

Still Buffering 381: "When Harry Met Sally"

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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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: We had our first official holiday visit to the mall over the weekend.

Rileigh: Oh boy.

Taylor: Geez, you still have a mall. That's wild.

Rileigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: What do you mean "we still have a mall?" Of course we still have a mall.

Taylor: I don't know.

Rileigh: Malls are dying.

Taylor: They are. There's like a whole younger generation that just like, I don't know, go into abandoned malls that are like, "This is a relic." And I see their TikToks and I'm like, "Well, it's not that old, kids. But alright." They are dying.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It felt that way, not the Huntington Mall. The Huntington Mall's still rockin', like.

Taylor: [chuckles] It's still rockin'.

Sydnee: We're getting' new stores in there all the time.

Raleigh: It's about to be like the equivalent of like the last Best Buy standing.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: It's about to be the last like full mall in existence.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I think it— I think we're getting a Dave & Busters.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Ohhh!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Taylor: That's great.

Sydnee: I thought I heard it's a little while away, but. [chuckles]

Raleigh: I'm excited about that.

Taylor: Dave & Busters is fantastic. It's about an adult play— It's arcade games with alcohol. It's amazing.

Raleigh: I've only—

Sydnee: Well, that was—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: The mall was always lacking alcohol.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That was always a problem with the mall.

Taylor: I could agree with that, actually. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Do you remember— Okay. Now, do—

Taylor: That's why the malls died!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's why the malls died, there's no booze there. The— Okay. I say that, but so we have a Ruby Tuesdays in the mall. That's the only like, restaurant in the mall.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: In the mall.

Sydnee: Like, there are fast food places, there are counter service places, but there's no like sit down restaurants other than Ruby Tuesdays. And they do have alcohol, of course, it's Ruby Tuesdays.

But prior to that, there was one place you could get alcohol in the mall. It was a little teeny shop where you would walk in and you could by like, I wanna say like snacks, like bags of nuts and like pre-wrapped like, Debbie Cakes and things like that. And then also they served beer.

And it was called like a guy's name. it's not Dave's, because Dave's was another place where you could get deep-fried Oreos.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: But thi— [laughs] It was like— It was a guy's name and you just— It was like a— And it was in one of the back corners of the mall that like you don't go to much.

Taylor: Like where the bathrooms and the arcade was?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Okay. I feel like I—

Sydnee: It was—

Taylor: I feel like I'm visualizing it, but I can't think of like the name. But it was like a big round like, wrap-around counter.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Yah, okay.

Sydnee: And it was something weird, like Mitchell's or...

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: No way it was Mitchell's.

Sydnee: Clark's.

Raleigh: No way it was Mitchell's. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't—

Taylor: I could've been.

Sydnee: [giggles] It was like— I swear I felt it was just like a guy's name and you walk in, and it's like I don't know, "Do you want some bags of pre-packaged snacks, or maybe a hot dog?"

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: Maybe you could get a hot dog?

Taylor: Did Dad open—?!

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: This feels like—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Feels like it— the epitome of like, "Oh no, is your wife shoppin' and you need a place to hang out? We got Little Debbie Cakes, maybe hot dogs and some beer for you." [chuckles]

Sydnee: That's what it felt like, and there were like— There were just like folding tables.

Taylor: Yeah, yes. [wheezes]

Sydnee: But like—

Taylor: It's like—

Sydnee: — no, like, table tables.

Taylor: Where you drop off your man while you do the lady things.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's what it felt like.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Like the— [laughs] Do you need to put him in the— It's not the daycare, it's like the "dad-care."

Taylor: It's right across from where the playground is, with like the kids, and then you can put your man here, and then you can... do everything that your household requires. [chuckles]

Sydnee: I swear this place existed.

Taylor: No, I rem— I have the visual memory of it, I could not tell you what it was called.

Sydnee: 'Cause I remember learning like, "I cannot believe there's a place in the mall where you can have a beer." 'Cause it was pre-Ruby Tuesdays, so there was nowhere in the mall where you could get a beer.

Taylor: [wheezes]

Sydnee: And then like there's a place, in the mall, where they sell beer! And it's just like cans of beer, cans of like Bud and Miller or something.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like that was it. Like not a huge selection. Yeah.

Taylor: I feel like malls, that's— I don't know. Can we revisit the idea of malls, but with alcohol? Because it—

Sydnee: You can wander around malls while drinking?

Taylor: Me at a mall sober, no I don't wanna be there. So many people.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Too much stimulation, no thank you. A couple drinks? That's— I will spend money, capitalism. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Although the problem—

Taylor: I don't want to, I shouldn't.

Sydnee: The problem is our mall has one of those trains that you can get on.

Raleigh: Oh no, that's bad.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh no.

Taylor: Can you integrate the alcohol into the train?! [chuckles]

Sydnee: I'd be too worried that we'd have [chuckles] fatalities every weekend.

Raleigh: Oh, I'd never get off.

Sydnee: Drunk people getting run over by the train. [laughs] The train, which is playing Chipmunks versions of pop songs.

Taylor: Like where—

Sydnee: Like at full volume, and going back and forth. [laughs]

Taylor: We're at end-stage capitalism, nothing's ever gonna be good again. Just make it work. It's fine. [laughs]

Raleigh: It is, that's what's gonna happen when they open the Dave & Busters.

Taylor: Absolutely. [chuckles]

Raleigh: It's gonna be adults stumbling out of the Dave & Busters, getting hit by [chuckles] the kid train!

Sydnee: Getting hit by the train!

Taylor: You need to— You need to pad that Dave & Busters with—

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: — with very specific stores. Like you need a Yankee Candle right across from it.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: To just grab people. Like, “You’re a little drunk. Spend \$200 on—”

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [chuckles] “On existential candles.”

Raleigh: The candy store—

Sydnee: Can you do—?

Raleigh: — is right next to the Dave & Busters.

Taylor: Oh, perfect.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That’s it, there you go.

Raleigh: So, there you go.

Taylor: The candy.

Raleigh: There is that.

Sydnee: Is it gonna be like where that playground is?

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: Oh, where the Forever 21 used to be.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: That then became—

Raleigh: Where the Forever 21 used to be.

Sydnee: It became Fun City.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: And then now it's going to be a [chuckles] Dave & Busters.

Raleigh: Now it's going to be a real fun city.

Sydnee: [chuckles] Now it's actually fun city!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: There was—

Raleigh: I haven't been to a Dave & Busters since I've been of legal drinking age, and all I can say is I just keep thinking "That's the place to be."

Sydnee: We—

Raleigh: "Playin' those games but under the influence of legally obtained alcohol."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: The only time I've been to a Dave & Buster's was when we were in Salt Lake City, on tour.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And there were— [chuckles]

Raleigh: That is not the only time you've ever been to a Dave & Buster's, but continue. [chuckles]

Sydnee: It— That's the only time I remember.

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: I've been to Dave & Buster's?

Raleigh: You've taken me to a Dave & Buster's, the only time I've ever been to a Dave & Buster's when I was like 8.

Sydnee: Oh, I don't even remember. Where were we?

Raleigh: One of the C cities in Ohio.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: One of the—

Raleigh: Cincinnati, Columbus, I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. They're all—

Raleigh: They're all the same.

Taylor: There's just the two, but that's— [chuckles]

Sydnee: If you live in Huntington, you know!

Raleigh: Please, I—

Sydnee: You want to do something fun, you go to one of the C cities in Ohio.

Raleigh: Yeah. One of 'em.

Sydnee: Not Cleveland.

Raleigh: Not Cleveland.

Sydnee: That's too far. But Columbus or Cincinnati. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Although sometimes Cleveland, sometimes people do— Anyway, I— The Dave & Buster's in Salt Lake City's the one I remember.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: Because the alcohol laws there are very restrictive.

Taylor: How does a Dave & Buster's work in Salt Lake City?

Sydnee: I— Well, I mean, we went and it was—

Taylor: [giggles]

Sydnee: It was a bit of a debacle.

Taylor: [chuckles] Oh.

Sydnee: Because you can't order a drink unless you order an entrée. And Mom was trying to just split an appetizer, and so they wouldn't let her order a drink 'cause you can't have it— Like she had to order an entrée, and that was a whole thing.

And they won't let you order a second drink until your first drink is completely empty. I don't know, there are lots of rules about it in... Anyway, it was a weird Dave & Buster's experience.

Taylor: So you— [chuckles] You ordered 30 entrees, is what you're telling me. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You can— No, they let you order a second drink like off of the first en— They don't make you order a new one every time—

Taylor: Every time! [laughs]

Sydnee: They're like, "You have to order a new entrée!"

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: That was like that's bringing up—

Sydnee: Every time you buy a drink!

Taylor: Like Cuomo COVID laws, where you just had to order food every time you got a drink, so you always get a stack of like 10 hot dogs beside

you. 'Cause it's like you had to order food every time. Here's your 10th hot dog. [laughs]

Sydnee: That was— There were places in West Virginia that did that too. We had similar stuff here because they started like selling grocery items. So you could buy like a block of cheese.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: With your beer!

Raleigh: Yup.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Like just started shopping, "Give me some laundry detergent, get me some—" [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: "I need sponges, paper towels."

Sydnee: It was very— It was great. They all had these like grocery items, and it was like, "Here's some nuts." You'd just buy this package of— "We went to Kroger, we put 'em in bags, so you can buy [laughs] these nuts."

Taylor: Love that.

Sydnee: "So that you can get your giant growler of beer with 'em." [laughs]

Taylor & Raleigh: [chuckle]

Sydnee: Yeah. Well. Do you all remember Dexter's Subs?

Taylor: Yeah? What— Where are we goin' with this?

Sydnee: Nah, I just wondered.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I tried to look it up—

Taylor: [cackles]

Sydnee: [laughs] Because I was curious. Our mom had a Dexter's Subs, which is like a Subway, except it wasn't Subway, it was Dexter's Subs. Same idea. But they had these cookies. These blueberry bramble cookies.

Taylor: No you're— You're misremembering that. Subway had blueberry bramble cookies.

Sydnee: No Dexter's Subs had the cookies.

Taylor: No. No. They were from Subway.

Sydnee: I—

Raleigh: Ohh, now we gotta go to the internet.

Taylor: I don't know, I'm gonna—

Sydnee: You can't find—

Taylor: It would have—

Sydnee: — information about Dexter's Subs.

Taylor: Well, I— But I will tell you, I'm almost positive because— Oh gosh. There was a nun that used to bring the blueberry bramble cookies to like what like...

Sydnee: The bake sale.

Taylor: Bake sales.

Sydnee: The church bake sale every year.

Taylor: And we all thought "Wow, she makes these great cookies," and then she told us they're from Subway, and they were the blueberry bram— She just went to Subway, bought a bunch of cookies, [chuckles] brought `em into the bake sale.

Sydnee: See.

Taylor: And sold `em.

Sydnee: I swear I thought they were at Dexter's Subs.

Taylor: Under her name. Mmm, no, I think you're misremembering.

Sydnee: 'Cause I've tried to Google like, "help me find a Dexter's Subs in existence." Was it a chain, was it a local thing, who was Dexter?

Taylor: I mean, that's— There's a— "Who was Dexter?" Tell me you're not Googling that. 'Cause that's gonna— [laughs]

Sydnee: No, that's a whole other— There's way too many. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Dexter's Subs doesn't exist.

Taylor: [cackles]

Sydnee: That—

Raleigh: Dexter's—

Sydnee: That what I'm saying though, it did!

Taylor: Here we go! There's two things— two separate things here. Did blueberry bramble cookies ever exist as an entity? At Subway.

Raleigh: So, they have a cookie that came out in 2012 that was a blueberry birthday cookie.

Sydnee: [whispers] Yeah...

Raleigh: That did have blueberries in it. At Subway.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: There was somethin' crunchy in the blueberry bramble cookies.

Taylor: It was like a blueberry oat cookie.

Raleigh: I looked up "blueberry bramble," there were no results. And then I just looked up "Dexter's Subs" on its own. It do— It's not—

Sydnee: It did though! I promise there was a restaurant!

Raleigh: All I'm getting is—

Taylor: This is— alright.

Sydnee: At the Huntington Mall!

Raleigh: — it's showing me to a website called "Dexter's"—

Taylor: [wheezes]

Raleigh: Are you ready for this? 'Cause this is the best name of a restaurant I've actually ever heard. "Dexter's La-burger-tory."

Taylor: Ooo.

Sydnee: Ooo!

Taylor & Raleigh: [simultaneously] Like laboratory.

Raleigh: The cartoon.

Taylor & Sydnee: [simultaneously] But la-burger-tory.

Raleigh: "La-burger-tory."

Sydnee: I'd eat there.

Raleigh: That's the only thing that's coming up and obviously that is not Dexter's Subs, and I don't even know where Dexter's La-burger-tory is located. I would like to find out 'cause I would like to go there.

Taylor: Maybe this is one of those Mandela effect things, Syd.

Sydnee: It really did— There was—

Taylor: Awww.

Sydnee: I mean, we're talkin' way back.

Taylor: We grew up in two different timelines, that means.

Sydnee: Maybe...

Taylor: You're not my prime Sydnee. [chuckles]

Raleigh: [gasps] Dex— Do you know where Dexter's La-burger-tory is?!

Taylor: [chuckles] Where?

Sydnee: Where?

Raleigh: It's in West Virginia!

Taylor: Of course! [laughs]

Sydnee: Where?

Raleigh: It's in West Virginia!

Sydnee: Where?!

Raleigh: It's in Berkley Springs, West Virginia.

Sydnee: Well. Gotta go back to Berkley Springs.

Raleigh: Let's go.

Sydnee: Dexter's Subs did exist. It was in the same time that Coffee, Tea, and Thee existed.

Taylor: I mean that's— Coffee, Tea, and Thee was when I was like seven.

Sydnee: It was— I mean it was when we were really little and Coffee, Tea, and Thee had the best cream of broccoli soup.

Taylor: Yeah, I know that. That's where I went and bought my broken animals. I know. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. They did, they had all kinds of animals. It was next to Excalibur, where you could buy swords.

Taylor: Yeah. And statues of wizards.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: Wizard paraphernalia.

Sydnee: That was a—

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: That was the best. That was the good days of the mall. They were all kind of stores like that.

Taylor: The mall was like that, you had the science pla— What was the science store? What was it called?

Sydnee: Yeeeah.

Taylor: [quietly] Oh man.

Sydnee: That had all the— That had a display of nature sound CDs.

Taylor: Yeah! That was a good store.

Sydnee: And they had all kinds of— And rain sticks everywhere.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And you'd stand there playin' with a rain stick.

Raleigh: Oh!

Sydnee: While you looked at the science-y things.

Raleigh: Oh. Oh, the one that had the buttons you could press of the nature sound CDs.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: To listen to what they sounded like, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yup.

Raleigh: I remember that place!

Sydnee: The mall used to be real cool. [chuckles]

Taylor: Was it called The World of Science? I think it was The World of Science, wasn't it?

Raleigh: I remember that place...

Sydnee: I think it was, yip. Yeah.

Taylor: That was one of the stores that stayed open during the mall lock-in. If you know, you know. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah. Oh man.

Raleigh: That just unearthed a memory. Oh wow.

Sydnee: Good mall days. Now, there aren't as many— it was— I don't know. There aren't as many stores like that that are fun or weird at the mall. Like if you look at like hyper-local stores, it gets real, real scary real fast. If you know.

Raleigh: [giggles] I saw— Was it you all shared with me, or was it our mom? I can't remember, I shared with someone the list of stores that were opening for the holidays at the Huntington Mall.

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Ohhh man.

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: Oh man. It was like a lot of those like hyper-local like Bow Boutique and leggings and—

Sydnee: There's one stores that's just bows.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's— I mean there's the one store that just sells like really racist T-shirts.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And boots, I think. I think they sell boots and racist shirts.

Taylor: And like g— fans of gun things.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: If you like guns, there are things for you. Not actual guns.

Sydnee: And—

Taylor: But just things that say you like guns.

Raleigh: Here we go.

Sydnee: And they have shirts that are racist and celebrate guns.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: In the same time, if you want that.

Raleigh: “The Huntington Mall’s announced new storefronts are being added just in time for the holiday season. Bow Love Boutique, Hickory Farms,” of course.

Sydnee: Yeeeeah.

Raleigh: “Pinky’s 2.0,” which is an extension of Pinky’s Creations? So it’s a sequel.

Taylor: I don’t—

Sydnee: What is—

Raleigh: I don’t know what Pinky’s is.

Taylor: I don’t—

Sydnee: I don’t know what Pinky’s is, either.

Taylor: I think I don’t wanna know. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Who knows what that means. “Reid’s Entertainment,” it’s just a place where you can do virtual indoor golfing. “Sports Fanz,” with a Z, “and The T-Shirt Station.”

Taylor: Oh no...

Sydnee: Ugh.

Raleigh: [giggles]

Sydnee: Is it— If it's airbrush, I'm in.

Raleigh: God, it better be.

Sydnee: The— [chuckles] This— We went in this— There's a new store there, well relatively new. It's been there about a year. Box Lunch.

Taylor: Ooo...

Raleigh: I like Box Lunch.

Sydnee: Which like I had gotten some of their— Yeah, I'd gotten some of their stuff online, 'cause it's all like pop culture-y...

Taylor: It's like a— Yeah, like a nerd store, right?

Raleigh & Sydnee: [simultaneously] Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, so—

Raleigh: It's like a Hot Topic but like more like—

Taylor: [chuckles] Like.

Raleigh: — internet nerd instead of—

Taylor: Warmer lighting. [chuckles]

Raleigh: — 2012 stuff. Yeah, warmer lighting.

Sydnee: It is. It's—

Taylor: No spikes.

Sydnee: It—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It leans very heavily into Harry Potter, unfortunately.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: But outside of that, there's lots of other fun properties. They did have a T-shirt with Shrek on it that said "Shrek yourself before you wreck yourself." [chuckles]

Raleigh: Oh my god.

Taylor: And you bought it. You bought it.

Raleigh: Please tell me you bought it.

Taylor: And you bought it.

Sydnee: So they didn't have it. Justin's not close. They didn't have it in his size, so I got— I found it on the internet.

Raleigh: Thank god.

Taylor: Oh you— It's for Justin. Of course.

Sydnee: I mean, oh yeah. Oh yeah. [laughs] For sure.

Taylor: I think you should just get one for every member of your family.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: And that's your Christmas card next year. [laughs]

Sydnee: That's it. Here you go!

Raleigh: Cooper would wear that.

Sydnee: The only thing that was weird, I— When I walked in the store, they had lots of helpful associates, lots of them. Like the store was filled with associates. And one person stopped me and was like, "Welcome to Box Lunch," and I was like, "Thank you." And they said "Have you shopped with us before?" And I had, so I was like, "Yeah," and they were like, "Well if you need any help, let us know," and I was like, "No problem."

And then someone else, I had the exact same interaction with. "Welcome to Box Lunch."

"Thank you."

"Have you shopped with us before?"

"Yeah."

And I thought “If I answered ‘no’, were you going to explain to me how to shop here?”

Raleigh: I do always assume when people—

Sydnee: Like.

Raleigh: — ask me that at a store or like a restaurant like there’s something special or unique about your dining experience.

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: Or like shopping experience that you need to fill me in on.

Taylor: Ehhh...

Sydnee: Is I gonna be weird somehow? Like is it not what I think it is, which is just like I pick up the item, I take it to the counter, I give you money, you give me the item. Like is there another level?

Taylor: I don’t think it’s that. I think it’s something way more dystopian and sad. And it’s something— ‘Cause I— There’s a Five Below that opened next to me, and I noticed that they always, when I walk it—

And sometimes someone will be in the middle of like answering a question and checking somebody out at the same time, and they’ll say “Hello, hi, welcome to Five Below.” Like they’ll always greet me, which is nice.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Except for on the— when I leave, there’s a little screen prompt that says “Were you greeted? Rate one through nine.”

Sydnee: Ohhh.

Raleigh: Ohhh.

Taylor: And I rate it. It’s because these days, in the corporate nightmare-scape that is the service industry, you have scripts, and if you don’t follow the scripts, those are reasons that they can penalize you.

Raleigh: Oh.

Taylor: So it's just... "You know, we can't— Until we can fully employ robots, we just want the humans to act that way," so probably those people are given a script that they have to—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Or some sort of lines that they're supposed to say to customers, and they could possibly be penalized if they don't say them. So they have to make sure and say them, unfortunately.

Sydnee: It's just that— I get what you're saying, and I'm sure that's the greeting part. It was the, "Have you shopped with us before?" that threw me.

Taylor: I mean, there—

Sydnee: Not like—

Taylor: There are restaurants that'll say that like—

Sydnee: "If you need help, let me know."

Taylor: "Have you eaten here before?"

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: "And I'm gonna guide you through the menu." Like it's just a menu. You know what food is, right?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It's here. [chuckles] Like.

Sydnee: Well I always assumed that means something unexpected.

Raleigh: You've eaten out at a restaurant before.

Taylor: No, no. It's—

Sydnee: You know, like—

Taylor: It's just... It's one of those like—

Sydnee: Like it's gonna be like a prefixed deal or something. Or like, I don't know, like I always think like—

Raleigh: Like small plates.

Raleigh: — if somebody says that, it's not just like the typical ordering experience.

Taylor: Somebody ran an algorithm that said that people are 25% more likely to buy something if they have this specific interaction, and so now everybody has to do it. [chuckles] That's it. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Oh man. I... Yeah. I don't know. I was— It threw me.

Taylor: I don't wanna bum you out.

Sydnee: I was—

Taylor: Maybe it's— Maybe there's a secret there.

Sydnee: I don't know, maybe.

Taylor: Maybe next time you should say— just see what happens. [chuckles]

Sydnee: I'll say no. [chuckles] And then they'll be like, "I just saw you here last week."

Taylor: [chuckles]

Raleigh: "I know you have." [chuckles]

Taylor: "Just wanna help."

Sydnee: "I just wanted to see what you would say!"

Taylor: "I wanna see what your engagement is." [chuckles]

Sydnee: We're not gonna have enough time to talk about my movie.

Taylor: I'm so— We—

Raleigh: No, we—

Taylor: Why have we talked too long about the mall?

Raleigh: We've talked half an episode about the mall.

Sydnee: I don't know, it's— Well, it's the problem, it's the mall.

Taylor: We should've done an episode on the mall.

Raleigh: "The mall."

Sydnee: I know. We could've just talked about the mall the whole time.

Taylor: But we're not talking about the mall.

Sydnee: No. No, that's okay. The mall is worthy. It is worth all this conversation. No, I made you all watch *When Harry Met Sally*. Which is like it— You know, it changes. My top five movies of all time change from time to time.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: This movie is frequently in the top five. I've had moments in my life where I'm like, "I don't know, is it still top five?" but I— Yeah, it's usually up there.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: It's one of my favorite movies.

Taylor: Is it currently up there?

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: [noncommittally] Yeeeah.

Taylor: Well, it's in there.

Sydnee: I would say so. Well, I'd have to sit down and give it a hard think, right?

Taylor: Well that's the— that's what we do, on this podcast. [chuckles]

Raleigh: That's what this episode is, of this podcast.

Taylor: [laughs] That's what we should've— [laughs]

Raleigh: [chuckles] What'd you think we were gonna be—

Sydnee: We talked about the mall.

Raleigh: What'd you think we were gonna be asking about?

Taylor: I mean we talked about the mall for like 15 minutes.

Raleigh: What'd you—

Sydnee: We talked about—

Taylor: We still got a good 30, you can delve into this. [chuckles]

Sydnee: It's hard because it's— Okay, so the movie came out in 1989, and like any romantic comedy that came out in the '80s, '90s, like they're gonna be moments where you're like, "Ehh..." [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Ehh." [chuckles] "I dunno."

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: Well.

Sydnee: Like.

Raleigh: Yeah, but I feel like you kinda have to like... factor that in, right? Like you kinda... You know. Cancel it out.

Sydnee: It's— I think it's—

Raleigh: At a certain point.

Sydnee: I think it's still very funny, and I think the characters are often quite endearing. And I think it's a sweet romance. I think that... like... I don't know.

I think all those elements are there, but it's also predicated on kind of that like... "men are from Mars, women are from Venus" sort of timeframe. Where like, "Heh. I mean, ladies, who can understand 'em,

right?" like you know what I mean? Like it's a little bit of that, which isn't really relevant, I don't think, anymore. So.

Rileigh: Well, but I mean, I feel like the idea that, you know, a man and a woman can have a whole movie and friendship predicated on like their disagreement that men and women can ever just be like platonic friends.

I feel like that's not like— I mean, yes it's less common now for that to be like a plot point, but I feel like that's not like totally outdated. I feel like there still are, you know... similar conversations to be had.

Sydnee: Can you—

Rileigh: I don't think that, but I think that, you know, the idea that a man would think that now isn't crazy.

Sydnee: Can you just be friends with somebody you're attracted to, I guess is the more modern take on that.

Rileigh: Sure. Yeah. Yeah, I think that, you know, doesn't totally put it out of date.

Sydnee: No. Yeah. I mean, with that— but that— Which is, I think, an interesting question. And I dunno, like... maybe that's still something that's still up for debate. Maybe people have different feelings on that. Like if you knew your partner was friends with somebody that they were also attracted to... how would you feel about that?

Rileigh: Well, and it's less the attracted to part than like the capability of being attracted to, right? Like can you just be... platonic friends with someone who like you think is physically attractive, you have the capability of being like then more attracted to them.

Sydnee: [sighs] It's— But see, that's a rough— See, this is why I think it kinda falls apart is because like... I mean, I could be attracted to anybody. So.

Rileigh: Well, that's what I'm saying.

Sydnee: I can't have friends now. [laughs]

Taylor: Felt—

Sydnee: I don't get—

Taylor: That felt like a threat. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, no!

Raleigh: [aggressively] "I could be attracted to anybody!"

Sydnee: You know what I mean.

Taylor: "Anybody out there in the world!"

Sydnee: That's why—

Taylor: "No-one's safe." [laughs]

Sydnee: Gen— The gender thing—

Taylor: "The bisexual!"

Sydnee: — kinda makes it fall apart. Right!

Raleigh & Taylor: [chuckle]

Sydnee: Well that's what I'm saying, like I can't have— Like by that logic, like I can't have women friends or men friends or any friends, because I... I don't necessarily— My attraction doesn't... It doesn't— It has nothing to do with gender, and so... I don't get to have friends.

Raleigh: Yup. That's what it is.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: Weeeeell.

Sydnee: That's what it means. Well, that's it. Anyway, thanks for joining us.

Raleigh & Sydnee: [laugh]

Taylor: Are we— Do we think that there's a premise in this film that is like, "Men and women can't be friends. See, it proves it. The reason they can't be friends is because they were meant to be in love?"

Sydnee: It's a little— I mean it— They don't say that. But definitely that is what happens.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Or is it that friendship is the first step to re— actual good relationship?

Raleigh: Mm...

Taylor: And too often, I think historically men and women are told like, “No no no! Friendship is not a part of a relationship.” Like their relationship I think makes sense. It happens very organically, in the movie.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But it’s a friendship first, and it— I think it’s a good friendship. Like it’s not— And I think even in like the modern romantic comedies you see it, where like one of them’s pining for the other the whole time. It is clear at the beginning of their friendship that they are not attracted to each other. Like he’s—

Sydnee & Raleigh: [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: He’s talkin’ to her about how sad he is about his ex and she’s doin’ the same, like it’s— They are friends. So.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: No, and I mean, I do think that’s the better take away from it is like that, you know, a good relationship relies on a good friendship.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: For it to exist at all. But it definitely does— like it makes the argument that Harry makes early on, which is like, “A man and woman can’t be friends, because... they fall in love.” I don’t know.

Like I’m— I don’t think it’s trying to. I’m not saying— Like I don’t think the movie wants to say that. I don’t think it’s making the case that men and women can’t be friends. But you could take that away from it.

Taylor: They’re friends with— I mean, you’ve got the other couple that are friends with them.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: So, that's, I don't know. [chuckles] That's—

Sydnee: Who are— Oh.

Taylor: Carrie Fisher and...

Sydnee: That's like... I don't know.

Taylor: Some lucky guy that got to kiss Carrie Fisher. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I know. They're great.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: They're hilarious I every scene they're in. I— Okay, we need to talk— We need to talk more about the actual movie that we're here to talk about.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: [chuckles] Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: So... I said it before and I'll say it again, no matter how much time you spend at the mall, sometimes you just can't find the perfect gift. For you loved one, for your friend, for somebody that you're close to. The holiday season, especially if it's somebody that like means a lot to you, and you're trying to find a gift that would, you know, communicate that, and you're not sure what that looks like.

Well, Storyworth is a great way to not only give your loved one a nice gift, but to show them how much you think about them and care about them, how you wanna know more about their life. And results in something really beautiful that you can both treasure.

So, what's Storyworth? Every week, they will email your loved one, so you get to pick who you want to send it to. We've done this for our dad,

`cause our dad loves to tell us stories about when he was younger. And sometimes they get better over time. [chuckles] It's nice to make him [chuckles] put a version of the stories down in writing, so that when he elaborates and embellishes them, we can compare.

But he gets a prompt every week with something— some question about his life, and maybe something you wouldn't think to ask. Like we think to ask our loved ones some basic stuff, but you don't always think to say like, "Hey, what's a big challenge you overcame?" or "What's a time where you felt really proud of yourself?" or "What's the scariest thing you've ever done?" You know, you don't really think to ask questions like that.

And so Storyworth will send some kind of question. You can pick specific ones, or they'll generate `em for you, and your loved one can answer that, maybe include photos if they want to, in the email. And then after a year, Storyworth will compile your loved one's stories, memories, photos, all— everything they've put in there, into an exquisite hardcover book, creating a valued keepsake.

So that's something wonderful that you can, you know, that you can share and that you can show like, you know, in my case my kids. About their Pop. It's a really wonderful present, so...

And it's the holidays, so it's the perfect time to be cherishing those timeless stories. So Teylor, if our listeners want to also check out Storyworth, what should they do?

Teylor: Help your family share their story this holiday season with Storyworth. Go to storyworth.com/stillbuffering today and save \$10 on your first purchase. That's S-T-O-R-Y-W-O-R-T-H.com/stillbuffering to save \$10 on your first purchase. Storyworth.com/stillbuffering.

Sydnee: So one of the things I noted before we watched this is Riley, I feel like you have some Sally vibes.

Teylor: You did say that.

Raleigh: You did tell me this before this week.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And I had never seen this movie before this week, so I was going into the movie with that... notion.

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: How do you feel?

Sydnee: And how did you feel about that? [laughs]

Raleigh: I gue— I mean... I guess I just didn't... I didn't see it. I don't know, maybe I'm not as self-aware as I think I am. But I was curious to think why you thought that.

Sydnee: Um... [laughs]

Raleigh: You can read me on our podcast.

Taylor: Don't.

Raleigh: It's okay.

Sydnee: No, I—

Raleigh: You can read me, it's okay.

Sydnee: I mean. Sally is—

Taylor: I think she's got Virgo energy. That's— We can agree on that.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Okay. I can see that.

Sydnee: Yes. She— There is a right way to do things.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: She knows the right way to do things. She's not trying to be difficult, she just doesn't understand why you would wanna do things the wrong way, when you could do them the right way. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's all.

Raleigh: Okay. I guess that's fair.

Sydnee: She's high maintenance, but she thinks she's low maintenance.
[giggles]

Raleigh: I am not high maintenance!

Taylor: Mm. [laughs]

Sydnee: [cackles]

Raleigh: There's one of us that is historically, famously high maintenance, and it is not me. And it is not Taylor.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [chuckles] I— The difference is—

Taylor: I'm so uncomfortable right now! [giggles]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Okay. No, here's the difference. I know I'm high maintenance.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: [scoffs]

Sydnee: I know that.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I own that. Yes. Yes.

Raleigh: I was gonna say, this isn't a secret to you, Syd.

Taylor: Ehh, I worry that I'm high maintenance. I think I am probably low maintenance. Sydnee knows she's high maintenance, and she is high maintenance. Raleigh, I think you're— I don't wanna get— I don't wanna—

Raleigh: I am not high maintenance!

Taylor: I don't wanna finish this thought. [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't—

Sydnee: I'm difficult.

Raleigh: I could see the logical thing there.

Sydnee: You're challenging. [laughs]

Raleigh: I could see where you were going. I get it.

Taylor: There's nothing wrong with knowing how you like things.

Raleigh: I am—

Sydnee: "I just want it how I want it." That's what she says.

Taylor: I don't— I think you're projecting a little bit here, Syd.

Raleigh: In some scenarios.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I was gonna say, in some scenarios, I am like that. But I am also not in a place in my life where I have the luxury of thinking like that all the time. So, you know, I can't always have things the way I want 'em.

Sometimes I'm, you know, spendin' 24 hours a day doing things I don't wanna do, and not taking very good care of myself, and not eating or living the way I want to. 'Cause I'm in law school. So, I don't get to be that high maintenance all the time.

Sydnee: Yeah, I just think, like... Okay. You're— You always have seasonally appropriate decorations up in your apartment.

Taylor: There's nothing wrong with that.

Raleigh: Thank you!

Sydnee: No, there's nothing wrong with it.

Raleigh: That's not high maintenance, it just makes my space to live more cozy.

Sydnee: [chuckles] There's nothing wrong with it. I can see—

Raleigh: Sydnee, you have inflatables in your front yard!

Taylor: I think that there are other aspects to this movie—

Raleigh: You act like it—

Taylor: — that are less controversial that we could discuss. [laughs]

Raleigh: You have Christmas lights up on your house year-round that you have people come put up for you.

Sydnee: I don't know why—

Raleigh: That also get turned into— and also become Halloween lights! What do you mean "I have seasonally appropriate decorations?"!

Sydnee: I just— I am not— This is not me knocking decorating. I'm not talking about decorating. I just feel like you like things to be the way they should be.

Raleigh: In situations I can control.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That's all.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: That's it.

Raleigh: Alright.

Sydnee: There's nothing wrong with that.

Raleigh: Alright.

Taylor: I would say that— I mean I don't think like the whole like Sally is difficult thing, like I don't think that's actually— Like I think she's specific.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But I think she's a very lovable character in this movie. Probably more so than Harry, right? Like he's—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I agree.

Taylor: He's a little— He can be a little despicable. I do think he's still lovable, I think they're both great characters, but between the two, if you had to say like, "Who was the winner there? Who got the prize?" I think Harry got lucky to have Sally.

Raleigh: I agree. Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh yeah. No.

Raleigh: No, I agree with that.

Sydnee: Well I— Yeah.

Raleigh: I think that you were talking about like a modern equivalent of this story and I think that's where a little bit of it would have to change, is that the very stereotypical male aspects of Harry maybe, you know.

Sydnee: I think that it's tough because the way that Billy Crystal is playing him is so like... leading man romantic interest.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: He's not— I mean he is funny, but he doesn't come across as like the butt of the joke, you know?

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: He's not leaning into— Like I feel like a modern movie, the male character is much more self-deprecating and like okay with being like... too silly, too goofy, whatever.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I think this was an era where you still weren't seeing that. Like men weren't that. And so the— his Harry is still supposed to be attractive and cool and funny and charismatic.

And not— I mean yeah, he's kind of a mess after the divorce, like he accepts that, he admits that. But he's not supposed to be— When he says things like, "I spend hours thinking about death." [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And it's like [mutters] "Oh my god." Like we all know that guy like, "Okay, whatever."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like I think that would be played for such bigger laughs now than it would've— than it was back then.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: 'Cause to me that's like goofy, right? Like, "Okay." [chuckles]

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: "Very cool." [chuckles]

Taylor: Yeah, I mean I think that there's an earnestness to the way that both of these characters are written that has become, I don't know. I mean maybe because When Harry Met Sally is such a blueprint for like a kind of like off-beat rom-com.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That I almost feel like there's a sense that's here that leads us to "the sad guy and the manic pixie dream girl," right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like you kind of get like— Like, they are both very believable people. I feel like I've encountered many Harrys and Sallys in my life. I think you—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: You know these, you know, these people.

Sydnee: They're not caricatures.

Taylor: But there is a caricature version that became popular in later rom coms.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Where it's the sad, mopey guy that's way too serious, but has really good tastes. And then the— just the girl that's very neurotic and specific and like, you know, I mean I think that kind of like, "Oh, she's gonna change his life and free him."

That element's a new invention. But I do think that there's something here that like, "This was fine. We took this in a bad direction in further media."

Sydnee: No, I definitely think that's true. I think that we like distilled the character into these amalgams of the wildest things about them, and then— yes.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: And then you wind up— Well, I don't wanna knock— I could knock a bunch of movies right now. [laughs] I'm trying not to do that.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: 'Cause also like I like some of those movies.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But. [chuckles] But. [chuckles] We all loved Garden State for a moment, okay?

Taylor: We're all thinking of Garden State. [laughs]

Sydnee: We all— [laughs] We all really loved Garden State for five minutes! And then we went "What?" [laughs]

Taylor: I still love Garden State, I was listening to the soundtrack the other day. But.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I have never seen it.

Sydnee: Did it change your life? [chuckles]

Taylor: I thought we watched it. Did we— Have we not— Didn't we do an episode on it?

Sydnee: Have we not done Garden State?

Taylor: How have we not done Garden State?

Sydnee: Ohhh, we should.

Taylor: I thought we did.

Sydnee: That would be a very like appropriate, 'cause it was... I mean it really, it was on everybody's top five list for a minute, and then it was like, "Wait a second, do I really love that movie?"

Taylor: But—

Sydnee: "Is that still good?"

Taylor: You can't tell me—

Sydnee: I think you kind of grow out of it.

Taylor: — somebody in a pitch room wasn't like, "So it's like When Harry Met Sally, but for a— for like the millennial generation." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh. How many times do you think movies have been pitched as "So it's When Harry Met Sally, but...?"

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah. That's fair, that's fair.

Sydnee: I— Because I do think like one, what works is that you have a bunch of actors who are very talented.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Who are very naturally funny and charismatic and like you want to see them and you want to hear— Like they— The jokes, whether they're— Some of the jokes are really great and some of them aren't, they pull them off. It's all funny.

And at the end like I don't— I mean, maybe it's just me because I've seen it a million times, but I am always happy that they're together. I buy it. It's believable to me. Like they work. It's sweet. It's a little cheesy, but just in the sense that it's honest, not in a way that's like overwrought. I don't know.

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah.

Taylor: I think it also— I feel like it's a movie that features a very specific character of New York that I don't think is accurate, but I do think is lovely. [laughs]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Raleigh: I was gonna ask about that. [laughs] What your take on [chuckles] how New York is New York.

Taylor: Well, like—

Raleigh: In this movie.

Taylor: The scene that really struck me is when they're rolling out the carpet in what I think is Harry's apartment. And it's— it looks like you could fit 10...

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: New York City apartments in that space.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And like the area that they're traipsing around, I'm not sure if it's— It looks like the West Village. I would— It's gotta be around that. It's not Upper East Side, or Upper West, it's Lower Manhattan, but it's Manhattan.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: And it's very like that's just no-one that would be working a regular job would afford that— those spaces.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: When they're walking around the, what is it, the Sharper Image? And they're like lookin' at weird gadgets.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like I don't know.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: There's a lot of like that kind of— Like that 80s like excess New York that was still...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You could be excessive in the middle class, and that is not a thing that exists anymore.

Raleigh: Mm.

Taylor: So there's that kind of— Just also like how clean it is. It's clean.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: Like when he throws his— What is he— He's drinking like something. He throws it in a waste basket and the waste basket is like half-full.

Sydnee: His ice cream.

Taylor: His ice cream, that's it, yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which also I don't—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Why did he throw away his ice cream? But... It's like a nice, clean trash can. It's a very romantic New York that's pictured here.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I love that. She's not that but I loved— I love to see it presented that way.

Sydnee: Yeah. It— New York is a character in the story, for sure.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's definitely— yeah.

Taylor: Well it's—

Sydnee: Like a presence.

Taylor: Like they both— Oh, they're gonna go start their life in New York and go up in their different directions.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And like I feel like that the struggles that it is to exist here aren't elements in their characters, which is also just kind of maybe not reality, but you know, it's fun to think of it that way.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: What would the city be like if you could just comfortably exist here? I guess you could just fall in love and go to nice parties. That seems nice. [laughs]

Raleigh: It's like the Friends New York.

Taylor: It is! It's the same universe.

Sydnee: It is the Friends New York.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Raleigh: I was gonna say, as you were talking about it, I'm like, "Mm." Except Friends lasted 10 years, they kept coming up with all these details that they would, you know, be living in this giant apartment.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well it's that— And it's that thing like New York was— And I think probably in '89 it was still very much seen this way. It was a place where like you can go pursue your dreams, you can— Like they become more attractive, somehow. [chuckles] They get to New York and they—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They dress better. Sally's hair just becomes incredible.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like they look better, they meet cool friends that they like get to hang out with, who do cool things that are a little like edgy. Like when— Like the scene with Carrie Fisher when she finds out that one of the guys in her Rolodex is married. And so she just dog-ears the card and puts it right back in.

'Cause like... they're not off limits but we do wanna know. We'll keep track of who's married, but that doesn't mean we won't date him. It's a little edgy, like, "Ooo. That's what they do in New York, that's a little ooo."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's bad. I mean like, and like Sharper Image is like that, or the scene in the diner where like, "Oh, in New York, you can do that kinda thing. And people are like 'Oh, New York.'" [laughs] "She's pretending to have an orgasm at a table. Whatever. New York."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like I do feel like that was a, I don't know... That was New York.

Taylor: Yeah. Well and they're like— they're not— I mean I guess, what. Two of them are— Of the— like the core four, like there's two writers.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: One artist? Who does windows. Harry's a law-adjacent person?

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah?

Sydnee: What does he do?

Taylor: Right?

Raleigh: But he's not a lawyer, right?

Taylor: He knew that other attorney, I don't think it ever says what he does. [chuckles]

Sydnee: He talks about it when he's on his way to— Do they talk about it on their way to New York? Political consultant!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's it, okay.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's what it is. He's a political consultant.

Taylor: So I guess these are all jobs believably that would still be upper class in New York City today.

Sydnee: Yeah, you know what's really interesting? How little their jobs play into anything.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Like I feel like—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: — in modern things, like your job becomes so much more of the character and like who they are and what they do, that's such a bigger thing. And like... I would really— I had to think like, "What do Harry and Sally... do?"

The only time that jobs are really referenced are when the four of them are at the restaurant... and he— and she— Carrie Fisher starts quoting from the article that the other guy wrote.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And it's like, you know, the love connection. But...

Taylor: Well and maybe that's one of the— It's not, I guess, an unbelievable aspect. It's that they ha— the whole film focuses on their personal life, and then there's this idea of like, "How are you in New York and you have time to focus on your personal life?"

You've got time to call each other up and watch Casablanca together in bed and then help each other decorate Christmas trees and walk around the park? I mean I guess it's sort of like the Sex and the City illusion, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like they are always just at brunch, drinking cocktails. Like what do you all do? [chuckles]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm.

Taylor: But.

Raleigh: Like Friends.

Sydnee: Like Friends.

Raleigh: How are they always in that coffee shop?

Taylor: I don't know.

Raleigh: And always in that apartment? What are they doin'?

Sydnee: Which to be fair, like that was— I mean, we didn't know what Chandler did, we never knew what he did.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Nobody knew what he did.

Taylor: I don't know if this was just like a brief like period in New York where you would like make enough money that you could kind of just be here, and like also just like focus on life elements, like falling in love and—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: — and having friends. I don't know what that's like. That seems nice. [wheezes] It seems wrong, but it seems nice. [chuckles]

Sydnee: No, it's— It is a— It is a lovely little snippet of like if life could be that way, which you know, I— maybe it never was. Maybe it was— Maybe it's sort of a fairytale in that sense, you know?

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: Or it— You could make the case that maybe it has been that way, but only for a select few. You know, because I mean the— you could criticize the movie for the usual stuff we throw at movies for the time. Like it is... a very white New York that they live in. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then of course like, you know, I don't think— You can't boil men and women down to what they have done. But I don't know. That's the time period.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But I'm always, at the end when they end up together, I always— it always gets me. The scene at New Years.

Raleigh: Well, I like that it's just like, it's one of those movies that even though I'd never seen it before, it felt like the same feeling of like when you rewatch a movie that you really like, or like rewatch an old TV series.

Like you know what's gonna happen. Like that's why I like rewatching old shows is like there's no tension, there's no anxiety over anything bad happening. Like I know exactly how everything's gonna pan out.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I know Ross and Rachel are gonna end up together. I don't need to worry about it when it seems like they're not going to. Like you know Harry and Sally are gonna end up together, even if the whole movie is about them not being together, you know they're going to end up

together. So it's very comforting in that way where it's like, I don't know. You know it's gonna happen. You can just sit back and enjoy it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And it's— I still think it— I think it holds up to a certain degree.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Whatever like the talk about like, "Oh, men and women, this and that," I think if you distill it down to just the story of how people meet, and they kinda know each other, and then they eventually like fall in love, I think that's a tale as old as time.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I think that always holds up. 'Cause there's no high drama, right? Like it's not like that boom box out in the rain moment, whatever. Like one of them doesn't do something absolutely despicable to the other.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [coughs] They fight a few times, they apologize, they eventually work it out. I think that's a very natural storyline that these days gets heightened to the point that like it has to have high stakes. Like it doesn't, it's just two people.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Both fine.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and I mean I— Maybe it's, you know, you could pull off a movie where the stakes aren't that high, and where the— nothing is that extreme, really. I mean even at the end, he just comes to the party

where she's at. You know. He doesn't— [chuckles] He doesn't have to like drop in from the roof or anything.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: He just shows up at the party. They don't even get together before midnight. It happens after midnight.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So it's even like a little less, I don't know. It's— You know what I mean? Like it's all a little muted, but it works I think because it is so well-written and performed.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know, the story is not fantastical, the characters are relatable and warm and loving, and they're performed so well that... I mean it's really just a testament to that. If you can write and cast something that well, it doesn't have to be ridiculous.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yip.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Taylor: I do like that one of their first conversations is about— We talked about Casablanca a few weeks— or a few months ago.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And like that that's kind of a frame, almost in the same way that like Sleepless in Seattle has the frame of the... Oh gosh, what is it? The— I was looking up the... [sighs] The movie that they meet at the top of the Empire State Building. There's an old movie that's the background of that.

Sydnee: Oh, oh, oh, I know what you're talkin' about. Yeah.

Taylor: And I like that that, 'cause you know, talkin' about regular people in regular scenarios. Like Casablanca's a romantic story with these incredibly heightened, like high-stakes situations. And you have this, you know, kind of parallel of like the sort of grumpy man's man in Harry.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And the, you know, like I don't know, like stern like straight forward in Sa— It's a fun little setup to the movie.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That I just— I appreciate it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But.

Sydnee: No, I think it's still very sweet.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I don't know. And I will probably continue to watch it at least a couple times every year.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And for nothing else, like someday I just wanna look like Meg Ryan in that movie.

Raleigh: [chuckles]

Sydnee: [chuckles] I want her hair and I want her style. I wanna wear her big sweaters and her glasses on a chain, and have all that hair everywhere.

Taylor: You could just do that, Syd.

Raleigh: I was gonna say, you could do that.

Taylor: You have hair and glasses.

Sydnee: Not my hair.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: My hair would never do that.

Taylor: You just have to curl it.

Sydnee: I think the big sweaters—

Taylor: You just have to curl your hair. That's it, she just has curly hair.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: It's already thick enough.

Sydnee: So jealous.

Taylor: She does have very good se— Her— The décor in all of their apartments is audaciously 80s, especially hers.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But... [chuckles]

Sydnee: Which I don't— like I don't want, but I do like. Like I like to look at. I don't want it in my house necessarily, but I do like to look at it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, thank you all.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Thank you for watching When Harry Met Sally. Yeah, it's still in my top five.

Taylor: Yeah, you decided? [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah, it's still in there.

Raleigh: Took her the whole episode to get there, but we got there.

Taylor: Yeah. Okay.

Sydnee: It is, it is. I always think like—

Raleigh: Your answer to the first question. [chuckles]

Sydnee: It's cheesy, it's gonna fall out of there, but it's cheesy in the way that I'm cheesy, so I guess I just— I need to accept that.

Raleigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: Yeah. Alright. Tey, what's next?

Taylor: I wanna talk about something that we have talked about before, but... we talked about the Scott Pilgrim movie. Now there's a Scott Pilgrim anime.

Sydnee: Ooo, yeah.

Taylor: Animated series on Netflix. And I think it's a good rehashing of the content, so I thought we could talk about it.

Raleigh: Awesome.

Sydnee: Excellent.

Raleigh: Very excited.

Sydnee: I would love to. Alright, well we will do that next week. Thank you for watching When Harry Met Sally. It was— I don't know. I bought it on some sort of service a long time ago, so I already had it to watch it. I was just in my—

Raleigh: [while yawning] I also streamed it.

Sydnee: It was in my Apple TV.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I don't know. It's out there. Maybe on Amazon? Maybe? I don't know.

Raleigh: I got it on Prime, maybe.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: You can probably get a VHS of it, if you really want.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: It was very popular. [chuckles]

Raleigh: Where would you do that? [chuckles]

Sydnee: I bet it still exists somewh— I bet I could find it. VHS of When Harry Met Sally. [chuckles] And then I'd have to, of course, get a—

Raleigh: Something to play it on.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Alphabetize it.

Sydnee: Something to play it on. I know I don't have anything to watch VHS tapes on, but... But thank you listeners. [chuckles] You should go to maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows there. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to the Nouvellas for the use of our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

[theme music fades in]

Raleigh: I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering.

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

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: I think sometimes I do the white man's overbite when I'm dancing. I worry about that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: This thing, you know what I mean?

Taylor: As you do that. Yeah, you do that.

Sydnee: Mm, I know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: It seems to come very naturally to you.

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: [whispers] Yeah.

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Sequoia: If you're Black, you probably love you some Paramore, huh? Or what about the TV show Golden Girls? Ginger ale? Daytime television? Don't lie, I know you love at least one of 'em. I'm Sequoia Holmes, pop-culturist and host of Black People Love Paramore.

[rock music plays in the background]

Sequoia: Contrary to the title, it is not a podcast about the band Paramore. Each episode, I, along with a special guest host, dissect one pop culture topic that mainstream media doesn't necessarily associate with Black people, but we know we like. Tune in every other Thursday to the podcast that's dedicated to helping Black people feel more seen.

Speaker One: Black People Love Paramore is now on the Maximum Fun network. Check out the most recent episode featuring Shar Jossell today!

[ukulele chord]

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