

## Still Buffering 119: How to Backpacks

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[theme music plays]

**Rileigh:**

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

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

Welcome sisters, and Cooper, who is snoring.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] That's like a... that's like an evil gremlin sound happening in the background. It's just a baby. Don't worry about it.

**Sydnee:**

She's making some weird—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... some weird snoring noises. I think she's okay now.

**Rileigh:**

I think she cleared them up now.

**Sydnee:**

She cleared it up there.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Sweet.

**Sydnee:**

It's a reflex induced snoring noises.

**Raleigh:**

I don't know the—

**Sydnee:**

I don't know what's going.

**Taylor:**

Tiny baby wookie.

**Sydnee:**

Just stay asleep while we're recording Coop, that's all I ask. You have a full belly and a clean butt. Stay asleep.

**Taylor:**

That's what we all want, right?

**Raleigh:**

You can't ask for more.

**Sydnee:**

A full belly and a clean butt.

**Raleigh:**

A full belly and a clean butt.

**Taylor:**

Yep. Put that on a t-shirt.

**Raleigh:**

And to be asked to fall asleep.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, so I did something exciting.

**Raleigh:**

What did you do?

**Sydnee:**

I sent in my DNA.

**Raleigh:**

That's exciting? To who?

**Sydnee:**

To ancestry.com to find out about our ancestry.

**Raleigh:**

Cool.

**Sydnee:**

Just for fun—

**Raleigh:**

I guess it's the same for all of us, isn't it?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

So now that neither of us have to do it.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, we're each a slightly different mix of mom and dad, but—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. But like, you know.

**Sydnee:**

But you can assume a lot from it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Uh. Which I don't end— I'm not endorsing this as like, so you need to go do this so you know about... Like, I'm not looking for anything I'm prone to necessarily.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

You know, disease wise or anything like that. Which if you want to do, do it. But, um, I... I'm just curious.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

One of our uncles did it.

**Raleigh:**

I am too.

**Sydnee:**

And I was just curious what ours would be. We know nothing about dad's history. I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

He... what does he say they are? Smirls?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Um.

**Raleigh:**

Horse thieves.

**Sydnee:**

Smirls, horse thieves.

**Taylor:**

Yes. Texas horse thieves.

**Sydnee:**

So I have no idea whether... I don't even know what—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] And what that means.

**Sydnee:**

... what the name Smirl, I don't know where it comes from. No.

**Raleigh:**

No one else has it ever.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

So.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. Yeah. We know that because they order you at marshal end in terms of your last name.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And I'm Smirl one, and you're Smirl two.

**Raleigh:**

Smirl two.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh. Um, yeah. I don't know... I'm just curious. I just like to find out. Just that I think it would be fun.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But you know, one thing I had thought about is now they have my DNA.

**Raleigh:**

They do.

**Taylor:**

They're going to clone you. They're going to make a clone army of doctor... Doctor Smirls. And then your whole brand is just going to be ruined.

**Sydnee:**

Just ruined.

**Taylor:**

You're going to be in every Walmart.

**Raleigh:**

Or you become your own Marvel movie. Instead of Doctor Strange, Doctor Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

And there's hundreds of me.

**Taylor:**

Or a clone army.

**Raleigh:**

Or that.

**Taylor:**

It's part of the republic. [laughs] I wish you—

**Sydnee:**

That doesn't sound good.

**Taylor:**

I wish you were inside every storm trooper, Sydnee.

**Raleigh:**

That would be a funny movie. That would be a funny movie. Could you imagine that they all got hungry at the same time? They get nothing done.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

They get mad at each other.

**Sydnee:**

[laughing] Well, I think that... I don't think it would work very well. I don't take... I don't take... I don't take to authority very well.

**Raleigh:**

You just do what you want.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. So I'd be like, I'm sleeping in. I'm not getting up yet. And also, I'm hungry. And who... what do you... I don't like guns. Did I make that clear to you? I don't care what they shoot. I'm not touching that thing.

**Raleigh:**

A slingshot is fine. A gun? No.

**Taylor:**

Why did we choose this woman to make our clone army out of?

**Sydnee:**

This is a terrible flaw.

**Taylor:**

We didn't think this through!

**Sydnee:**

Listen, my bigger concern is how are we providing healthcare for all of my clones? Could we talk about that?

**Taylor:**

I... I think what the res— I think Rebel Alliance just needs to clone you. And then, that's how you counter the storm troopers.

**Raleigh:**

Yes.

**Taylor:**

An army of Sydnees.

**Sydnee:**

I actually think this is timely to talk about, because I think that, um, not that this is what... our episode is not about how I'm going to get cloned. I hope I'm not. Um, but I think that Court Appointed did an episode referencing like, the dangers of sending your DNA off to corporations and such.

**Raleigh:**

And I've always wanted to do something like 23 and Me or Ancestry or something.

**Sydnee:**

I probably should have listened to their episode before I did it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

But, like, what... I mean, I don't know, like, if... like some spooky implications, like, if you watch black mirror. But, like, what could they actually do with my DNA that would affect me?

**Sydnee:**

Uh, I mean, I suppose that you could... I could put on my foil hat and tell you lots of scary things.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

But in real... in real life, I think that they probably would use it for research purposes, if they... I mean, 'cause they have it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

They have your DNA. They can... and I would say that in the disclaimer, which is, well, urging—

**Raleigh:**

You did not read it.

**Sydnee:**

I did not read. That they would... they would have told me that they'll use my DNA to figure out percentages of people that have various alleles and different mutations and different positions in the genetic code—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**



... and things like that. I'm fine with that. I really don't mind. I don't—

**Raleigh:**

Science.

**Sydnee:**

... have any secrets in my DNA. I think the bigger worry would be like, insurance purposes. Let's say that they uncovered from your DNA that you were predisposed to certain chronic or progressive illnesses that you haven't developed symptoms of yet, but you're going to later. What if they give that information to a health insurer—

**Raleigh:**

Got you.

**Sydnee:**

... or to an employer? That kind of thing. What if we started regulating that through the government somehow. But again, I think—

**Taylor:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

I think I'm putting on my foil hat now.

**Taylor:**

Like, well, see, I went even further because you said for insurance purposes. So I was like, oh, right. They're going to clone me, and then that clone is going to take my identity, and then they're going to steal my credit cards.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

That's what they're going to do.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Yes.

**Taylor:**

They're going to mind alter my clone into, like, a government agent, and then replace me in society.

**Raleigh:**

You know—

**Taylor:**

Until they replace all of us. This is a step for the whole country because of ancestry.com.

**Sydnee:**

That's what it is.

**Raleigh:**

I think—

**Sydnee:**

That's the whole thing.

**Raleigh:**

... I'd be okay with them creating a productive clone of myself that takes my identity because now—

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... I wouldn't have to do anything.

**Taylor:**

No. But it takes your identity. You no longer exist. You don't just get to like, chill out in bed. I got a clone now. Everything is great.

**Raleigh:**

That's exactly what I get to do.

**Sydnee:**

This is a teen dystopian novel that you're quoting right now, right?

**Raleigh:**

I get to... I get to sit in bed and do nothing. And "real Raleigh," goes around and does all the things that Raleigh is supposed to do.

**Taylor:**

Wait. That is... That would be, like, actually there's your plot right there.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Or, like, the rich upper class, they all have like a lower class clone of themselves that has to be—

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Taylor:**

... in the working world.

**Sydnee:**

Them—

**Taylor:**

And since it's their property, they can literally own them.

**Sydnee:**

If this... If this novel doesn't already exist, I'd be shocked.

**Taylor:**

It definitely does. I feel like I've read this a couple of times.

**Sydnee:**

And it's all from the perspective of a clone.

**Raleigh:**

I'm going to write it.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. It's—

**Raleigh:**

Plot twist. You don't figure out they're clones until the end.

**Taylor:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

This is a great... well, now you've ruined it. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Yeah. That's—

**Raleigh:**

No one read my book.

**Taylor:**

... not a plot twist now.

**Raleigh:**

No one tell my book... everyone how my book ends.

**Taylor:**

Don't tell. Nobody tell.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I hope that they don't clone me. But whatever... whatever they want to learn about DNA from me, I'm happy to provide. You do... I will tell you this, I had to spit into this vile. And it's not a little bit of spit.

**Raleigh:**

It's a lot of spit.

**Sydnee:**

It's gross.

**Raleigh:**

It's a lot of bit on spit.

**Sydnee:**

Spit is the one thing that grosses me out.

**Taylor:**

Really?

**Sydnee:**

I can handle poop, and vomit, and yep, blood and guts. Nothing else bothers me. Spit is the only thing that grosses me out, and I grossed myself out.

**Raleigh:**

Turn spit in.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. And I was grossed out by it. They... you don't... they have a line you have to fill it up to.

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

And they have a note in there that says, "Not including the bubbles." *Ugh.*  
[laughs] How gross.

**Raleigh:**

That's grody.

**Taylor:**

That seems like a lot. I mean, I... I got registered to donate bone marrow, and they just needed a little swabby swab from me. That's all they needed to find out everything about me, I guess as far as my bone marrow is concerned.

**Raleigh:**

Using all this Sydnee spit to make Sydnee clones.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. That's... Uh, that's a suspicious amount of spit.

**Sydnee:**

Its even more suspicious.

**Raleigh:**

*Sus-spit-cious.*

**Taylor:**

*Sus-spit-cious.* [laughs] Heyyy!

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] I'm sorry. That's a Tommy Smirl sense of humor.

**Taylor:**

That was bad, and we feel bad.

**Sydnee:**

Charlie was watching me do this, and... Charlie was watching me do this, and she just couldn't. She was like, "Why are you doing that?" And I didn't know how to begin to describe, like, why.

**Raleigh:**

I'm letting people on the internet tell me where I'm from based on my spit.

**Sydnee:**

What... For what purpose? I don't know. I'm just curious.

**Taylor:**

I don't know. I feel like Charlie is at a level of understanding that you're like, oh, okay. Yeah. Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. She might. She...

**Raleigh:**

You want to get me a vile, mommy?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Can I do it?

**Sydnee:**

She asked. She asked, "Do I get to do it?" And I said, "Well, we'll wait a while before we sell your DNA."

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Let's sell mommy and daddy's first, and then we'll do yours later. Um, no. That's not... I don't have a segue. That's not what we're going to talk about this week, though, because that'd be a weird episode of a teen podcast.

**Raleigh:**

Or we lay put the outline for my novel. A clone's life.

**Sydnee:**

A clone's life by Raleigh Smirl.

**Taylor:**

Okay. But Raleigh, once again. If your big surprise ending is that you didn't know they were clones, maybe workshop the title.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Like, maybe just not that.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] That's a good point there, Tey.

**Sydnee:**

Me and Myself.

**Raleigh:**

Me and Myself...

**Sydnee:**

The sequel would be about another clone, and it's called, Me, Myself, and I.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

A triplet.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. There's a clone of a clone.

**Raleigh:**

Oh, twice removed.

**Sydnee:**

The DNA is going to start to degrade at that point. Um, you don't know what you're going to get.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Find out in Me, Myself, and I.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Out summer of 2020.

**Raleigh:**

You're giving me two years to write two books?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

All right.

**Sydnee:**

That's all you get. So, what I wanted us to talk about was actually Justin's idea. I should credit him. I should give Justin the... the kudos for this. Was, what is in your backpack, Raleigh? Because I imagine—

**Raleigh:**

Whoa.

**Sydnee:**

... that not just yours personally, but teens of today... you carried backpacks some of you, right?

**Raleigh:**

Some people.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I mean, like, the backpack hasn't completely gone out of style.

**Raleigh:**

No, but there are, I will say, a lot of people at my school, I would say girls mostly, who carry purses—



**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

... that are not big enough to carry school things, and then just carry all of their school things in their arms. [laughs] Seems counterproductive.

**Sydnee:**

That's so many things.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Like, they carry all their binders and their books in their arms, and then just have a purse, like, over their shoulder.

**Sydnee:**

Well, that's... okay, so that's an interesting point to begin with. I feel like a backpack, even in high school for me was essential.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I mean, I've never not had a backpack. Maybe sometimes I felt cool and gotten a messenger bag.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

But never not a backpack.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't need a messenger bag till college because there was so much to carry. And just mechanically, it's easier to carry it with a backpack—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... than the one shoulder messenger bag. I actually... that's... There's my little piece of advice for anybody who ever wants to have children. I would get a backpack diaper bag. That's what we have. So much easier than like, the little one handle thing because... especially airports and stuff, carrying

that giant bag on one shoulder, my arm always felt like it was going to fall off. Now I just carry a backpack. It's so much easier.

**Rileigh:**

There's a difference between Sydnee's backpack of today and of yesterday.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. My backpack of today—

**Rileigh:**

Now it's a baby bag.

**Sydnee:**

... is full of diapers and Boudreaux butt paste and wipes and little—

**Rileigh:**

And Mr. Puppykins.

**Sydnee:**

Mr. Puppykins, extra changes of clothes for all my children. Though it's just two of them, but it feels like a lot.

**Taylor:**

I understood most of that. What's a Mr. Puppykins? A bit of clarification.

**Sydnee:**

It's a little rattle with a puppy face on it that Cooper is particularly fond of.

**Taylor:**

Okay. All right. Just, you know—

**Sydnee:**

It has crunchy ears, and it's in black, white, and red contrasting colors, which she really enjoys.

**Taylor:**

I did— You just said that along with like diapers and butt paste as if it was something that everyone would understand, so you know.

**Rileigh:**

Everyone has a Mr. Puppykins.

**Sydnee:**

Mr. Puppy kins, he's the principal. Charlie told me that, and I don't know why he's the principal.

**Raleigh:**

He's the principal of my school apparently.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Is what Charlie says.

**Taylor:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

She said, "This is the principal, Mr. Puppykins." [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Okay. Sure. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

That wouldn't strike me as an authority figure, but you know, whatever.

**Sydnee:**

Um, uh, so, in the backpack of yesteryear, first of all, the backpacks of the '90s were truly magnificent.

**Raleigh:**

I feel like that's a sarcastic comment.

**Taylor:**

I don't know.

**Sydnee:**

There... there were some... Like, everybody had the standard. I think the... Like, the basic line—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... was the Jansport.

**Raleigh:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

The Jansport backpack with your initials on it if you got fancy. You feel like that was the standard, Tey?

**Taylor:**

Uh, yes. I mean, there was the—

**Sydnee:**

I never had... I never—

**Taylor:**

The next level from that which I think was the L.L. Bean backpack, you could get... I think you could get your initials on that, too.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

I think when I was in middle school, I had a Pottery Barn backpack that had my initials on it.

**Sydnee:**

I guess you can get your initials on pretty much anything.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, if you—

**Raleigh:**

I got like the custom mixed colors.

**Sydnee:**

If you've got a marker.

**Raleigh:**

Well, yeah. Sydnee, if you have a marker. But I'm talking about like—

**Sydnee:**

Stitched.

**Raleigh:**

... stitched into the backpack.

**Sydnee:**

The L.L. Bean backpack was the fancy one. Or I guess perhaps you could consider it the very efficient one. The cost efficient one, because it had a lifetime guarantee. So you could just get the same backpack for your entire career. Just send it back when it got a hole on it.

**Raleigh:**

I have to imagine they've gotten rid of that policy now.

**Sydnee:**

I believe they have.

**Taylor:**

I believe it happened super recently though, because I definitely listened to like a—

**Raleigh:**

Really?

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Um, I don't know what I'm trying to say? Like an NPR story of like the weirdness of that clause, where like, people have returned the same like khaki shirt for 30 years now to get a new one. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I think you're exactly right that that just happened recently. And a lot of people are upset.

**Raleigh:**

Theoretically, with that policy, you could buy a lot of things once. Like, buy an entire wardrobe and a backpack, or whatever else—

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

Other things they sold, and never pay for another thing again.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah, I think what they were counting on is that most people aren't going to do that, because they'll want to get like, a different shirt.

**Raleigh:**

But you *could*.

**Sydnee:**

And that most people aren't going to take the trouble like if your backpack last you five years, you're not going to say like, well, this is five years old and it's finally torn. I'm going to take... I'm going to take the time to send it back in and get a new one. I think the basis was that most people won't do that, but—

**Raleigh:**

People did.

**Sydnee:**

... surprise. They will.

**Taylor:**

I mean, I admire that. We talked about it before. But returning anything for me is a struggle.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

I was working on a costume, and I needed like a very specific colored navy vest, so I ordered like four navy vests off of Amazon. Specifically, all ones with return policies. Like, three returns. And now, I just have four navy vests forever.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

If anybody needs a once-worn navy vest. I got a lot.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I was—

**Sydnee:**

Now in the neighborhood, Taylor is know as that navy vest woman. Who's that navy vest woman over there?

**Raleigh:**

Open up one navy vest, and she has three navy vests secretly tucked into it.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] I got to—

**Raleigh:**

A secret deal.

**Sydnee:**

I have a navy vest almost for every day of the week.

**Raleigh:**

Now, you have to complete the collection. Um—

**Taylor:**

That was funny. Just everyday.

**Raleigh:**

I'm sorry. Graduation dress, I did the same thing. There were like four I couldn't decide between. I was like, "Well, you know, I'm buying them online, so I'm going to want to try them on. They may look different when I try them on. And if they get here too late, then I'm going to want to have to... Or I'm going to have to wear another one, then it might be too late to have one." So I just ordered all four. And I told someone and they said, "You're going to return the three you don't wear, right?" The answer is no, my friend.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I will keep them all.

**Sydnee:**

Wear them to something else at least.

**Raleigh:**

I'll just wear them for something else.

**Taylor:**

I mean, there's that. At least there's that.

**Sydnee:**

There were also, though, the backpacks that weren't as... that weren't as basic. Um, you could get furry backpacks, those were a big deal.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

I feel like... I feel like Clueless popularized like, the fluffy...

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, especially if it was tiny. There were lots of tiny backpacks.

**Raleigh:**

For the tiny dogs.

**Sydnee:**

The utility of tiny... No. Just for, I don't know, your pencil. The utility of a tiny backpack, I never understood. You... I mean, really, you carry your Lip Smackers, I guess.

**Raleigh:**

A pencil.

**Sydnee:**

And a pencil with a poof on the end.



**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I guess if you're going for the whole look. Um, same thing with the... there were people who used to carry those like, stuffed animal shaped backpacks.

**Taylor:**

Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Those were popular. The see-through backpack was popular for a while. Like, the clear plastic in different colors.

**Raleigh:**

I don't think I'd like that.

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Taylor:**

But wait. Now, on... on the topic of see-through backpacks, there aren't... isn't that there have been a lot of schools they're implementing now? Like, mandatory.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah. I think specifically Parkland may have... Or the Stoneman Douglass may have been one... first one to do that.

**Sydnee:**

Um, I think they were just like uh... I saw a lot of '90s backpacks that just looked like that. I think that whole like kind of plasticky, shiny look was in.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And so a plasticky shiny backpack, also.

**Raleigh:**

And I've seen backpacks like that, like, not required by school. Like, even in elementary school, like 10 years ago, I saw people carrying clear backpacks or like kind of tinted plastic-colored backpacks or shoulder bags or something. Made out of a material like jelly shoes.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Exactly.

**Raleigh:**

Like that. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I found a lot of those. I was looking at '90s backpacks, and it was... it was taking me on a wild ride, there. I found a lot of those. I found a Tamagotchi themed backpack.

**Raleigh:**

Love that.

**Sydnee:**

I can't say I ever saw one of those, but that's awesome.

**Taylor:**

I would have got that.

**Raleigh:**

I would've ordered that.

**Sydnee:**

I found a Buffy one-shoulder bag. It was like one... it was like the one-shoulder kind of backpack, it was velvet, and it had just like, the Buffy symbol.

**Taylor:**

Oh, the B?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Super cool.

**Raleigh:**

Are you going to get that?

**Sydnee:**

I mean, if I could find it. I'd carry all the diapers in there.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. There you go.

Taylor:

That'd be the best diaper bag ever.

**Sydnee:**

Um, obviously Lisa Frank. She did her folder, she did her binder, she had to do her backpacks.

**Raleigh:**

Backpacks.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

She did indeed.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, so there was about a wide variety of crazy '90s backpacks. Then what did you put inside? And this is what I was curious about, because I think that there may have been equipment that was necessary back in high school when we were there that might not be necessary for teens today.

**Raleigh:**

Like what?

**Sydnee:**

Well, everybody had a binder, typically.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

With a collection of paper and folders. So you had spare notebook paper, and you had folders, and also pockets to put things in.

**Raleigh:**

Now, when you say a binder, when I was in, uh, probably all of elementary school, through all of middle school, I had a giant zip up... What some people called a Trapper Keeper.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Like a Five Star thing.

**Raleigh:**

It was like a giant fabric binder that kept all of my notebooks and folders and things, and I pretty much just carried that. Is that what you mean? Or do you mean like just a regular like three ring, plastic divider?

**Sydnee:**

Either way.

**Raleigh:**

Okay. Because I don't carry a binder now, except for my one class that requires me to carry a binder to separate all my things into.

**Sydnee:**

I would do that to either coll— Like if I had a folder for every class, or if I had a notebook for every class, because I usually had a notebook for each class.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Is that still common? Because I would go, and I would like, pick out like my... my Five Star college ruled notebooks.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

And I would pick a color that I thought corresponded to each class.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. What—

**Sydnee:**

That's still a thing?

**Taylor:**

Well, that's what I want to know. What was your color coding here? Because I had one too, but I want to—

**Raleigh:**

I did too.

**Taylor:**

... know what yours was.

**Sydnee:**

Science was always green.

**Raleigh:**

Yes.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That still fits?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah, I mean, that's for me. That's what I've always done.

**Sydnee:**

History was yellow.

**Taylor:**

Interesting.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know why.

**Raleigh:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

I don't have any... This is how my brain works. I don't have any rationale for this.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Literature or English or language or whatever the year it was, you know, creative writing whatever, was blue.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And math was red.

**Raleigh:**

Math was red?

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

That's very important to me. The ones I remember most are math being read and science being green. That is what I've always done.

**Sydnee:**

Did you have a different... Do you have a different one?

**Taylor:**

Mine... mine was a little different. I... The science was green, math was blue. Just, math is blue. Numbers are cold and unfeeling like the color blue. I don't know. History for me was, like, the maroon color. The yellowy maroon one in the Five Star.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

Um, and one of my... And then literature was yellow. I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

Interesting.

**Taylor:**

Because books go yellow when you let them sit around too long.

**Raleigh:**

There you go.

**Sydnee:**

This has to say something about us, but I have no idea what it does.

**Raleigh:**

There's probably a BuzzFeed about it.

**Taylor:**

I do like, across the board, we're all like, science is green. Because it's about—

**Raleigh:**

Science is green.

**Sydnee:**

Science is green.

**Taylor:**

Science and stuff is green.

**Raleigh:**

Like the earth? Yes?

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like grass?

**Sydnee:**

The chlorophyll.

**Raleigh:**

Plant.

**Sydnee:**

Photosynthesis.

**Raleigh:**

Science. Green.

**Taylor:**

I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

You don't know.

**Sydnee:**

Germ, snot, you know. It's all green.

**Raleigh:**

Same thing.

**Taylor:**

I think also there was definitely the thought in my head, and this is... this is my brain. Where math was always the subject that I hated the least, so I paired it with the color I like the most to try to give me that little help. Like well, math is... math is terrible, but I like the color blue. So, here's this.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Huh.



**Taylor:**

This will help.

**Raleigh:**

I get that.

**Sydnee:**

And it always threw me when you... Like, when I had to have a notebook for something like drama class. Like—

**Taylor:**

Purple.

**Sydnee:**

... now what do I do?

**Taylor:**

Purple. No, any—

**Sydnee:**

I think I did use purple actually.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. All the arts are purple. That's, anytime it was an art, or yeah, theater or anything, it's a purple notebook.

**Raleigh:**

You know, I don't think I've ever needed a notebook for an arts class.

**Sydnee:**

For theater, we had to take a lot of notes. Like the history of theater and different definitions.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, now—

**Taylor:**

Interesting. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... speaking of... We were talking about math, do you guys still use graphing calculators?

**Raleigh:**

I have not been in a math class in two years. Um, but—

**Sydnee:**

For people who take math, did they use graphic calculators?

**Raleigh:**

But when I was in math class, we had graphing calculators provided to us that are in the classroom, they're like a classroom set, but they're very fancy, like, touchscreen. Texas Instruments something.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know the iteration.

**Raleigh:**

Like, yellow and black.

**Sydnee:**

We were on TI 80 something. Do you remember Tey? The TI 80—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... something. I don't remember what iteration of what it was then.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But that was there. And I had a clear once you can see all of the mechanics inside. Oh, I loved that graphing calculator.

**Taylor:**

I really wish that that moment and like tech... like, false technology, it was just a style thing. But I wish they would come back. Like the see through phones, the see through calculators. There was that—

**Sydnee:**

I loved those.

**Taylor:**

Like all the... like the line of Macs that had the slightly see... like the desktop Macs that had the slightly like colored see through casing. I liked that aesthetic. It makes you feel like you're living in like some, like, in a future that is like from a movie and not the actual future.

**Sydnee:**

It really does.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Everything looks like, like, see through, uh, electronic gumballs.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Like you could believe that part of this might be a flux capacitor.

**Sydnee:**

I liked that too. And that... that was... that was like my... Like, I would whip that out with pride like, oh, graphing calculator, ey? Would you like to use this—

**Raleigh:**

My clear one.

**Sydnee:**

Check this baby out. That's right. I got the see-through one. I paid the extra five dollars. What do you think?

**Raleigh:**

Nerd.

**Sydnee:**

Those things were expensive.

**Taylor:**

They were.

**Sydnee:**

They're like \$100 calculators.

**Taylor:**

I can't imagine there's not a way to do all of that stuff on your phone now. Like, there's got to be graphing calculator app, \$1.99.

**Raleigh:**

I'm sure there is. The calculator that comes on your phone, I know that it doesn't do that.

**Taylor:**

No.

**Raleigh:**

But it does a lot. If you turn your phone sideways, there—

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... like twice. I'm not even kidding. Twice as many keys when you turn it sideways is when you hold your phone up... straight up. Do it.

**Sydnee:**

I'm going to have to do this real fast.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

There's enough space.

**Raleigh:**

That's how I find like, square roots and stuff.

**Taylor:**

Really? Holy crap.

**Raleigh:**

During math class—

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Look at all that.

**Raleigh:**

... and during science class. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Raleigh:**

You're welcome.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, it's got sine and cosine and all that.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. So it does a lot, it just doesn't graph.

**Taylor:**

Why does it say 'rad' up in the corner? Is that—

**Sydnee:**

A radical?

**Taylor:**

Is that like, it's awesome!

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Or is that a math thing? It's... I haven't done a math thing—

**Sydnee:**

It's a math thing.

**Taylor:**

... in a long time.

**Raleigh:**

It's both. It's awesome.

**Taylor:**

I don't... I don't do any maths anymore. You have enough room to—

**Sydnee:**

I don't do a lot of math either, but—

**Taylor:**

You can write boobs like three times. Like, there's a lot of... more space this way. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Okay. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's what Taylor used her graphing calculator for.

**Taylor:**

Of course! [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

To write boobs a bunch of time, and then try to make a graph out of it. What does that curve look like?

**Raleigh:**

58,008.

**Taylor:**

Uh, yeah. That's definitely true.

**Sydnee:**

There's a lot more in the backpack that we have to cover. But before we do that...

**Raleigh:**

Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:**

So today in the group message, we got a sponsor we want to tell you about. We've told you about before, we're going to tell you about it again. And that's, uh, Texture. So Still Buffering is brought to you in part this week by Texture. So, let's say that you like magazines.

**Raleigh:**

I do.

**Sydnee:**

I do too.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

We all like magazines.

**Taylor:**

Same.

**Sydnee:**

But if... if you're like me, the paper magazines kind of accumulate in stacks, like, well-meaning stacks in my house—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... that I want to read, or I'll go to the store and I'll see some magazines, and I want to read those but I'm not going to buy all those magazines. Well, Texture has got you covered, because they... Texture has an app that will offer you over 200 top magazines all in one place. Um, not only do you get the most current issue, you get the back issues as well, so you can go back and read stuff that you may have missed before. And you can get all kinds of cool titles. Um, really popular ones like Time and The New Yorker, also teen specific things.

**Raleigh:**

Teen Vogue 17, got all of them.

**Sydnee:**

Exactly. Things like Entertainment Weekly, People, um, Cosmo, whatever you like. And, uh, you can get the most current issue, all the back issues, and you don't have to have a stack of paper in your house. Uh, you get the best of both worlds, because you get all of the kind of news stories that are

going on, all the important stuff in the world to keep you up to date, as well as some entertainment, um, anytime, anywhere, because it's just an app.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

So Raleigh, if our listeners want to check out Texture, what should they do?

**Raleigh:**

So, Texture is usually \$9.99 a month, but they're giving all of our listeners a free trial. So if you want to start your seven-day free trial, go to [texture.com/stillbuffering](http://texture.com/stillbuffering). So, go to [texture.com/stillbuffering](http://texture.com/stillbuffering) to start reading the latest issues of your favorite magazines today. That's [texture.com/stillbuffering](http://texture.com/stillbuffering) for your seven-day free trial.

**Sydnee:**

Awesome. So go check that out.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

And save some trees.

**Raleigh:**

Cooper is—

**Taylor:**

Can't focus on that enough.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. That's a really good point.

**Raleigh:**

Cooper is smiling in her sleep while we discuss Texture, so she loves it.

**Sydnee:**

She wants to see those magazines.



**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, so, other things. Now, this is going to sound like a really dumb question. Do you... teens today, do you still write stuff down or do you just bring like a computer?

**Raleigh:**

Um, we're actually—

**Sydnee:**

On an iPad, or—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Phone, I don't know. You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:**

I have one class, it's my science class, where computers are provided to us in class. So they have like a... it's called a mobile lab, like a mobile computer lab where you get a laptop at your desk. Um, and we can take notes and stuff on that, which is what I do for that class. But apparently, there's some law that we are not allowed to have personal computers at the school. I take mine anyways, because I have some teachers that say that, you know, you can use your laptop on this day for this assignment or whatever to work on stuff, so you can have it on your computer and it's easier. But I have been told by multiple teachers, it is against the law for us to have our own laptops.

**Taylor:**

Weird.

**Sydnee:**

Why?

**Raleigh:**

I think—

**Taylor:**

That's not true in college.

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Raleigh:**

The way it was explained is that... I mean, one, we don't even have access to Wi-Fi anymore on our phones because they changed it so the only people had access were like the school provided computers and teachers and stuff, so we couldn't get on our phones was the goal during school.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

So you couldn't get Wi-Fi for your laptop by bringing it. But the way one teacher explained it was that everything in the county has to go through one sort of filter that filters what you can and can't see or do.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

And that's what the school-regulated computers have. But your own personal laptop does not have that.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

Have that filter, I guess.

**Sydnee:**

Huh. Like... like a firewall?

**Taylor:**

That makes sense.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Like websites you can have... you can get to and website you can't.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. Okay. I guess that's true.

**Raleigh:**

Like for example, on our... when we could have access to school Wi-Fi, there were certain websites you couldn't get on. Like if you tried to go to Facebook, you couldn't get on Facebook. If you try to go to Pinterest, you couldn't get on Pinterest.

**Sydnee:**

Okay. That's interesting.

**Raleigh:**

So now we just don't have any Wi-Fi accessible to students.

**Sydnee:**

I understand that. Like, I get what they're saying. But I think moving forward, we're going to have to find a way to—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... work around that because the idea of like, schools are internet free is kind of wild.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Um, the one class that I can use my computer in is so much nicer, because we open up the computers as soon as we get there. He has assignments that he sends to us through Google Classroom, which is like an online classroom type thing where you can turn them in online, you can view documents online.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

Um, you can write exactly... like directly in the documents that he provides to you, and then turn them in so he doesn't have to print anything out. You don't have to write anything down. Like, everything is done through that one

account on my laptop. And if I had that for every single class in it, I would have no need to carry any books or notebooks or anything.

**Sydnee:**

So... well, and that that gets me to my next question, schoolbooks. The main reason I continued to carry a backpack was because I had a lot of heavy books.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

It would have been impossible to cart them around in my arms.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I don't know if this is true for all high schools and all classes, but... Good morning Cooper. Um, I will say for my school and my AP classes, at the beginning of the year teachers give us our textbook and say, "Keep this at home for studying purposes and assignment purposes."

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

"But don't bring it back with you to school until the end of the year when you have to turn it back in." So like, we don't have to carry it around, we just leave it. Like, if you want to leave it in your locker and take it home with you or leave it in your car your room.

**Sydnee:**

That's interesting. I do not remember that being the case, certainly for us. I carted many books back and forth to school.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I think the idea is that we don't use them in class, so there's no point.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. And I don't know if it's... I mean, it depends on the layout of the high school, but that's what I remember. Like you have lockers, but the notion that you are going to be able to go to your locker in between every class, if at all, because—

**Raleigh:**

Oh yeah.

**Taylor:**

... our high school was laid out quite—

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

... spread out. Like, I don't think I ever used a locker through the entirety of high school. I kept everything in my bag because it was just... It was... And it was probably like a 40, 50 pound bag.

**Sydnee:**

Same for me. I never... I knew I had one, but I never made it to it because... I mean, probably at lunch, I could have taken the time to go, and that would've been the only opportunity I would've had to get to my locker.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I've had a locker for one year of high school, and I only went to it at the very beginning of the day when I got to school, and the very end of the day when I was leaving the school.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I didn't have time to go to it any other time. So, I don't know. It's helpful that we don't have to carry textbooks with us, but I don't know what the point is of us having them then.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Now, we used to have to bring ours to class and read from them in class and—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, especially, I remember like, um, literature, because I remember reading... Like, being assigned parts for the plays and stuff that we learned, and having to read them aloud in class and—

**Raleigh:**

See, I haven't had a literature textbook since my freshman year.

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Raleigh:**

Because we don't really do things in them. We had like, classroom sets of textbooks last year in AP language, where we have had to do like grammar assignments and stuff.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

But most of the stuff we did was stuff she printed out and gave to us or sent to us online.

**Sydnee:**

That's... that's wild to think about because I... I mean, I remember reading all the stories whether or not we were assigned them in our literature textbook.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Nerd.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. That's why I read Animal Farm sitting in gym class. [laughs] Not participating. Nothing against gym class, everybody should get physical activity, it's good for you. But—

**Raleigh:**

Sydnee was exercising her brain.

**Sydnee:**

Exactly. [laughs] Um, uh, so that... Because that was... What I was going to ask too, is like, I would carry around my collection of the pencils that I really liked, I found like the pencils that were really good... good solid pencils with extra erasers on the end. You could get fun erasers.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, and then I had my highlighter for highlighting my notes. And then there were some classes where you could use a pen, and I would have my pens.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

So like, you had your whole collection of various writing utensils for different classes and different kinds of assignments. Is that—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I mean— [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Or did you not do that Tey?

**Raleigh:**

Did you not—

**Taylor:**

No. But I was that kid that I had the Trapper Keeper, and like, when you opened it, it was like... it was like the Tardis. Like it... just the amount of stuff that was inside that is physiological, and just one big pile of like papers, some... some paintings, maybe like one pencil that I had broken in half and resharpened. Like, I was not... I did not have highlighters.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I need to know. Were you one of those kids that would stuff loose pieces of paper directly into your backpack?

**Taylor:**

Yes. Yes.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, Tey.

**Taylor:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

I do that.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, Raleigh. Every time I would see another kid take just a loose piece of paper and just kind of stuff it down into the bag, not in a folder, not in like a binder, not like, at least tuck it in a notebook. Something.

**Raleigh:**

I do that.

**Sydnee:**

It would stress me out like, that's going to get torn, it's going to get wrinkled. What are you doing?

**Taylor:**

And I—

**Raleigh:**

Every few weeks I have to take my pile of random papers in my backpack and sort them.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. And then there was always like a mix at the bottom of my backpack of like, chalk pastels and Cheez-Its. Like, it would come out like... like, the



bottom of it with like a pink and blue fuzz and smelling of cheese. Like, here is my homework. I promise you, the work is right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's so... no, girls. No.

**Taylor:**

I got As, it worked out.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, I'm... I'm not like a super organized person, but I... there was never a stray piece of paper in my backpack. It was always where... like, it was in something.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

It would stress me, it might get ripped.

**Raleigh:**

If you tuck it nicely in between like two notebooks, then it just stays flat between them.

**Sydnee:**

That's what your binder and the folders are for.

**Raleigh:**

Sometimes teachers give you papers, and you don't have time to put them in the folder they're designated to, so you just slide them in your backpack and you organize them later.

**Taylor:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

You take the time. You take the time!

**Taylor:**

You just—

**Raleigh:**

I don't have the time.

**Taylor:**

Just roll them up like a little taquito and just shove it in there. It's fine.

**Sydnee:**

So you always had a bag of Cheez-Its, I always had a bag of Cheerios in my—

**Raleigh:**

Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I carried around a baggie of apple cinnamon or honey nut Cheerios all of high school.

**Raleigh:**

Um, I always have a giant venti sized Starbucks, uh, plastic cup of coffee.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

And a Granola bar.

**Taylor:**

Oh man. I was also... because I was a tennis player all through high school. And I... I always had power bars—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

... like for practice after school. But I didn't ever finish one, and I would just let it stay in the bottom of my bag. I feel like there was just a level of tar that was just power bars in there too.

**Sydnee:**

Ugh. Ugh.

**Raleigh:**

Like, I will say, I have had some Clif bars in the mornings that have caffeine in them that are supposed to help you wake up.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

But I've not managed to eat like half of one, so I kind of would half wrap it and stick it back in my bag.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] But have you—

**Raleigh:**

I've had to get rid of a few of those.

**Taylor:**

I don't know. Then you pull it like when you're really hungry, and it's like... like been in there you know for a couple of weeks. Be like, but this can't go bad. It's not really made of like, actual food stuff.

**Raleigh:**

Then you just do it.

**Taylor:**

It's a block of energy, you just do it. You brush off the pencil shaving and the cheese its and you just eat it. Or leave them on there. I don't know. It's protein. Cheese is protein.

**Raleigh:**

Whatever you're into.

**Taylor:**

Whatever.

**Sydnee:**

I never did that. The worst I can say is that I did periodically have to find all of the zip lock baggies that were just full of like cereal dust—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... that was still left in the baggie after I ate all the Cheerios. And then they would get like... they would shift to the bottom of the bag. So I'd clean out like 10 zip lock baggies with cereal dust on them.

**Taylor:**

There... there was the semester that I had in health class, a kid in front of me that made deer jerky, and he would trade me deer jerky for letting him copy my homework occasionally. So that was a semester that everything in my bag smelled of meat. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Oh, that's awful.

**Taylor:**

Because I didn't even always want it, I wanted to be helpful. But he did give it to me, and I would not want to turn down his free gift of deer jerky. I might need to barter at a later date, and this seems like a very barterable substance, right? [laughs] Perhaps if I need some leather gauntlets or a new broadsword.

**Raleigh:**

See, that's—

**Taylor:**

[laughing] Here's some jerky.

**Raleigh:**

That's why I always carry extra packs of gum because if anyone ever wants something from you, you... Or you want something from someone else, you trade them for gum, because that is the currency of high school.

**Taylor:**

That is the currency. Not... not deer jerky.

**Raleigh:**

For some reason, no one ever has gum.

**Sydnee:**

Um, no, I did... I can't say... I did carry gum. Not as currency, just, you know, for chewing purposes, and for playing with the wrappers. I would carry sticks of gum.

**Raleigh:**

Um, I—

**Sydnee:**

And I liked to play with the wrappers.

**Raleigh:**

I will say, I carry an egg of Silly Putty in my backpack.

**Sydnee:**

For... what?

**Raleigh:**

I get—

**Taylor:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

For like, stress relief.

**Sydnee:**

Uh.

**Raleigh:**

Okay. Listen, I was inspired—

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

... by Charlie, who had eggs of Silly Putty. And I grabbed one, we just playing with it with her.

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Rileigh:**

And I was sitting there just mindlessly pulling at the Silly Putty, and was like, this is like really like mindless, and it keeps my hands occupied whenever I get anxious about something. So I just got an egg of Silly Putty and keep it in my backpack so whenever I'm like, in the middle of a lecture or like taking a test, I just like keep it in one hand, and keep my hand occupied with it, and then take my test.

**Sydnee:**

But aren't they worried that you'll use it to cheat?

**Rileigh:**

My Silly Putty?

**Sydnee:**

Well, think about it. If you can stick it on newsprint, and then the words will show up in the Silly Putty, what if you have like a secret cheat sheet that you've created in newsprint, and then you've—

**Rileigh:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

... copied on... copied backwards onto your Silly Putty.

**Rileigh:**

That's a little much, Syd.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I'm pretty sure like it might be a little less obvious if you just like had like a low key like index card on like the inside of your shoe or something than pulling out an egg of Silly Putty—

**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... and laying it out on your desk and be like, "Don't mind this. This is for stress."

**Sydnee:**

And then you have a mirror so that you can hold it up because it's all backwards. And then looking in the mirror.

**Taylor:**

This is like a lot of thought into that.

**Sydnee:**

That brings me to another thing. I carried a mirror in my backpack.

**Raleigh:**

I have my phone.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, that's true.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Mirrors and watches will no longer be a thing that teenagers possess. They just have their phone.

**Sydnee:**

That's true.

**Raleigh:**

Maybe Apple Watches.

**Taylor:**

Well, that's just a tiny phone.

**Raleigh:**

Oh yeah. That's just a tiny phone on your wrist. You're right.

**Taylor:**

Tiny phone.

**Sydnee:**

Um, other... other things... There weren't a lot... I mean, there were all the... We didn't get in all the fun erasers. I always had one of those big stick erasers that were pink on one end and gray on the other. I don't know why. I think they did different things, but I never figured that out.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Maybe they didn't, Sydnee, maybe they were just two different colors.

**Sydnee:**

They might have been.

**Raleigh:**

I can imagine Sydney sitting there and having written some things you need to erase and just looking at the pink and the gray thinking, I wonder which one does this?

**Taylor:**

No, I do think they did that.

**Raleigh:**

I'm just taking a guess.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I don't know.

**Taylor:**

All right.

**Sydnee:**

See? Who knows?

**Raleigh:**

I don't.

**Taylor:**

Well, and there... For a while there, I don't think... I think eventually production just gave up on them. But I remember erasable pens being a thing, which were never really a thing. Like, it would sell itself was an erasable pen, and then it would never erase.

**Sydnee:**

No, it didn't erase. I would carry... For that purpose, I would carry, first it was a white out pen. And then I switched to those... Remember those little like whiteout tape dispenser thingies—



**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... that dispense little strips of whiteout.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I always had one of those with me.

**Rileigh:**

But after like two uses, they break, and then somehow you end up just dispensing like, clear plastic.

**Sydnee:**

And you can also scrape it right off.

**Rileigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Like, it doesn't work very well.

**Taylor:**

But they were really cool for like, writing your name on your folders or drawing pentagrams, just depending on where you were.

**Sydnee:**

That's true. That's true. You could decorate your Trapper Keeper that way.

**Taylor:**

Yes. I definitely use those to decorate my Trapper Keeper.

**Sydnee:**

I think... I think... Man, everybody did, didn't they? I remember that now, everybody had Trapper Keepers decorated with whiteout pen.

**Taylor:**

There was a lot of like using school supplies to adorn yourself, because you would also do that like you could... I would paint my nails with whiteout.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

Like, and then using highlighters in the tips of your hair to give you a little like... little highlights, little colored tips.

**Sydnee:**

You fixed my nails at my wedding with a whiteout pen.

**Taylor:**

Oh, that's right. Yeah. See?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Because my nail chipped.

**Raleigh:**

Power of school supplies.

**Sydnee:**

There you go. The power of— That's very true. No, that's... That's true. I did use them that way. And I would... My chucks that I were in high school were all decorated, like the white tips—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

Yep.

**Sydnee:**

... on the end of my chucks were decorated with multicolored pens that I had my backpack.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... that I'd sit and decorate my shoes with. Or highlighters.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, that rubs off.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

I always had so much admiration for the people that would like... Like I had one friend that had like a different color jelly pen for every class, every kind of note, like, just to be that organized and like your level of like studying and... and like, note taking. Like, I could never do that. Having a... a pen in class was a grand achievement on a daily basis for me.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. See, I always had plenty of pens and pencils. But no, I wasn't that organized.

**Raleigh:**

I tried to be. I have like, Post-It notes that I've designated colors for each class. And like—

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Raleigh:**

... as I'm reading something, I'll like put Post-It notes in it and annotate it or like, I don't know, put Post-It notes and highlight to signify important things in notes.

**Sydnee:**

Is there anything that is absolutely essential for the teenage backpack of today that we haven't mentioned?

**Raleigh:**

I carry a portable phone charger or phone charging cord with me.

**Sydnee:**

Sure. That makes sense.

**Raleigh:**

Uh. Earbuds.

**Sydnee:**

Earbuds. And those were things... I mean, I'm sure there were people who carried Walkmans or Diskmans.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

I didn't typically do that. But like—

**Raleigh:**

Technically, you're not supposed to have—

**Taylor:**

I did.

**Raleigh:**

... either of those at school, but...

**Sydnee:**

Did you? And I mean, nowadays, you wouldn't. You got your phone.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

A lot of this has just been replaced by phones.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Because like, you could have that like Digital Locker thing that people used to keep.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Um, why would you need that anymore? Uh, some sort of like, um, PDA, some sort of little like, organizer.

**Raleigh:**

Public displays of affection?

**Sydnee:**

No. Portable—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... something.

**Taylor:**

That's what we used to do. You just... you empty out your backpack, and you put it over both of your heads, and then you just mooch. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

That's what backpacks are for.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Backpack mooching. That's how we did it in the '90s.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Um, day planners or an organizer I think were pretty popular. I don't know if they still are. I never... I... I would like, fill out the first week, and then forget I had it.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I was not a good example. But I think a lot of my friends used them pretty regularly.

**Raleigh:**

Um, I'm not very good at using the pre-made ones that have like the dates and the years in them and stuff.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:**

But I do keep a bullet journal, which is pretty much like a customizable day planner, because you include like, a page for every day of the week or a page for every week. And you write down things you have to do or things to remember.

**Sydnee:**

Do you remember those agendas they gave us in middle school?

**Taylor:**

Yeah!

**Raleigh:**

I had one in elementary school.

**Sydnee:**

Those were great, because they had every day, and they'd already have stuff laid out in them.

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

And then you would put all your assignments in there to keep you in order.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

But like, you had to because you had to get it signed.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Every week.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I... I think it was my... that was middle school. And I think my first year, my homeroom teacher, who was the one that signed it... that I remember was really lax and didn't ever check them, so I started doing comics on... in every little box. I never kept notes in them, I just drew. Every day was another little panel of these little comics that I was drawing. And then my second year, I got in trouble for that, because I apparently wasn't supposed to use them for that.

**Sydnee:**

I just remember decorating the cover of them—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... because we were.... it was for our school. We were the Black Hawks, and so they were red, and they had this big, black hawk on the front of them. And I just remember like, covering all that up and decorating them, and then also writing the name of many boys on the cover. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Mini boys, like tiny boys?

**Sydnee:**

Tiny boys.

**Raleigh:**

Or many boys?

**Sydnee:**

Many boys. No, I remember it was very convenient because there was one year where everybody I liked, their first name started with J, so I just had a big J on my agenda.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I rolled with it. I married Justin.

**Raleigh:**

There you go.

**Sydnee:**

I just decided this is... this is good. This will work. Close enough. Um, I don't think there was much else essential to the '90s bag. Did we miss anything? Tey, was there anything else? I mean, I would have like, for various classes, things like rulers and protractors. Um, I still use those. I don't know. You don't take maths, so you wouldn't know.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

I mean, for—

**Raleigh:**

Not a math girl.

**Taylor:**

See, I switched to the messenger bag, I think my sophomore year. Um, and I had a... it was a black leather, Badtz Maru messenger bag.

**Sydnee:**

I remember that.

**Taylor:**

It was so cool, with like, purple ascents. And then I had like my collections of like anime keychains and buttons from Hot Topic. Um, so for me, the backpack that became the messenger bag was vital for expressing your identity. It was just another one of those places to adorn and then let people know what you're all about.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.



**Taylor:**

Uh, which is cool like now. I don't know if either of you guys have heard of these. Um, they're big and like... I don't know. Like... like, anime fans use them a lot. Um, but they're called Ita bags.

**Sydnee:**

No.

**Taylor:**

And it's a backpack with like a clear panel on the back.

**Sydnee:**

Uh-huh.

**Taylor:**

And you will fill up that panel with all of your pins and key chains, and like maybe like a little plush in that can fit in there.

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Taylor:**

And people would like make like all these like Ita bags around their favorite character from something. So they're—

**Raleigh:**

That's super cool.

**Taylor:**

... super cute. Like, I'm like, I am 32. I can't have one of those, but boy, they're nice. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

That is cool because I do remember all my backpacks, I would always... I had a denim backpack for a while. But I think I switched to something that was akin to the Jansport eventually.

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Just like maroon and basic.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Just... um, and then I would cover it with buttons of things that I liked. I didn't draw on mine much, but I did cover them with buttons.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And is there anything worse than reaching in a pocket, like one of the front zipper pockets of your backpack, and getting stabbed—

**Taylor:**

Just want to say, I know exactly what you're gonna say.

**Sydnee:**

... with one of those many buttons.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I did that today. My... The... This is.... Maybe this is embarrassing. So the leather messenger bag that I carry to and from my doctor job is covered in buttons for things that I approve of.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Mostly political. And when I stick my hand in, I frequently poke myself.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] That doesn't seem safe.

**Sydnee:**

As I'm getting my stethoscope out to go, you know, be a doctor, I poke myself with my buttons on my messenger bag. That's pretty embarrassing.

**Raleigh:**

Hey, you're personalizing your doctor job.

**Taylor:**

You just want everybody to know what you're all about.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I hope I'm not alienating anyone. But... I mean, they don't really see my bag.

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Taylor:**

It's like, hidden under my desk.

**Raleigh:**

Just your, you know, coworkers.

**Sydnee:**

And just my poor bleeding hand after I poke myself. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

I mean, I guess it also depends on what you're repping on your bag. Like, political slogans, whatever. Okay. Like, that's... you can... You're a doctor, you should have opinions about that. That's fine. You're an adult. I... I don't know if I rolled in with like... my like, collection of like, Sailor Moon pins, like, "Hey, I'm your doctor today. Trust me."

**Sydnee:**

That's true. I did... I wore a Wonder Woman bracelet once to work. It's just a silver band, but if you look at it it's a... it's a Wonder Woman bracelet.

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

But it's not obvious. And one of my patients asked me like, "That's really pretty. What is that?" And then I had to be like, "It's, um... it's a Wonder Woman bracelet."

**Taylor:**

I think that would be an upgrade, like— [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's not just a silver bracelet, it's a Wonder Woman band.

**Taylor:**

This is... My doctor may be Wonder Woman. I feel ten times safer.

**Sydnee:**

He's called me Wonder Woman ever since. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

That's great.

**Sydnee:**

Every time I walk in he's going, "Hey, Wonder Woman." I'm like, "Hi, sir."

**Raleigh:**

Maybe don't wear that bracelet anymore.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I just feel so bad. Like I was... I'm supposed to be a professional, and I'm just wearing a Wonder Woman bracelet.

**Taylor:**

No. I think you go—

**Raleigh:**

She's a professional.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Professional Wonder Woman. You should go one step farther, lose the silver band, get the actual like, the gold cuffs. Like, one for each arm. To see one like, pew, pew.

**Raleigh:**

Wear those.

**Taylor:**

I'm going to fight your... I don't know. Headache. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I dressed up once as the green Power Ranger for a skit we were doing for homecoming in our office.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

And it didn't have anything to do with Power Rangers, it's just because our school colors are green, and—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Green and white. Anyway, uh, but I had to wear it into one patient room, because they were waiting to be seen, and we were waiting to do our skit. And I didn't want them to wait, and I didn't have time to change in and out. So, I did see a patient once dressed as the green Power Ranger.

**Taylor:**

Man.

**Raleigh:**

How was that?

**Taylor:**

That's a brave patient. Like, I don't know. I mean, I could... I could roll with a lot of characters coming in to like, give me a medical exam, but I don't know if I'd trust a Power Ranger. They were only teenagers.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Uh, okay. So that's the... that's the essential teen backpack.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And they still exist for now.

**Raleigh:**

For now.

**Sydnee:**

But new teens are phasing them out. Once you don't need books, I see... and once you can like, type all of your notes, what will be the point?

**Raleigh:**

There is none, except for scantrons.

**Sydnee:**

You'll just walk around carrying your power bars and your earbuds in your hand, I guess.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Wow. Or we could bring back... giant jeans with giant pockets.

**Raleigh:**

Or fanny packs.

**Sydnee:**

Or fanny packs!

**Taylor:**

There you go. Get everything down to a fanny pack. I think those are back. I mean, at least as far as like, way too cool people in Brooklyn, I see a lot of fanny packs these days of like, young, cool, 20 somethings. And I'm just like—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... really? That... Of all the things you could have resurrected, you chose *that*?

**Sydnee:**

Teen fad of the future, fanny packs. Um, so thank you sisters for joining me this week.

**Raleigh:**

You're welcome.

**Sydnee:**

Thank you, listeners. Uh, we want to tell you, before we go, about where we're going to be this coming weekend.

**Raleigh:**

Where are we going to be this coming weekend?

**Sydnee:**

We're going to be in Columbus.

**Taylor:**

I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

Oh yeah.

**Taylor:**

Woohoo!

**Sydnee:**

Um, not... not just for funzies, but, uh, on May 12th... Saturday, May 12th. I had to look at what the date was. [laughs] We are going to be at the Columbus Podcast Festival. Still Buffering will be there with Court Appointed, which we mentioned earlier. That's our dad and our uncle Michael's show—

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

... about law and stuff.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And Sawbones, my other show I do with my husband Justin, about medical history stuff. So, we will all be there Saturday. Our shows start at 7:30, in an order that will keep you excited to see what it will be.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Does that mean—

**Raleigh:**

We don't know yet.

**Taylor:**

Okay. That means we don't know it. Okay.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. That means we don't know. But Saturday, 7:30, we'll all be there.

**Taylor:**

[laughing]

**Raleigh:**

All three of us will be going one right after another in some order.

**Sydnee:**

They're all great. So just, you know, be there for all of them. Um, but check that out. And, uh, I think I've said it before.

**Raleigh:**

[Columbuspodcastfestival.com](http://Columbuspodcastfestival.com).

**Sydnee:**

There you go. [Columbuspodcastfestival.com](http://Columbuspodcastfestival.com). You can get tickets. I think they're like 20 bucks for the day.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.



**Sydnee:**

So you can see a bunch of other podcasts, too, it's not just us. There are a lot of other podcasts that we don't even have relatives in.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

If you can believe it. Um, so come check that out in Columbus this weekend. It actually starts Friday.

**Raleigh:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

But we are there Saturday.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And you should go to COSI while you're there—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Or—

**Sydnee:**

... because you're already in Columbus.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

And if any—

**Raleigh:**

There's that.

**Taylor:**

If anybody knows anything about Columbus city, any good, either vegan eateries or cocktail bars, you should tweet at me, because I... I'm coming in a day early, I might have some time to kill.

**Sydnee:**

There you go. So you can tweet @TeylorSmirl, you can tweet... Are you... Wait. Do you have an underscore in there?

**Taylor:**

I do. I have an underscore.

**Sydnee:**

@Teylor\_Smirl?

**Taylor:**

Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:**

Making sure I got that right. Or @RaleighSmirl.

**Raleigh:**

Or @RaleighSmirl. Just RaleighSmirl.

**Sydnee:**

Or @SydneeMcElroy. Or you can tweet @StillBuffering, which is actually @StillBuff.

**Raleigh:**

@StillBuff.

**Sydnee:**

Yes. Not Still Buffering. Somebody... somebody's got that—

**Raleigh:**

Somebody's got that one.

**Sydnee:**

They're not using it, they're just—

**Raleigh:**

But it's not ours.

**Taylor:**

I... I—

**Sydnee:**

... squatting on it.

**Taylor:**

I do like that occasionally, we get somebody use the... the hashtag #stillbuff, just as like workout inspiration.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Just like, some big dude with giant like, #stillbuff. I'm like, "Oh, that just has nothing to do with us. Or does it? I don't know. Maybe he listens."  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

So you can tweet at us @StillBuff, you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org if you have any, uh, suggestions or comments or topic... topic ideas.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Anything like that, we love to hear from you. Um, you can check out maximumfun.org for all the other wonderful podcasts in our... in our network and our family—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... I should say. Um, 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'm Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:**

I am a teenager.

**Taylor:**

And I was too.

**Sydnee:**

And I was too.

**Taylor:**

I was hoping the baby would make more cute noises. [laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Oliver:**

How's it going everyone? I am Oliver Wang.

**Morgan:**

And I'm Morgan Rhodes. We have a brand new show on the maximum fun network that we'd live to share with you. It's called Heat Rocks.

**Oliver:**

Morgan, we should probably explain what a heat rock is.

**Morgan:**

It is a banger, a fire track, true fire.

**Oliver:**

Right. Dope album. Each episode, we will bring on a special guest to join us to talk about one of their heat rocks. It might be a musician.

**Morgan:**

A writer.

**Oliver:**

Maybe a scholar.

**Morgan:**

I mean, I would have been happy to just talk to you about your heat rocks, but this is a different show, so—

**Oliver:**

Yeah. I think people might enjoy hearing maybe the guest instead.

**Morgan:**

To do that, you all have to go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org). So if you want to talk about hot music, you should check us out.

**Oliver:**

Heat Rocks.

MaximumFun.org.

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Listener supported.