds like something— someone's singin' to you on like an old, I don't know, like what are those like the Victorian, like the wind-up...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Monophones? What are they called? Right.

Sydnee: Like a victrola?

Taylor: A victrola, yeah. Like a ghost—

Sydnee: Something like that.

Taylor: A ghost is singing to you over the phone, or something.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [chuckles] It's a very haunted sound.

Sydnee: It is very haunting. It is. I— When I first listened to it, it was— Everybody was out of the house. Justin had taken the girls to school and I was alone, and I turned it on and it was very like... I don't know, it was almost like [chuckles] too much in that moment, I was like, "Whoa."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's very ethereal, it's very— And plus it's so cold out right now.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Which felt right for this. Like it's been in the single digits here.

Taylor: Yikes.

Sydnee: Like with the wind chill, and so like listening to this music with it being so cold, [chuckles] standing alone in my kitchen, I was like, "Ohh..." [chuckles]

Taylor: Well, and that—

Sydnee: It's very— It's a vibe.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That makes sense. I found a— her dedication on it is "To anyone who is— had woke up and realized their identity is blurry, has had to clumsily get to know themselves, has hit a bottom, his felt self-deprecating and vagrant, and to anyone who has ridden out a crap storm," I guess.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: But she specifically credits a snowstorm for why she made this, 'cause that's why she was locked inside.

Sydnee & Raleigh: [simultaneously] Mmm.

Raleigh: So I wanna keep talking about this album that we all loved, but before we do that, let's check the group message.

This holiday season that we are ramping up into rapidly, it seems. Like oh my god, I cannot believe it's already like halfway through December. You wanna give a gift to your loved ones that makes them feel special and unique, just like the relationship you share. So give them Storyworth.

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I know that we got this for our dad and it was great to be able to hear all of these stories that he loves to share with us. Not only, you know, hear

them again, but see them all put together in such a beautiful book, asking him things about like one of his favorite memories, stories about his parents, stories about his friends, stories about being in school.

All sorts of things that you just don't think to ask, especially, you know, like all of us, we're grown-up kids, so you don't always think to ask your parents things like that. When you're also gettin' to be a grown-up, and it was really great to be able to hear those stories of our dad's and see them all put together in a book with pictures and all that. And I know he loved it as well, being able to hear those stories and laugh about 'em all over again.

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Sydnee: That's interesting. I didn't know any of that when I listened to it. But it felt that way to me. Like... I don't know. Like I would've evoked that image in my head on my own, of somebody like stuck inside alone while it's snowing outside. Like it— I don't know, it's weird.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Well but both emotionally and physically, like it feels claustrophobic, but it like you could believe the setting is like a snowstorm outside.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But also like you're trapped inside. Like what would the echoes of your own like immers— emotional turmoil record like?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: 'Cause that's what this very much sounds like.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like it's very— I mean the whole album is— it's repeatedly about sort of— It's about loss, it's about heartbreak, it's about... isolation.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And it's not in a very dramatic way. It's— There's a lot about sort of disregard for self, sort of self-destructive notes in here.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But what I think I love about it is that it's very... resigned to it. It's not emotional.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, other than sad. It's not like loud or angry or intense.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: A lot of those emotions usually are expressed that way. It's very resigned to the sadness, it's resigned to the self-destruction, it's resigned to the loneliness.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yeah. It's resigned to it, and you're right, it's not angry or fighting it in any way. And it's almost not like... Not bemoaning it either.

Taylor: Mm-mm.

Sydnee: Like you know what I mean? It's not— It's just matter of fact about it, it just is.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I don't know. There's no bitter to it, to a bittersweet, you know? It doesn't feel that way.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's just like... acceptance of that.

Taylor: Which it— That she was so young— I don't know exactly how— She was in her 20s when she made this, I believe, and I feel like that is an element that I've come to appreciate.

When I was in the throes of these very same feelings in my 20s, I was like, "Oh, I can relate to this. Everything's going to be sad forever." But it

resonates more as an older person because it's like I remember what it feels like to feel resolute that everything was going to be sad forever.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that's how you get those big, awful, overwhelming feelings when you're that age.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know? Like you can believe "This break-up will affect me forever. This sadness will stay with me forever."

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: And that's why even though it's like— It's like this encapsulation, this ghost of a very specific feeling that you have in your life.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. That's really interesting, and that's a really powerful thing to evoke. That's funny, we were talking about that this morning. Charlie didn't get a sticker on her sticker chart.

It doesn't matter, she didn't do a chore. It's no big deal. They— She has lots of more opportunities, it's— [chuckles] It's not the end of the world. But she was just crying and falling apart.

And I said "Honey, this is— It's okay. This is a small thing. In our big life, this is a small thing and it is not everything." And she looked at me and said "It feels like everything." And I was thinking like, "Man, I know at 9, this probably did feel—" You know?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: There is stuff that felt like everything, I think at 40, I'm not saying there's nothing like that in my life that doesn't feel like everything. But the way— You know, the number of times you can feel that get a lot smaller.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know?

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: Things get bigger and so you don't— Like to feel like that, like, "This is everything," I— You know.

Taylor: You don't have that understanding that "I've felt this way before—"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "— and I've gotten— I've stopped feeling that way. I've gotten to feel better. Like, I've been down this road, there is a way out."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You don't really have those. You know, when you get to your 20s, I think you get a lot of those first-time experiences. Falling in love, being disappointed, having your heart broken, being rejected. Like you get those feelings and it's the first time, and it feels like, "This will a— This will define who I am forever." [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. I also like that the— A lot of these songs don't— They don't follow like a standard song format.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like there's not a lot of like verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, verse, end. Because it makes it feel a lot more like isolated and intimate. It feels like you're almost like listening to a stream of consciousness, or like a diary or something. Like it wasn't written to be a song, it was just written to be like, you know, written and then it became a song, almost.

One of my favorites was "I Think I Love You," and that one is just like— It's just like three verses, straight through, it's just like one stream of consciousness almost, and that's it. There's nothing that repeats, there's no chorus, there's no like hook or bridge, it's just... It feels like you're reading someone's diary almost.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And I really like that.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I wonder if she wrote any of `em as like poems first.

Raleigh: Mm, or like a poem, yeah.

Sydnee: You know what I mean?

Taylor: I think I was surprised by how much, or how little, rather, like explanation there was behind a lot of the songs. I looked around. Usually I look around on like Music Genius or something, interviews, and she's given like vague like, "This was about a place I was living at the time. This was about a boy that I was dating," like every vague things.

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But I do— I could believe that. And Raleigh, I was surprised, even when I was like reading the lyrics as I was relistening to it, how often it was verse, verse, verse, verse.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like no chorus.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: No repetition. Just four verses, four stanzas. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yah. Yeah, I always have, I think Genius pulled up as I'm listening to these albums.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: So I can read the lyrics and see like any annotations or things next to `em, as I'm listening. And that was what caught my eye was after a couple songs, I was like, "Wait a minute, there's no... there's no chorus in this song."

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: "It's just—"

Sydnee: What is this thing you all pull up?

Taylor: Is it Lyric Genius?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: It's for the lyrics.

Raleigh: I have the app, but it's also just like a website. It just shows you the lyrics and people can go on and like annotate the lyrics to say like—

Sydnee: Oh, that's cool.

Raleigh: — I don't know, what something is referring to. Like in the artist's life, if there's a specific event that the song's about.

Taylor: Yeah. And they'll link in like if the artist has ever specifically talked about that song, it'll pop up.

Sydnee: Ohhhh.

Taylor: So you can see a description.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's really cool.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I've never heard of that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: If I wanna see the lyrics, I'll like Google like, "lyrics to," and then I'll put the song by the artist.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: Then— But then that usually comes up. [chuckles] Or sometimes people make YouTube videos that are just the lyrics. While the song plays.

Raleigh: You watch lyric videos?

Taylor: Is that what you— Is that your research? Those are fun.

Raleigh: [laughs softly]

Sydnee: [chuckles] I mean, if I need to.

Taylor: Alright, Han Solo.

Sydnee: I get—

Taylor & Raleigh: [laugh]

Sydnee: I go to my computer and I type in “YouTube.com” and then once I get to YouTube.com— [chuckles]

Taylor: Mm-hmm. Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah. Yes, that’s the best way to do that.

Sydnee: [chuckles] Then I search on there for “lyric video for blah blah blah by blah blah blah,” and then... [chuckles]

Raleigh: Sydnee, you’re not that far removed from our dad trying to find videos for your kids, going on the Safari app on his phone. Typing in “YouTube weird videos.” [giggles]

Sydnee: I know! That was the kicker was when I realized Dad was searching “weird videos.”

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: Not on YouTube, just on the internet. You’re basically doing the same thing.

Sydnee: Well, I—

Taylor: I just hope he has safe search on. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: I know— I knew that “weird videos” was a moniker we had come up with to describe how we felt about videos our kids liked. It’s not like a category. Like please do not search for “weird videos” and then show them to my children. [chuckles]

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: Anyway.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Thank you for this— [chuckles] Lyric Genius, thank you for that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah, it’ll— It’s great for these episodes. [wheezes]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: I use it every time I’m listening to an album for the show so I can, you know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Read the lyrics and...

Sydnee: I found the album. [laughs] I’m not even gonna say it, you’re gonna give me such a hard time.

Raleigh: You found the album on Apple Music.

Taylor: Apple Music. [cackles]

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I wanted so badly, I thought like, you know, Spotify Wrapped just came out this week. Maybe we should talk about our Spotify Wrapped

at the beginning of the show, and then I thought “No, you know what? We can’t, ‘cause Sydnee still uses friggin’ Apple Music.”

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Maybe one year.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: You guys think I—

Taylor: I would get it if you were like, “Spotify’s bad to its artists,” which it is, it is. And you’re like, “I’m makin’ a stand against it, but you’re in favor of Apple. Like I don’t— [wheezes]

Sydnee: I’m not in fav—! Like this isn’t an endorsement, it just is how I know how to get music. Spotify—

Taylor: It’s so much easier on Spotify!

Sydnee: But you can’t skip songs sometimes.

Raleigh: No, you can!

Taylor: No, because you don’t have a— I know Justin has a subscri—

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: I do not doubt that Justin has a subscription.

Sydnee: He does. I just don’t— Unless he got one for me, but it’s not on my phone.

Taylor: You can— Okay.

Sydnee: How do I put it on my phone?

Taylor: I guess that’s—

Raleigh: [wheezes]

Taylor: Let’s not worry about that right now. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Okay. I put the app back on my phone. I had— In protest, I had deleted it at one point.

Taylor: Sure, yeah.

Sydnee: And then I forgot why I was protesting Spotify. [laughs] At that moment. When like a year later I need Spotify. [chuckles]

Taylor: Alright. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Anyways. [chuckles]

Sydnee: There's lots of reasons to protest all these companies all the time!

Taylor: Yeah, they're all bad. They're all bad.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I know! Anyway.

Taylor: So Waxahatchee. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Back to that. I like— My favorite— I like the song "Be Good" a lot.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I liked a lot of the songs, but that was the one that stuck out to me. I think it's tonally a little different, it's a little more upbeat, which is probably—

Taylor: Makes sense for you.

Sydnee: — why I was drawn to it. I'm drawn to more upbeat songs.

Taylor: I like—

Sydnee: And I like that one.

Taylor: That's the song where it like ly— it's about like, "We're— You don't wanna be my boyfriend, I don't wanna be your girlfriend. But we're in this thing."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "And we're gonna like drink together and maybe make out and that's fine."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I love this song.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: 'Cause that is such an experience in your 20s, right.

Sydnee & Raleigh: [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like when she says that like, "You don't wanna be my boyfriend, and that's a relief."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like that feeling like, "This is not a— It's not necessarily a healthy situation for either of us, but I'm glad we're both in the same place." [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: I've had those.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, to be fair, that was what I said to Justin when we started seeing each other.

Taylor: Oh, well, alright.

Sydnee: And— We had both gotten out of very long-term relationships and I had said "I don't want anything serious, let's just hang out, we can make out, we can drink together, we can enjoy each other's company. We've been friends a long time, this'll be great."

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Then we got married.

Taylor: I know. Well I think that— I don't know, maybe that's part of what I do— I love about this album. I think it encapsulates— It's self-

aware in how much it encapsulates that area of most of our— I don't think it's traditional youth, I don't think it's like a modern youth.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: Like when the 20s and 30s used to be when you got married and had kids, and now it's like this period of like an amorphous, like, "I don't know, is the world ending? What can I do? I'm lost."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And by your 30s you're just too tired that you're like, "I gotta do something, I guess." [chuckles] But like—

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: Like it's like— My favorite song is probably "Grass Stains," and there are some lyrics in there that I think hint to how self-aware she was, even though she was young when she was recording this.

Like when she says "I don't care if I'm too young to be unhappy." Like that feeling like, "Ohhh, you don't— You don't really know how— You're young. These feelings will fade."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like we've all said that to younger people.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And we've all heard that as younger people. But it's like, "Yeah, but this is all I have right now. My feelings are small, but they're all I have."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: "And that matters." And she also says like, what is it... "What doesn't temperance feels so profound?" It's like that sort of like, "Yeah, I'm making a mess of my life, I'm sad, I'm— This is where I'm at, and I'm recognizing it, and it's not— like I'm not gonna feel bad about it." [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: No, I like that. That's definitely true. And I think it's always good that— I mean we— I feel like we call attention to songs and albums like this sort of vibe a lot. Because it's like we can appreciate the music about those feelings and that time of like and that— the way you feel things so intensely when you're younger and all that kind of stuff. We appreciate that music, but then as a society, we still dismiss a lot of those feelings.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And it's— And that's so— Like it's so backwards and it's damaging and delegitimizing, and it takes you a long time to work through like, "Okay, that did matter and was valid, and like my feelings matter even though I'm, whatever, 20, you know." It takes a long time to untangle that.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know, were we already feeling— Were we already having that nihilism in 2012? Probably.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: I feel like it started in the '90s.

Raleigh: That was when the world was gonna end, right?

Taylor: I mean that's what— I feel like—

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Taylor: That was what?

Sydnee: It was one of—

Raleigh: When the world was gonna end.

Sydnee: That was one of the times the world was gonna end.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: One of those times. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah, 'cause I mean I graduated like 2008.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, I think I still kinda had that like, "Things are gonna break good for me," like for the first couple years out of college. Like, "I just need to get my break."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I feel like by 2012, I'd settled into like, "I work in the food service industry. This is my way. It wasn't what I'd planned for, but I gotta make it work." And this album came along and was like, "It's fine that you kinda feel like you're a mess and sad, and that things are hard."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "Just because you're young doesn't mean things aren't hard for you, like it's fine." [chuckles] "Like you can curl up in a corner with these weird lo-fi beats from a ghost in a care and listen." [chuckles]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I mean, and I think you can look at that as a step towards empowerment, 'cause if we look at, generationally, a whole generation of people who were coming to grips with like...

"It's okay— Like feelings are legitimate, even when we're young. You're— The feelings of young people are legitimate." That's not a long walk to "The opinions of young people and the thoughts and feelings— Like the thought and beliefs and like ideas of young people are important."

And then young people have value and are important, which doesn't seem like it should be that hard, or that— or like, "Why is that such a big deal, societally?" but the reason that we're not more aggressive about addressing things like climate change is because we don't see young people as important.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean as a society, right?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like 'cause if we did, wouldn't we be making the world better for the future they'll live in? So, I don't know. I mean maybe those are the steps. We value feelings and then we value people?

Taylor: You'd hope. [laughs]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: I feel like—

Taylor: Well, I'd even— Oh, go ahead.

Raleigh: I was just gonna say maybe it's easier for us to value feelings than people because like feelings are something we can also have. And, you know, maybe we, I don't know, are all a little bit selfish in that we can value things that we understand personally, but not—

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: — other people that we don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: And like can't be. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But I do think the first step to— Like you value people by relating to them.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like if you relate to somebody, you're more likely to see yourself in them. And maybe then it's still selfish, but it's like, "I see myself in you, so I care that you succeed." [chuckles] "Because you're kinda like me."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: So... And I guess that— Even like the title, like, "American Weekend," I always think it's interesting when an indie artist or like a, I

don't know, like a— I don't know, not like a flag-waving country artist invokes the concept of America.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I think that— 'Cause I mean this is something we all grapple with, right? As Americans that don't want to be like bad, destructive, selfish, people. What does it mean to be an American?

And I think that's part of what I like about this album is that this— One, it kind of has the lo-fi quality. It's not at all country, but I do think it's— I mean one, she's writing this from Alabama.

Sydnee & Raleigh: [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I do think there is a folk element here.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And this kind of lost sadness is something that is— it's hard to put into w— it's hard to put sound to. It's hard to put words to.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: As an American, especially as a young American these days.

Sydnee: You know it's also, as a young American, and then it's also speaking for... I would say, an aspect of co— If you think about coming from Alabama. When you think about how America sort of paints itself on the world's stage.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It is not Alabama, it's not West Virginia.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's not places like this. It's not the sort of like way we see the world or the way we interact day to day, what our lives are like, it's not— And then what we're getting into like is we're not talking about rural people, we're not talking about people who live in poverty.

We don't— That's not what "America" as the big idea in quotes is. And so it's interesting to call attention to the fact that like, "Well, actually that is who a lot of us are and what a lot of us are, and this is where a lot of us live and exist day to day." It's not just the big, shiny, you know... star spangled capitalism that I think is "America."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well and that's I think one of the greatest services musically is what's happened to country music and folk music, this association with that like, "I'll put a boot up your ass!"

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: "I got 85 trucks! I drink Budweiser!" Like— "And I'll shoot you!" Like, that's America, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Whereas folk music and country music were originally to music of the pe— Folk art is the art of the people.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Folk music is the music of the people. It was, you know, originally a lot of country music was protest music. I was written by the original like, you know, unionizers.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: The rednecks, and like that's what that was from.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And— and consequently—

Sydnee: Socialists. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. And that's what I think that any time I can find a modern artist doing what I think still feels like folk music, I appreciate it. And I think that's like, you know, she sings a lot about like, you know, like you know drinking beers on a porch. Like you know, kind of like that very like rural coun— It's not like— She's not aggrandizing. It.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: She's not lifting it up as like, "Oh, my beautiful youth in like my hometown." No. It's lost and it's sad and it's lonely and it's kind of hopeless.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that feels true.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And it feels small, but something we all experience.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's small but it's so... It's so large in the sense of how many people would share and connect to that experience, as opposed to that fake sort of view of like, "This is what America is."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "This is who we are and what we do." Because for most of us, drinking a beer on a porch in like a— in a smaller town that kind of is past the point where it was at its peak, and like where not a lot of people stay anymore, and where things are rough, and where a lot people are struggling. Like... that's a lot closer to home for most of us.

Raleigh & Taylor: [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know.

Taylor: Yeah, and it's not— There is a sadness to it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And there's— I think there is a very gentle nihilism to this album that I think is... [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Also feels American, I don't know.

Sydnee: I mean, we have to be a little nihilistic with the way we go at things, right?

Taylor: Well, yeah.

Sydnee: I don't mean us personally, I mean the way— Like from like a nationwide perspective. If the stuff we're doing is not because of underlying nihi— I don't know what the heck— I don't know why— I don't know. [chuckles]

Taylor: Well, it's like just, you know, to feel like you're a tiny speck in something so big and so destructive that you can do nothing to stop... That is what I think it is to be an American these days.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I think that that's, you know. So you really can just "This is what I have. [chuckles] I've got this cold night and this beer in my hand. I can do nothing outside of this."

Sydnee: But that— Now, let's not be helpless. Because—

Taylor: No, no! I don't mean—

Sydnee: No, because Gen Alpha's coming.

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah. I mean— [laughs]

Sydnee: And I have heard from a lot of teachers on TikTok that Gen Alpha is very poorly behaved.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: They don't follow any rules.

Taylor: Good. Love that.

Sydnee: They— They do not believe in authority. They don't do anything they're told. They question everything. They don't automatically respect anybody who's in a position of authority.

Raleigh: Well, I've met your— Your kids are in that generation.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, right? That's— You're raisin' 'em. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. They're gonna tear it down.

Taylor: No, you're gonna come home today— or someday to a list of demands that they've put together to justify why they are now in control of your household.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And you and Justin are just gonna go "Yeah... that makes sense. Okay."

Sydnee: "Okay."

Taylor: "Yeah, yeah that's fine." [chuckles]

Sydnee: That was the long play.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: We had to raise the kids that would burn down the system.

Taylor: Well, I think it's—

Sydnee: That we feel crushed by.

Taylor: Step by step, you know. Like we had to recognize "No, hey, your feelings matter. It's— Things aren't great. Things aren't flag-waving fantastic. It's sad and it's desperate, and everybody feels a little lost." And then there's a generational response to that which is "Okay, what do we do about that?"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Then it's like there's another generation that goes "We're gonna get mad." [chuckles]

Sydnee: I know. I love the idea that they don't do what they're told. Good. [chuckles]

Taylor: I mean I was— I was walking to work the other day and I happened to get off the train at the same time as a co-worker, who's much younger than me. And we were walking down a street with a lot of nice cars, like very nice cars on them, and like vintage cars.

And... he pointed one out to me and he said "I hate those cars. I would love nothing more than to take a baseball bat to one." You know, it was just kind of a whatever, making conversation.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But I thought about it and I was like, "You know, it was an important element that I was raised to think one day I could have that car." I don't think that anymore, but by the time I realized that—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — I was old and in debt, and there's not much I can do about my situation. They grew up knowing the car wasn't for them. They grew up knowing—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — they'd never have a chance at that. And that makes them so much more dangerous than we ever were.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that's great for them. [wheezes] 'Cause I never had a chance at that car anymore than he did, it's just that he knows that at 18.

Sydnee: It's— Well, I mean that's a really important transition that we're talking about, like from a generational level. Like... We talked about "American Weekend" like what is America? What is the American Dream? What does the concept mean to us?

And I think we are all, and Rileigh you're kind of young for this part of it, I would say. Like we realized that wasn't true. Like Teylor, I feel like we grew up and realized like none of that is real. None—

Teylor: Right.

Sydnee: And it's used to keep people captive, it's used to keep people oppressed. Because you keep struggling and scrambling for that idea that is never on the table for you, but by the time you realize it, you're just so tired.

And yeah, they know it was fake, and that's the next step. "Okay, well if it was fake all along, let's tear down the system that keeps us struggling for it. Let's rebuild it to one where we can all have a real dream, which is— " I mean, which isn't like I don't need a luxury car. I just want, you know, a home. [chuckles] And—

Teylor: Yeah, no.

Sydnee: You know, enough food on the table and to be able to take time off when I need a break or when somebody's sick.

Teylor: Well there's— Yeah, it's like there's— And I wish I knew the name. there's a philosopher that talks about like— He specifically talks about like luxury cars, and how many lives each of those cars represent that you could save. And... by extrapolation, how many lives you kill by owning that car, if we just want to be brutal about it. And he does the math.

Sydnee: Yikes.

Teylor: And that's what I think— It's not about like, "I wanna destroy this car 'cause I wish I could have it and I won't," it's "I hate what that car represents—"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: "— 'cause it represents all of the resources that are tied up in the excessively wealthy that will never be accessible by the people that need it."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, that's an important unravelling. "I don't want that luxury car, I want the system that makes us think this is desirable to end."

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: No, but I think, you know, to— for the album's part, I think that the sadness comes first.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: The recognition like, "Just because I'm young doesn't mean my feelings don't matter" and, you know, "Whatever situation I'm in, like it's valid. Like it— Maybe things aren't great. Things aren't great, and they're not supposed to be great. Like it's okay to recognize that and be sad about it."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "You can be sad for a while." And this is a great album to be sad about things with. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Just recognize that it's okay if you're just kind of sad and nihilistic and self-destructive, because...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's not useful in the long run. But there's nothing wrong with you if you feel that way.

Sydnee: No. You need catharsis.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: We all do.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well thank you, Tey.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: I really enjoyed it. I mean it was sad.

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: It was very sad, but it's good.

Taylor: Yeah, and again like— [chuckles]

Sydnee: But I mean I liked it. Like I— It's the kind of music I like. It's definitely not something I would listen to if I'm like, you know, chillin' at the beach, but...

Taylor: Oh well, okay now Syd. Some of the songs you put on the beach soundtrack! [laughs]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Okay, alright.

Raleigh: You are not one to talk about what you can listen to at the beach.

Taylor: Not at all!

Sydnee: But you know what I mean.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But no, I'm not.

Taylor: No, it's—

Sydnee: I really liked it, thank you.

Raleigh: Yeah, me too.

Taylor: Well, I'm— Thank you for listening. It's a little bit of a, you know, it's a little unapproachable at first, but it's one of my favorites.

Sydnee: No, I liked it. I was in the right headspace and like place for it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So it was good.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well, I'm glad.

Sydnee: Raleigh, what's next?

Raleigh: Yeah, so I thought we could talk about a movie that actually just came out. So I won't say it was like crucial to my growth, but I do think it's very representative of Gen Z and modern like teens and culture and all that. So I wanted to talk about the movie *Bottoms*.

Sydnee: Alright.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: I've been meaning to watch it, so now I will.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: It's very good.

Sydnee: Now I will.

Raleigh: I'm excited to talk about it.

Sydnee: Well thank you both. Tey, thanks for sharing Waxahatchee's *American Weekend* with us.

Taylor: Yeah, thank you for listening.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And obviously it is— Oh, like all music, it's on Apple Music, so.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: [sighs heavily]

Sydnee: It's probably on Spotify.

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: You'll probably find it other places.

Raleigh: It's on Spotify.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: I don't always promote this, but I feel like this album's definitely best if you can just buy like an old dusty CD version.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Or perhaps inherit it from a haunted shop of some kind.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's best on like a dusty vinyl.

Sydnee: I was gonna say—

Taylor: In an abandoned hotel. [chuckles]

Sydnee: It feels like if you could get it on vinyl, you'd have the perfect experience. [chuckles]

Taylor: Absolutely. Absolutely.

Sydnee: Thank you listeners. You should go to maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows that you would enjoy there. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby Change Your Mind.

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

[theme music fades in]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering.

Sydnee & Taylor: [simultaneously] And... I... am... too.

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: [mutters] I don't know why y'all didn't tell me about Lyric Genius before.

Taylor: It's like the first thing that pops up when you—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I guess when you Google something in a not insane way.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: But I can't guarantee that's not what you were doing! [laughs]

Sydnee: My search engine got set to Yahoo for a while too.

Taylor: What?! That's not a—

Sydnee: And so it was hard— Like I kept getting weird results. [chuckles]

Taylor: At this point, that's just some guys that's at one desk.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yup.

Taylor: Like manually typing in results for you.

Sydnee: I couldn't figure out, and I don't know how it happened. It was like I rebooted— I don't know. I finally figured it out. It's fixed now, it's Google again.

Raleigh: Oh god.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

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