

## Still Buffering 112: How to Malls

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[theme music plays]

**Raleigh:**

Hello and welcome to Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

I am Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

Well, hello sisters.

**Raleigh:**

Hello.

**Taylor:**

Hello.

**Sydnee:**

I have sad news that many of our listeners have already tweeted at us.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Many.

**Sydnee:**

Many many many.

**Raleigh:**

Many many of our listeners. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Um... but thank you, I don't want to discourage...

**Raleigh:**

No no...

**Sydnee:**

We need you. Keep us up to date.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You never know.

**Raleigh:**

It was just very comical at one point. I was like, people really care about us.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

They care about our interests.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Uh... In case you haven't heard, and you haven't tweeted at us about it, Claire's is closing.

**Raleigh:**

Dun dun dunnn.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, like all the Claire's, right?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like this is what we predicted about six months ago when we said, "They're giving away so much stuff, I don't know how they're still in business."

**Sydnee:**

I feel bad about that.

**Raleigh:**

I know. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I feel like we brought this upon them. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I hope we didn't cause it somehow. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I... I would've—

**Raleigh:**

We brought attention to their loss in stock.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] I would have guessed that we helped 'em out. Like, you know, we've I think sent a lot of people there... for the...

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Animal and food shaped earrings and scrunchie sets. Like...

**Raleigh:**

We spent a lot of money there.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] We did. Like, aw man, that's our number one live bit. What are we gonna do now?

**Sydnee:**

I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Charlie was devastated, because she has only recently been old enough to understand...

**Raleigh:**

Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

Claire's, and what is happening in those small, small rooms that are Claire's.

**Taylor:**

And as soon as she walks in, she just goes, "Aaaaahhhh!"

**Sydnee:**

Ahhh, there's so much color, there's so many small things! I wanna hold everything and touch it and throw it and buy it! Aaaahhhh!

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] It's all pink!

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] And why is everything sparkly?!

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] And it's all on her level, too. Like the stuff on Claire's spans the... the... ceiling to uh... floor.

**Sydnee:**

If she decides when she's older she wants to get her ears pierced, where am I gonna take her now?

**Raleigh:**

The kiosk maybe that's always like, across from Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

Do they do that too?

**Taylor:**

The Piercing Pagoda, I believe, was what it was called at our mall.

**Raleigh:**

Ooh, you're right.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, see I forgot about that.

**Raleigh:**

And they set up shop right across from Claire's. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Competition. You can't blame the Piercing Pagoda for this.

**Sydnee:**

But see, if you sit at the Piercing Pagoda, you're just at a pagoda in the middle of the mall. Whereas if you get your ears pierced in Claire's, they do it in the window...

**Raleigh:**

So everyone can watch you...

**Sydnee:**

In the front of the store. So it's like your eyes are drawn to the displays and then in the center of the displays, it's you getting your ears pierced.

**Taylor:**

Holding a small bear.

**Raleigh:**

Yep, they always have small bear there to hold.

**Sydnee:**

Really?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I don't think I...

**Taylor:**

I have not gotten my ears pierced at Claire's but every time you walk by that chair, there's always a small bear sitting in it and I assume it's for you to hold.

**Sydnee:**

I thought I did, but now I don't remember where I got my ears pierced. I don't know.

**Taylor:**

You took business from Claire's, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:**

I may have gotten... actually, I think I got my second set of holes at Claire's.

**Raleigh:**

The first set was done at the Piercing Pagoda. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I don't know where the first set was done but I think I got my second set at Claire's and then I got my cartilage pierced at like a tattoo shop.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

So, I guess that's where also you could go. Is all the piercing and tattoo places.

**Raleigh:**

Like the places for piercing.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That exist.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. That is what I have done in more modern piercings. [laughs] I don't seek out a Claire's in New York City to get my ears pierced.

**Taylor:**  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:**  
Is there a Claire's in New York City?

**Taylor:**  
Does Claire's do septum rings? Like, does anyone know? [laughs]

**Raleigh:**  
Are the Claire's any bigger in New York City? All the shopping stores are always bigger in New York. Like they have two floors. Is Claire's bigger...

**Sydnee:**  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:**  
Or is it still 10 square feet?

**Taylor:**  
You know, there are Claire's in New York...

**Sydnee:**  
It's 20.

**Taylor:**  
It's not like... I've never seen one in Manhattan. I'm sure there is one. But I've definitely seen one up in Queens like in one of my friends' neighborhoods and it is pretty big. I'd say it's bigger than the one that we have.

**Sydnee:**  
Wow.

**Taylor:**  
So, yeah

**Sydnee:**  
It must be a free standing Claire's.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

A free... what?

**Taylor:**

Yeah, I mean it's like in kind of a strip mall situation like all of stores are side by side, but yeah, it's its own entity, that Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

It's hard to imagine some stores, specifically Claire's, but there are other stores, like outside the context of a mall.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm. I could never imagine a free standing Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I can't conceptualize it.

**Sydnee:**

Claire's seems like a natural extension of the mall ecosystem.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And the idea that a Claire's would continue outside, that's just very weird.

**Taylor:**

To me, that's the equivalent of that random store in the mall that does the airbrushed shirts.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm...

**Taylor:**

Like that existing in its own realm.



**Sydnee:**

See I was thinking it's sort of like seeing just a functional kidney outside of a human body.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] What?

**Sydnee:**

What's that doing out there?

**Raleigh:**

Walking around on its own.

**Sydnee:**

Like you're supposed to be... or like that ear on the back of a mouse.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Like, what's that even doing there.

**Raleigh:**

Not hearing anything.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] yeah, that seems very odd. But, Claire's is closing. They... um... I'm imagining are having amazing sales.

**Taylor:**

I bet you they're having amazing sales. Just come in and take anything you want. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Take what... we will pay you to take our merchandise. What is the next step up for Claire's in terms of sales?

**Raleigh:**

I don't know. If I were Claire's, I'd be real salty about all of this. I'd be like, you know what, no more sales. No sales until the day we close. [laughs] Everything is full price.

**Sydnee:**

Everything.

**Raleigh:**

See what you had. What you didn't realize you had. Look what we were doing for you all this time. One pair of earrings cost what one pair of earrings cost now. Boom, what are you going to do?

**Taylor:**

Our cards no longer have 50 pairs of earrings on them. It's one pair of earrings per card.

**Sydnee:**

That's what you guys want. There, now you can have it.

**Sydnee:**

And what I don't think people who have not supported Claire's in the past are considering is where are you going to go for your holiday themed earrings that you buy for your sisters and mom every year?

**Raleigh:**

[whispers] Walmart.

**Sydnee:**

I mean... [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

But that's... I mean that was the purpose of Claire's. I would be there holiday shopping and then go, oh, I should get some holiday themed earrings for me and Raleigh and Taylor and Mom and then I would buy them. Or you would or you would.

**Raleigh:**

Maybe it's good that tradition has passed before Charlie and Cooper could be a part of it.

**Sydnee:**

Well, they would get holiday themed earrings.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, but like...

**Sydnee:**

And they would all be different, so like themed, but not the same, so like, you get some snowflakes, you get some cold looking penguins, you get some bells, you know.

**Taylor:**

The problem... and maybe this is why stores like Claire's are on the way out for us, uh, is like, so you get the pair of holiday earrings, right, and you're gonna maybe wear that, no offense, but real talk Syd, at the holiday dinner that you're at with that person. I'm gonna wear 'em when I see you and I'm home for Christmas. And then I'm gonna bring 'em back with me. They're gonna sit in my jewelry box until the next Christmas, but then you get me another pair. So now I have two. I only ever need one of those, and so then I guess I guess they're out the first one.

**Raleigh:**

Well.

**Taylor:**

Like, I think that there's a lot more of that stuff that you just kind of assume because it's so cheap. I just throw it away. It's like... [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And so often, they fall apart. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

They do break a lot, too. Like, I think the generation of young shoppers today are maybe seeking out things that are a bit more specific and more unique. And probably, like, more expensive but also probably don't like you know six out of 12 pairs on a card, definitely gonna break.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Probably already broken when you bought 'em.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Or like one of each so then you just have to wear them.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Like haven't you all made that... kind of reasoned that out like you find the one card of earrings that has like the... a pair or two that you really like on it and then there's a pair or two that's broken. You're like, I'm just... I don't care, I'm gonna buy it with the broken ones on there, because...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

I'm really only buying it for this one pair and it... that's still only five dollars.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] If that. Like, five dollars will buy you eight of those cards.

**Taylor:**

And I get three of these for free, so...

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. No, that's fair. So, I guess if you need to do some Claire's shopping, I would get there quick.

**Taylor:**

You also can shop at Claire's online.

**Raleigh:**

Is it going to stay open online or is that going to go away, too?

**Taylor:**

I don't know.

**Sydnee:**

It's not the same.

**Taylor:**

You're right, it's better. You don't have to go to Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. I don't know about Claire's. I know Toys 'R' Us is also closing and that will be available online.

**Taylor:**

That is very sad.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. You can still... you can still go to...

**Raleigh:**

That's crazy.

**Sydnee:**

You can buy stuff from Toys 'R' Us, they just... there is no brick-and-mortar Toys 'R' Us soon.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

So, this is all leading up to... to... perhaps the end of I'd say a cultural institution for us growing up, Syd. Correct?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, I think so. If you're talking about the mall.

**Taylor:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, I... that's what I feel like is happening, is I mean, this has been a gradual change for a long time. This isn't new, but seeing like, stores like Claire's and Toys 'R' Us close. Which our Toys 'R' Us is not in the mall but it is mall adjacent.

**Taylor:**

It is very mall adjacent.

**Sydnee:**

It is within the mall.

**Raleigh:**

The plaza of things.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. The mall plaza.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And Charlie, by the way, I don't know what she was more devastated by. The news that Claire's or Toys 'R' Us are closing.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Dad accidentally broke the news to her that Toys 'R' Us was closing 'cause she was trying to tell us that Claire's was closing, but she couldn't remember the name. She was talking about the store with toys is closing and Pop was like, Oh, you mean Toys 'R' Us. And she was like, what?

**Taylor:**

Oh no, Pop, how could you?

**Sydnee:**

She had a plan.

**Raleigh:**

It's very good.

**Sydnee:**

It was the same plan for both stores so if you want to know her plan for saving Claire's, it's the same as her plan for saving Toys 'R' Us.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Just a different store. She said we would get their costumes.

**Raleigh:**

That the people who work there wear.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. The costumes the people who work there wear. So, uniforms.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And sneak in.

**Raleigh:**

In the afternoon.

**Sydnee:**

In the afternoon. And then rip off our costumes.

**Raleigh:**

That's very important. Rip them off.

**Sydnee:**

Rip them off and then tell them not to close.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, her exact words were, "Please don't close Claire's. We love the jewelry you have here."

**Taylor:**

[laughs] This is a very interesting plan. And one I don't understand.

**Sydnee:**

When she explained this to me for Toys 'R' Us, it was identical except she said, "Please don't close Toys 'R' Us. We love all your toys" and then she said we would buy the toys. And I said, "Do you mean we would take them?"

'Cause we're sneaking in and tearing off costumes. Are you trying to steal the toys?" No no no no. We'll just buy them after that scene.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

So I don't know how that would keep Toys 'R' Us or Claire's open, but that's her plan.

**Raleigh:**

You think before Claire's closes we can take Charlie in wearing a Claire's name badge and like go in there and let her rip it off. Like, wait, stop.

**Sydnee:**

Aww, that'd be cute and sad.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] sad.

**Taylor:**

And sad. The Claire's employees would just be like, what?

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

We're going to have to set up our own Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

Um.

**Raleigh:**

Create a Claire's.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I think we could afford to buy most of the merchandise right now.

**Raleigh:**

Just buy Claire's.

**Sydnee:**



Here's 20 bucks. Okay, here's Claire's.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Just start stockpiling now. We're facing the Clairemageddon.

**Sydnee:**

There are other stores that... and I mean Toys 'R' Us isn't necessarily like this. But Claire's like I said, I feel like it's part of the mall and it's weird to think about it outside of the mall. There are other stores at the mall I feel like are like that. Like, I mean I'm sure they exist outside but in my mind, like, the idea of a Spencer's gifts.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Anywhere but the mall is really weird.

**Raleigh:**

Like as a destination that you would go to. Like, I need some wacky tube socks and some kind of weird pot memorabilia. Gotta get in the car and go to Spencer's. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I want to go look at adult products and not actually buy them or purchase them, in a harmless setting where my parents won't know about it.

**Raleigh:**

Yep, Spencer's. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I need a velvet blacklight poster. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I read this Mental Floss article about the history of Spencer's and how it used to be... it was like this post—war, people have money and want to buy frivolous things, so Spencer's was a catalog you could order from and it had like, weird, not like luxury, like, stuff you don't need... novelty, that's the word I'm looking for.

**Raleigh:**

All right.

**Sydnee:**

Novelty items. [laughs] And it became, as malls became a thing, it seemed like a natural fit after a while, like, instead of a catalog you order from, like a novelty store you could browse, so they started putting them in malls and then like the adult section grew out of like, hey, I bet there are a lot of grown-ups who want to go look at adult toys but are afraid to go into those stores or don't want the stigma of going into one of the actual stores so let's just hide it in the back corner of Spencer's.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Um, but yeah, it was a very interesting history, and you know those Halloween stores that pop up around Halloween time?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Oh yeah. Spirit Halloween.

**Sydnee:**

Owned by the Spencer's family of products.

**Taylor:**

Wow.

**Raleigh:**

Oh really?

**Sydnee:**

Makes sense.

**Taylor:**

Okay, so if Spencer's ever goes under, they've got a back up there.

**Sydnee:**

And I guess it's still doing okay.

**Raleigh:**

All I've ever gotten from Spencer's is a Toon Squad jersey. It's a pretty good gift. It's all they had.

**Sydnee:**

I have gone there for... they have such a huge collection of like, weird lighting, we have bought weird lighting there for various theater things.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

'Cause they have all these neon, like, laser light kind of things and blacklights and stuff, so like, I have bought that kind of stuff there.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Um, as an adult, but since I was a teenager, I don't remember going into Spencer's to like, browse.

**Raleigh:**

Oh, I never venture back to the back part of Spencer's, but I was looking for a Toon Squad jersey and looked by and very quickly saw it and thought, hmm, I will stop by and very briefly enter and exit.

**Sydnee:**

But like, teens still do that right?

**Raleigh:**

I have never.

**Taylor:**

No. [laughs] I have never.

**Sydnee:**

Tey, that was a thing back in our day, right? Like, I was not the only teen who with my friends who would wander into a Spencer's and then wander towards the back and go, Oh no, oh my gosh.

**Taylor:**

Well, I'm sure you weren't the only one but you maybe talking to the wrong teen to ask about that because I think my legit response was, oh no, oh God.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

I would never be like, oops, teehee, I'm seeing something I shouldn't. I'd be like, I'm going to gouge out my own eyes. None of this makes sense to me and I don't want it to.

**Sydnee:**

But I learned so much from Spencer's gifts.

**Taylor:**

What did you learn from that? What the male part of the anatomy would look like if it were a sippy straw? That is not necessary. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

You are a doctor of science.

**Taylor:**

She's so good at anatomy. She spent too much time in the back corner of the Spencer's gifts.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't mean I learned actual anatomy from Spencer's, but it was more like a sociology lesson, you know.

**Raleigh:**

Like, men can be...

**Sydnee:**

Things people do.

**Raleigh:**

Are they, though?

**Sydnee:**

Somebody.

**Raleigh:**

I am uncomfortable. What's another store in the mall?

**Sydnee:**

We're not going to kink shame anybody. Whatever you're into is totally fine.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I'm just saying it's how I learned the things people are into that maybe I, myself, wasn't aware of.

**Taylor:**

I get that, but I don't think that Spencer's had an extensive collection of actual, like, sex toys. It was really more like cards with pictures on them and like, like, goofy bachelorette stuff, like I don't really think it was like, treated anybody's kink. Unless your kink is like, boob shaped mints, which it can be.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

And that's totally cool. [laughs] I don't know if there's a big like circle for that in the alternative scene.

**Sydnee:**

They have like, very light, like bondage things, like furry handcuffs and things like that.

**Taylor:**

Sure.

**Sydnee:**

And they have, like those sex dice, you know.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, but those, all right all right...

**Sydnee:**

Like you roll them and maybe you just lick somebody's elbow, but you know.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Okay, anyways.

**Sydnee:**

So, Spencer's is one of those stores that I think of as like a classic mall store that I guess maybe you teens are spending as much time in.

**Raleigh:**

Do you think that Claire's is named after someone who owned it named Claire, much as Spencer's was named after someone who owned it named Spencer?

**Sydnee:**

I would have to assume.

**Raleigh:**

Considering the origin of mall names, like Macy's, 'cause it belonged to Macy.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

J.C. Penney's 'cause it belonged to the J.C. Penney.

**Sydnee:**

And like Stone and Thomas I'm sure was like that and it became something, something else that closed.

**Taylor:**

I do not think that Hot Topic was a namesake. I am not sure but I would guess not.

**Raleigh:**

It belonged to the H. Topic.

**Sydnee:**

I am William J. Hot Topic. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Coolest kid ever.

**Sydnee:**

Heir to the Hot Topic fortune.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Aw, man.

**Sydnee:**

Um, now Hot Topic was very cool when it was first introduced, back in our teenage years. It was like that's where you got the band t-shirts.

**Raleigh:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

That you'd been craving, that you didn't know existed.

**Raleigh:**

That's where you got your Johnny, the Homicidal Maniac comics.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Um, because the comic bookstores were still too aggro against girls going in there, but for some reason the Hot Topic employees didn't seem to mind.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, it was very, and like, all of the kind of goth scene. Everything you needed for that was at Hot Topic. And there were often like, little merchandise from animes or things that were not being represented in a lot of other stores in the mall, that you couldn't easily get a hold of and this was before the internet provided everything for you all the time.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

There were lots of things like that that you could find at Hot Topic.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

As... and I think that was... and it wasn't immediately that they got into sort of like, the throwback stuff. You know how you go there now and it's a bunch of cartoon characters from the '90's or '80's or like.

**Raleigh:**

I was thinking now, I don't want to say like, the nerdy scene, because like, I don't know... I don't know... but it's almost like the shows that "nerds", does that make sense? Like I myself, I would call myself a nerd.

**Sydnee:**

Like Dr. Who...

**Raleigh:**

Like Dr. Who and like um... um... Sherlock.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Shows like that that aren't necessarily like, I don't know. I feel like Hot Topic used to be, like you said, like, gothic stuff and it's not necessarily all that anymore.

**Sydnee:**

It did. It did used to be more that scene and it has I think changed.

**Raleigh:**

Like, I could go in there and get like, Dr. Who merchandise or Harry Potter or even like, Riverdale. Like the very like, I guess a better word would be like the shows with a very large like, cult—like following almost.

**Sydnee:**

I gotta tell you, that is surreal to me as somebody who grew up reading Archie comics and I was fairly alone in that. There were not a lot of people my age in the '90's reading Archie's, at least not that I knew. But to see Hot Topic have a Riverdale.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.



**Sydnee:**

Like sweater or something there.

**Rileigh:**

You can get a Jughead Jones like leather jacket there. Like a hat or like a Riverdale Vixens...

**Sydnee:**

If you had told teenage Sydnee that in the '90's that someday you're going to walk up to Hot Topic and they're going to have Archie products...

**Rileigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That would have blown my mind.

**Rileigh:**

Well, she also would have been disappointed because they are not Archie products per se.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, they're not.

**Taylor:**

They just came out with a whole line, it's super cute, of like, its Sailor Moon based fashions but they're not like, it's not like, cosplay pieces or just like t-shirts. It's like actually like, cute skirts and like, you know, like, Letterman jackets and stuff like that that are really like, well made, and like fashionable.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:**

I like that.

**Sydnee:**

At Hot Topic?

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I guess they've done a really good job of just keeping on point with like, who's shopping at their stores because I don't think there was ever point where... I mean, I know personally that all of my like, goth and punk identified friends are also you know, it's not like that's their only thing. It's like they all have other interests that are usually in the "nerdy" scene so I think that it makes sense...

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

That it's like they're still kind of supplying the same fashion sense, but then they're also... I think they will continue to keep alive because they are distinctly aware of who's walking into their stores and what else they could sell them. You're here for the giant combat boots but you'll stick around for the Invader Zim merchandise or the, you know...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah

**Taylor:**

Throw back Marvel stuff.

**Raleigh:**

They also have cosplay stuff, right? Am I wrong in saying that?

**Taylor:**

They do.

**Raleigh:**

They do have some?

**Taylor:**

Yeah. They have a lot actually.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Randomly.

**Raleigh:**

I was going to say, they're closing Claire's and like I'll walk by and there's random t-shirts or like merchandise for TV shows or just like actually like, clothes that are Hot Topic brand that I like. But they also have like cosplay stuff, so you know, they've got a wide range.

**Sydnee:**

And they'll have things like, it's funny 'cause Charlie likes it in there for a very short period of time. They have all of the little what she calls slime boxes or slime bags. They're blind boxes or blind bags. But they have all those so she likes to look at those and then like we were in there one day and they had a t-shirt displayed for the Magic Schoolbus. It was just a t-shirt with Ms. Frizzle on it.

**Raleigh:**

Oh nice.

**Sydnee:**

And she loved it. Now, obviously it doesn't come in children's sizes so we had to explain, like, honey, I'm not gonna get you this.

**Raleigh:**

I wish I had a Hot Topic t-shirt.

**Sydnee:**

But she was very excited about it. And they had a whole Alice in Wonderland display one day and she was thrilled about that. Um, so it's weird because it's kind of a... there's stuff in there that little kids are like, hey...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I want to talk about more stores that are mall institutions and the mall in general and all that it is and was and I think no longer will be.

**Raleigh:**

Will be... [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I know that was sad, but before we do that, symbolism might be.

**Raleigh:**

Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:**

We've got a sponsor to tell you about this week on the group message. What a... let me tell you about that. [laughs] Sorry, almost lost my notes there. I'm back. I'm with us.

**Taylor:**

I think Cooper's telling us about it.

**Raleigh:**

Cooper, are you telling us about Squarespace, our sponsor for this week?  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's right. Squarespace is our sponsor. So my five-week-old doesn't need to make a website, but maybe you do.

**Raleigh:**

Maybe you do.

**Sydnee:**

Because assuming you're listening, you're probably not five weeks old. And that could be difficult because you wouldn't know where to start, especially if you're me. I would have no idea where to start.

**Raleigh:**

Or if you are five weeks old.

**Sydnee:**

That's true.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's true. I bet she doesn't know how to make a website.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

But a lot of people don't and Squarespace has got your back. You can create a beautiful website to do all kinds of different things. Whatever your problem is, if you need to turn a cool idea into a website, if you need to promote some sort of business, if you need to announce an event, whatever you need to do and you need a website to do it, Squarespace can help you out. They do that by giving you beautiful mobile optimized templates. They have powerful e-commerce functionality so you can sell things if you need to. It's a new way to buy domains. You've got over 200 extensions and a built-in search engine optimization and analytics.

So everything you need, if you're clueless like I would be, or like my five week old daughter would be. [laughs] If you have the web savvy of a five-week-old, Squarespace can help you out. And if you want to check out Squarespace, how can our listeners do that?

**Raleigh:**

Uh.

**Sydnee:**

Either sister, go.

**Raleigh:**

Uh, uh, Teylor.

**Teylor:**

Okay, sure. What you can do is head to Squarespace.com for a free trial and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code, Buffering, to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or a domain. That's Squarespace.com, enter code, Buffering.

**Raleigh:**

Do it.

**Sydnee:**

So, go check that out.

**Teylor:**

Check that out.

**Sydnee:**

Now. And you'll be better off at web design than my five-week-old.

**Taylor:**

And significantly a lot of the population.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, that's true. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I just wanted to let you all know I had to browse my email for that ad and I just got an email from Hot Topic and they have a new collection about Ponyo.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

Oh. I love Ponyo.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I'm glad that's what it was about and not that they were closing.

**Taylor:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

I thought that you were about to just destroy us there.

**Taylor:**

By the way, remember how we were all agreeing that this is still pretty cool?  
Ha-ha...

**Sydnee:**

They're closing.

**Taylor:**

They're closing.

**Sydnee:**

No, I will not... there was a time when, like, I thought I was too cool for Hot Topic, but I won't throw shade at Hot Topic now because I often will like, as I'm walking past, slow down and just kind of look and go, well that's kind of...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I'm too old for that but I wish I wasn't. That's usually what my reaction is.

**Taylor:**

I mean I still wear... like, I have a really good Sailor Moon t-shirt that I got from Hot Topic and I'm not ashamed of that, but I remember in high school, there was like, you know, like, it was kind of... I was never friends with the cool goth kids and there were, there were the cool goth kids and they would, you know, insult you and call you mall goth, if they like... you got a t-shirt that I guess looked too new and had a band on it or something, like.

**Taylor:**

And I mean mall goth was a whole other thing, but it was also kind of an insulting thing, like, you know, you're not like, real. You're not up to our level, like. [laughs] You probably got all that at Hot Topic. And I'm like, dude, it's Huntington, West Virginia, where did you get your stuff?

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

There's the one shop.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and to be fair, it is still allowing teens to do that because Raleigh, I see you and your friends wearing band t-shirts that I know you don't listen to.

**Raleigh:**

They are not from Hot Topic, though.

**Sydnee:**

Well where are you getting them?

**Raleigh:**

Forever 21.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I don't know if that's better or worse.

**Taylor:**

You can buy whatever you want to wear from wherever you want to buy it at and no one should judge you for it, however, it does hurt my soul a little when you wear that darn Ramones shirt and I did everything I could to indoctrinate you into the Ramones and you're like, no, their music is simple and I don't like them. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I didn't say that.

**Taylor:**

That's basically exactly what... I showed you Rock and Roll High School when you were like 14 and you were like, nope, don't like it. They're weird. Their music all sounds the same. Which isn't wrong, actually, that's dead on, but... [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Well, yeah.

**Taylor:**

It sounds good, though.

**Sydnee:**

It all sounds good. It's just very similar chords in ever song.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, they only knew the, like, the one.

**Sydnee:**

Um, it's okay, Raleigh. I used to wear a Ramones t-shirt because my boyfriend had a Ramones t-shirt.

**Raleigh:**

Thanks, Syd.

**Sydnee:**



Back in high school, so, you know. I mean I heard like some songs but that, yeah...

**Taylor:**

That wasn't the reason.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, it was because my boyfriend had a Ramones t-shirt. Um, so other than those stores, one that was very popular back in our day that Tey, I don't know that you'll own up to, but you even got really into, was Limited Too.

**Taylor:**

Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Not the Limited, because that was for grownup girls.

**Taylor:**

No, yeah. By the time I was old enough for the Limited, I was no longer interested in the Limited, but...

**Sydnee:**

The Limited Too was for us.

**Taylor:**

The Limited Too that then became the Justice.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, which is even younger now.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, Limited Too was around when I was into Limited Too. As I was leaving Limited Too, it became Justice.

**Sydnee:**

And that's like elementary school, even.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

But, Tey, there was a moment where you were way into Limited Too.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That was very cool. It was very popular. It was very trendy.

**Taylor:**

Some people... they... they... they spend their whole lives trying to fit in. I gave up in about the fifth grade. [laughs] That was dead on for Limited Too.

**Sydnee:**

I got to model some clothes from Limited Too in a mall fashion show.

**Raleigh:**

Is that what that great picture is from with you wearing like a Looney Tunes baseball cap?

**Taylor:**

Oh, I remember that.

**Sydnee:**

No, now that was when I was in a mall fashion show... I was in two.

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

I was in a mall fashion show, modeling clothes from Sears. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's right. That was from the Sears Looney Tune collection.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, I feel like you wore a white and black striped bodysuit with a Looney Tunes logo and characters on it and some incredibly high, gigantic red shorts.

**Sydnee:**

So, you, okay...

**Taylor:**

Is that right?

**Sydnee:**

Those are two different fashion shows. You're right in that...

**Taylor:**

Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:**

I did wear that bodysuit and that was the Limited Too stuff I got to wear.

**Taylor:**

Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:**

But that was nautical themed, that was not Looney Tune themed.

**Taylor:**

Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:**

I had a whole nautical look going on when I wore that outfit. The Looney Tunes outfit, I wore those very high waisted red shorts and a white... a giant white baggy t-shirt. Like it was real...

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

So that you could tie it up on one side.

**Raleigh:**

Okay, all right, yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And it had like, Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck on it.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm, it did.

**Sydnee:**

Wearing like...

**Raleigh:**

This tweet came up by Justin. This tweet by Justin came up on my Timehop like, yesterday.

**Sydnee:**

Did he tweet out that picture?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Because everyone said it looked just like me.

**Sydnee:**

Cause they were supposed to be in like, cool clothes too. They were in like, jerseys or something and I had on a ball cap with the Tasmanian Devil on it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, you did.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I looked so good. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I don't know. I feel like a lot of those pieces now would fetch a lot of money in Williamsburg. [laughs] I think you could rock all of those looks right now and everybody would think you were amazing.

**Raleigh:**

My favorite is that the picture if I can find it looks like it's a candid someone took of you, not when you were like modeling in the fashion show. But you definitely have your jacket slung over your shoulder and you have a very serious, sassy look on your face.

**Sydnee:**

There was one where they told us we could buy the clothes at the end and then one where they actually let us keep the clothes. I think I may have kept... I think the bodysuit that I got from Limited Too may have been like, you can keep this.

**Taylor:**

No, you did keep that. You know, 'cause now I remember, that was the bodysuit I was wearing when I broke my arm. I was like, wait a second, I have bad memories associated with that striped nautical bodysuit. That was it.

**Sydnee:**

Aw, I'm sorry, Tey.

**Taylor:**

No, it's okay. It's better now. Um, but... [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I found it.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, God.

**Raleigh:**

The picture. [laughs] I love it.

**Taylor:**

You'll have to retweet it out for everybody.

**Taylor:**

No, but the Limited Too was a magical place. Everything was shiny and smelled good. It was body glitter heavy. Like, that was when that was super big.

**Sydnee:**

Yep.

**Taylor:**

Even like the perfume sprays, they all had a glitter element to them.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Like, you'd just come out of that store just a waft of glitter around you.

**Sydnee:**

And it's nice because see, when you did your shopping in stores and not online, you would... Like, I had this sense that if I went into a Limited Too, even though I didn't feel like I had much fashion sense, I don't to this day, uh, I like gray things that are comfortable. That's my...

**Raleigh:**

Gray things that are comfortable?

**Sydnee:**

Gray things that are comfortable.

**Raleigh:**

That's a good brand.

**Taylor:**

That's fashion sense.

**Sydnee:**

That's my fashion sense.

**Taylor:**

It's sensible.

**Sydnee:**

It is.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And when I would walk into a Limited Too, I would feel like, okay, whatever I buy here is fine. Like, this store has been given the seal of approval so I don't have to worry about, is this okay? Like, does this look good or not? Because it's in this store, so it must be fine.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, um, I mean, when I was there, the best part about it was, I was not very good at putting together outfits. I was shopping there around like, elementary school, maybe like, first year of middle school. Like, entering my teen years, into the Limited Too/Justice and they always put the outfits together for you.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

They always had them laid out like, this shirt matches this skirt exactly with this cool sparkly scarf and knee socks and sparkly jelly shoes. Also this hat.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm. This is a wild look you're describing.

**Taylor:**

I have a picture of me... maybe not jelly shoes, but they were definitely plaid wedges, like kid wedges.

**Sydnee:**

Kid wedges? Oh, okay.

**Taylor:**

Kid wedges and...

**Sydnee:**

I didn't know that was a thing. Kid wedges.

**Taylor:**

Knee high purple socks with stripes and um, a shirt that was pink with a cat on it and a white beret.

**Raleigh:**

Wow, that is a look.

**Taylor:**

It was a look. And I had the matching earrings, of course, that I got from Claire's. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I remember... I think the one particular seasonal style that I remember at the Limited Too, and Syd, I know you had some of these, too, where you had the like, it was like a henley flannel combo.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

But they were in very girly colors. Or quote, girly colors, uh, so you could get like your... your like, pink henley with your pink influence flannel and your lavender henley with your lavender influence flannel.

**Sydnee:**

Yep.

**Taylor:**

And I think like, there was a back-to-school shopping where we both probably just got like, like, seven henleys and seven matching flannels. It's like this is...

**Sydnee:**

Absolutely.

**Taylor:**

This is your uniform for the year. There were probably scrunchies that also matched.

**Sydnee:**

And I think socks with hiking boots.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**



Like, the socks all matched the henleys and then you wore them with your hiking boots. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That was the era.

**Taylor:**

I feel like Limited Too became very different. Because when I was shopping there, everything was kind of like, where people would talk about wearing the matching Aeropostale like, shirt and pants, at least when I was younger that's what everyone was doing. Um, and Limited Too was very like, this matching sequinned animal shirt, like, these matching sequinned animal socks, and this skirt that is ruffly zebra print. Like, it was all very like, like, what you said, like "girly." Like, everything was pink and neon and had sequins on it and the entire store smelled like bubblegum and there was glitter everywhere.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and it evolved to Justice.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, and Justice is that.

**Sydnee:**

Which is that? Like the whole store is like that.

**Taylor:**

Justice is Claire's for clothes.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Basically.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, there are clothes everywhere. Tons of them.

**Taylor:**

And also, like, poop emoji pillows and webkins.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Like, that's like their thing.

**Sydnee:**

That... and you mentioned, I think another store we have to mention that you talked about the lotions and body sprays.

**Taylor:**

Bath and Body Works.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, which is a classic mall store that I can't go in anymore because I'm an old woman with allergies.

**Taylor:**

Oh no.

**Sydnee:**

And every time I get close to the store, I start sneezing instantly. Um, but that was... that was part of like, what you do at the mall, you go there...

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And you see if they have any new scents.

**Taylor:**

And you smell the new scents.

**Sydnee:**

You gotta smell the new scents.

**Taylor:**

And you go back to your old favorite, and you go, this is my scent.

**Sydnee:**

This is mine. I'm a Moonlit Path girl.

**Taylor:**

I'm a Sweet Pea.

**Sydnee:**

That was, Freesia, wasn't that yours for a while, Tey?

**Taylor:**

No... uh, I actually... I was Plumeria.

**Sydnee:**

Oh Plumeria.

**Taylor:**

For a long time. We discussed that. That came up at one of our live shows and I did not actually know what a Plumeria is, one of our listeners informed me that it is a flower. So, now I know that.

**Sydnee:**

That's right.

**Taylor:**

I thought it was just like, plum-eria. The plum area. My favorite area. The plum area.

**Sydnee:**

But, alas, that is no longer an option for me.

**Raleigh:**

I always go there for candles. They always have good deals on candles.

**Taylor:**

I just, I don't understand, the price of candles in the market as it is now. Like, I'll be at a... like, I don't know, like a Bath and Body or like, looking online at like, a website. Like, oh, that's a nice smelling candle, that looks great. Why is it \$20? A candle is an ephemeral thing. You literally light it on fire and let it waste away. [laughs] Like, it's the most ephemeral object you can find. Why would you spend so much money on it?

**Sydnee:**

Raleigh will pay that much.

**Raleigh:**

I will.

**Sydnee:**

So, they will continue to charge it.

**Raleigh:**

But, I have also been very fortunate because I have had multiple listeners send me candles.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

So now I have a stockpile of candles, one in my favorite scent that someone sent me which is very nice, which is Sweater Weather, by the way, if anyone was wondering. Sweater Weather. But, yeah, I gotta lot of candles. I'll keep Bath and Body Works in the candle business.

**Sydnee:**

There's a whole candle store at the mall now.

**Raleigh:**

I know.

**Taylor:**

But like, if you...

**Raleigh:**

I know.

**Taylor:**

You could go to like, a bodega or I guess a Walmart if you don't have bodegas.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, we don't have those.

**Sydnee:**

We have Walmarts.

**Taylor:**

You could get like, 10 scented candles, for like, four dollars, and then...

**Raleigh:**

Now, I will say, you are correct, and the little wax cubes you can get to put in your wax warmer are much cheaper as well and I have started moving towards those. One, because I'm having to get used to it because you can have those in dorms but you cannot have candles in dorms. Because some of the wax warmers are just lit by lights.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Not a flame.

**Sydnee:**

The Scentsies are like that.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. So, I can have those so I'm trying to get adjusted to having to buy wax cubes now instead of...

**Taylor:**

That's the way to go, dude. Because you know, like a lot of times in marketing they talk about planned obsolescence, like, designing a product that will have to be replaced by itself so that the consumer needs to keep purchasing it. And there is nothing that provides more planned obsolescence than a candle. [laughs]. Like, it's built into the design.

**Raleigh:**

I just love them so much.

**Taylor:**

You know they make hypoallergenic ones.

**Raleigh:**

I know.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, we have some.

**Raleigh:**

Oh. For you?

**Sydnee:**

For me.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know how that happened. I didn't use to be that way. Pregnancy did it to me. Made me allergic to everything.

**Taylor:**

I'm sorry.

**Sydnee:**

It's all right.

**Taylor:**

It's the baby's fault.

**Sydnee:**

It's a minor complaint to get... to get these kids, so. I will bear it. Um, we've talked a lot about stores, but we haven't talked about the food court.

**Taylor:**

Ohhhh...

**Sydnee:**

Uh, the... that was like my favorite part of the mall when I was younger because I wasn't a big shopper, so it was like once we're done wandering and looking at things, now we just sit.

**Taylor:**

And eat.

**Sydnee:**

And eat and we're in the food court so we can see and be seen.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Um, I feel like that all food courts have to have like, certain staples. Like, every mall food court has to have a pizza place, right?

**Taylor:**

Yeah. And like a Chinese place.

**Sydnee:**

And a Chinese place. Um, and then, ours has a Big Loafer which I think no mall food court has.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] What is a Big Loafer exactly?

**Sydnee:**

I don't...

**Raleigh:**

I have never been to the Big Loafer.

**Sydnee:**

I think they serve meat loaf.

**Taylor:**

I think they have, like, pepperoni rolls.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, maybe.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know, but...

**Raleigh:**

Do we have the only Big Loafer in existence?

**Taylor:**

I remember that one friend that I had in high school that used to like, when we were like, at the mall together, we were like, oh, let's get some food, where do you want to go? Do you want to go to the Chinese place? And she was like, Big Loafer. Like, what, no. Nobody actually eats there.

**Sydnee:**

Why?

**Taylor:**

We can't be friends anymore.

**Raleigh:**

I had that one friend as well.

**Sydnee:**

I will tell you that restaurants have... restaurants come and go in that mall food court.

**Raleigh:**

Big Loafers never left.

**Sydnee:**

A Burger King shut down in the mall food court. Like how is a Burger King not...

**Raleigh:**

We had a Burger King in our mall food court?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

There used to be. Down where the Ruby Tuesdays is.

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

No, actually that used to be a Long John Silver's.

**Raleigh:**

Okay, well that's understandable.

**Sydnee:**

The Long John Silver's shut down. The Chick-fil-A used to be a Burger King and then it became a Chick-fil-A.



**Raleigh:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

Which will never shut down, I don't think.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

There are lines out the door.

**Raleigh:**

There is no other Chick-fil-A.

**Sydnee:**

Well, there is another one at the mall.

**Raleigh:**

Oh, you're right.

**Sydnee:**

Not in the mall, but in the mall plaza.

**Raleigh:**

There's a free-standing Chick-fil-A.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Outside the mall. And they're both, they both have lines out the door every...

**Raleigh:**

Always. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Day. People in this area love some Chick-fil-A. But, ah, the cheesesteak place closed and another cheesesteak place opened.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] I like that they tried that again. That cheesesteak had nothing on our cheesesteak.

**Sydnee:**

The frozen yogurt place closed and another frozen yogurt place opened.

**Taylor:**

But you know what else has never closed.

**Sydnee:**

What?

**Taylor:**

Dippin' Dots.

**Sydnee:**

That's true. Dippin' Dots has been there a long time and the pizza place has been there since the beginning of time.

**Taylor:**

I worked at that pizza place. I could tell you some stories about that pizza place, Syd that... I don't want to get sued for libel or something. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I think you've talked about spraying the pizzas.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Well, I've...

**Raleigh:**

I've never had pizza from that pizza place.

**Taylor:**

I will say that you never should, um.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, you're not missing anything.

**Taylor:**

There are the parts of the mall that you don't see unless you work at the mall. They're like the little hallways that kind of run along the backside, like on either side of the mall. You would kind of... that's where you would get in and like, enter the mall, that weren't the public entrances.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

And I don't know, like, food court employees would get there super early and there was just always somebody crying, like screaming at somebody, or doing massive amounts of illicit substances in the hallways. Exactly what went on there is what you think would go on there wen on there. Just like going through some sort of like, just nightmare hallway just to get to your nightmare job. Like, that was fun. That was a good summer. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It's really weird how putting those businesses at a food court makes you want to eat at them. When, like, they would shut down in any other...

**Taylor:**

Oh, for sure. Except for the Chick-fil-A.

**Sydnee:**

Except for the Chick-fil-A. But the other places, I mean like, the particular Chinese food at our mall is not what I would call the finest meal I've ever eaten.

**Raleigh:**

No, but I eat it every time I'm at the mall. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, and there are great Chinese restaurants in town.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That are way better food.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But this one's in the food court. [laughs] so, we'll eat it.

**Raleigh:**

You know, I just really appreciate that what is it, the Ruby Tuesday's? That's that really, really good salad bar.

**Sydnee:**

They do.

**Raleigh:**

When my poor vegan butt is stuck in West Virginia over Christmas, which inevitably means multiple trips to the mall. It's like, well, that's the salad bar.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. No, I'm with you. I think Ruby Tuesday's is holding its own. Um, and uh, then there's the place that's called Dave's.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I guess a guy named Dave must have opened it and he just sells whatever Dave has...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That day. 'Cause Dave's will sell you, sometimes a corn dog, and then sometimes you can buy super donuts there and then other times, there's ice cream. Sometimes, it's popcorn and fried Oreos.

**Raleigh:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

Deep fried Oreos, so just whatever Dave's got, Dave will sell you. I hope every food court has a place like that.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Everyone should have a Dave in their food court.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Where it's just like, here's some random... I mean, like it's all, I mean, you know, you can't go wrong with a deep fried Oreo, I guess.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

I like the element of surprise in that. Yeah. But it...

**Sydnee:**

The food court, the food court is a... that's a staple of like, hey, we're gonna eat this food because we're at the mall even though none of it tastes great.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Well, I feel like when we were growing up, Syd, like, going to the mall to hang out with your friends was something, like, you didn't see kids outside of school unless you were really, like, doing something like that. Like, on the weekends, you went to the mall partially because you know, you wanted to shop or window shop, but partially because that was a place to be seen.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm. Do you...

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, no, definitely. I used to go to the mall a lot if I would think, like, maybe my crush would be there and I didn't know how else to see them outside of school when I was younger.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

So, I would just go and hope, like, I'm putting myself out to the universe, let's hope this happens.

**Raleigh:**

See, that's very different because I only go to the mall when I have a specific purpose to be at the mall. Like, I need this thing. I don't go to just, like, hang out. I go there to like, shop.

**Sydnee:**

If you had a thing to get, would you make a day of it at the mall? Like, I'll get the thing I need...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And I will make a trip out of it.

**Raleigh:**

Probably. Just because it takes like 20 minutes to drive there. Like, if I'm gonna drive here, like 40 minutes total, I might as well just like, spend some time here. Not like, go in for five minutes and get what I need. It's like I 'll go in and get what I need and like, look at other places and perhaps buy a candle.

**Sydnee:**

Do you take friends? Like, is it a friend activity?

**Raleigh:**

[sigh] I mean, there have definitely been times where like, I'll have friends come in from college and the thing we'll do is we'll go hang out at the mall for a few hours. Or like, last time they came in, it was around Christmas, so like, we went Christmas shopping and did some shopping for people together and then like, went back to one of our houses. But, I mean, it's not a thing where I would go and expect to see anyone I knew. Like, it would be like, hey, they're at the mall, too, cool. Like, it wouldn't be like, oh, I bet so and so will be there 'cause it's the place to be.

**Sydnee:**

I see people my age there.

**Raleigh:**

Really?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, 'cause we're still, I mean, they're still doing it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And you know the other thing that I think will keep them alive for a while is that people our age remember going to the mall to hang because there's stuff to do there.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And if you're in a small town like we are.

**Raleigh:**

That's the thing.

**Sydnee:**

There's not a lot of places that just have stuff to do.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, so, we'll go the... like, I will now do that for Charlie.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

We will take... and I see other parents who like, that's what they did for the day. They took their kids and went to the mall to hang.

**Raleigh:**

And Charlie does like the mall.

**Sydnee:**

Because now, like, there's a play place for kids, there's a train inside the mall you can ride around on, there's a Disney store and there's a pretzel stand and those four things...

**Raleigh:**

They're all in the same area. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Will keep my daughter occupied for hours on end, so.

**Raleigh:**

Now, our mall used to have a carousel, correct? Like years...

**Taylor:**

It did.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, it did. Yes.

**Raleigh:**

Okay, because I have remembered this carousel and then people have told me I'm crazy, this carousel never existed.

**Sydnee:**

No, there was a carousel.

**Taylor:**

There was definitely a carousel. Because I feel like that was the standard, like, oh, I'll meet you by the carousel. It was like a big, obvious thing that you could locate people at.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I believe that's where that play place is now.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I think you're right.

**Sydnee:**

There's like a indoor playground for kids, and there was an arcade.



**Raleigh:**

It's no longer there.

**Taylor:**

Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That was a fun place to hang out.

**Raleigh:**

There is a movie theater, though.

**Sydnee:**

The movie theater still exists and is even better.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. It is perhaps the nicest movie theater in all of Huntington, I would say.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, so that's still... that's still kickin'.

**Taylor:**

I'm surprised, like Raleigh, how many times when you have to get a thing, do you not just go to the internet?

**Raleigh:**

I'll only go if I need a thing, like now. Like, I needed a suit for scholarship interviews and I was like, it's a thing I want to try on.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Raleigh:**

And it's a thing I need by this weekend because I've put it off for so long and I don't want to risk ordering something, having it not fit, or have it not be here in time. So I will go to the mall and I will go to Macy's and I will just go to Macy's and I will look for what I need and when I get it, I will probably get food from the food court and leave. Like, it is only when it is something that I really want to try on, like a dress, like a prom dress, a homecoming dress, or like a suit, or something that's important and I need sooner.

**Sydnee:**

I will say that the mall was still good for me. The only example I could think of, like what did I need the mall for that I couldn't have done online, other than like, entertainment value, for maternity clothes shopping it was very helpful. 'Cause there's a... I mean, the sizing gets weird.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You know? And you want to try things on and a lot of stuff online is really expensive.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And there was one maternity section at the mall. There's no store. It's just a section of Macy's and it was... everything was on sale and I could try it on.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Like there's nobody there.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I got the dressing room all to myself. It was like the... I was the lone pregnant woman. I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

The lone pregnant person.

**Raleigh:**

I feel like there are still some things you need to try on. Like, I would order t-shirts or like, dresses from online if they were like, just like casual, like, dresses, t-shirts, whatever. Like, pants, I feel like pants are one of those things that like you go to the mall and you try on

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

And get like before school starts. Like you get two pairs of jeans before school starts so you're set for the year.

**Sydnee:**

And while you're there, you can get a hot pretzel.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Or you can buy a candle.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Or get mediocre Chinese food.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Take a ride on the train.

**Taylor:**

I don't think they let adults do that.

**Sydnee:**

If you have a kid with you.

**Taylor:**

So, I can borrow your kids next time and ride that train because that looks like a lot of fun.

**Sydnee:**

If you want to. I mean.

**Raleigh:**

Charlie loves it.

**Sydnee:**

They kind of want the one adult on there with you. Like, depending on how old your kid is, I mean, like, they would not want me to put my three-year-old on the train and be like, bye.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Charlie just waves to everyone on the train.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] That feels like a lot of responsibility. Just a train full of random kids with no parents attached. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That... that... I would... that would make me nervous. No, they welcome an adult to climb inside the car with the kid.

**Taylor:**

Cool.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, that's fine. Actually, Charlie insists on both Justin and I riding usually. So, you know, the next time I go, because I still haven't taken Cooper out of the house. The next time I go, I guess it will be Justin and me, crammed in one of those train cars with Charlie, holding Cooper. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Cooper'll love it. Buy 10.

**Sydnee:**

All right, well, everybody go patronize your malls because.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, go shop at Claire's before they're gone forever.

**Raleigh:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

Um, yeah, yeah. Claire's is leaving, Toys 'R' Us is leaving. This is your last chance and like, keep the malls open, 'cause I like 'em.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That's the only reason I have. I don't have anything... like, this is not for humanity. This is not for like a...

**Taylor:**

Like, save the bees.

**Sydnee:**

For an admirable cause.

**Taylor:**

Like, save the malls 'cause I like 'em.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, save the malls 'cause I... and like, seriously, Justin will be devastated if they all close.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

He loves the mall. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

And some people like to go there and get in exercise. [laughs] Our grandma used to do laps at the mall.

**Taylor:**

That's true.

**Raleigh:**

Old people need a place to walk.

**Taylor:**

The mall walkers, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Save the mall walkers.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] It is a warm place to walk, that has pretzels.

**Sydnee:**

I just love that someday, teenagers are gonna see the movie Mallrats and go, what? Where are they?

**Taylor:**

It's a what rat?

**Sydnee:**

What are they in?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Let's hope that day doesn't come.

**Taylor:**

Not me. The world's gonna end before any of that happens, it's fine.

**Sydnee:**

Thanks, Tey. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

No problem.

**Raleigh:**

Have a good day everyone.

**Sydnee:**

So, I hope we brought a lot of sunshine into your day.

**Taylor:**

That's what I'm here for. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Thank you, sisters.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

You're welcome.

**Sydnee:**

Thank you. By the way, if you haven't heard, from How I Met Your Mother, the Robin Sparkles song, Let's Go to the Mall.

**Taylor:**

I've been thinking about that song this whole time.

**Sydnee:**

Me too. Like, you really should, it's on YouTube. Anyway, thank you for listening to our show. Thank you to the Maximum Fun Network for letting us be a part of their wonderful family of podcasts and if you want to check out some of the other podcasts, go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) and listen to them.

**Sydnee:**

You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org) if you have topic suggestions or questions or comments or thoughts, whatever. And you can tweet at us @stillbuff and thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

**Raleigh:**

This has been Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

I am Sydnee McElroy,

**Taylor:**

And I am Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:**

I am a teenager.

**Taylor:**

And I was too.

**Sydnee:**

And I was too.

**Taylor:**

Goodbye to Claire's. [singing]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Adam Conover:**

Hey guys, this is Adam Conover. You may know me from my new show, Adam Ruins Everything. Well, guess what, now we're doing a podcast version, right here on Maximum Fun. What we do is, we take all the interesting, fascinating experts that we talk to for just a couple minutes on the show and we sit with them for an entire podcast, really going deep and getting into the fascinating details of their work.

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