

Still Buffering 117: How to “Cool” Teen Apps

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[theme music plays]

Raleigh:

Hello. Welcome to Still Buffering, a sisters’ guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee:

I’m Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor:

And I’m Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee:

Well, welcome sisters, to another week with me.

Raleigh:

With you? [laughs]

Taylor:

Well, with all of you.

Sydnee:

I’m welcoming you to me. I don’t know.

Raleigh:

Welcome to me.

Sydnee:

Welcome to me.

Taylor:

Welcome to me, everybody. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Welcome.

Sydnee:

I’m feeling very good. I showered today.

Taylor:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

That's great.

Sydnee:

I don't—I haven't always managed that on maternity leave, you know?

Raleigh:

Well, you know, that's a good—

Taylor:

I mean—

Raleigh:

... thing to do.

Taylor:

... I don't have any babies and it's hard for me to manage that, so I totally get you.

Sydnee:

Uh, but things are, things are going well in that department. I'm clean.
[laughs]

Raleigh:

In the shower department?

Sydnee:

Yeah, in the shower department. [laughs] I have not left the house very much in the last 10 weeks.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

Ten, it's been 10 weeks, 10 weeks today.

Raleigh:

Wow.

Sydnee:

'Cause she's, Cooper's 10 weeks old. So I don't really have much to report. I don't go anywhere dude. I go to your house, Raleigh. That's the only—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... place I go.

Raleigh:

Is there anything you wanna report about my house?

Sydnee:

Um, uh, mom is currently making like, buckets of slime with Charlie.

Raleigh:

So much slime and so many Orbees.

Sydnee:

And she will want to bring them to my house, and I have forbidden it.

Raleigh:

And mom sat Charlie down with lunch and couldn't get the mixture right on the slime. So, mom was just standing there making slime at one point.

Sydnee:

I, uh, I have forbidden any more slime in this house, because Charlie forgets where she left it, and I find it when it has hardened onto whatever surface she left it on days later.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, I did discover that you can get it out of carpet by squirting it with contact solution.

Taylor:

Oh, interesting.

Sydnee:

And then I used a spoon. I kept scraping the spoon across the carpet and it scraped it all up into the spoon.

Raleigh:

Hmm.

Taylor:

Well—

Sydnee:

So.

Taylor:

... there, the other, yet another, uh, very applicable teen life hack for all of you.

Raleigh:

Yeah. There you go. [laughs] Teen life hack.

Taylor:

Are you teens making slime too or is that just a—

Raleigh:

I—

Taylor:

... sweet baby thing?

Raleigh:

... I think people think we are, because I came in from school and the first thing mom said is, what is the recipe to make slime? I don't know what I did wrong with this one. And I was like, "Well, I don't know. I've never made slime before in my life."

Sydnee:

I thought it was a teen thing, 'cause one of the... I did not find this for Charlie. Mom did. One of the like Instagram accounts of slime people, people who make slime—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... that she follows is a teen.

Raleigh:

I mean, they might do it for the money.

Taylor:

It might be like a slightly younger 'cause I did, like—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... see a kind of goofy article about like the like underground slime trade in like middle schools where people—

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

I have seen that.

Taylor:

... trade slime recipes or I don't know. I guess I don't know the, what the currency exchange there is. It just seems like it's a slime for slime basis. I don't know.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

I saw—

Taylor:

And get other things for slime.

Raleigh:

... like a post from a middle school principal or something talking about how they had busted a, a slime ring in their playground and she had confiscated like labeled containers of various colors and types of slime.

Sydnee:

If, uh, if I heard that that was, if a teacher called me and said that about Charlie or Cooper and like, "We have their slime. We've confiscated it. We'll, we'll let you pick it up," I'd be like, "Just—"

Raleigh:

Just keep it.

Sydnee:

"... please trash it. Please do not, I don't want it in my house."

Taylor:

I think I would be proud of what a little like, like...

Sydnee:

Entrepreneur.

Taylor:

... person. Yeah.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Just built an underground slim ring up from nothing.

Raleigh:

I could see Charlie doing that.

Sydnee:

I would feel guilty for every other parent and guardian who had to deal with, [laughs] with the slime—

Raleigh:

Slime being brought home.

Sydnee:

... that was being brought home.

Raleigh:

Could you imagine—

Sydnee:

'Cause that's like—

Raleigh:

... just opening up their backpack and there's like six labeled containers of slime?

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

Where did this come from?

Taylor:

No. Come on. They're, they're, you know, successfully making multiple different forms of this. They are organizing them and labeling them. That's—I'd be real, I couldn't do that. Like that's a, that's an achievement for a very small person. I'm impressed by this.

Sydnee:

The shelf that normally holds glue at Walmart is like, permanently empty these days and I suspect it's just slime.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Especially the sparkle glue.

Raleigh:

I swear there was somewhere—

Sydnee:

Multicolored sparkle glue.

Raleigh:

... I saw a display set up with the ingredients necessary to make slime.

Sydnee:

It is. It's an incap.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

They have an incap—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... there right next to the glue aisle with like glue and laundry detergent and contact solution and just the... because there's, there's different kinds of slime. I don't, why are we talking about slime? [laughs]

Taylor:

I don't know.

Raleigh:

Today's episode, slime.

Taylor:

It's not about slime. Um—

Raleigh:

I'm gonna teach you how to make it, what it is.

Sydnee:

The younger kids are into slime—

Taylor:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... the younger teens.

Taylor:

Um—

Sydnee:

The tweens and the early teens.

Raleigh:

I'm on the back end of my teening.

Taylor:

You just missed out on the slime. That's—

Raleigh:

Yeah. I missed out on the slime.

Taylor:

Well, I, uh, I saw, I saw a, a movie. That's the only thing that I've done recently that was interesting.

Raleigh:

What movie did you see?

Taylor:

It's not a new movie. I think it's been out for a while, but, uh, it's, yeah, I guess it's applicable to your generation Raleigh. Uh, it was Friend Request.

Sydney:

Hmm.

Raleigh:

It's like I've not seen that one.

Taylor:

Horror movie about some, some girl on the internet that I don't know, like is a witch and—

Raleigh:

Oh.

Taylor:

... uh, uh, oh, I think that was a spoiler. Sorry guys. [laughs] Uh, anyway, it's a scary movie about like, friending the wrong person on Facebook and that person turns out to be some sort of evil Demon who wants friends?

Raleigh:

Well, it's like Unfriended.

Sydnee:

Yeah, that was—

Taylor:

It was, yeah.

Raleigh:

Well, I've never had that happen to me before, but you know.

Taylor:

I don't know. I mean, the tech world—

Raleigh:

It's possible.

Taylor:

... is scary out there. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

But you know, Raleigh, you have to be careful with all the apps these days that are—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... available out there.

Taylor:

'Cause some of them might be full of demons. Is that where we're going with this?

Sydnee:

That's what, yes. That's this—

Taylor:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... this is an episode about haunted apps. [laughing] And I mean, I mean applications to your electronic devices, not appetizers.

Taylor:

Oh no. [laughing] That's what I'm scared is hovering above my bed at night.

Sydnee:

That blooming onion keeps popping up under my bed. [laughing]

Taylor:

It's like, it's like, it's like The Shining where the elevator doors open and all the blood, but instead it's just like artichoke dip. No. [laughing]

Sydnee:

At night I look out my window and I just see that big tray of loaded nachos sitting in my front yard staring up at me. [laughing]

Taylor:

That would be a delightful haunting. [laughing]

Sydnee:

Someone make this movie, please.

Raleigh:

Delightful, delicious haunt.

Sydnee:

I am haunted by cheesy bacon tavern chips. [laughing] Uh, no, I did wanna talk about applications, apps, though, because, uh, that's what our show's about. [laughs]

Taylor:

I tried to do the gentle lead in there with the transition to a social media-based horror movie, so thank you for picking that up.

Sydnee:

[laughs] It was good. I saw where you were going with that. Um, so Raleigh.

Raleigh:

Yes, Sydnee.

Sydnee:

There are a lot of lists if you try to Google on the internet, what are the hottest teen apps.

Raleigh:

You'll get a lot of lists.

Sydnee:

Yes. And my question for you is how accurate are they? And having read these lists now, the ones that we have chosen, what are some of these apps? [laughs]

Raleigh:

And I'm ready to talk about them, podcast.

Sydnee:

So which one— are we gonna do the one that was theoretically made by a teen?

Raleigh:

Yeah. There's one that's supposedly made by a teen, um, called 15 best apps every teenage girl should have.

Sydnee:

Okay. So let's go, let's go through these and you tell us, 'cause everybody wants to know what the teens are doing nowadays. So you tell us, are these accurate representation of what the teens are doing.

Raleigh:

Okay.

Sydnee:

The first one I'm gonna say you are into, Wanelo, and didn't you do that?

Raleigh:

Yeah. That's actually, uh, a very good app. I've not used it in a while. I'm pretty sure I still have it on my phone though. Um, it is called Wanelo, W-A-N-E-L-O if that word is confusing to you, 'cause it is not a word. Um, and it stands for want, need, love. And it's basically like a massive, uh, shopping inventory app almost that's not designated for one specific store, but you can search for like key terms, um, and it'll show you a bunch of things and

then you can follow the links to these things and buy them from the websites they belong to.

Sydnee:

Hmm. How is that different than like, Pinterest?

Raleigh:

Pinterest isn't always things you can buy.

Taylor:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

Pinterest sometimes is like a recipe or a craft or just like a picture of home décor that's very nice, but it doesn't always have links to like, actual products you can buy. This is always just like, yeah, things you could buy.

Taylor:

Yeah. I don't know how many times I've been frustrated by finding something like a dress or, or shoes or something on Pinterest, like image searching for something I'm trying to buy and that comes up and then I realize that there's no link. Just, this is just a picture to taunt me of the thing, the perfect thing that I want, but—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... no way to access it. [laughs]

Raleigh:

This is, this is like a less frustrating Pinterest because everything here is just as pretty, but you can actually buy it.

Taylor:

That's nice. That's good to know.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

That's like when mom wants to send you something like a link that she found to like, she she'll do that sometimes—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... if she finds something she wants to get one of the girls and it'll be a link to something on Amazon, except she doesn't send me the link. She screenshots the picture of what she's looking at—

Raleigh:

And just send it to you.

Sydnee:

... and sends me the screenshot of it.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And I'm always like, I always start to click and go, "This is a screenshot. This is—"

Taylor:

[laughing]

Sydnee:

"... just hold your finger over it. No, right there. Copy." Um, this next one I don't see how it's different from Instagram. It's called We Heart It.

Raleigh:

Oh, okay. This is an app I've never used before, but I have heard of, and it looks like it is similar to an app. I don't know if you're supposed to say it or if it's just a combination of letters called either VSCO or V-S-C-O.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And it's like an Instagram app, but it's made for like photographers. It's more made for like pictures you've taken of things like if you are into photography—

Sydnee:

Ah.

Raleigh:

... as opposed to like selfies.

Sydnee:

I gotcha.

Raleigh:

If that makes sense. Like it's not a personalized, uh, account of you like an Instagram is.

Sydnee:

That makes sense.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

But are teens using it?

Raleigh:

I mean, I am not.

Sydnee:

Okay.

Raleigh:

So, if you're taking it from this teen, no.

Sydnee:

No.

Taylor:

Is there a way to like, sell your photography through that or is it just like a more manicured Instagram?

Raleigh:

It seems just like a more manicured Instagram. Like if Tumblr and Instagram had a baby.

Sydnee:

Okay.

Raleigh:

Like a cool Instagram.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

Like not a mainstream Instagram.

Taylor:

Is Instagram not cool.

Raleigh:

Well, no. Instagram is cool, but it's not like, you know, like, you know.

Sydnee:

Instagram is like the Starbucks—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... of photography apps.

Raleigh:

There you go. That's fair. That's fair.

Sydnee:

Um, now this next one, do teens use this? It's called Dreamboard.

Raleigh:

I have never heard of this before. I don't know if this is an app I would ever use, and I don't know if this is a teen specific app.

Sydnee:

I thought this was very strange. It's an app that lets you record your dreams to your phone and then it will give you like, stats on your dream. [laughs]

Taylor:

Oh.

Sydnee:

Like, what color do you dream of most frequently and like in this one chart like how often are you the protagonist. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

See, it's funny. I've actually per— I've actually looked at this app before, 'cause one of my friends was telling me about it like how it like, gets like, lets them have kind of an idea about like their dream identity. And I was just, I don't know why like I couldn't wrap my brain around the fact like, "No, it doesn't actually record your dreams, Taylor. You have to remember them and then write about them. It's just, it's just that." Like I was like, "How does it do it? How does it know?" [laughing]

Raleigh:

You record your dream.

Taylor:

"No, no honey. You, you, you remember it all and write it down." Like, "Oh, that's not magic. I wanted it to be phone magic."

Sydnee:

Are there electrodes in your brain? [laughs]

Taylor:

You just, what you do is you shove your phone in your mouth when you sleep and the app picks up your brain waves. No?

Sydnee:

Um, no, I don't think, I think you have to... man, it's like a chore. You have to wake up and write things in it.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

And that just seems like even more work than like actually keeping a dream journal, like having to unlock your phone, pull up the app, like—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... type with your finger when you could just like scribble it out. Like it's just, I guess—

Raleigh:

And fill in categories like color and whether I'm the protagonist or not, like I don't pay attention to things like that in dreams. I wake up and have a half vague idea that like I went on vacation with Miley Cyrus when she was still in Hannah Montana, Miley Cyrus and like she took me under one of her concerts and then I became famous.

Taylor:

Okay. That's a pretty specific idea.

Raleigh:

I had that dream, but like, I don't know—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

... what color that dream is.

Sydnee:

See, I could probably do this very accurately 'cause like I had a dream last night that I was, I've been watching a lot of West Wing while I'm on maternity leave and I was working for the Bartlett administration, and we were on a cruise ship for some reason and I was fired.

Taylor:

Oh no.

Sydnee:

Very upsetting. Anyway.

Raleigh:

Color of that dream is sad.

Sydnee:

[laughs] Hmm. Uh, I think we should skip some of these 'cause like the next one is Duolingo, which like just teaches you another language.

Raleigh:

I use it.

Sydnee:

You do use it?

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Wow. Well, never mind. I was gonna skip one that teens use.

Raleigh:

I used it to improve my Spanish and I used it to start teaching myself French. And I know another teen that uses it.

Sydnee:

Well, there you go.

Taylor:

I was curious—

Sydnee:

What do I know?

Taylor:

... it is super popular. I feel like all of my friends have it too. Like everybody is super casually learning a second or third language, which isn't a bad thing. It does make it really easy.

Sydnee:

No, I think that's great. Yeah.

Taylor:

I use it to refresh my Japanese from time to time so.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Actually it's—

Sydnee:

Okay.

Taylor:

... it's good.

Raleigh:

Justin told me about it.

Sydnee:

Well, my husband—

Raleigh:

Justin's hip with the teens.

Sydnee:

... uses it and I didn't know.

Taylor:

I will say that this list, if it is written by a teenager and I'm not doubting it is, is just the sweetest, most wholesome teenager. Raleigh, this teenager—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... should be your friend. But this is like, definitely your mom friend.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

This is why part of me is doubting it's a real teen. [laughs]

Taylor:

This is—

Raleigh:

Well—

Taylor:

... this is Betty Cooper before Riverdale, right?

Sydnee:

It really is. [laughing] This, this is the Betty Cooper list. It's, 'cause the next one, Wattpad, is that something anybody uses?

Raleigh:

I used to use this, um, all the time. Wattpad.

Sydnee:

Wattpad.

Raleigh:

It's where, it's likely what like basically—

Taylor:

Watt— Wattpad?

Raleigh:

... like how fan fiction is for people to write their own things. But it's all about various TV shows or, or books or whatever, like taking their characters.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

This is like you write your own stories and publish them on this website chapter by chapter.

Sydnee:

Using characters.

Raleigh:

No. This is like fan fiction except without the characters.

Taylor:

Wait, it's just—

Raleigh:

Like you write your own story.

Sydnee:

So it's just fiction. [laughing]

Raleigh:

It's just fiction. [laughing] This is fiction is what I'm realizing I'm saying.

Taylor:

Yes, you could. Yes.

Sydnee:

So I love that we live in a time where fiction has become fan fiction without—

Raleigh:

I know what fiction is.

Sydnee:

... the characters in TV.

Raleigh:

My whole literature class is about fiction.

Sydnee:

I know.

Raleigh:

I know what fiction is.

Sydnee:

I know, I know. I'm just—

Raleigh:

I just woke up from a nap.

Sydnee:

It was funny the way you described it. [laughs] Um, what about Band of the Day?

Raleigh:

I don't know what that ba— that, uh, app is, not that band is, that app is.

Sydnee:

Each day it plays a song from the band of the day. [laughs] There you go.

Raleigh:

I mean, I would've guessed that based on the title.

Sydnee:

You know, back in our day they called that the radio. Oh my God. [laughs]

Raleigh:

All right. What's the next app?

Sydnee:

Just saying.

Taylor:

That was called Total Request Live.

Sydnee:

[laughs] Yeah. Uh, what's Flixtor?

Raleigh:

So I've heard of this before and I never knew what it was and now reading this description, it just seems like you can find trailers of movies on there and then you can keep a track of like a list of movies that you wanna see and you can rate them when you've seen them.

Sydnee:

Who has trouble remembering? [laughs]

Raleigh:

Like, if there's a movie, I wanna see like movies. I wanna watch, like I just have a list in my phone notes. It's like, "Hey, these movies on Netflix look like cool things." I'm gonna type down the name.

Sydnee:

Oh, so you keep, so not just movies and movie theaters.

Raleigh:

No. Like all movies, but Flixtor looks like it's just for movies in theaters.

Taylor:

Wait, it looks like it will tell you when that movie that you have such a hard time remembering seeing, where it is playing in a theater. But I also agree that these are like, this just does not seem like something that you need compartmentalized like, "Oh, I wanna see this movie."

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

"I gotta Google it." Google's gonna tell me the closest theater.

Sydnee:

E— exactly. If you just Google like what is on at the movie theater, the list comes up instantly.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Like, I mean it's so easy. [laughs] Um, what about this? This one is for fashionistas. It says so, not me.

Raleigh:

So, I have—

Sydnee:

Style.com.

Raleigh:

... I am developing a theory about this article that we are reading.

Sydnee:

Uh-huh.

Raleigh:

And that is that it is sponsored. [laughing]

Taylor:

Now what makes you think that?

Raleigh:

Uh, Style.com. Um, I mean, I've heard of it before, but—

Sydnee:

But, it's like a magazine.

Raleigh:

It's like, it's a magazine.

Sydnee:

You can look at pictures from your favorite designer. Look at celebrity parties. [laughs] This is a magazine.

Raleigh:

Take the poll on who you think has the look of the day. It's an interactive magazine.

Sydnee:

Oh, except there are videos.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Yeah. Well, okay. That would make sense if this was sponsored.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

That's also like, no teenager ever has started anything with the sentence, this is for all you fashionistas out there. [laughing] Like, "Okay." Uh, what about Keeper? What is this?

Raleigh:

I—

Sydnee:

It holds all your passwords and usernames.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Which again, I don't trust with an app and I write them down myself unless I use the same password for everything.

Sydnee:

Do you, wait, does it take a password—

Taylor:

So you need a—

Sydnee:

... and username?

Taylor:

Do you need a password to get into it and then within it, you put all of your other passwords for everything?

Raleigh:

How would you remember the password for the password app?

Taylor:

Well, I think that would be your, that's, you just delete all that other room in your brain that went to all those other passwords and you just remember the one.

Sydnee:

And you just remember the one.

Taylor:

I think that's what's it's for.

Sydnee:

I just keep all, [laughs] all of mine in the list. [laughs] You know the list that, or what is it? Notes list.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Notes.

Raleigh:

I mean, I do that.

Sydnee:

I just keep 'em all in notes on my phone, which I realize that was actually, I didn't used to lock my phone and I thought I have like my DEA number on here. [laughs] This is really dumb so.

Taylor:

Yeah. I just don't know how I feel about like, like to me it just seems like a big like, like signpost to anyone, because I mean, obviously lots of apps have been hacked in the past. Like to be like, "Hey, do you want lots of people's ev— password to literally everything all at once? Just go for this app right her that's developed by somebody." I don't know. [laughing] Like, it's just, it seems like, like a very, like a very big pot that could be a target for lots of people.

Sydnee:

Come on, guys. Just use the tried and true post-it note on the corner of your computer screen method.

Raleigh:

Sure. Yeah.

Sydnee:

Well—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

You don't do that anymore.

Raleigh:

No.

Sydnee:

No.

Taylor:

I—

Raleigh:

'Cause I mean— yeah.

Taylor:

No. I would say I write them all on my desk in permanent marker and that's not smart either. 'Cause then it's right next to my laptop so.

Raleigh:

There's that. I mean, all my apps are for things or my passwords are for things on my phone, so like, putting a post-it note on my computer screen would not help me with that.

Sydnee:

I've been using the same password for everything since computers were a thing so—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Raleigh:

You have.

Sydnee:

I mean, if you know me and I've ever told you what my password is, it's still now the same for everything.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Um, the next one is Instagram, which I don't feel like we need to talk about.

Sydnee:

We've talked about it so.

Raleigh:

Because we've talked a lot about Instagram. Did you just call it Insta?

Sydnee:

Yes.

Raleigh:

Okay. Moving on.

Sydnee:

[laughs] Math Way.

Raleigh:

Again, I feel like this article may be sponsored because what teen is writing an article for this website called All Women's Talk and is writing about Math Way?

Sydnee:

You just, oh, you just type in your math problem and it tells you the answer and walks you through the steps.

Taylor:

I mean—

Sydnee:

This, the author says, this is one of the most used apps on their phone.

Taylor:

I will say this. If that app had been around when I was in like geometry or trig and it actually worked just that seamlessly, I don't feel like I would've used it for good purposes. It definitely would've been for evil, but it would've made—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Taylor:

... my life a lot easier. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Yeah. And I mean, I feel like if it's a problem that you can just use a calculator for, teens are not going to take that extra step for it to explain, most teens, are not going to take that extra step for you to explain to you what the steps are and why it is the answer. Like they're just gonna type it into a calculator and get the answer and write it down.

Sydnee:

Now I, I need to move on to this next one real quick because I'm, I am confused.

Raleigh:

Vine is dead.

Taylor:

Yes. Vine is dead.

Raleigh:

How long, how old is this article—

Sydnee:

This article said it was from 2017.

Raleigh:

Vine died last year.

Sydnee:

Oh, did it just die last... I thought Vine was... I thought it died a while ago.

Raleigh:

I think it was last year. Wasn't it? Hold on.

Taylor:

Yeah, I think you're right. I think it was last year.

Sydnee:

Okay.

Raleigh:

Let's, let's consult the internet. When did Vine die?

Sydnee:

I'm gonna flip through the next one while you're deciding if Vine died or not 'cause Snapchat is the next one.

Taylor:

Oh, okay.

Sydnee:

We got—

Raleigh:

It was last year.

Taylor:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Oh, okay. Well, there you go. Yeah. So, so a little out of date on that one. Um, but, but the, moving past Snapchat, this next one, Whisper, uh, what? This is also another one that seems like you're putting a lot on the line. Uh, you're trusting an app that, I don't know, I'd say zero out of the three of us have heard about. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Um, wait, I've lost my, I lost my internet. You say Whisper?

Sydnee:

Whisper.

Raleigh:

Is this the anonymous one?

Sydnee:

You can post secrets or read secrets that everybody else has submitted.

Raleigh:

Yeah. This is something I've seen, um, like memes made of almost and jokes made of on like, uh, Twitter or something like that.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Because there's sometimes some silly ones.

Sydnee:

This is this, okay. I know what the equivalent. I've been trying to find like what is the equivalent to this back in our day. I know what the equivalent to this is. This is like all those, um, letters that people would write in to Teen Magazine about like their most embarrassing moment or whatever. This is the same idea where you just send in this letter anonymously to Teen Magazine about that time you got like a tampon stuck to your shoe or whatever. [laughs] That, this is the same thing. You just post something about yourself that you don't want anybody to know that it's you that, you know, and people look at it.

Raleigh:

Yeah. This is kind of just like you pick a random picture out of their stock pictures and then you type like three sentences over it 'cause it's all that fits in the box.

Sydnee:

And then you post it as a Facebook meme. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Pretty much.

Taylor:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Isn't that, isn't that what all Facebook memes are.

Raleigh:

Yes.

Taylor:

But wait a second. This actually, this actually is kind of a, I don't know, a modification of something that was way, way cooler that I don't know if it still goes on, but would you guys remember PostSecret?

Sydnee:

No.

Raleigh:

No.

Taylor:

This was a cool thing. I remember it was really popular back when I was in college. Uh, it was a, it was like an art project that someone started where basically you could just mail this addressed random postcards telling your like deepest, darkest secrets and they would post them and they would never be any information about where you're from, uh, your name or anything.

Sydnee:

Huh.

Taylor:

And it was actually really touching and beautiful and people would like reveal very painful things about themselves. And they'd, the cards were always like illustrated and like, it was actually, it was a very beautiful sort of like, like massive art project. I don't know if it's still going on, but it's, it's this it's just that they, they were all hand drawn.

Sydnee:

Something about that seems a little more, I don't know, eloquent or—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... meaningful than like this huge... I mean, can you imagine how many it's on the internet? So how many—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... secrets? Just random things you could amass.

Raleigh:

Yeah. That was kind of like I saw a thing on Twitter about an art project someone had done where they were like out in like a campus or on the

middle of the street in a city or something and they had up, you know, write something down—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

... about you or like a secret or something you want to accomplish and pin it up on this wall. So they had like this little tent that they had set up and all along they had strings and then they clipped up all these things that people had written throughout the day. But you didn't have to write your name or anything. And it was really cool. Seemed like that PostSecret thing.

Sydnee:

It's a neat idea.

Taylor:

I, sorry. I just looked it up. Yes. PostSecret.com, still active, still updating regularly so.

Sydnee:

Interesting.

Taylor:

Check out this cool teen app if you want to, but also you could go check out PostSecret 'cause—

Raleigh:

Yeah. PostSecret seems cooler. I'm gonna go check that out.

Sydnee:

Yeah. I'll also say that this is a concept that was invented a fairly long time ago by the Catholic church. It's called confession. [laughing]

Raleigh:

You're not wrong.

Taylor:

Yeah. But then you just get like, told like what old crusty dude. This is getting to tell like a bunch of people all at once.

Raleigh:

And whenever you told him you had to go like say some prayers and one time I had to write a letter to all of my family members and put it under the Christmas tree before Christmas and tell 'em I was sorry for all the mean things I'd done to them.

Sydnee:

That's a heck of penance.

Taylor:

Merry Christmas.

Raleigh:

Yeah. I didn't do it.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Let me remind you of all the reasons I suck, Merry Christmas. [laughs]

Sydnee:

I think all I was ever told was like, "Say a hail Mary and say you're sorry."

Raleigh:

Yeah. No. It was an intense Christmas. [laughs]

Sydnee:

The problem with confession is that if you don't go to church very often or maybe you've stopped going, then if you ever think you're gonna go back to confession, you're supposed to start off by saying it has been X days, months, years—

Taylor:

And that's the worst part of it.

Sydnee:

... since your last confession. [laughing]

Raleigh:

Wait, you—

Sydnee:

Well, I mean, for me it's been, couldn't tell you, a couple decades. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Yeah, yeah. It's been like eight years.

Taylor:

I mean, you know, you can just lie through the whole thing basically—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Taylor:

I was here two weeks ago—

Sydnee:

What's the point?

Taylor:

... "I've done nothing wrong, peace."

Raleigh:

I feel like there were always the generic ones that we used like, I didn't clean my room and I smarted off to my mom.

Sydnee:

I fought with my sister. That's what I said most often. [laughing]

Taylor:

Well, that was usually true.

Sydnee:

Yeah, always true.

Taylor:

It was always true.

Sydnee:

Um, the last one in this list, let's do this real fast, uh, is a Wi-Fi Finder.

Raleigh:

I guess you could say Wi-Finder.

Sydnee:

Don't our phones—

Taylor:

Well, okay.

Sydnee:

... just—

Raleigh:

Okay.

Sydnee:

... don't our phones do this.

Raleigh:

Yes. Um, if you open up your settings and turn on Wi-Fi, it will open up all of the ones that you can—

Sydnee:

Right.

Raleigh:

... connect to within reach.

Sydnee:

So you don't need to do this.

Raleigh:

So this seems unnecessary,

Taylor:

But I also just wanna say, especially now that we've talked about these, not heard of apps that ask for all of your passwords and whatnot, uh, the problem just general warning with free Wi-Fi is, is it opens you up to anybody else that's on that free Wi-Fi. So—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... also an app like this, it would super easily link you up to an open network is maybe not...

Sydnee:

This is just, you do it in an urgency if you just need to contact and figure out where you are, whatever, but open Wi-Fi networks in the middle... like just out in the open are, are not necessarily the best thing that you should jump on with your smartphone with all your information on it.

Taylor:

Right. I agree.

Raleigh:

Yeah. I agree.

Sydnee:

Um, I wanna, we've talked a lot about what the supposed teen thinks, the teens are into. I wanna know what parents think teens are into, uh, but before we do that...

Raleigh:

Let's check the group message.

Sydnee:

So we have a couple sponsors to tell you about on the group message this week.

Raleigh:

We do.

Sydnee:

Yeah, that's right. Uh, our first sponsor is HelloFresh. Now we have told you about HelloFresh before. Um, they're a wonderful meal kit delivery service, uh, that allows you to cook delicious meals that, uh, you may not have tried otherwise right at home. Uh, and we're gonna tell you about 'em again this week, 'cause we love them so much.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

So Still Buffering supported in part by HelloFresh, the meal kit delivery service that delivers your favorite recipes ingredients so you can just cook, eat and enjoy. Now, as we've said before, they have three different plans, classic, veggie and family. I know we have tried the classic plan, and Tey, you've tried out the veggie plan.

Taylor:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

And, and it fits pretty well, huh?

Taylor:

Yeah. I mean, I think it's kind of a, a joke for any vegetarian vegan person. It's like, "Oh, the vegetarian option is always pasta." And what I really like about HelloFresh is it's always really creative, heavy focus on like whole grains and, and like really fresh produce. Like it's really like a departure from what you would think of is easier, more kind of like, you know, go to vegetarian standards.

Sydnee:

So each box is made up of fresh, responsibly obtained ingredients. Uh, you don't have to plan dinner. You don't have to spend money on takeout. Um, and you don't have to worry about going and buying the ingredients for a recipe you wanna try out or letting half of those ingredients go bad because you only needed like this much time and you had to buy a whole bunch of time and—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... that happens to us all the time. I didn't mean to say time. [laughing]

Taylor:

I got confused.

Raleigh:

A lot of times, said time a lot of time.

Taylor:

Like what? You had too much time, but I thought you were in a hurry and that's why you were using the meal kit service.

Raleigh:

Oh, wait, wrong time.

Sydnee:

As in partially Sage Rose MaryAnn. Um... [laughs]

Taylor:

You mean fine.

Sydnee:

[laughs] Fine. Recipes only take about 30 minutes and you can subscribe now to get delicious filling meals delivered every week for less than \$10 per serving. If you want to do this, Raleigh, tell everybody what you can do.

Raleigh:

If you want to do this for \$30 off your first week of HelloFresh, you can visit HelloFresh.com and enter the promo code StillBuffering30. So go to HelloFresh.com and enter the promo code StillBuffering30 and you'll get \$30 off your first week of HelloFresh.

Sydnee:

So check that out.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Uh, our second sponsor this week is Squarespace. Now, we've told you about Squarespace before. For some reason you gotta make a website.

Raleigh:

There are a lot of reasons. You could need to showcase your work. You could need to sell products and services of all kinds. Uh, maybe you need to announce an upcoming event or a special project or more.

Sydnee:

[laughs] Whatever, you don't have to tell us your reasons.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Well, you don't need to know.

Sydnee:

No, that's up to you. [laughs] Although as so— if you're gonna make a website about it, I'm assuming you do want people to know.

Raleigh:

So people will know.

Sydnee:

'Cause you're making a website about it.

Raleigh:

Yeah. So maybe, I mean, I don't know. You could share your ideas with us.

Taylor:

I mean, you don't have to tell us personally, but the entire world will know. Let's move on guys. We got this down. [laughing]

Raleigh:

Okay.

Sydnee:

So, maybe you don't know how to do it. Squarespace can help you out. They can do this by giving you beautiful customizable templates. Uh, everything is optimized for mobile right from the start. They've got powerful analytics and built in search engine optimization that's SEO for those of us in the know.

Raleigh:

Oh.

Sydnee:

And, [laughs] free—

Raleigh:

Wow.

Sydnee:

... and secure hosting. And Taylor, if our listeners want to, uh, use this service, what should they do?

Taylor:

Uh, you should go to squarespace.com and you can get a free trial. Uh, when you're ready to launch, you can use an offer code that is buffering to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain. So go to squarespace.com set up your website. When you're ready to launch, use the code 'buffering,' you get 10% off.

Sydnee:

All right. So go check that out today. Now we've told you a lot about what this, this theoretical teen thing—

Raleigh:

The supposed teen, which I realized at the end of this article, it says it was written... at the beginning it says it was written by a teen contributor.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And at the end it says it was written in collaboration with an editor from this website.

Sydnee:

Ah.

Raleigh:

So, you know, how much of that was real teen talk is up for you to determine.

Sydnee:

Now, we have a few articles that are obviously written from adult perspectives about teens.

Raleigh:

Yes.

Sydnee:

And so I think it would be interesting to see how closely these align with the true interests of today's teens. And also maybe you can tell me what some are.

Raleigh:

Or maybe we can all figure out together what some more.

Sydnee:

Now the first one in this, this one article is WhatsApp.

Raleigh:

Yes. Um, and I've used this app once before and it was when Teylor went out of the country—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

... and we could not text her. So, we all downloaded WhatsApp and that was how we communicated with Teylor. That is the only time I've ever used WhatsApp. I don't think this is a teen app. I think we just text.

Sydnee:

Ditto. That's what I was gonna say.

Teylor:

And also, I will say, uh, that was a couple times ago when I went out of the country. I think the past two times that I have, we've communicated through Facebook Messenger because that's, we all have that like—

Sydnee:

Yep.

Teylor:

So, I don't know. WhatsApp kind of got phased out there. Uh, you, you can, you can make phone calls through WhatsApp, uh, outside of the country, which I think was the main reason that I had it for a while, but, uh, it's kind of, kind of been, I don't know, made no longer necessary.

Sydnee:

And you could probably do Skype for that too, right?

Teylor:

Yeah, definitely.

Sydnee:

Yeah. So, uh, next we, we will go past Snapchat.

Raleigh:

We've talked about Snapchat a lot before.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

This is a teen app. You know what it is?

Sydnee:

Yeah. And you teens do use it.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

It's still, it's still up there. I'll let you know when it's not.

Sydnee:

What about Telegram?

Raleigh:

This is what I've never heard of before and um, apparently it's interesting because it lets you do a lot more than your typical texting app and it's free with zero advertisements. Now, my question is I don't have advertisements on my texting app and my texting app was I guess, free because it came with my phone.

Sydnee:

Yeah. I'm confused about this. Um, so teens aren't using this, is the point.

Raleigh:

No. And I mean, it's talking about you can sync your messages across all your devices because they're stored in the cloud, but this also applies if you have Apple Devices.

Sydnee:

And you can invite up to 5,000 friends into a single group message.
[laughing]

Raleigh:

Hold on.

Sydnee:

The nightmare of being in that group message. Like they, they, somebody sends out the initial text to 5,000 people and then your phone explodes.

Raleigh:

Who has a group of 5,000 friends ready and on hand and all that have this app?

Sydnee:

I don't know. I can't handle when like family group messages go out and there's like four of us on it. I'm like, "Why am I getting so many messages?"

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Yeah. That—

Sydnee:

Can you imagine 5,000?

Taylor:

That's like everybody I've ever talked to in my life all at once. I wouldn't like that.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

No, no.

Raleigh:

No.

Sydnee:

No, no. Thank you.

Raleigh:

No thanks.

Sydnee:

What about Kik, K-I-K?

Raleigh:

Um, Kik is, I'd be interested to see when this article was written. Do you know when it was written?

Sydnee:

I tried to only find things—

Raleigh:

Oh, this year.

Sydnee:

... thing from 2017 and 2018.

Raleigh:

Yeah. February 1st, 2018, because it says it's becoming an insanely popular messaging app, but it is an app that I used for a brief period of time in like my preteen to first teen year, like 12 to 13.

Sydnee:

Huh.

Raleigh:

Um, because you could message your friends, but also like there were games you could play through it and like things you could do and like stickers or something. I don't know.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

It was before iMessage was very advanced and you could not do all those things through it. So I would only ever use it when I was like at a friend's house—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

... and we would kick each other back and forth and like play games.

[laughs]

Sydnee:

It also says in this article, like they're pushing that it also has bots as if like, "Hey."

Raleigh:

You can talk to a bot friend.

Sydnee:

You could talk to bots. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Well—

Sydnee:

We're, were you looking for something with more bots? Is that—

Raleigh:

There's that.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Taylor:

I don't know. I think if I could choose to have conversations with robots over people, I would—

Raleigh:

Maybe.

Sydnee:

Well—

Taylor:

Can they look like that—

Sydnee:

... if you're looking for bots, this next step might be for you as well. It's called Twitter.

Taylor:

Those are like angry bots that just say this, like—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... go with like an, I want like, uh, an intelligent bot that like, pretends to be human.

Raleigh:

Do you, do you want a funny story about a bot on Twitter?

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

Uh, so my boyfriend doesn't use his Twitter account and I guess hasn't changed his password in several years since he's had it, but he hasn't even had the app downloaded to his phone in like two or three years.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And, and his account got hacked by a bot that posted inappropriate videos like between the hours of 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM on a school night so he didn't see it and one, every like 20 minutes. So he woke up the next day and I texted him like, "Mm-hmm."

Sydnee:

Oh, my.

Raleigh:

"Your name has been changed and your profile picture's been changed and you might wanna check it out."

Sydnee:

Oh my goodness.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Yikes.

Raleigh:

So, you know, bots—

Sydnee:

Are teens using—

Raleigh:

... are good or bad.

Sydnee:

... Twitter in general?

Raleigh:

I mean, I use Twitter, but I feel like I don't have a lot of friends who still use it. I use it mostly for like the show, like communicating with people who listen or like tell us things about like suggest topics and I post the show through Twitter. I feel like that's what I use it for now more than communicating with other people.

Sydnee:

I feel like it's an older—

Raleigh:

I know.

Sydnee:

... demographic these days.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Like, I feel like—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

... when I tweet things, I don't think about people I go to school with seeing them because I assume they aren't using it anymore.

Sydnee:

What about Google+? [laughs]

Taylor:

Like, I'll share—

Raleigh:

I don't understand.

Sydnee:

I, yeah. I don't think that's a thing that a bunch of teens are using, right?

Raleigh:

No, no. It talks about how it has cool features like Hangouts, um, which is like a video chat thing you can use—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

... but it's designed to use like while you're using other Google things and the only time I've ever used it is when I'm working on like a Google Docs with another person in my class or like a PowerPoint or something. Like, I don't use it to like, hang out with my friends on Google Hangouts.

Sydnee:

[laughs] That's where all the parents are stalking Google Hangouts to try to figure out what their teens are up to.

Raleigh:

Exactly.

Sydnee:

Um, what about this one called WeChat? I've never heard of this.

Raleigh:

Okay. So the, uh, picture looks very similar to WhatsApp.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

And it seems like it's the same thing. [laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh.

Raleigh:

A unique feature is that you can find other WeChat users with the shake button and if other people are shaking their phone, then you can start chatting with them.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Taylor:

What?

Sydnee:

Like, is it literal?

Raleigh:

If another person in the world is shaking their phone too, you can chat with them.

Sydnee:

That's what I'm wondering. Are you shaking? Like I'm shaking it, nobody's chatting with me.

Raleigh:

It's what it seems like. Was there—

Sydnee:

I don't have the app.

Raleigh:

Am I crazy or is there an app a lot, like a long time ago when iPhones first became a thing where you could bump phones with someone—

Sydnee:

Uh-huh.

Raleigh:

... and share things with them?

Sydnee:

You could, yeah.

Raleigh:

What happened to that? Because that, I could see that being very helpful now, but I've never seen anyone with it recently.

Sydnee:

Well, you don't need to bump your phone anymore. If I wanna share an image with you, like we're in the same room we have iPhones, I can just share it with you.

Raleigh:

I know. But like, sometimes that doesn't work.

Sydnee:

Just pair.

Raleigh:

Like there are pictures I have— I know, I know Sydnee. I'm the tech, I'm the tech savvy teen here.

Sydnee:

I'm just saying.

Raleigh:

Like, I had pictures on my computer I wanted to get to my phone the other day and I tried to airdrop them and it didn't work.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

What if I could just slam my phone into my computer? [laughing]

Taylor:

That's it. I think that's, I think somebody, look nobody what's, no matter how—

Sydnee:

Get in there, pictures, get in there.

Taylor:

I think somebody like intelligent and I don't know what, like Apple HQ was like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait, wait, did we tell people to like knock their phones together? Lawsuits?" Just like people just—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... smashing high fiving their phones together in violent rage.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Like what happened? "Did you get my file?"
"It broke." Like, no.

Raleigh:

[laughing]

Sydnee:

I do. I feel like we're reverting to that scene in Zoolander when they're trying to get the files out of the computer. [laughing]

Taylor:

I think I get that rule, anybody in tech knows, never tell anyone to smash or fling or flail about with your technology, 'cause all you can expect is lawsuits. [laughs]

Sydnee:

The, uh, there's only one more. The next two on this list are Instagram, which we have discussed at length—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... and Tumblr, which we've talked about before.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

We've talked about Tumblr.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

I know what Tumblr is.

Raleigh:

Yeah. We've talked about Tumblr before.

Sydnee:

So, but the last one is called ASK fm.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

And this one is also mentioned in the New York Times article I want us to talk about.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

So what, uh, are teens using this?

Raleigh:

This is something again, like KiK I used, this is embarrassing. Uh, I used it when four of my theater friends and I had a YouTube channel for a brief period of time.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And we thought we had a lot of fans, so we wanted them to ask us questions. So we said, "Here's our ASKfm, send us questions and then you can answer them as you go."

Sydnee:

Hmm.

Raleigh:

Or you could just like, you know, do what we did and make a super cool video about it and answer them. Um, but it was something that you could also, they would give you like stop questions that you could just answer, like, "What's a funny story about yourself." So like you could just like go through and be like, "What? Interesting thing. Do I wanna share about myself today?"

Sydnee:

So it's just, it's the evolution of the selfie.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Basically.

Sydnee:

Now you can share everything about yourself.

Raleigh:

Again, this is one that this article writer is saying it's a big one to watch, but it is something I used maybe like six years ago so.

Taylor:

See, it's funny 'cause I feel like I've just now noticed a lot of my friends, I don't actually have the app, but then they'll repost it, it like their stories and Facebook. So I guess it then still does, or not Facebook, Instagram. So it then still does stop existing after a certain amount of time, but like—

Sydnee:

Huh.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... screenshotting ASKfm and then posting that on Instagram. I don't know. Yeah.

Sydnee:

I was gonna say, I don't necessarily understand that impulse, but that's a lie. I do a podcast so, [laughs], obvious—

Raleigh:

So, I get it.

Taylor:

I don't even—

Sydnee:

So, I get it.

Taylor:

People just wanna talk about themselves. Like just like find every way possible, I don't know. It's, I just wouldn't have anything to say.

Sydnee:

I don't, I think, I think that I would be a bit hypocritical with the last name McElroy. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Uh, so I get it. I get it teens. I get it. You wanna talk about yourselves. You're in the phase of development when you're the most interesting thing in the world to you.

Raleigh:

That's right.

Sydnee:

[laughing] Raleigh doesn't deny it.

Raleigh:

Nope.

Taylor:

Wait, but said, does that mean it just didn't stop? It's like you're just still like, "No, I'm pretty sure I'm still, this is still where I am."

Sydnee:

I'm more interested in my kids than myself, but I can use a podcast to talk about my kids too, so that's ultimately self-serving I guess. [laughs] Uh, I wanna, we had a whole other list that was probably made by a parent somewhere.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

But I wanted to do the New York times article.

Raleigh:

Yeah. I think it's—

Sydnee:

'Cause I think it's more relevant.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, it talked about some of the things you've talked about and it's, this is one of those, like it was called, it's 10:00 PM, do you know what your, what apps your children are using? Uh, and It's by Hayley Krischer, I should say also. Um, and it's from last year and I, these sounds scary to me as I read these and I feel very like, I'm having a very mom moment and I also don't know what a lot of these are—

Raleigh:

Even though your children are, you know, three and 10 weeks old.

Sydnee:

Right. Exactly. They wouldn't—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... they don't use apps really.

Raleigh:

I mean, Charlie does.

Sydnee:

Well, yeah. She, [laughs] She takes my phone and says, "I need to, I need to get something on Amazon." [laughs] And that's her way of trying to get it and watch YouTube videos. [laughs] But she'll lie and say—

Raleigh:

I need to get something on Amazon.

Sydnee:

... I just need to get something on Amazon, as if like, I'm gonna let her do that. Like, "Oh sure. Here."

Taylor:

Oh yeah, here."

Sydnee:

You're a three-year-old.

Taylor:

Just let me know.

Sydnee:

Buy something on Amazon. I have, I have one click buying. That's dangerous. No, you can't.

Raleigh:

She could get something on Amazon.

Sydnee:

Yeah. She could buy something on Amazon.

Taylor:

I'm surprised she doesn't put that together with it, 'cause you never know. Alexa too, right?

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

Oh yeah. Like that parrot that just ordered all the strawberries in the world. [laughing]

Taylor:

So parrot figured out how to use Alexa and I ordered like a bunch of silly stuff, but it was mainly just berries, strawberries, [laughing], lots of berries, strawberries.

Raleigh:

I love that.

Sydnee:

At least, at least she'd be eating fruit so.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

All right. So some of these apps that, that, uh, we're supposed to be worried about, um, there's some video apps like, and I've never heard of any of these, Marco Polo, House Party and FireChat.

Raleigh:

Um, the only one of these I've ever used is House Party, which was very popular, at least in my school for about a week. Uh, I wanna say at the end of last school year.

Sydnee:

Uh—huh.

Raleigh:

So last year, I guess this article, the timing is kind of accurate, um, and it's basically where you could join, like start your own house party on your phone, which would be like a face video. And then any of your friends that have the app would know that you were in one, so they get a notification

saying you were, they could join in. So, like theoretically all of your friends could be joined in on this house party at the same time. It's just all of you in one big group.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Video message. But the only weird part about it is, that I never liked because I didn't have that many friends on it because I didn't have that very many friends in real life, so I had like four or five. Well, I mean there were school friends, but like, they were the only people I knew that used it.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

So I would have like four or five that would maybe join in. But then if you have a friend of a friend, they can join as long as their friend is in it. So like, it could be someone I don't know, but if they're a friend of my friends and they can join in on my house party. I don't like that. I don't like that. So it's not private. You can lock your house party so you can, it's called locking the room.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Um, and you can lock it so no one else can join, but—

Sydnee:

This is just a chat room, but a video.

Raleigh:

Yeah. It's like a video chat room.

Sydnee:

Okay.

Raleigh:

But these other two, um, Marco Polo and FireChat, I've never heard of.

Sydnee:

And, and we've, we've known the dangers of chat rooms for a while now.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Like that's not a new concept.

Raleigh:

Yeah. This one almost seems I don't wanna say less dangerous than a real chat room because I mean, you're like video talking with someone.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

But it's harder to impersonate someone on a video chat room than—

Sydnee:

That's true.

Raleigh:

... it is in a text chat room because you actually have to look at them.

Sydnee:

That's fair.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Um, this next one, I, like, I read the, just the three-word description and I found it terrifying.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

It's called Yellow.

Raleigh:

I had never heard of this before until this article.

Sydnee:

And they're calling it Tinder for teens. That does not seem like a good idea for teens.

Raleigh:

Well, it says it, it says it's for friends, not for dates.

Taylor:

But the fact that it has a geo locator, that's scary. I don't, I don't even like that—

Sydnee:

Yes.

Taylor:

... Tinder has a geo locator.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

Or any app—

Sydnee:

No.

Taylor:

... really?

Sydnee:

No.

Raleigh:

And it has a 13-year-old age minimum, which again, like there's no way of verifying that. Like I was using the Disney channel games website that you had to be 13 years old to use when I was like 10.

Taylor:

Rebel.

Raleigh:

But you know, there's no way of verifying that I was 13 years.

Sydnee:

And in this—

Taylor:

Is there—

Sydnee:

... in this article, they talk about shirtless teenagers, photos of shirtless teenagers. That's, I mean—

Raleigh:

Instagram.

Sydnee:

Well, but I can't imagine [laughs]—

Taylor:

Instagram. Are you on. Don't tell me. I don't wanna know.

Raleigh:

I mean like teenagers in like swimsuits on the beach—

Sydnee:

Hedgehogs.

Raleigh:

... like, they post abbs.

Sydnee:

Vegan donuts.

Taylor:

Uh there's, is there an age cap on this? Like, is it, I mean, not that I think, clearly—

Sydnee:

I don't know.

Taylor:

... there's no verification involved. So you could have a, you know, a 50 year old on there, like saying they were 14. This is a terrible idea. I could call it.

Sydnee:

I think this is a bad idea. I think this is a bad idea.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

This makes me very—

Raleigh:

I agree.

Sydnee:

... my gosh, I'm gonna sound so old. My kids would not be allowed to use this. [laughs]

Raleigh:

Mom.

Sydnee:

Um, they're, they list a lot of different anonymous apps, uh.

Raleigh:

They're all the same idea as ASKfm, which is on this list. The only difference is I know two of them are, ASKfm is more for questions and you can get ones from the website. You can answer the, uh, like one of them is, I don't know how to say it. It's like Sarah with an extra H at the end. Sarah.

Sydnee:

Sarah

Raleigh:

Sarah.

Taylor:

Sarah.

Sydnee:

I dunno.

Raleigh:

It's not for, I mean, I guess you could ask things, but it's mostly for like telling someone things anonymously—

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

... and you can answer them. But it's not designed for questions and so is say at me. After school is, uh, specifically made for your school. So you tell it what state you're in, and city and then it'll put you in the only peoples you can see are people from your school.

Sydnee:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

And you can post about other people. You can't post on someone's page because it's anonymous. You can't see what anyone's posting as someone, but anyone can post things about anyone from your school. And they're all in this big list thing. It's like a Whisper type thing. It's like an anonymous secret posting thing, except, except it's supposed to be about people at your school, buy people at your school.

Sydnee:

So it's like the burn book.

Raleigh:

Basically.

Sydnee:

Made, made text.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

This is like a, like a very personal, small skill Reddit. And I imagine it's just as much of a garbage fire.

Raleigh:

It is. I mean, like I downloaded it before. I'm pretty sure the one for my school was like deleted somehow. Like they took it off the internet.

Taylor:

That's a tough one because it's linked to a school, but obviously it is not by the school.

Raleigh:

It's not like school sponsored.

Sydnee:

Yeah. The school is sponsoring it, but so what, I don't know what kind of responsibility the school would have over it. But if I were part of, if I were part of the school administration or if I were a parent whose kid went to that school, I would kind of want 'em to have some responsibility—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... for it because I don't know. And then like the, a lot of these sites will say, like, "We get rid of, you know, uh, uh, any kind of content where people are abusive or you know, that kind of thing, inappropriate." But can you really ask—

Raleigh:

Well—

Sydnee:

... can you trust or ask all these apps to effectively police themselves completely?

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

I, so far, those of us who use Twitter and Facebook, [laughs], we'll tell you it's, I mean, we might ask 'em too, but you're not getting anywhere.

Taylor:

Yeah. And that's, that's the thing that, that bothers me about this is that like teens, teens have been being mean to other teens since the beginning of time, this won't stop. I don't understand why app developers, which are definitely not teens, uh, are giving them more tools to do it better. Because I mean, you can put a certain amount of blame on the teens that are downloading these things and using them, but then also like you have to understand how these things are gonna be used. You can't be an idiot if you don't know the base that you are, you are providing to you and make an app like this.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Well, we're taking away, we're taking away the last kind of refuge of like, if you were like me, the nerdy teen who had trouble making friends, um, when I was home, I was safe—

Taylor:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Safe.

Sydnee:

If somebody wanted, yeah, if somebody wanted access to me, they would have to call our house phone and ask my parents to talk to me and they, you know, they, nobody was gonna do that.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

Just so that then you could get on the phone and they could call you names or something like that. I mean, I'm sure that happens. But generally speaking, that was rare.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

I didn't have any other way of direct messaging me, except for, I mean, you know, eventually Instant Messenger.

Raleigh:

Right.

Sydnee:

But again, like you'd have to know my screen name and, and all that. It, there were so many levels of security—

Taylor:

Well—

Sydnee:

... once I got home from school—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... that no longer exists.

Raleigh:

And it's something too that puts it in a very public forum where lots of people can see it. Like, I remember having people, uh, like on a couple occasions, harass me over Instant Messenger. Just make fun of me, say crappy things with fake names. But at least it was just between me and them. Like, this is something—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

... that it's like your whole school presumably can see and it's the, it's just us. It's like, oh, you just upgraded teenage cruelty with your app there.
[laughs]

Sydnee:

Yeah. Why, why, why facilitate any of this?

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

I mean, that's the thing you're facilitating, easier access to each other. Te—it's already easier to say something horrible in a text than it is face to face. You know, every, every like degree of separation makes it a little easier.

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

And now we make it anonymous and in public. So you can say anything about anybody anonymously. Nobody's ever gonna blame you for it and, and we wonder why kids, you know, are, their lives are destroyed by this kind of harassment and bullying.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Well, so this is being used though.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

These are popular.

Taylor:

These are the, of all the apps we talk about. We talk about math apps and language apps and all these different apps, the ones that you're most familiar with are these apps.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Taylor:

And that's not a criticism of, of you, Raleigh.

Raleigh:

No, I know.

Taylor:

I just mean these are the ones teens are using.

Raleigh:

Yeah. Well, and that—

Taylor:

That' kinda scary.

Raleigh:

... that leads me to, and I, you know, I never thought I would be the kind of person do you think these things are good, but, uh, this article also talks a lot about, a lot about things that parents can do to control what apps their kids can have and how their phones can operate for them. And I don't know, I feel weird saying like, "Remember that's not such a bad idea."

Taylor:

Yeah. I've already said, I mean, before we started recording this podcast, I was saying that one app I would make my kids have, is Find My Friends, 'cause I would make, I would, I want, I'm going to know where they are at all times. [laughs] I'm gonna be that mom and uh, if they're gonna have a phone, I'm gonna be able to trace them with it. [laughs] So I think, I think It would be, and you know, Justin having kind of the literacy he does with the internet and with apps and everything wait more so than me. I think we both would be inclined to police this pretty closely.

Sydney:

Mm-hmm.

Raleigh:

Well, and that's like some of these, like they recommend, I don't, I'm not familiar with any of these, but bark limit, lay and track kids. Like some of them have the ability to basically any at any app, your kid downloads, you have a code that you can approve it, so it doesn't get approved right away. You have to get on their phone, you look at the app and then you can choose if they can actually have it on there or not. Which I don't know. Like that seems, ah, man, and it seems smart. [laughs]

Sydney:

And, and honestly, I mean, I don't think any of these measures would do well without talking to kids.

Raleigh:

Sure. Yeah.

Sydnee:

You know.

Raleigh:

Trust is key.

Sydnee:

I mean but I mean, I'm sure Raleigh, from your perspective, if mom and dad were just to start doing that on your phone, like approving or denying all the apps you tried to download—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... that would probably be pretty infuriating. But if they sat down with you and talked with you about why they were concerned about this app—

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

... or why this one was better than the other one, that would probably be a lot more palatable, I would think?

Raleigh:

Well, I also feel like measures like that aren't exactly meant for someone my age, because I mean, I won't even be living at home with mom and dad in like—

Sydnee:

Sure.

Raleigh:

... four months.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

I'll be, you know, in college. I feel like it's more for like the pre—teens and early teens, like, like me. I was using Kik and ASKfm and all those things with all my friends when I was like 12 or 13 years old when I first had a phone and had access to all of these apps. Um, which I don't think you could do as many things with when I was using them because they'd just come out and like—

Sydnee:

Sure.

Raleigh:

... I'd just gotten one of the first iPhones, but well—

Sydnee:

It really is. It's the next evolution of, I know back in our day, the advice that they would always give parents to like police your child's internet activity—

Taylor:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... was put the family computer in a shared space.

Taylor:

Right. Yeah.

Sydnee:

Put it out in The family shared living space and then that way your kid can't hide in their room and do something on their computer. And this is the next evolution of that because when I was a teenager and I think I've said this before on the show, I started it in a, in a chat room, in a conversation with someone who turned out to be probably a very scary person. Now, luckily I just figured that out through, you know, sending messages back and forth on a computer screen.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

Not by meeting them in person, but the way mom knew about it is she was in the room.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

So it wasn't hidden, it wasn't, you know, it was, it was something that she could see and tell me, "Oh my gosh, stop, you're in over your head, "when I was too young to realize how scary that was. And now that all of this is available on your phone, which you can easily, you know, stow away in your bedroom with—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Sydnee:

... we have to find other ways of, you know, making sure kids don't get in under, over their heads.

Taylor:

Yeah. Well, that, it's just, it's a, it's definitely like a changing landscape because I do think that there's something like, I'm sure Sid as a parent you're, you know, you're aware that there are gonna be things that your kids are probably gonna wanna know about that you don't wanna be the one to necessarily inform them about. Now, that's probably a kind of antiquated sort of American approach to lots of like sexual things, you know, whatever. But there, there is a certain amount of discovery that you do as a teenager that you don't do with your parent holding your hand or, or else you—

Sydnee:

Sure.

Taylor:

... you never do it.

Sydnee:

Sure.

Taylor:

It's just that the range of access is, is a little terrifying. I mean—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... it's not just like, like, "Oh, no, you're gonna put on this, the super scrambled, like Cinemax channel after midnight and hope to see a boob." Like [laughs], it's, it's more so much dangerous than that where you can—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Taylor:

... talk to people, give up your location, like have, have people find you like that. There's a scary end it.

Sydnee:

It's about the context and age and experience can help provide you with a context for things. And I mean, I, when my kids are old enough, I will, I want them to know about sex. I will have no problem. Rileigh can tell you this. I will have no problem talking to my kids about it openly.

Taylor:

She's ready to go right now, Rileigh. What do you wanna know? Go, shoot.

Rileigh:

No, no, but I've done this too often, but I want, I want help put it in a context for them.

Taylor:

Right.

Rileigh:

So 'cause if you figure it all out, all of it out on your own, in the wild, unlimited access, um, you can get some pretty weird ideas about things. [laughs]

Taylor:

Yeah. Well, that's—

Rileigh:

And put yourself in dangerous situations.

Taylor:

Some of these parental apps also, I mean they monitor for like, uh, for like suicidal thoughts for searching certain web terms for like—

Raleigh:

Mm-hmm.

Taylor:

... you know, very inappropriate content. Like it's, it's stuff that you maybe, I don't know, it seems like invasion of privacy, but it's your kid. And if there's a conversation that follows, it seems like it's maybe, I don't know—

Raleigh:

This is, this goes against everything that I think that I would be, but I'm like, "No, that's a great idea." I would wanna know if my kid was like searching into this stuff and be able to have a real conversation with them.

Sydnee:

Yes, you would.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

As a parent, I can assure you, [laughs], you would. So Raleigh, I know we're, we're running long. We need to end the show. But was there any app that you felt was completely left out that shouldn't have been?

Raleigh:

I don't think so.

Sydnee:

So at least they covered the major ones.

Raleigh:

I think they covered the basics, which I mean, a lot of them we skipped over because we've talked about a lot.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

So yeah.

Sydnee:

Okay. That's pretty interesting. I mean, you know, it's, they got a lot of stuff wrong, but they got, they at least hit the big, the big points.

Raleigh:

They got the basics.

Sydnee:

Well, thank you sisters. This was enlightening. Um, I always learned so much about the internet from both of you. I was gonna say Raleigh, but from you too, Tey. Um, but uh, thank you all for listening and uh, thank you to the Maximum Fund Network for hosting our show. You can check out a lot of other great podcasts @maximumfund.org. Uh, you can tweet at us at Still Buff. You can email us @stillbufferingatmaximumfund.org. Uh, I just wanna remind you real quick, before we go, that we are gonna be at the Columbus Podcast Festival. We said this last week I believe, but we're gonna tell you again.

Raleigh:

Uh, so the weekend of May 10th.

Sydnee:

Yes. And we are doing shows that Saturday.

Raleigh:

Yes.

Sydnee:

Yes. We are doing shows on the, and I don't know what time, but—

Raleigh:

They're that day. You can buy a pass for the whole day, I think.

Sydnee:

Yeah. You can either buy like a daily pass or weekend or the whole festival pass, whatever you want. Our shows are still buffering as well as Sawbones and Court Appointed are all on Saturday.

Raleigh:

So I mean, if you can get a weekend pass, 'cause there are a lot of great podcasts, but if you can only get one day and you wanna see our shows then—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Raleigh:

... we'll be there Saturday.

Sydnee:

So, so check out the Columbus Podcast Festival. I think I said last week our website is columbuspodcastfestival.—

Raleigh:

.com.

Sydnee:

... com. Yeah. So, you can go and, and there all the details and tickets and everything and uh, and come on out and see us.

Raleigh:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

And everybody else. So, and thank you to the Noves for our theme song, Baby Change Mind.

Raleigh:

This has been Still Buffering, a sister's guided teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee:

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor:

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh:

I was a teenager...

Sydnee:

And I... was... too.

Taylor:

And I... was... too.

[theme music plays]

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