

Still Buffering 380: "Bottoms" (2023)

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[theme music, "Baby You Change Your Mind" by Nouvellas plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: I have a question for you all.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: It's not about Dropbox. [chuckles]

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: We were discussing Dropbox prior to recording. I will not ask boring questions about Dropbox, which I do not understand and do keep getting emails about.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: There's another term I see people using on TikTok a lot and I don't know— I mean, I understand what the words means, and I kind of understand in context sometimes. But then other times it's used and I don't know that I understand what they're trying to communicate about a person by using this label.

Raleigh: What is the—

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: What is the label?

Sydnee: What are we saying when we say that somebody's like... a "baby girl?" Or having like a baby girl arc. Or like a— or just being a baby girl.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: What does that mean? Like what are we— like I know what a— Like I know what a baby is.

Taylor: Alright.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: We've established baby.

Raleigh: High hopes up.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: [chuckles] I know what we mean by "girl."

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: More or less. "Baby girl;" small girl, human. But that is not the way it's being applied, I'm pretty sure, on TikTok.

Taylor: [sighs] It's usually— I'm guessing your algorithm here is probably, what, being attributed to like Blackbeard from *Our Flags Mean Death*.

Sydnee: That's number one, yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm just trying to figure out what that means.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: I don't know what it means.

Taylor: I mean I feel like it's self-explanatory.

Raleigh: Yeah, I don't know how to give you a definition, 'cause it just kinda is like... vibes. Like you see it, it's like, "Mm, okay."

Sydnee: That doesn't help! Like you're being a baby? Like you're being whiny and—

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: — annoying and—

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: No it—

Sydnee: You need to grow up?

Taylor: It's like a term of endearment. It's like you can do nothing wrong, however unhinged your behavior is, you're just a sweet little sweetheart, baby girl. I adore you.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But we wouldn't... Okay. Is there anything to it that we're calling— that we're using— 'cause like, "baby," but like, "girl." Like would "baby boy" also apply?

Taylor: Ugh!

Raleigh: No. [giggles]

Taylor: I don't like that. Ugh, no!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know!

Taylor: No no no no no no no! I don't know why that's different, but it's different.

Sydnee: Okay! That— See, this is what I'm trying to figure out!

Raleigh: It's not a— It's a one-word phrase. This is not a two-word idea.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: This is one word. "Babygirl" is one word.

Sydnee: Okay.

[pause]

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: And it is usually attributed to men.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: But not always. But generally.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I feel like that's where it's most common.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is it sexist?

[pause]

Taylor: I don't think so.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Because I don't think it has anything to do with like implying that these people are any... in any way womanly.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I think it's just like... You—

Sydnee: Okay, so that's why I'm— Are we attributing a set of qualities to "girl?" That is positive or negative or neutral or... This is what I'm trying to figure out. Why would "babyboy" not work?

Taylor: Ugh, that just don't— Don't— Stop saying that.

Raleigh: I don't like saying—

Sydnee: But why is "babyboy" so bad?!

Taylor: I don't know!

Raleigh: Can you hear it?!

Taylor: I just don't like it.

Sydnee: I mean why—! But okay, there is something happening here! [chuckles] Psychologically that we're all not coping with!

Raleigh: It doesn't flow. "Babyboy" feels bad.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Coming out of my mouth.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And in my ears.

Sydnee: Well— Why do you say it like that?! [with added emphasis]
“Babyboy.” [chuckles]

Taylor: Well—

Raleigh: Because that’s how it feels.

Taylor: ‘Cause I think “babyboy,” I still think an infant child. A young boy.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: A baby boy. “Babygirl” is like... any— indeterminate age.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I feel like just— I don’t know, and this is the— What I feel it’s like. ‘Cause it’s usually attributed to a kind of unhinged character.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Or a character that can be kind of violent, or, you know, sometimes evil.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Like Loki gets called “babygirl” a lot on the internets, correct?

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: And it’s just—

Sydnee: I don’t see that as much. A lot of it is *Our Flag Means Death* for my algorithm.

Taylor: Well that’s just— Yeah. That’s your algorithm.

Sydnee: Yes, yes. [chuckles]

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: I haven't finished *Loki* yet.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: And so I flip past those really quickly, 'cause I don't wanna spoil it. Although I think I've spoiled it for myself. But I— So I don't interact, I don't engage with it, not 'cause I don't like *Loki* but because I don't wanna spoil the show for me.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: I think my algorithm is somewhat tainted because "babygirl" is also a phrase used by one of the main characters in *Criminal Minds*. He calls one of the other characters like a term of endearment, like a nickname he has for her is "baby girl," and there are lots of fan edits of him just, you know, using that phrase.

Taylor: [chuckles] Okay.

Raleigh: So when I get that phrase, usually that's what I'm seeing. But not used in the same way.

Sydnee: Interesting. I was trying to—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I could not piece it together because... It was primarily being attributed to Blackbeard, and I kind of understood it. And now I see it pop up sometimes in *Good Omens* stuff. But it's being attributed to both main characters, and so then I don't understand anymore what's happening. [chuckles] So.

Taylor: I don't know. I mean I feel like my take is, and I don't think— I don't know, is this sexist? 'Cause it's like... you know... Sometimes you have a girlfriend and she's... she does a lot of alarming things.

And, you know, has kind of erratic and uncontrollable behavior. And things that maybe cross certain boundaries in the legal sense, and you're like, "I don't care, that's my babygirl. She can do no wrong. She is infallible."

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: “Don’t worry about it. She can get away with murder, I’ll help her hide the body. That’s my babygirl.” I feel like it’s like that.

Raleigh: That’s a good way to describe it.

Sydnee: Okay. Okay. No that, I understand that. I understand that and it helps too because—

Taylor: [wheezes]

Sydnee: — there are times where I’m watching something and they’re talking about somebody being “babygirl,” and I think like... “Well, I would do that. Like I relate to this,” and then I don’t know what that means because I’m not a baby girl, I am an adult woman.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: But they’re not—

Sydnee: But this helps.

Raleigh: They’re not mutually exclusive.

Sydnee: Well no, I understand now.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: But this helps me understand and contextualize... what is happening.

Raleigh: Hmm.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: It kinda—

Sydnee: I was just hoping you all would explain it to me, I don’t know!

Raleigh: It kinda ruins the vibes of an internet phraseology when you gotta... you gotta break it down to [chuckles] to its roots in such a way.

Sydnee: Well, I almost Googled “what is a babygirl?” and then I thought—

Raleigh: You just gotta—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I wonder what the internet consensus is on that. But no, I think it's gonna tell you what an infant child is.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: You know. Probably.

Sydnee: Well yeah. Well that's if I— That's if I— My search engine is still set default to Yahoo.

Taylor: [chuckles] Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It's gonna be less addressing—

Raleigh: [sighs] Sydnee.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: What happened to you? [giggles]

Sydnee: Oh, technology moved on and culture moved on.

Raleigh: I just— I feel like—

Sydnee: I'm trying to keep up, I really am. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Well, I feel like for a while we were all pretty like on the same wavelength in terms of like I know we're different generations, but like we all were catching up in the same way.

And then I feel like something happened and you just kinda like... I don't know, missed the boat. What happened?

Sydnee: I had kids? I don't know.

Raleigh: No, you were still on it, even for— even after you had kids. It's been very recent.

Sydnee: I don't know, I really do— But I mean I— See, I keep thinking like I'll stay— Okay. Let me ask this. I get— I understand culture largely from what Charlie and Cooper tell me.

Raleigh: Oh.

Sydnee: Which sometimes is even like beyond you all.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Sorry.

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydnee: But also from TikTok, is like my primary social media. That's where I'm getting cultural stuff, right? Like I don't— I mean, I look at Facebook for like local stuff.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: For like what's going on with people I know actual in real life, but like— And because I'm old. But like TikTok is that. Do you think it's because Twitter went away?

[pause]

Sydnee: 'Cause I used to interact with that, now of course I'm not gonna mess with that disaster site. But like, do you think that's why? Did I lose something? Did I— Was I gleaning a cultural understanding that was more... you know, current and relevant... from the site formerly known as Twitter?

Raleigh: Maybe?

Sydnee: And now that's gone.

Raleigh: But to me, TikTok is more... up with it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well it's younger.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, I feel like most of like whatever is going on, I'm aware of it because of TikTok.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But then I don't know, I think it's also, it's algorithm driven, so I don't know how hard you're—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You're workin' that algorithm—

Raleigh: Mm...

Taylor: — away from [wheezes] the—

Sydnee: That's what I'm worrying.

Taylor: The pulse of the nation.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's what I'm worried. I'm worried that because it was not that way on Twitter and now it is that way—

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: — with my interactions with TikTok, like it— 'Cause I get tons of stuff that I know is aimed at moms for one, and then specifically moms of my generation.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like talking about being like older millennial, Gen X, whatever my micro-generation is, like targeting that.

Taylor: Yeah, but you're not even—

Sydnee: And like talking about that experience.

Taylor: But you're driving the ship.

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: Like if you interact with that kinda stuff, you get more of it. If you interact with, I don't know, the Skibidi Toilets, you get more Skibidi Toilets. So.

Sydnee: Oh my god, I hate—

Taylor: That's how it works.

Sydnee: I hate Skibidi Toilet so—

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: It is so beloved in this household.

Taylor: Oh noooo.

Sydnee: Not by me. I am very aware of Skibidi Toilet, even though it makes me want to scream.

Raleigh: I don't know what that is.

Taylor: Oh. Wow.

Sydnee: [in a serious whisper] How are you not aware of Skibidi Toilet? It's everywhere.

Taylor: Well.

Raleigh: Not for me.

Sydnee: The kids love it. The kid kids.

Raleigh: Oh.

Taylor: Yeah, it's not even like, what is— Is it a— beyond Gen Alpha thing?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I don't— Are my kids beyond Gen Alpha? Are they not Gen Alpha.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: I don't know what—

Raleigh: I think they're Gen Alpha.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Raleigh: I think.

Taylor: I think it's— I think that the toilets are an Alpha thing.

Raleigh: Um... Syd, what?

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: I need to know, because now it's the word of the year. What does "rizz" mean to you?

Taylor: [giggles]

Sydnee: Okay. Oh my god, I am about to say something that is going to age me so much.

Raleigh: There's a very easy like real definition.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. I—

Raleigh: Because it is the word of the year, so I'm giving you a chance to like just know what it means.

Sydnee: I know what it means.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: [chuckles] Because of *Saturday Night Live*.

Raleigh: Okay...

Sydnee: [chuckles] 'Cause they did a thing about it on *Weekend Update*, be— how it was the word of the year.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: It's from "charisma."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like it's a form of the word "charisma."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: And so it means sort of like, "charisma."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is what I gleaned from *Weekend Update* on *SNL*. [chuckles] Was 'cause it said "Also, if you need to look up the word 'rizz,' you definitely

don't have it." And I thought "Well... If it weren't for *SNL*, I woulda had to look it up!" [chuckles]

Raleigh: Oh, Syd. Well.

Sydnee: I know. I know how old that makes me.

Taylor: We are not that far apart.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: I don't— [chuckles]

Sydnee: I don't watch it— But I don't watch it like when it airs 'cause that's on too late. I watch it like the next day.

Raleigh: That's worse, actually.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: That you record *SNL*.

Taylor: "I get up to watch *SNL* at like seven AM," like you're makin' your coffee? [chuckles]

Raleigh: It comes on at 11:30.

Sydnee: Sometimes.

Raleigh: That's not that late. It's not like it's middle of the night.

Sydnee: The— Well, Charlie and Cooper really like some of it, so like we skip around and they really like some of the sketches. [chuckles] They thought— They agreed with us that Bowen Yang is very funny in the opening as George Santos.

Raleigh: It is very funny.

Sydnee: Thought that was very funny, yeah.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: But yes. I mean, is it more than just "charisma?"

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Is it just like a short firm— formed—

Taylor: It—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [chuckles] Form.

Taylor: I mean it's— You— It's like more specifically related to being able to like attract people.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Ohhh, okay.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like on— Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: So would you— You would use it like, "You have a lot of rizz?"

Taylor: Um.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: [laughs] Why are you laughing? Like that's what— [chuckles]

Taylor: I'm beginning to wonder if that's an inappropriate phrase, or if it's just the way that you say thing in general. [chuckles]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: "You have a lotta rizz."

Sydnee: "Boy, that guy's full of rizz!"

Taylor: Syd, I guess—

Raleigh: Well I don't like that one.

Taylor: Like in—

Sydnee: Oh. [laughs]

Taylor: If I can make a— our generation comparison, I guess it would be like saying you've got game.

Sydnee: Oh, okay. Okay.

Taylor: He's got a lot of game, right?

Sydnee: I understand that.

Taylor: He's got a good game, as in.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: He can—

Sydnee: I understand that.

Taylor: He is attractive to people.

Sydnee: I saw— I saw somebody trying to translate Boomer slang into Gen Z slang. And the Boomer slang for butt that they used was like, "derriere" or something, you know.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Something like that. And the word that they said for Gen Z, I have no idea what they said, and I'm still not sure.

Raleigh: I know. I know what— What do you think it was?

Sydnee: Gi— Like giot? Or something?

Raleigh: Yip. [giggles]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I gotta be honest.

Sydnee: Is that the word?

Raleigh: That is the word. That one's one that went by me in terms of the cultural slang and knowing what it means and how to use it. I see it on my TikTok and I know it refers to someone's butt. I don't know where it came from or how exactly to use it in a proper sentence. But that is the word. "Guate."

Sydnee: [chuckle]

Raleigh: Like G-U-I-A-T-E?

Sydnee: I would never— Yeah, they said it in the TikTok and I had to go back and watch it again and be like [whispers] “What did they say? What is this word?” I mean I don’t say “derriere.” Like I’m not, you know, 100 but—

Raleigh: Well you’re not a Boomer.

Sydnee: No. it’s your badonk-a-donk. [chuckles]

Taylor: Oh no.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: Your lovely lady lumps.

Taylor: No!

Raleigh: Noooo!

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: That’s worse.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: What you just did is worse.

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: Anyways, speaking of bottoms.

Sydnee: Okay. [laughs]

Taylor: You’re too pleased with yourself.

Raleigh: [chuckles] We’re talking about the bottoms.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: But not like Sydnee was saying.

Sydnee: I do say bottoms sometimes. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Well, that's a cultural acceptable one.

Sydnee: And I have kids. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Not like the ones you had just used.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: *Bottoms* is a movie. As well as a butt. And it's a movie that came out this year. You wanna talk about it?

Sydnee: Yes. I just wanna say, we enjoyed this movie. Justin and I watched it together 'cause you had suggested it previously and we hadn't gotten around to it yet.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So we did and man we enjoyed it.

Raleigh: Yah.

Sydnee: It was so funny. It was so— It was really, really a clever, well-done, enjoyable. They— It was billed as a teen sex comedy. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which I feel like is a little reductive. You know?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because they don't— They're— They talk about sex certainly, but not like— When I hear "teen sex comedy," I think like, I don't know, like the movies that— When we were younger, there were movies that our parents would tell us were funny, like, "Oh, these movies are so funny. You all need to watch these movies, they're so funny," and then we'd watch them and there's like boobs in them everywhere. And I'm like...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Why are you telling us to watch these movies with boobs everywhere, guys? Like you're our parents." And I feel like that's a teen sex comedy, right? Like this wasn't quite as, you know, I don't know.

Taylor: Like *American Pie*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. Like that's a teen sex comedy. Or like if you go back like another generation, like *Meatballs* is a teen sex comedy, right?

Raleigh: Mm. Yeah. Yeah. I would agree with that. I think this one's a lot— got a lot more goin' on.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: For anyone who is unfamiliar, because it did just come out a couple months ago, it's basically about, and I don't know how [chuckles] to describe the plot in a way that it sounds like I'm talking about a real movie.

Sydnee: And we are gonna spoil it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I will say, from the jump.

Raleigh: Yeah. It's about two best friends who are lesbians in high school. And they are trying to get with two of the popular girls. So one of them has the idea to essentially start what becomes a fight club.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: It's supposed to be like a self-defense class that they say they are qualified to do because they were in juvey, which is not true. And then they start this defense— self-defense club/fight club with all the girls in the school. And hilarity ensues.

Sydnee: And it definitely elevates to the level a lot of... kinda like farcical.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know, like it's a little absurdist, like there's stuff happening that obviously is... kind of surreal.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know. Like you wouldn't expect— yeah.

Raleigh: I gotta say, my favorite part of this entire movie, I think, [chuckles] is the fact that the football players wear not just their jerseys to school every day, but full gear.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like pads and equipment and everything. And also the main male character that we're supposed to believe is like the stereotypical like high school jock quarterback, most popular guy, his name is Jeff. And his jersey just says "Jeff."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: And I just think that's so funny [chuckles] and I don't know why it's so good, but they somehow were able, in this movie, to take like all of the stereotypes of what a— like what a dumb jock is, and like those are there. But also the male characters are kind of reduced in a way that female characters used to be in movies.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: That is very enjoyable to see like, I don't know. It's done in a funny way, but they've reduced the male characters to their... you know. To their lowest— the lowest form, like women used to be.

Sydnee: Yeah. Kind of like a *Barbie* move.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: They're very Ken-like.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, they're definitely very Ken-like, and... It is— I mean, in some ways, it's kind of like a distillation of what a lot of teen movies— Like I would think it more like *Heathers* kind of.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Or something. Like or even *Mean Girls* and like those sorts of teen films, where they talk a lot about the social classes.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Within a high school, and like the hierarchies and those sorts of structures, and whose cool and whose not and whose attractive and whose not, and what you're allowed to do and say and how you get to be popular, what gets you kinda cred and what doesn't.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: There's a lot of that, but it's distilled down to like its basest form, so that it can be parodied almost. You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like the football players are parodies of ever football player we've seen in a high school movie ever, right?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like they're not humans, they're—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: — caricatures. And they sort of do that a lot with everybody.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But yeah, it reminded me more of the— those kinds of movies than it did necessarily of like whatever a quote unquote "teen sex comedy," you know.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. Well it's funny, it's the second new movie you've had us watch where you've got vengeful lesbians. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: As your main character.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Is this a new trend? I was like, "Oh wow, that's interesting. This is—" With like heightened violence and like—

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: — the— this is— This can't be taking place in reality 'cause none of this stuff— These people would all be in jail if this was reality.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's interesting.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is, and I wonder— We talked about this, Justin and I when we watched it. It's almost like because you have a female director and writer and producer, like you have a lot of women behind—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: — the scenes, making the movie, they are allowed to push the envelope in how they talk about certain thing. Because I think that there are boundaries because if it's not your experience, if it's not your— like your lived experience, why are you making jokes about this?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know, we don't really need to hear you spoofing it or it's not funny.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But when it is, you're allowed to talk about that in a way that's a little more raw and a little more open.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know? And it's funnier, at the end of the day.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because it's coming from people who have actually experienced these thoughts and feelings, and not like what we think, "I don't know, what's going on in a woman's head, I have no idea."

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Here's what I bet it's like."

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: "Pillow fights." [chuckles]

Raleigh: It also is interesting because unless I'm misremembering and they make it very clear at some point, I feel like it's not totally clear what kind of time period we're in. I don't know if maybe they make that clear and I'm just misremembering. Like I don't remember them using like phones a lot.

Sydnee: Mm...

Rileigh: Like as much as you would expect from teens, unless I'm just totally blacking that out. But to me it felt like very—

Sydnee: I don't—

Rileigh: — very possible that this is kind of like an amorphous time period. Where like it has notes of like, like you said, like a *Heathers* and a *Mean Girls*, like a '90s, 2000s teen movie. Obviously the way they're dressed feels very modern and like now for teens.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Which again I think is interesting—

Sydnee: Yeah, like that was—

Rileigh: Like the mean girl, popular girl stereotype looks much different now than it did back then. But I—

Sydnee: Well, and the—

Rileigh: Go ahead.

Sydnee: I wondered though if that look was just because so many kids are wearing those looks now.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like the '90s are back. Like it looked very '90s.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But I thought that was just the way the kids dressed. [chuckles]

Rileigh: Well, I do think that the way they're dressed feels very like now. Like it felt very Gen Z.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Popular girl, this is what she would look like.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Almost like in the trailers for the musical *Mean Girls* movie they're doing, where Regina George looks much different, like clothing-wise, than she did in the original.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: But it's because that's what a Regina George would dress like now.

Sydnee: Well, I think they do a good job. Sometimes you make these kind of like teen comedies that get so lodged in their time period.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like there's so many jokes about technology or social media or slang or something that gets it like firmly planted in an era, and then it becomes unrelatable as time goes on.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And if you're crafty, you can avoid that, I think.

Raleigh: I think you're right.

Taylor: I feel like the only thing that really put it as like a modern thing is the— I mean obviously it's based around two lesbians and there's— I mean it's kind of a joke that it's like, "No, the problem isn't that they're gay, the problem is that they're untalented and gay."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: "Like they're dorks first, and then yeah they're gay."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: "No-one would really care if they were cool."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That's definitely—

Sydnee: Yeah, they—

Taylor: In the '90s it would've been a trage-comedy to have—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: — two lesbians who were in love with some possibly straight girls.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah. That's very true.

Taylor: [chuckles] One of them would've died at the end, let's be real. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Almost certainly, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I wanna talk about more of all the funny parts of the movie. But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: It is the holiday season. We are all out there, trying to figure out what sorts of gifts we can give those we care about to not just give them something they'll enjoy, but show how much we care about `em and how much we think about `em. And a great gift this holiday season is Storyworth.

Now Storyworth is an online service that helps you and your loved ones preserve precious memories and stories for years to come. It's a really thoughtful thing if— I'll tell yah, Justin got this actually for me. Justin's my husband, in case that wasn't clear. [chuckles]

Because, you know, we're still, I guess in the grand scheme of things, younger parents. Our kids are still little. And there's a lot of stuff that like when you're little you don't really think to ask your parents about, like their life when they were younger. It's hard to imagine that your parents were ever little kids.

So it's cool, it sends me a prompt through email every week, with a question about my life. Something maybe from, you know, either my adulthood or when I was younger. Some stuff that maybe like your kids are not gonna think to ask you, or that you might not think to ask a different friend or loved one, but that you'd wanna know about `em.

And you get to share a little story from your life, and then after a year Storyworth is going to compile that all into a beautiful keepsake book. You can put pictures in there too, so if there's photos you have, I know I have a collection of photos of me from the 90s, taken on like instant camera. [chuckles] Those were a thing, you use it all up and then you take it to— This used to exist, Raleigh.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: And I can share those too, so then I can get a question like, "What was a challenge that you faced when you were a teenager?" And then I can answer that question, tell a story that I wouldn't have thought to share with my kids, but my, you know, they might really relate to and I just wouldn't have thought to share that. And they wouldn't think to ask.

And so that's really the beauty of Storyworth is there's lots of stuff you wanna know about your loved ones and lots of stories you would love to hear, but you don't know they're there until you ask, and Storyworth helps come up with those questions and do that work for you by sending you that prompt every week. I answer it, send it back, and then at the end of the year you get a book out of it.

So— And it's a beautiful present for you to share with a loved one. So Teylor, if our listeners want to do this, what should— where should they go?

Teylor: With Storyworth, give those you love most a thoughtful, personal gift from the heart, and preserving their memories and stories for years to come. Go to storyworth.com/stillbuffering and save \$10 on your first purchase. That's storyworth.com/stillbuffering to save \$10 on your first purchase.

Sydnee: One thing that I thought was kinda interesting is that I feel like sort of the setup of them kinda wanting to... wanting to get with those two cheerleaders.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then creating this like club and making up lies and all this kinda stuff to do it. And they even say it, it felt very much like what dudes would've done in a teen comedy.

Teylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know, 10 years ago.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's interesting because... it doesn't work out at all, obviously. Well I mean in the— that— They get in trouble, they get caught, as you, you know, kind of expect that they're going to. And it makes them look like kinda the bad guys for a little bit for doing it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I don't know if that's intentional to say like, "Yeah, following those same— Like the idea that the version of masculinity that maybe you were exposed to when you were younger is like the ultimate triumph of feminism is being able to also do that, is maybe not the best path." I don't know. I thought it was a very interesting thought, like... Maybe there's a better. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But—

Sydnee: Maybe we don't have to trick girls into kissing us.

Taylor: I mean, it's interesting though because it's still— Like in those movies where it would be like traditional like cis men doing those kinds of things, there would still be a scene where they're exposed.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And then they still would get the girl in the end.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And this does still kinda follow that. Like one of the girls doesn't get the girl but the other one does, and it's just kinda like, "Oh, tee hee. If you wanted to get to know me, you didn't have to make up all those lies." It's like I get it, like it's a light-hearted movie. It's not trying to like—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — come in with a hard lesson, I don't think, but. [wheezes]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It was like, "Okay, well." [chuckles]

Sydnee: They do comment on it, which is a little— I always thought that's a step forward from like— I feel like the best example of that was always *Bridesmaids*.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: I really hated the pooping scene in *Bridesmaids*. [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause it felt like somebody said "Well, if we're gonna do a comedy and we're gonna use girls, we better at least do somethin' gross, 'cause that's what people think is funny." And it's like, "Well, I mean." [chuckles] "Not all—"

Raleigh: Not really.

Sydnee: "— funny movies have to have pooping. It's okay. You can be funny and not have any diarrhea in there, actually." [chuckles]

Raleigh: Speaking of funny, I think the character in this movie that made me laugh more than maybe anything else was Marshawn Lynch playing their teacher.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Who is a former pro-football player.

Sydnee: He's so good.

Raleigh: So you'd think he's in there as just like, "Oh, people are gonna recognize him as just like, you know, this is Marshawn Lynch." He wasn't just like any former pro-football player, he was like super huge, and he did commercials and he did other bit parts in stuff. Like people know who he is. He was in that... What's that improv—

Sydnee: *Murderville*.

Raleigh: Yes, *Murderville*. And he was hilarious in that. But there's something about him being the like representation of what a man learning about feminism is... that is just so good. Like he doesn't quite get it, but he's trying?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. That's a—

Raleigh: [chuckles] And he's very good.

Sydnee: I love when they describe like, "Do what any good ally does, which is like say that you definitely believe in something and support something and then don't do anything about it." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yip. [giggles]

Sydnee: Very biting commentary, but yeah he's great.

Raleigh: He's great.

Sydnee: He's just naturally very funny.

Raleigh: Well and again, it's like what you said Tey, it's not like it's a big thing that these are two lesbians and he's like— he's so woke for like supporting two lesbians starting a club. And you know, everyone else wouldn't support them. Like it's all about just the club being women, and he's like, "Oh. I don't know anything about women, actually. At all. So let me learn about women, maybe."

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: And it's—

Sydnee: He's reading and he's reading a porn mag.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Or it looks like a porn magazine that's called "Divorced and Happy."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, the like, you know, him going from when the club's doing well, writing like, "feminism" on the board, and like yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And then like crossing it out. [chuckles] He's like, "This is why all the Presidents were men, and it should stay that way." [laughs] Like. It's—

Raleigh: Or like the test they're studying for at the end is like, "Famous Women Who've Died" or something like that.

Taylor: "Famous Murdered Women." [laughs]

Raleigh: “Famous Murdered Women,” that’s what it is.

Taylor: Yeah. [chuckles] Well that’s— I do think that like there are some moments of very dark humor in this that I appreciated, but I do think it goes back to what you’re saying Syd, about like having women writers, women directors. Like jokes that you just— you can only really make if you’ve lived that experience. Like when they’re all sitting around the circle, talking about their personal experiences.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And one of them says, you know, have you ever been sexually assaulted, and everybody raises their hand!

Raleigh: Everyone.

Taylor: And it— It’s— There’s a beat where you’re like, “I think I’m supposed to laugh at this,” ‘cause I knew that was gonna happen.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: Yeah.

Taylor: As soon as, I thought “Oh, it’s gonna be everybody.” Like, “Oh, that’s messed up.” [chuckles] But—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Well—

Taylor: What else?

Sydney: And they did it in such an insightful way, ‘cause it wasn’t just like, “Have you ever, you know been the victim of sexual assault?” and they did— they initially don’t raise their hands.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: It’s when they say like, “Have you ever had like some grey zone?”

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydney: Or something is how they describe it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And everybody raises their hands. And it's such a like... Because is it grey zone, or did you process it as grey zone? And what is "grey zone," and why are we saying there is a grey zone? And like there's such— everything that's wrapped up in that, but the matter-of-fact way that teenage girls just go "Yeah."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah, and then everyone proceeds to present something that's deeply traumatic, but no-one else can really comment on, 'cause everybody has something [chuckles] that's just like, "Oh jeez, oh god, oh no, oh god." [wheezes]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But it's weird that the scene is played kinda for laughs.

Raleigh: Yip.

Taylor: And not in a disrespectful way, in just like, "Yup, this is what your average girl is walkin' around with. That's it." [chuckles]

Sydnee: It's also so smart that— So they say these traumatic things, and you're right, they don't really comment on each other's or like give a lot of empathy or anything, which is also I think it reflects that experience of when you're a teenager, you're not really capable of that kinda stuff, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: A lot of your world view is "How does stuff relate to me? What is my experience and how do other people relate to my experience?" 'cause that's how your brain is functioning.

It takes you a while to start looking through other people's eyes and experiencing empathy and all that kind of stuff. And they show that so well. 'Cause as an adult, I'm thinking "Well, respond to her! Like say something nice!"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: “Like she just shared this really— Like why isn’t anybody responding?” and it’s because “Well, I mean of course I would, I’m an adult.” And it’s so different from like if you think of like a *Dawson’s Creek* scene.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And this. ‘Cause in *Dawson’s Creek*, everybody would be like, “Oh my gosh, tell me more. Oh, let me give you some therapy advice here, and then oh, tell me more about that. Share all of your experiences,” and here they’re just like, “Yeah, okay. Here’s mine.”
[chuckles]

Taylor: Right. Well and it also seems like this is the first time any of them have been able to say that, so it’s just like, “Oo, oo, me too, me too!”
[chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: In a way.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, well. [chuckles] There you go. No, I thought that was very well done, and very true to not just like... a woman behind the scenes making it, but like understanding how young people are still thinking and functioning.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Understanding teens in a way that when you have adults making movies and TV shows about teenagers, sometimes they really miss that mark. It’s like, “Okay well, teenagers would never do or say those things.” You did— I didn’t get that vibe from this movie.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. Except maybe when, you know, they murder the other football team.

Taylor: [chuckles] Yeah that—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That's one thing that I felt like, and I kinda like it, 'cause it made me feel a little insane. I could not figure out the level of like surreal.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: The level of cartoon this movie was going for. 'Cause it just was all over the place, and then crescendoed in that ending scene where they're straight up just murdering people [chuckles] with their fists. Like. [laughs]

Raleigh: Like they absolutely just murder people, and at the end they're like, "Oh. I just murdered that person. Yah, like they're dead. Like we all just murdered people." And that's it.

Taylor: But it—

Sydnee: Well, but they say like the other team was coming to murder him.

Raleigh: Well yeah.

Taylor: And which like kinda just gets thrown in as like a bit of a— Like the plot— Maybe this is again, this is a younger generation thing, where it's like vibes over plot works sometimes.

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah.

Taylor: Like you need enough plot to keep the story rollin', but it doesn't really have to make sense. [laughs] And this is definitely like, "Oh, now all of a sudden we have a reason to get the club back together, 'cause we have to save this football player from being murdered. Ritualistically."

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: "By the Huntington Ferrets, that seems to happen every 20 years. I don't know, that's— Sure, yeah. Go with that. Go with that." [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah. Which is crazy, 'cause it's like that way they were gonna I guess murder Jeff is they put pineapple juice—

Sydnee: [chuckles] "Jeff."

Raleigh: — in the sprinklers.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And he's deathly allergic. So like they coulda just like moved him. Coulda just gotten him off the field.

Taylor: Yeah, they didn't have to murder people.

Raleigh: No. [giggles]

Sydnee: Well, I think they highlight that too when they show... one of the adults goes and turns off the sprinklers.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. Smart.

Sydnee: Why didn't they just turn off the sprinklers?

Raleigh: Turn `em off.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: They coulda just done that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, I—

Sydnee: They also didn't need to blow up a tree.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: As long as we're— [laughs]

Raleigh: Or a car. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Or a car.

Taylor: I mean I guess the point, it's like, "Oh, but this is why the fight club paid off, because now they all learned how to fight." Which to me I think is like the most bizarre funny point.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: Is like there's this part like, "Oh, we're makin' a fight club."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And you would think that that would have some interaction with the media *Fight Club*, right?

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Which is all about like it's not about how good it is for men to have a fight club, it's about toxic masculinity and like—

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — the inability to connect in a world in any other language but violence. And also a lot of repressed homosexuality. None of that is interpreted in this. It's just like, "Fight club good." [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That's like— that's the takeaway!

Sydnee: "We punch each other."

Taylor: Like someone heard the basic outline of the movie *Fight Club* and said "Oh, I could work with that, yeah." [laughs]

Raleigh: A club where they fight.

Sydnee: Which—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: "Yeah, sure. Let's put that in our film."

Sydnee: Well, and I definitely think part of what you're seeing maybe worked out as part of the process of making the film, as well as within the— you know, within the world of the film, is... like fe—

Female characters being able to have the freedom to do the stuff that men do in movies. And even the dumb stuff or bad stuff or silly stuff, like to have the freedom like, "I can get punched in the face and kind of look like I enjoyed it, and then try to figure out why are we enjoying getting punched."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like you see that, 'cause that was always part of *Fight Club*, right? Like part of that is like yes, they like punching, but also they're kind of enjoying getting beaten up.

And I feel like you start to see like they're walking around with bruises and they feel proud, and like what is— I don't know what that is, but men have always done it, and now you see women doing it and that in of itself is like this whole new— I don't know. It's like a freedom to be that too.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "I can be that too if I want." I don't know why you'd want to, but you can.

Taylor: Having agency in the violence that is inflicted on you.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It—

Sydnee: Yeah. That's true.

Taylor: I think if the movie wanted to reach for that, it could've. I don't think it wanted to. [laughs]

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I think it was just like, "Punching is cool!"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Well, I mean which kept it very firmly in the minds of young people.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Who are doing things with the— maybe those motivations are underneath it, but they don't know that. They can't verbalize that yet. They don't have the language to say "Oh, this is why I feel good about this," they just know like, "Yeah, I got punched and I took it and I feel good."

Raleigh: I also think it's really funny that they didn't even really learn how to fight in the first place. Because like there's no—

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: I mean, the idea if that the two main characters will be able to teach them because they were in juvie, but they weren't. And they don't know how to fight. The first time they try to show them like how to defend yourself, they're just kinda like swingin' at each other and seein' what happens.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But somehow by the end of it—

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: — by them just practicing on each other I guess, they all are able to, you know, straight up murder people.

Taylor: That's how it worked out in *Fight Club*.

Raleigh: [laughs] That's true.

Taylor: They just all started wailing on each other and then they all got good at wailing on each other.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: So.

Raleigh: It's true.

Taylor: I guess that works. I guess we— [wheezes]

Sydnee: And it had a bit of an *Anchorman* vibe to in that scene, I feel like.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: When they have the battle.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then all of a sudden like why is there a sword?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like why did a sword show up? [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah, when they—

Sydnee: Somebody got run through with a sword.

Taylor: When that happens, I was like, “Oh, okay. We’re not—”

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: “We’re not takin’ ourselves too seriously here.”

Sydnee: Yeah. [chuckles]

Taylor: Although I guess— When was it? The only character I was riding for the whole time, Hazel.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like the third queer character who’s just kind of like I don’t know, the reject of the rejects?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I felt for Hazel.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But I— When Hazel is beaten in front of the student assembly. [chuckles] I was like, “What is this film?!”

Raleigh: I know!

Taylor: Dang.

Sydnee: That was intense, yeah.

Riley & Sydnee: [simultaneously] Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, I don’t blame her for blowin’ up trees and cars.

Taylor: Yeah no, absolutely.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. But they— But I do think they do a good job. They don't make her tragic though.

Taylor: Well, she holds her own.

Raleigh: Mm, yeah.

Sydnee: Hazel does— Yeah, and I mean that's kind of— That is a departure, 'cause usually that character that like, you know, you're kind of rooting for, you're not gonna see a happy ending.

'Cause like you have those shots of like when Hazel's mom is watching as she comes home, and I don't know, I kept getting this ominous like, "Oh no, what's gonna happen to Hazel? Oh no." And it wasn't anything bad, I'm like, "Oh, movies taught me this character's gonna have to pay for something."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It was very nice to see like, "No, no. That character doesn't have to."

Raleigh: Yeah. And that character ends up with the main character, kind of, in a way.

Taylor: Ish.

Raleigh: Right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Ish.

Sydnee: Sorta, yeah.

Raleigh: Um... yeah.

Sydnee: Can I also say that... I think you— 'Cause you talked about Marshawn Lynch. The other person who I just— And I will I think will watch in anything from now on, is our— the other main character.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Io Adebari.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Who I love from *The Bear*.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She— Oh god. She is so good.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean just next level. Like so empathetic and funny and I will, I mean, I will just watch her in anything.

Raleigh: I also just love her voice.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: [chuckles] I just love her voice.

Sydnee: I mean, timing and like so natural. That kinda acting is so hard to be naturalistic and for it to sound like— to interrupt and get interrupted and stutter and restart a sentence and all that, and for it to sound real. Man.

Taylor: You know that—

Sydnee: She does that a lot on *The Bear* too.

Taylor: Well it's interesting too, the dialogue in this movie, 'cause there is that. There's something very, very natural, like this is how you talk.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which is again a departure from teen comedies where—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — everybody's got zingers and everybody's—

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You know, it's like the *Buffy* speak, right? Like it's a very... like...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Cool designed language that nobody really talks like.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like appreciate that this was very natural. [chuckles] As ridiculous as everything was, these were believable humans.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. No I definitely— Again, yeah I agree completely. It's a huge departure from like the "Everybody was clever on *Buffy*" or like, "Everybody was super smart and philosophical on *Dawson's Creek*."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like this is not that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But they're also not all just like... I— 'Cause when you think about like *American Pie* as something— as like a teen sex comedy.

They were funny, but it was all like everybody was an exaggeration of this funny teen that was this one trope of what the fu— "Here's what a funny teen boy is, here's what a funny teen girl is. Everybody's that." And then maybe you're a nerd.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which is another thing you can be. [chuckles] And that's it. This was something else because they were— It was realistic, but it was also— there were individuals here. We could hear different voices among them.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. I also think it's great that it's a disappointment for the main... you know, pretty popular girl and for everyone else that she's straight.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Like this is not assumed that she'd be straight 'cause of course she'd be straight in any other teen movie. It's like, "Aw man, I'm straight." [chuckles]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Who, by the way, that is Cindy Crawford's daughter.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: Ohhh, I— That makes sense.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I can see that. I can see that now.

Raleigh: Um, yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I very much enjoyed it. I thought it was great.

Raleigh: I'm glad. I— Unbelievably, I knew about this movie and wanted to see it, and the person that turned it on and watched [chuckles] it with me was our dad. Who said "I saw this movie on a list of movies that are supposed to be pretty funny. I'm gonna turn it on."

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: And I could not believe of all the movies he was gonna turn on, you know, from what I'd heard about this movie, this is what he turned on. But you know, I'm glad you all enjoyed it.

Taylor: Was Dad a fan?

Raleigh: He was!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Sydnee: He loved it!

Taylor: I could believe that.

Raleigh: Yeah! He thought— Just every time those football players came in, he started crackin' up. Marshawn Lynch had him crackin' up. He was a big fan. So.

Sydnee: That's funny. I think that it's helpful to have movies like this that push back against the idea that like... I mean there's so much total crap about "Every— All the—" Woke. About "woke comedy" and how everybody has to be so careful.

And what we're— What everybody's just saying is like, "Hey, maybe don't constantly make jokes about people whose, you know, who are oppressed or marginalized or whose life experiences you have absolutely no connection to and so you say stupid stereotypical things about. Maybe just like talk about your own stuff."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "And that can be funny. And let other people talk about their stuff. And if we expand who gets to talk about their stuff, we get more funny stuff out there. That is generally enjoyable and comedic, and isn't offensive. It's funny because the person who is talking about it has lived it, so they can talk about it in a way that they know." Like this is funny.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: This is, you know.

Taylor: Well that's that, you know, that golden rule, right? Comedy is getting away with it.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: If your audience laughs when you say something dark or horrific or terrifying, it's probably because you did it in a way that feel authentic and like from a fresh perspective.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And yeah, like it's something you've experienced.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: If you're just rehashing the same like, "Ha ha ha, pronoun joke" that a million people have heard, it's like, "Well that's not— Yeah, okay." [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's not funny because you're trying to push a boundary that isn't yours.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's not your boundary to push.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You— We are allowed to push our own boundaries. You're not allowed to reach into someone else's life experience and make them push theirs.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's not funny. That's—

Taylor: Well, and you're just not gonna have the experience to say anything new or interesting.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But.

Sydnee: It's boring. Get your own life experiences and, I don't know, talk about that.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah. Well, thank you all for watching this with me. I certainly enjoyed it. Syd, what's next?

Sydnee: Well, it's— it is the holidays. And I thought not necessarily like a fully holiday movie, but holiday adjacent that I've never made you all watch is *When Harry Met Sally*.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Which isn't ex— It's not exactly like my generation. Like it's a little before, like it's kinda old for me, but I grew up loving it and it's Christmas and New Years-ish, and I don't know, winter. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: There's a lot that happens in this time— this vague time of year so, you know, it's appropriate.

Raleigh: Alright.

Sydnee: So.

Raleigh: I've never seen it, so.

Sydnee: I think... Teylor, have you seen it before?

Teylor: I've seen it, yes.

Sydnee: I think Raleigh will identify a little bit with Sally.

Teylor: Mm. I could see that.

Sydnee: Yeah. That's my prediction. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Well, we'll see if this is a good thing or a bad thing. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Not a bad thing.

Teylor: [sniffs]

Sydnee: Alright, well thank you both. Thank you listeners. You should watch *Bottoms* if you haven't. Where did—

Raleigh: I watched it on Apple...? Question mark.

Sydnee: Apple, I think. I think.

Raleigh: Maybe? Prime? I don't know.

Sydnee: I don't know, it's streaming somewhere.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is streaming. It was very good. I'd highly recommend it. Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there that you would enjoy. 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.

[theme music fades in]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering.

Sydnee & Teylor: And I... am... too.

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: Should we start a fight club, or is that not okay?

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: It's not cool.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Not with kids, like with other adults.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: I would— I don't—

Taylor: [yawns] No.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Are you sure?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, no. No.

Sydnee: Okay.

[angelic twinkling music plays]

Narrator: Somewhere, in an alternate universe, where Hollywood is smarter.

[harp music plays]

[audience claps]

Award Host: And the Emmy nominees for Outstanding Comedy Series are... *Jetpack-ula*.

[audience claps]

Award Host: *Airport Marriot*.

[audience claps]

Award Host: *Throuple*.

[audience claps]

Award Host: *Dear America, We've Seen You Naked*.

[audience claps]

Award Host: And *Allah in the Family*.

[audience claps]

Narrator: In our stupid universe.

[harp music plays, but is distorted abruptly]

Narrator: You can't see any of these shows. But you can listen to them on *Dead Pilots Society*. The podcast that brings you hilarious comedy pilots that the networks and streamers bought but never made. Journey to the alternate television universe of *Dead Pilot Society* on maximumfun.org.

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