## Still Buffering 387: "Clueless" (1995)

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[theme music plays]

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

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Teylor:** And I'm Teylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Uh, my cat Amelia is sitting directly on the other side of my laptop. You can't see her but she's, like, just peering over the top of it right at me. Just, like, intensely staring at me. She has climbed up—

**Rileigh:** She just wants to know what you're doing.

**Sydnee:** She's, like, on the soundboard, sitting here, staring. [laughs quietly]

**Teylor:** She's your producer.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's making sure I don't use profanity on air, I guess?

Teylor: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's so intense. She doesn't want me to touch her. "Don't touch me. Just look at me." She's my cat that's part feral.

Teylor: Oh, okay.

Rileigh: She wants to make sure you know that she's there.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. "I am watching you. Do not try to pet me." No, sometimes she lets me pet her now.

**Teylor:** Just trying to give you a little help, lil boost, lil—lil inspiration. Lil... terror.

Sydnee: Lil terror.

Rileigh: [through laughter] Lil terror.

**Sydnee:** Well, she won't give me the slow—she won't give me slow blinks like Olive will. Olive will give me—like, I can slow blink back and forth with her.

**Teylor:** Aww. I, uh... I sometimes forget that that's something that you only do with cats, and sometimes I do it with humans.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** Um... it's not... it's not a thing.

**Rileigh:** Not the same.

**Teylor:** Humans don't slow blink at each other. Sometimes when I'm at work and I'm trying to communicate, like, "Yes, thank you, customer. Like, that's nice."

And I'll just kind of nod my head and slowly blink at them and I'm like, "Oh, that's cat language."

**Sydnee:** That's not a thing. [laughs]

**Teylor:** "Human doesn't get that."

**Sydnee:** Uh, I am guilty of occasionally when I want Charlie or Cooper to come with me somewhere, I'm trying to get them to, like, come to the kitchen, come with me, come with me, I'll go, like, [clicks tongue three times].

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Like I do with the kids.

Rileigh: That works for kids too, right?

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No. But I'll be like, "Come on, come on. I need you to come with me. Come on, we're going to the car. We're going to the car. [clicks tongue three times] Come on."

[laughs quietly] And then I'm like, "Oh, no, no. That's a cat thing. That's a cat thing."

**Teylor:** [laughs] "Pss, pss."

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Shake a bag of treats.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Shake the treats at 'em.

**Teylor:** That works.

**Sydnee:** No. They won't follow the cat—you know what? I could start doing that. Like, just open the freezer, and they would hear that. Like, "Popsicles!" Yeah. Get some, like, cheese poofs. Shake 'em.

**Sydnee:** We have a giant jug of cheese balls on top of the refrigerator.

**Rileigh:** There you go. I had a dream last night that I could talk with cats. I don't even have a cat... but that was my dream. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** What did you say to them?

**Rileigh:** Well, that's the best part is I wasn't speaking human with the cats. I was speaking cat with the cats.

Teylor: Oh.

**Rileigh:** So all of a sudden I could understand what they were telling me, and I could communicate back in a series of meows.

**Sydnee:** Well, but what did cats—like, with the ability to communicate in language with cats, what did they have to say?

**Rileigh:** That's the thing, I don't know. I just know that all of a sudden I was like, "Hmm. Yes. I know how to respond to this."

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] So... okay. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's my dream world. It's my dream world, Sydnee! It doesn't have any rules.

**Sydnee:** So you could speak the language and understand the language, but not understand any of what was happening.

**Rileigh:** I couldn't translate—

**Teylor:** You didn't know what you were saying to those cats.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I couldn't translate it into, like, human. But... I knew there was communication going on.

Sydnee: Alright.

**Rileigh:** There were nods of understanding.

**Sydnee:** That's a weird one.

**Rileigh:** That was it, though.

**Sydnee:** Do you know, Charlie told me Cooper said something to her and said, "Yo." And Charlie was like, "[sighs] Don't say 'Yo' anymore." And I was like, "Why?" And she was like, "That's so old. That's like, our parents so 'Yo.' We don't say 'Yo.'"

**Teylor:** Yo is... old?

**Sydnee:** I didn't know yo was old! And I was like, "Yo—are you sure?" And she was like, "We don't say that." She was like, "You can say brah."

**Rileigh:** How is that cool and yo's not?

**Sydnee:** 'Cause what Cooper had said was, "Yo, bruh." And she was like, "You can say 'bruh,' but don't say 'yo.'" And I was like—

**Rileigh:** Also that's just really—that's really funny to me that Cooper just comes out with that. [wheeze-laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] That's YouTube for you.

**Teylor:** Yeah. I think... I think... I didn't know yo had a shelf life.

**Sydnee:** No! Well, that's why I was—so then I proceeded to what—I realize, like, this is a parental instinct you can't deny. I said, "No, yo's still cool. Like, yo-ho and a bottle of rum. Like, that's cool, right? Yo, ho, ho." And she was like—

**Rileigh:** Oh, so you were Dad.

**Sydnee:** And she was like, "No! No, not pirate!" And I was like, "And then you say, "Ahoy, brah!" And she got really mad. And... [laughs] informed me that I was not cool.

**Teylor:** I... sometimes when I see the stuff that, like, the younger generation is telling older people they can't do anymore I'm like, who made up that—like, LOL I think was making the rounds. Like, if you're an adult and you use, like, L-O-L, like, oh, there's something wrong with you. It's... don't do it.

And I'm like, who are these young people that are just making arbitrary decisions. It's so silly. The only way I'm willing to accept it is if it's somebody, like, Charlie's age. Then it makes sense. I'm like, "Okay, that's fine." That's a kid that could just be like, "No, that's out. That's not cool anymore."

Like, yeah.

Sydnee: "We're done with that."

**Teylor:** You're—yeah, you're a child. That seems like a decision you might make. That's alright, I guess. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, she does not understand—like, she doesn't make fun of me for the emojis I use, because I apparently use old people emojis.

Teylor: Oh.

Rileigh: I do too.

**Sydnee:** Like the crying laughing face.

Teylor: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's bad. You're not supposed to use that, I guess.

**Rileigh:** I think it's considered, um, cheugy.

**Teylor:** Oh. That... I feel like the word cheugy, in and of itself—

**Rileigh:** Is not cheugy?

**Teylor:** [through laughter] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Isn't it cheugy?

**Teylor:** It never got any—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] I don't know what's cool anymore.

**Teylor:** It never got off the ground, I don't think.

Rileigh: I use it.

**Sydnee:** There was a—I was watching a TikTok where a mom who's probably around my age-ish was saying that she was informed by her child that the, like—she looked at her and said, "Why do you have a middle part? Why are you doing that?" And she was like, "'Cause I switched to the middle part because you all told me to."

[laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah!

**Sydnee:** "I had a side part for years and then your generation told me I had to have a middle part so I switched."

And her daughter was like, "No, no. Ew. No. We don't do that anymore." [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I went back to a middle part because the younger children told me that was cool. Now I'm sad.

**Teylor:** Yeah, but now they're making videos where they have side parts and they're like, "I don't have a side part in the millennial way. I have a side part in the early 2000s emo way."

And I'm like, who do you think the early 2000 emos were?! Who do you think it was?! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Those were millennials. [laughs]

**Teylor:** It was us!

**Sydnee:** Are we—wait. Are we going to the really, like... um, like, extreme side part so that you have a big swoop across half your face?

**Teylor:** Oh yeah. I mean that, like, all of—the scene, scene kid style. That's absolutely—I mean, I see 20-year-olds dressed that way.

And it's like, that's, like—you know, dress however you want. No—no problem are. But that's... that's... you... you're welcome. Signed, a millennial. You're welcome for that. [wheezes]

We did that. It was bad then, but if you wanna make it and do it, that was us.

**Sydnee:** I like the big swoop of hair.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I have felt that way about low rise jeans I notice have been making a comeback. Like, very low rise. Not just, like, regular, like, non high-waisted jeans. Like, low rise.

And all the young-uns on TikTok keep making videos of them in low rise jeans like, "Wow, can you believe this? I've never worn low rise jeans before. They look so great!"

I'm like, "No, we can't. We can't do this again. We can't."

**Sydnee:** I love the low-rise jeans. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I just—as someone with a very abnormally long torso and very short legs, the high-waisted makes me look, like, more proportional. It shortens the torso and it lengthens the legs. And they try to tell me on TikTok that low rise jeans look good on everybody. And I just don't buy it.

I can't give into that trend. I can't.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it—what you have to be careful about is what you pair it with up top. Because when you bend over, or crouch... like, you might show your butt crack. I mean, that's just part of—

Rileigh: And see, I don't wanna have to worry about that.

**Teylor:** Yeah, I don't want that on the table. [crosstalk]

**Rileigh:** If I wear my high-waisted jeans they're up so tight around my [unintelligible]—my waist that no one's gettin' near my butt.

**Sydnee:** The—the thing I'm looking forward to are when the pants that drag the ground intentionally, and so they get all, like, tattered and dirty on the bottom—when is that coming back?

**Teylor:** Um, I think that is already somewhere back, because I know people are, like, bidding for those JNCO jeans online. Like, absurd amounts of money trying to get an authentic pair. That's very... in, right now, I guess.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I bought a pair of pants that I didn't—they weren't—like, initially when I bought them they did not fit that way. They were, like, wider leg. But they fit—I mean, they weren't too drapey on me, and not too big. Um, but I bought them, like, a year and a half ago, and I've lost weight since then. And so now they fit much differently, and they hang kinda like JNCO jeans.

That's not what they are, but they kind of—like, they sit lower on my hips on. And they—so they're long, so they kind of drag the ground, especially when I'm wearing my Chucks. And they kind of are wide on the bottom and they—like, they look wider now. It's accentuated because they're bigger on me. And I've saved them, even though they don't technically fit because I'm like, "These are black JNCO jeans is what I have... I have created."

**Rileigh:** I have a pair of jeans like that that are intentionally like that.

**Sydnee:** Oh. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's my way of saying I think that the fact that places are selling them and you can get those means that maybe they're rising in popularity once again.

**Teylor:** Um, you can—you can take my—my black skinny jeans from my cold, dead hands.

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Teylor:** You won't. Never giving them up. I don't care what—how many TikToks I see telling me they're bad. I'm gonna wear the pants that I've had for... five years. 'Cause...

Rileigh: See—

**Teylor:** ... I like them.

**Rileigh:** I feel—I feel that way about my leggings. Like, those are my go-to, like, comfy, like, I need to go somewhere, I need to look—like, to the store or to class. Like, I can't wear pajama pants but I don't want to wear jeans, and I need something that goes on the bottom half. That's when I wear leggings. And TikTok has told me that leggings are not out, and cheugy.

Sydnee: No.

**Rileigh:** Like, what else do you want me to wear? It's either jeans or, like, sweatpants. And leggings are the perfect middle ground.

**Sydnee:** No, I think leggings are fine. I will say, I wore jogging—joggers.

"Joggings." Joggers. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Joggings. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Out in public.

**Teylor:** I love joggers.

Rileigh: Me too.

**Sydnee:** And I felt like—I was really nervous about it 'cause, like, I've never... I don't know. Wearing sweatpants out in public was not as commonplace, I feel like, when I was younger, as it is now. Like, now it's just, like, normal. Like, especially younger people go to class or go to the gym or go hang out with their friends, go to brunch and wear sweatpants. Like, you see that all the time.

That was not a thing. Um, and so wearing joggers out I felt very uncomfortable at first. But then after a while I was like—I was looking around and pretty much everybody's legs looked like they were similarly encased, whatever they were wearing.

**Teylor:** [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** They looked pretty much like... what I was wearing. Like, some version of dark, fitted at the ankle but looser everywhere else... I don't know.

**Rileigh:** Their legs were similarly encased.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. So I stopped worrying about it. I will say, I do love the skinny jeans still, Tey. I just bought a new pair of black skinny jeans not too long ago. Um, so I love the skinny jeans. I am turning into an overall person.

**Teylor:** You have been for a while.

**Rileigh:** I was gonna say, that's not a new transformation.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] What—but I haven't been wearing them as much until recently.

**Teylor:** I think even before you owned your first pair of overalls, Syd, you were very much an overall person. I don't really know what that means, but I know it's true.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I don't know how to take that!

**Teylor:** I don't even know what I mean by it, but I don't know I'm right. [wheezes]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I really like overalls. I have several pair of overalls that are, like, my go-to. As soon as I get home I put them on. And I have ventured out of the house in them twice now, and I think I'm just gonna keep wearing 'em.

**Teylor:** Yeah, that makes sense.

**Rileigh:** They just make me feel like a toddler! I feel like I'm wearing a onesie that, like—like, I don't know, constricts my movement. I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Hmm. No, it's the freedom of movement within the overalls that I enjoy.

**Teylor:** What—what move—what moves can you do within your overalls that you cannot do within regular pants?

**Sydnee:** So, I think it depends on the fit. The overalls I have are a little bit loose at the waist, and I really like that because it feels like I'm just sort of floating in my clothes.

Teylor: Okay. Alright.

**Rileigh:** So you like feeling like you're not really wearing clothes.

**Sydnee:** It's that... that is a very—I will say, that's a very '90s kind of thing. It's that, like, they're the right length but then they kind of have that gap around the waist where they're a little too loose in the waist and they're baggy in that area.

**Teylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** That was a very '90s look, and that is how—again, I don't know. I don't buy things intending for them to fit a certain way. I just tend to buy cheap things that don't fit well, and if they don't fit well in a way I like... and that is where I ended up with things overalls.

Rileigh: Interesting.

**Sydnee:** Anyway. There's my pitch for overalls. I love overalls.

**Rileigh:** Speaking of fashion...

**Teylor:** There you go.

Sydnee: Clueless.

Rileigh: Yes.

**Sydnee:** I can't—how have we never talked about Clueless? How is that possible?

**Rileigh:** I can't believe we've never talked about this.

**Teylor:** I feel like we've definitely talked about it. It's just never been a subject. 'Cause I know we've discussed it before.

**Sydnee:** So, Clueless came out in 1995. I had to double check. Like, when was Clueless out?

Rileigh: Oh. 29 years ago. That's crazy.

**Sydnee:** Oh... how's that possible? Um... and I... okay. So, I don't feel like we need to... rehash the plot of Clueless.

**Teylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I feel like everybody knows that.

**Rileigh:** Now, is Clueless the one—it is.

[someone's phone rings]

**Rileigh:** Clueless is the one that is Emma, the novel, right? But modernized?

**Sydnee:** That is my understanding.

Rileigh: Okay.

**Sydnee:** I've never read Emma.

**Rileigh:** In the way that, like, 10 Things I Hate About You is Shakespeare. Like,

it's not... copied in any way. It's just, like, referencing the... story line.

**Sydnee:** Yes, inspired by.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, using the same story line.

Rileigh: Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Um, I... so, when Clueless came out, I would've been... 12. Which was I think, like, the perfect age to see a film like Clueless and have your, like, view of what it means to be, like, a teenager completely shaped by it, right? 'Cause I wasn't quite a teenager yet. I was almost a teenager. I was old enough to really want to be older, you know?

'Cause you... there's the age where you don't really care. Like, Charlie is sort of tipping that balance right now. She's nine and a half, and she's starting to be interested in what older people do, but she's very happy to still be a kid and to do little kid things, and doesn't feel awkward about it.

You get past that tipping particular, around 11 or 12, where you start wanting to be a teen.

**Teylor:** Hm.

**Sydnee:** Especially, I think, young women. I think it happens a little faster. Um, and Clueless hit right at that moment for me, and I was like, "That's what it looks like to be a teenager. That's how you dress. That's how you act. You get to do the stuff that she does, and that is who I want to be."

Which was weird, because I had no—like, I did not identify at all with that character. We didn't have that kind of money. We didn't live in a place like Beverly Hills. You know what I mean? Like, none of it had anything to do with my life. But at the same time I was like, "Okay, excellent. I have a road map for what a teenage girl looks like."

## [pause]

**Teylor:** How old was Alicia Silverstone when she was playing a teenage girl? [laughs] 'Cause I'm like, I think this is one of those movies where... all of the teens are much older than teens. This was not what teenagers actually look like in lots of ways. But...

**Sydnee:** Well, let's see. She's 47. So she was—she was born in '76.

**Rileigh:** So she was, like, 19.

**Teylor:** 19, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** So she was close.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, she was close to a teenager.

**Rileigh:** Wow. I would've guessed she was older than that. She just gave off—not that she looked old. It just—she—I would've guessed she was, like, in her mid-20's.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Um... what was the cultural perception of the Paul Rudd, um, and Cher story line. at that time? Because I feel like I've seen a few TikToks or videos

where people are like, "Hmm. Was this a weird story line for people to be romanticizing?"

**Sydnee:** So for some reason—and Teylor, you correct me if you had a different impression. I don't feel like anybody had an issue with it back then. I don't feel like there was any sort of, like, outcry or, like, ew, or ick, or anything about it.

I mean, in part because it's Paul Rudd.

Rileigh: Right.

**Sydnee:** And it's young—like, Paul Rudd has always looked the same. Like, he always—he never ages. So, like, I'm not saying he was dreamier then. But he was especially dreamy when he was young.

So he's, like, dreamy, young Paul Rudd. And I... like, I—you wrote it off as like, "Well, I mean, they weren't blood related, and then their parents also got divorced. Like, they got divorced too, so they're not even—" You know what I mean? Like...

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I mean more so the age difference. The fact that, like, she was still technically in high school? So would've been, like, a child, theoretically? And he was... at least 21, right?

**Sydnee:** Well, I guess he is 21.

**Rileigh:** Because he drinks at some point.

**Sydnee:** I don't think that... you know, back in the '90s that kind of thing—I don't think anybody thought about that.

Teylor: No.

**Rileigh:** That's kind of what I figured. It was just a recent—like, not saying that, like, it's a bad part of the movie. Just, like, hmm. Is this something that wouldn't be put in a movie today, you know?

**Sydnee:** I tell you, something that I think, uh, you will notice in movies from that time—and I don't remember if this happens in Clueless—'cause do they clarify if she's 17 or 18?

**Teylor:** I don't... I'm trying to remember if they—I don't think they do.

**Sydnee:** I mean, she's a senior, right?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So she's 17 or 18. A lot of times in movies back then, you would have some sort of line that a character has to clarify that someone is 18.

Rileigh: Right.

**Sydnee:** And it was a very icky, like, "This is for the audience to know that this person is legally an adult, and so nobody has to be grossed out."

But it always felt icky to me. Like, okay. Okay. Yeah, they're in high school but they're 18. Yeah, I know what you're saying with that, and I understand the implications, and I'm so creeped out.

I don't remember that line happening in Clueless.

**Rileigh:** I don't either, and I know exactly what you mean, because I've noticed that in recent movies when, like, they're anticipa—and you can tell there's going to be some sort of romantic story line. between characters where one is much older. That they make sure to say, like, "Oh, well, you're 18." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And they'll say it some way, like, so it sounds like an offhand thing, like, not intentional. But it's like, we know this is a script. We know you wrote it and we know why you're saying it. [through laughter] You're not fooling us.

Rileigh: So...

Sydnee: I don't know. I never remember if—

**Rileigh:** The internet is telling me that she was 15.

Sydnee: No...

**Rileigh:** That is what the internet is telling me in multiple places.

Sydnee: No...

**Rileigh:** That it was written that she is 15.

**Sydnee:** Nuh-huh.

**Teylor:** I... I feel like that... makes sense. 'Cause I don't think she was supposed to be a senior.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. It says when Cher is asked when her birthday is, Tai said she was turning 16 in May, and Cher told her her birthday is in April, so she was older.

**Sydnee:** [gasps] No, you're right! Because the driver's license!

**Teylor:** [simultaneously] Yeah, I remember that conversation, yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause that's part of the plot!

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Oh... oh! Oh, so she's, like—she's 16.

**Rileigh:** [crosstalk] She was 15.

**Sydnee:** I mean, she gets her driver's license, so she's 16, but...

Rileigh: Throughout the events of the movie, she becomes 16.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: But she is... yeah.

**Sydnee:** And he is in college.

**Teylor:** He could maybe be a freshman, at best.

**Rileigh:** That's what it—this same article is saying they never say exactly how old he is, and it could be that he's, like, 18 or 19. But also it could be—like, he talks about what kind of law he's interested in, so he could be like—I don't know

if he's still in—if he's already in law school or if he's, like, about to graduate. He could be, like, 21. He buys beer at some point, right?

**Sydnee:** I don't remember him buying beer.

**Teylor:** Yeah, but they all—they all have alcohol.

**Rileigh:** I guess that's true. The 15-year-olds do too.

**Sydnee:** Can I—I'm gonna tell you something that might shock you, Rileigh. [laughs quietly] It used to be pretty easy to get beer.

**Rileigh:** Well, it's just not... it's not anymore.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no. Back... I never remember there being an issue if we wanted... beer, with obtaining it.

**Rileigh:** I should clarify, I'm 23. It is easy for me to get beer because I am a legal adult. But I meant, like, in high school if people were wanting to have a party it wasn't just like you could walk into a gas station and, like, use your sister's ID and they would just barely glance at it and they wouldn't care, you know?

**Sydnee:** You—you—the—hm. You could—okay. I didn't have my first drink till I was 17, so not Cher's age. But... but, uh, it was not—especially in the '90s, it was—and, I mean, it would be dependent on where you live. And I think you also, like, have this—they're all, like, wealthy.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I think you kind of—especially I feel like there was a lot of perception in movies back then that, like, wealthy people, they probably have access to whatever they want, so if they want alcohol there's someone in their life who will provide them with the alcohol.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or they're raiding their parents' liquor cabinets. That's a common trope in things from the '90s. All the parents had liquor cabinets. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't—is that—I don't think that would still be true today. Like, I think the concept of raiding your parents' liquor cabinet for parents today would be very different.

[pause]

**Teylor:** Yeah, well, I—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] But I feel like—you know what I mean? Like, it's changed.

**Teylor:** I think having the idea of, like, a liquor cabinet as in, like, this stock of liquor that your parents rarely touch; like it just kind of sits there, so they're not gonna notice if something's been—I don't think that's true anymore for the most part. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, I don't think that's true.

**Teylor:** They're millennial parents, so they drink their liquor. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Also, they're White Claws, and they will notice. [laughs]

Rileigh: Exactly.

**Teylor:** Exactly.

**Rileigh:** That's what I was gonna say. What about all, like, the hard seltzers that you can't, like, fill the bottle back up, you know, with water? Like, you just take the cans and they're gone.

**Sydnee:** It really is—it's a concept back from, like, when... like, you had Dad who had his, like, various glass bottles of brown liquid that he kept under lock and key in a cabinet. Like, that was very much the... yeah. Like, I don't know, you're drinking your mom's sherry? [laughs]

Teylor: Goldschlager.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, but it—I—the idea that they could get alcohol is not that shocking. I am very uncomfortable now—I mean, I guess we should've pieced it together, 'cause she is learning how to drive.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And she's not graduating. She doesn't graduate at the end of the movie.

Sydnee: No.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I guess that's why I've seen some commentary on that more recently.

**Sydnee:** There was no—you've gotta remember, though. If you compared this as a teen movie to some of the teen movies from, like, the decade before... and Teylor, you'll know what I'm talking about, 'cause there were all these movies that, like, Dad would tell us were so funny. And then we would watch them and it was like... oh my god, there's, like—first of all, there were always boobs. And I couldn't believe, like, there's boobs everywhere in this movie.

**Teylor:** Dubious consent, if at all.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, lots of, like—gosh. There's that whole—what's the one where they're, like, looking through the hole in the shower wall in the girls' locker room at the gym?

**Teylor:** That's several movies. I think that's several movies.

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And it's high school. I mean, it's all high school.

**Teylor:** I think movies in the 80's led you to believe that there was always a hole in every locker room. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So I think if you look at, like, how... like, awful the way that—I mean, the whole issue—I don't even know the word for it. How that's treated in the 80's, I guess this was progress? Like... [laughs quietly] it's still icky, but she has agency?

**Teylor:** Yeah. Well, and the relationship between her and... and Paul Rudd—I forget his characters' names—I mean—

Sydnee: Josh.

**Teylor:** Josh. They're, what, maybe four, five years apart? That's not a big deal if they were both adults. And again, she looks very much like, I guess, her age.

**Rileigh:** She looks the same age as him.

**Teylor:** Yeah. Like, you know, she looks in her 20's in this movie, so it makes sense. She was 19, she was close to that. But, like, it's just... it's just the framing that she's supposed to be 15 is...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** Doesn't [crosstalk].

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it's rough. But it definitely—yeah, he was a few years older than her. Um... but no, it definitely—

Rileigh: [crosstalk] see that?

**Sydnee:** I mean, I remember the Teen Magazine articles about it. About, like, the heartthrob Paul Rudd. About the moment where they kiss being like, "Oh my gosh! Eek!" Like—like, girly squeals. Like, I mean, I remember. Like, it was very much a, like, "Oh, it's so romantic! Can you imagine? Oh!"

Like, I do not remember there being outcry about, like, "Uh, he's an adult, and they were sort of related."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I don't really care about the sort of related part 'cause it's like... they—they aren't related by blood, and also, like, they don't really even know

each other that well. 'Cause again, their parents aren't still married. Um, it's just the age.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I mean, in retrospect, yes, it is rough. It is rough, because...

**Rileigh:** I mean, like, illegal rough. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And it's a weird—I mean, it's a weird energy then when you consider the scene where she comes in, she's about to go out on her date with Christian, and she comes in in that white dress.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That's a weird—that's all weird now, if she's 15.

**Rileigh:** I mean, not to—I don't wanna ruin Clueless. It is one of my favorite movies of all time. Like, I watch it regularly anyways, even when we're not talking about it on this podcast. I love that movie.

Um, I've written essays in school about that movie. But that is weird to think about. 'Cause they don't make a deal about it, and it's not really talked about. But now watching it back through a more modern lens it's like, well, obviously now no one's gonna make a movie where a 15-year-old and a 19-year-old guy, you know, end up together. That wouldn't be... the romantic plot.

**Teylor:** Well, and I think... Hollywood tries to do a little bit better job of casting people that are the age, like, that look that age. 'Cause if you took an actual 15-year-old girl and put her in that role, it would feel like a very different movie, you know? If you put her in those outfits, [through laughter] it would feel like a very different movie.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Teylor:** A movie that nobody wants to watch, hopefully.

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think that's a—that's so true. Because, you know, I do not think it's funny. Obviously she is supposed to be—when she wears the dress and they comment on it, the white dress, it's very specifically like, "This is too revealing for

you because you're young" is kind of the message he's sending, or even more so just like, "You're my daughter and I don't want you wearing that."

I don't even know that the—you know? I mean, it's all sort of, like... patriarchal kind of stuff. Not even necessarily age-related.

But when she's wearing, like, plaid skirts—which could be very, like, almost lewd in the right—with the right sort of accessorizing and framing, I do not think it comes across that way. I never got that vibe.

Like, I feel like a lot of the outfits she wears are not highly sexualized.

Rileigh: No.

**Sydnee:** They're fashion-y.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They're very much what she wants to wear for herself, what she wants her friend Dionne, who is also fashion-y, to see her in and, like, compliment her and, like, she'll compliment Dionne. Like, they're wearing things for other people who appreciate fashion. Like, like, in parentheses, (largely women), to appreciate.

They're not wearing things so that men will look at them. They're wearing things so that everybody will go, "Oh my gosh, their fashion sense is incredible."

Does that make sense?

Rileigh: Yes.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I think that's exactly—it's actually—when I say I wrote an essay about Clueless, I did in college, and it was about how Cher is written for the female gaze, not the male gaze.

Like, she's not... she's not there as, like, sexy lamp in a movie for men to look at, you know? Like, she has agency.

**Teylor:** I think the male gays love Cher. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Well, it does. It does.

**Teylor:** I mean the—the male gays.

Rileigh: Oh, oh!

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** For those of you listening at home, Tey did a little hand flip.

**Teylor:** Yeah. You know.

**Rileigh:** To accentuate the gay.

**Teylor:** She's definitely written for the gays.

**Sydnee:** The G-A-Ys.

**Rileigh:** Yes. Now, that—yes. Um, but yeah, I think you're definitely correct. She's not sexualized by the way that she's dressed or filmed. Um, at all.

**Sydnee:** It's really interesting too, 'cause she even wears, like—I think about that sheer blouse that she wears, like, later in the movie. I always loved that outfit. It's when she realizes she loves Josh.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. She's shopping.

**Sydnee:** Yes. I always thought, like, that's a sheer shirt she's wearing around. And for some reason, it isn't. It isn't... I don't know if that's how they couched the fact that she is a 15-year-old who's dating an adult by the end of the film. I don't know.

**Rileigh:** Um, speaking of fashion, Dionne's hat in the first scene of this movie lives in my mind rent-free on a daily basis.

**Teylor:** Weird lampshade.

**Rileigh:** I think about that plastic [laughs] lampshade hat so regularly.

**Sydnee:** It looks like a Lego hat.

**Teylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It does!

**Sydnee:** I think about that too.

**Rileigh:** I mean, the looks in this movie are just iconic, for so many reasons. But that first scene really—where Cher is in the yellow plaid, you know, skirt and matching blazer, and Dionne's in that hat with the red and black and white suit.

**Sydnee:** Well, their whole look—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] So good.

**Sydnee:** —I mean, that really, like, changed the fashion of the era.

**Teylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** I was gonna ask that, if that had an influence in, like, what people were wearing.

**Sydnee:** Oh. 100%. 100%. Like, the... kind of, like, preppy, fashion-y, you know, plaid and knee socks, definitely. Like, all of that. Very much, it had a huge—yes.

Rileigh: Interesting.

**Sydnee:** Everybody had those, um, pins with the fur on 'em too, with the feathers.

Rileigh: Oh yeah.

**Teylor:** And those—those chunky loafers. Very... which I guess are back. I guess those are back.

Rileigh: I was gonna say, those are back now.

**Teylor:** Well, I think everything in this movie has come back in style at least once since this.

Rileigh: Yeah, I think you're right.

**Teylor:** If not twice.

**Sydnee:** I have owned many plaid skirts like that throughout my lifetime. Like,

when they come back in style. I mean, some of that—

Rileigh: Pleated plaid skirts like that are back in now.

**Sydnee:** They're very cute.

Rileigh: Interesting.

**Sydnee:** And you pair those with some white knee socks and some chunky

loafers...

**Teylor:** Yeah. And a choker, maybe.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** A choker. Are, like—are berets back?

**Teylor:** Were berets ever in?

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Teylor:** [doubtfully] Were they?

Rileigh: I don't think something can be back if it wasn't here to begin with.

**Sydnee:** I wore a beret for a while—

**Teylor:** You did.

**Sydnee:** —and I would like to again. You know?

**Teylor:** I mean, you go ahead. You rock those overalls. You put a beret on. You got a whole look there!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** Just a lil Parisian handyman. [laughs] Sydnee's summer style.

**Sydnee:** I think you mean lesbian.

**Teylor:** I said handyman. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's what I was gonna say. Like a—I was gonna say like a weird, like, kindergarten art teacher at a crunchy private school. With a beret and overalls. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** Yeah, that's—also that.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, I just—I would like berets to come back, as long as we're talking about these things.

**Teylor:** I would love to have a computer program where I can scroll through everything [crosstalk]—

Rileigh: Yeah!

Teylor: —tell me, "No, bad! No, that's good. Like, that's... "

Like, what kind of AI did Cher have back in the '90s that could give her opinions on her closet?

**Rileigh:** I saw... I saw a TikTok of an app that is supposed to do that. But to make it work—and I downloaded it like "Oh, I need this."

To make it work you have to take pictures individually of every single thing you have in your closet.

Sydnee: Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And then it, like, puts them together. And I just... I can't do that. Cher's was just already in there.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The only way this would be... that something like that would work is if you could, like, scan the bar code when you buy something. Or—you know? Like, if it had some sort of tag that you scanned and it already had loaded all of these items of clothing. You know what I mean? So you didn't have to take pictures? But I feel like that would be beyond the reach of what we could do right now.

**Rileigh:** I mean, AI's definitely there, right? Like, AI can put together outfits for you.

**Sydnee:** Sure, sure.

**Rileigh:** You've just gotta give it the clothes you have.

**Sydnee:** That would take way too much time.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which, I mean, you have to wonder, like, who did that for Cher? Because she has a lot of clothes.

**Teylor:** Well, she's got a... there—there's—there... there's a maid. There are maids in the house. I'm gonna guess that that's one of her jobs. Every time she buys something new, that maid's gotta break out the digital camera [wheezes] and take a picture.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Take a picture.

**Teylor:** Edit out the pixels and upload it to the...

**Sydnee:** And this was 1995, so that was a whole day.

**Teylor:** A lot of work. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, I gotta ask. Did you all ever have the Clueless computer game?

Teylor: No.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Rileigh:** 'Cause I've seen now—I keep saying I've seen TikToks, but I have. I've seen TikToks of people playing it. Like, bringing it back out from, you know, the archives.

**Sydnee:** I've seen TikToks of people playing it. I didn't even know—I'm sure Justin did, but I didn't even know it existed.

**Rileigh:** But it has, like, pictures of, like, real life clothes in this computer game. They're not animated. Everything else is, but the clothes are just pictures of real clothes that you put together outfits. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I love that. It felt—the computer program felt very much like, um, when Clarissa on Clarissa Explains it All used to do her little computer games and things.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was very much that vibe. It would be a similar time. It was that moment where, like, we don't really understand computers yet or what they do or how to use them, and certainly most people don't have them yet at this point. Like, they were still a luxury item. So these cool teens will use them in cool ways that we think might... happen. [laughs]

**Teylor:** That was like a weird—like, it wasn't futuristic. It was just like, if you've got a cool teen, they gotta have some cool tech that probably doesn't exist.

Like, do you remember, like, I don't know, Hey Arnold's bedroom? What was that futuristic wonderland that this young boy—like, well, he's cool. He's in a big city. He probably has a—a transformer for a bedroom.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] No, that was—yeah, that was definitely the moment where we were like, "We don't understand technology, so we'll just kind of fill in the blanks with what we think it might do."

**Teylor:** "This is fine."

**Sydnee:** And nobody knows. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** They had a version of it in Hannah Montana, now that I'm remembering, when Miley Cyrus got to move into a new house. She had a closet that was half Hannah, half Miley, and it had a little screen, and she could, like, tap the parts of the outfit she wanted and it would, like, spiral around and present it to her.

Um, which was I think the early 2000's, like, step into "We understand technology a little bit more now. Um, you can touch screens and make things happen. But we still don't totally understand its full capabilities." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** The Jetsons have still not left the conversation.

Rileigh: Right, right.

**Teylor:** This is the entire reason the movie Hackers got made. 'Cause it was like, "I don't know. I think... I think you just aggressively type on your computer, and that—you can—you can make a...

**Sydnee:** You do anything.

**Teylor:** ... a rocket that way? I don't know.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Aww. I've never gotten the opportunity to aggressively type on a computer, and that really bums me out. Like, when's my turn?

**Teylor:** I know.

**Sydnee:** "Can you get in?"

"I'm getting in! I'm almost in!"

**Teylor:** "I'm through the firewall! I'm in the mainframe!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "Let me type faster!"

**Teylor:** "There are viruses on my tail!"

**Rileigh:** There's a website where you can do that.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Just type, and it looks like you're hacking. And you can aggressively

type.

**Sydnee:** That would be fun. I don't think that's how hacking works.

**Teylor:** No.

Rileigh: No.

**Sydnee:** I'm pretty sure it doesn't.

**Rileigh:** From my understanding it's not as exciting.

Sydnee: No.

**Teylor:** No, you just, like, run a program, and then you leave the room for a few hours. [wheezes] Then you come back later and it might have results.

**Sydnee:** Technology isn't as exciting as we thought it was gonna be. It is scarier than we thought it was gonna be.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** We got the worst version of technology. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know. [laughs quietly] It's weird 'cause it's scarier than we thought it was gonna be, and we did make the movie Terminator, so we knew it was gonna be scary. But we didn't know... [laughs quietly] how. Like, the way it would be scary.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

Rileigh: Also, we made it. Like, humans made it. Why do we keep going?

**Teylor:** Well, because—

**Sydnee:** [wheezes]

**Teylor:** I mean, because...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

Teylor: All—

**Rileigh:** Why didn't we just stop with, like, floppy discs?

**Teylor:** I mean, all along the way, there were really smart people that know all this stuff that were like, "Hey. This ends badly. Excuse me, this ends badly. Hi, hello. I am a master at this technology and I'm telling you, don't do this."

And we were like, "Yeah, but I'm gonna do it—we're gonna do it anyway. What if we just—we're gonna do it. We're gonna keep going."

And now we're like, "Oh no! What do we do? [through laughter] Now there's—"

Rileigh: "It's ending badly!"

**Teylor:** [laughs] "Who could've predicted this?!"

**Sydnee:** "All we did is ask if we could, and we never stopped to ask if we

should!"

**Teylor:** [laughs] Jeff Goldblum was right there warning us, decades ago.

**Sydnee:** All along.

**Teylor:** I feel that way—like, I don't know. This is an aside. But I keep getting videos about another plane where a piece fell off of a plane. You know, this seems to be a thing that's happening a lot. I'm like, you know what? I don't even—I know that there is a professional, some sort of specialist in planes and plane legislation out there that was telling us this was gonna happen, like, at least five years ago.

Was like, "Hey. Whatever, these laws are gonna get passed, or this legislation is gonna drop, or something. And all of our planes are gonna start falling out of the sky."

Somebody—I—I don't even know. I haven't seen it, but I know for sure there's somebody out there that's like, "Yeah, I said this was gonna happen and now it's happening."

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Okay, no joke. So, you know here in Huntington—well, technically Barboursville—the Target is falling off the hill.

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Teylor:** [wheeze-laughs] Oh no.

**Rileigh:** The Target has split in half. Like, literally, like, building is cracked.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. It's cracked in half. Well, they've demolished that part of it now. But it's falling off the hill because the back of the hill was, like... it was, like, all built on top of something it shouldn't have been built on, and I don't know.

So the back of the hill was slipping, and then the back of it slipped so much that the Target both in half and half of it is falling off the hill.

But they just—there was a news article out yesterday, the local news, that said there was a study done ahead of building this Target, and the study estimated that there was a 70 to 100% chance...

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Teylor:** It would fall off the—

**Sydnee:** ... that this hill would slip and it would fall off! [laughs] 70 to 100% that this Target would break in half and fall off the hill. And some developer was like, "I like those odds."

Rileigh: "It's fine."

**Sydnee:** "Don't ever tell me the odds!" And then built the Target.

**Rileigh:** And look what happened. Now where am I supposed to go when I go home?!

**Teylor:** There are some jobs where the odds should matter! Like, look. I know sometimes when I'm, like, doing a close-open at my job and, like, I'm closing for myself to open the next day I'm like, "I'm not gonna restock this fridge tonight. I'm tired. I'm not gonna do it."

And then when I come in the next day I'm like, "Man, I wish I'd done that. Man, I was a jerk last night when I didn't—"

But that's why I'm in food service! I can affect very small margins of things. [laughs] I should not be allowed to build buildings with that mentality. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This is humanity. Our past selves are constantly screwing over our future selves. And in this case it was with a Target.

**Teylor:** Yeah, yeah! How does that—I mean, just... that is...

**Sydnee:** I don't know! This geologist came out and was like, "Yeah, there was a report that said this was extremely likely, almost maybe 100% likely." [laughs]

**Teylor:** Definitely gonna fall off this hill.

**Sydnee:** And they were like, "Build the Target!" [laughs]

**Teylor:** They didn't even think, like, "Maybe we should do something to, like, reinforce the hill in the years we have before it falls off the hill?"

No.

**Sydnee:** They're having to, like, buy three new houses for people too, 'cause there's a chance that the Target continues to fall and falls on houses. So... at the bottom of the hill. So now they're having to buy people new houses in addition to demolishing the back half of the Target, and then trying to secure it on the remaining hill.

**Rileigh:** I'm so sad about the Target.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Rileigh:** When I tell you all it's the first place I go every time I come home, because it makes me so happy and I don't have one I can easily get to here... and now I can't. It's just indefinitely closed. I'm so sad.

**Teylor:** Well... maybe next time they'll... [laughs] [unintelligible] less hubris in their Target.

**Sydnee:** They'll listen to the geologist.

Rileigh: [laughs]

**Teylor:** You've got a geologist involved. I think you should listen to 'em.

**Sydnee:** Right!

**Rileigh:** Cher would love Target.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Teylor:** It must be so hard to be a scientist right now, where you're just constantly saying like, "Hey, this is a bad thing that we're doing," and nobody listens to you. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Don't do this. Don't do—oh. Oh. You did it."

Rileigh: "We hear you, but we're just going to ignore you."

**Teylor:** "Yeah, yeah, that's fine. But that's not gonna affect me for, what? Five years?"

"No, no, no. It's gonna affect you, like, at the end—by the end of the year you're gonna be paying for it."

"Yeah, that's so far away. I'm not even gonna—"

**Sydnee:** "Yeah, I'm not worried about that." [crosstalk]

**Teylor:** "Oh, who knows if I'll even be here." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "I'm not concerned." Anyway... blah, blah.

**Teylor:** Yeah. Now, would Cher love Target? Because I will say, and I didn't realize it till the rewatch, that there's the one character that everybody kind of doesn't like, the redhead girl.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** But one of the reasons—

Sydnee: Amber.

**Teylor:** Amber—that they don't like her is apparently she buys fake designer clothes. It's like—there's a bit of like, "Oh, she's—is she poor? Is that it? She's, like, not as rich as the other people so they make fun of her?"

'Cause I didn't like that as much. I was like, "Oh yeah, she's a mean girl."

It's like, no, she's not mean. She just buys off label.

Sydnee: Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I didn't—is it that? Or is it more so, like, she was trying to pass them off as real?

Sydnee: Well, still.

Rileigh: You know what I mean?

Teylor: Well, I mean...

**Rileigh:** Well, I know. But, like—like, the difference of just buy things that aren't fake designer or designer. I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I do think it's, like, an authentic wealth, like a new money, old money kind of thing that's happening there. Like Cher and Dionne represent the established wealth in the community, and Amber is—

**Rileigh:** The old money.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, is new money. And so, like, you—

**Rileigh:** Of course her name is Amber.

**Sydnee:** They're casting her as kind of tacky, kind of gauche. But, I mean—and you can criticize, too, like, it takes them the whole movie to figure out that Brittany Murphy is perfect just the way she is.

Rileigh: Right.

**Sydnee:** And... you know, Tai does not need to—

**Rileigh:** Of course she is.

**Sydnee:** Of course she is. Of course she is. Love Brittany Murphy. Loved that fake red in her hair. Didn't need to wash that out.

**Teylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** But that was—but again, this is all through a very '90s, happy ending lens. Like, at the end, yes, Cher gets the significantly older guy. [laughs quietly] Who she's semi-related to.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Don't think too hard about it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, don't stress on that. But Tai gets to be herself and date the skater boy.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know. So... that's very '90s, happy ending.

**Teylor:** I really appreciated how many times the title of the movie was said in the movie. [wheezes]

Rileigh: I know!

**Teylor:** Like, the first time it happened I was like, oh, okay, yeah. Somebody called her Clueless. And that was like, oh, okay.

But then, like, it happened, I think, three more times. Where, like, she described people almost clueless, or she said, "I think I am, in fact, clueless." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** Title sequence.

**Sydnee:** Clueless.

**Rileigh:** I didn't realize that until I rewatched it for this. I was like, man. It's everywhere!

Sydnee: It is.

**Teylor:** It's very [crosstalk].

**Sydnee:** I think, though, like—especially for it's time, it's clever. It's funny. It's well written. I mean, it's self aware. Nobody is arguing that, like, these characters are all great, and brilliant, and groundbreaking, and—you know what I mean? Like, they're teenagers. They're treated like people who still have a lot to learn and figure out, but are not completely unworthy of listening to. Which, again, is a groundbreaking idea for its time, so I don't know.

**Rileigh:** Well, and I do—like we said, I do appreciate that it doesn't feature women just to be sexy.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** And I think—

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

Rileigh: A little bit agency—

**Sydnee:** I agree.

**Rileigh:** —than that, yeah.

**Teylor:** I feel like the whole—the inclusion of Christian and that little character is... you know, now we wouldn't bat an eye at it. But I feel like for the time, like, the fact that it was clear, like, the point of this character—he's gay, and that's why he's not into her, and that's okay. Like, he's gonna continue to be her friend.

Like, I thought that was surprising on rewatch. Like, it's just—you know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

**Teylor:** It's a gay subplot that's not treated as anything other than just, that's why they're not together.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And then they're just friends, and that's that. Yeah.

**Rileigh:** It's not a joke about him. It's more so a joke about her, that she, you know, tries so hard to impress him and, you know... [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** And doesn't pick up on that he's gay.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Teylor:** And it's not—he's not, like, a bad gay stereotype. Like, he's clearly—he's got his weird old Hollywood thing. That's not like, "Oh, it must be a gay guy." Like, it's just like, he's a person. That's what he's into. But, you know, he just happens to be gay.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: You're right.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it is believable that she doesn't immediately know that he's gay. Like, it is not—you know? Like, he is not a gay stereotype that you usually would see in the '90s. Like, he is a more nuanced character than the gay community got back then.

Rileigh: Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So I would still recommend it. Obviously—I don't think the girls have seen it yet.

**Rileigh:** Oh, Charlie would love it. Charlie has a Cher costume! How has she not seen it?

**Teylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think—I don't know. I mean... but I don't think they've seen it. But they would—

Rileigh: I think they would love it.

**Sydnee:** —I'll show it to them. Yeah, I think they'd love it.

Rileigh: It's on Paramount Plus I think is where I watched it? Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh. Well, thank you both for watching it again.

**Rileigh:** Of course. I will always watch Clueless.

**Sydnee:** Tey, what's next?

**Teylor:** Um, I thought we could talk about The Donnas, which is a band from the same era. Specifically the album I remember really liking was Get Skintight, so that's the one you can look for. But...

**Sydnee:** Me too.

**Rileigh:** I've never listened, so I'm looking forward to it.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, we will check The Donnas out for next week. And listeners, thank you for joining us. If you haven't watched Clueless, you probably should. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And thank you to Maximum Fun. You can go to Maximumfun.org and check out a lot of great podcasts that you'll enjoy. You can email us at

stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

**Rileigh:** This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I'm Rileigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Teylor:** And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

**Sydnee and Teylor:** And I... am... too.

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** We didn't talk about the great soundtrack.

**Rileigh:** It is a great soundtrack.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. "[singing] Rolling with the homies."

**Teylor:** [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

[music plays]

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[music and ad play and end]

[chord]

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