

## Still Buffering 391: "Live Through This" - Hole (1994)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** And it is still Max Fun Drive!

**Taylor:** Woo hoo!

**Rileigh:** Woo!

**Sydnee:** Woo! That's right. You've been enjoying it for a whole week. It's a whole other week. Well, actually, because of when our episodes come out, you've been enjoying it now... for two weeks.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Maximum Fun Drive. This is the time of the year— once a year we come to you, our listeners, our members, and say "Hey. If you like what we do, if you enjoy our shows— our show and all the shows on our network, any of the shows, whatever collection of shows you like, if you like to support artists whose work you enjoy, this is a great time to do it."

Because if you become a member of the Maximum Fun family now, you get a gift! And, you know, it's exciting. It's exciting to do things, like, all together, right? To work on a project together. That's what we're asking you to do. Come help us. Because we are a donor-supported network, we count on our listeners to, if they are in a place to throw a few dollars our way every month to help us make the shows we love to make for you, to make more of them, to— [clears throat] sorry, improve our audio equipment.

It can't do anything for my voice right now, unfortunately.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'll go buy some Chloraseptic spray. [laughs quietly] But we count on you to support us so we can keep doing the things we love and the things we hope that you love.

Maximumfun.org/join is where you want to go if you want to become a member. There are levels of \$5 a month. That can really be huge. If that's what you can do right now, that would be amazing. And you get a ton of bonus content at \$5 a month. Like, all these hours of fun bonus episodes of all of our shows, all on the network from every year. And there's more at \$10 and higher levels, and we'll go over that later in the show. But the point is, we need you, if you can, stop what you're doing. Maximumfun.org/join. Whatever you can kick our way, \$5, \$10 a month.

Um, the majority of your money goes to the shows you listen to that you choose, that you say you love and want to support. And we so appreciate you.

And if you are a member already, if you've already joined or upgraded, thank you, thank you, thank you. And if you're thinking about it and you can, now's the time to do it, and if you can't, tell a friend. Share the good news with a friend.

But Maximumfun.org/join, and we'll talk more about that later in the show.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** I know. It's very exciting. Very exciting time of year.

**Raleigh:** Super sloppy.

**Taylor:** Oh. [wheeze-laughs]

**Raleigh:** Still.

**Taylor:** Still. Super sloppy group project. Max Fun Drive.

**Raleigh:** Yep. Yep. That's what it is.

**Sydnee:** I got so excited I lost my voice there for a second.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Sorry about that.

**Taylor:** Your support counts, so you can afford... Chloraseptic spray.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** You do too much podcasting.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Your voice is gone.

**Sydnee:** That's the problem! Well, especially this— you know, we're trying to do extra stuff, and I am— my voice is gone. Plus I talk all day... to patients.

**Taylor:** Just a talk—

**Raleigh:** And just in general.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** What do you mean, in—

**Taylor:** Too much podcasting. Oh!

**Sydnee:** "And just in general"?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh! [laughs] Oh no!

**Raleigh:** You just— you know, our mom has a trait where she likes to talk to people all the time.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** And I think that if any of the three of us inherited that trait from our mom, it was maybe Syd.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It wasn't me.

**Rileigh:** And it wasn't me!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well. I mean, if you would like to brag about getting your social skills from our mom or our dad, who would you choose? Hmm?

**Taylor:** I'm gonna say neither.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That would insinuate the presence of social skills for me. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I'm just saying.

**Rileigh:** That's something our family isn't particularly strong at.

**Sydnee:** Mom has— Mom's friends with everybody.

**Rileigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mom has lots of friends. [pause] Dad could have friends. He chooses not to. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** No, you know what? 'Cause Dad has always talked about how he doesn't have friends. He says that a lot. And then whenever you're out with Dad, he sees people, and has these conversations with them. Like, people always know him. He has all these people that know him that he's friendly with. He just doesn't under— I don't think Dad understands what a friend is. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** He just has a high bar for friendship.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Like, these are just people I know. And it's like, "Dad, you know that guy?"

"That's just some guy."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Just a guy I know."

**Taylor:** "You had a 20 minute conversation with that guy!"

**Sydnee:** You knew all about his family. He knew about yours. You had shared experiences. That's it. That's all friendship is.

**Taylor:** I know you don't, like, go play catch together in a field. But like, that's—friendships change as you get older. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** That's what Dad's waiting for. Like, "Where are the guys that I play catch with?"

**Taylor:** "Yeah. Friends are people you play sports with."

**Raleigh:** That's what he thought. He used to play basketball. And he was like, "Oh, my friends are the guys I play ball with."

Now he doesn't play basketball anymore.

**Sydnee:** Aww. This took a turn.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] He's got no basketball buddies.

**Taylor:** When you get older your friends just become sort of hypotheticals. Like, there are people out there that are definitely my friends. I never see them, 'cause we're all very busy with our lives. But they are there.

**Raleigh:** They're there.

**Taylor:** I'm pretty sure. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** It's— I mean, I do think, like, as we get older it is easier to maintain a friendship, even if you don't get to see somebody all the time, you know?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because there is that understanding. Um... I tell you, it has been weird to me to realize how much adult friendships rely on work proximity.

**Taylor:** Oh, sure.

**Sydnee:** Because I've had some friends, like, change jobs, and I don't see them as much now, and it's so hard for us to, like, keep— like, we used to talk all the time, and now... I don't know. That's rough.

**Taylor:** I mean, that's— that's restaurant friendships for sure. You will be best friends, intimately aware of everything that all of your coworkers are doing. It is such a close relationship. And then, you go work somewhere else and it's just like... I don't know. It's... you can't go back. You left the family. You got a new family now!

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Rileigh, are you making, like, law school friends forever?

**Taylor:** Those are powerful friends.

**Sydnee:** Is that how law school is?

**Rileigh:** I mean, it's not forever, thank god.

**Sydnee:** [muffled laughter]

**Rileigh:** But—

**Sydnee:** You mean law school.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Law school.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] School, not friends.

**Rileigh:** Law school is not forever.

**Sydnee:** The way that sounded, like "These are not friendships forever, thank God!"

**Rileigh:** No. [laughs quietly] No. Um, I met people the week before my first week of law school classes started at an event and I just decided, okay. That's all the friend-making I have to do. These are my friends now. And that's it. That's all I've done. Worked out pretty well.

**Taylor:** You checked that box.

**Rileigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Good, good for you.

**Rileigh:** And our mom told me to go to that event. I didn't want to go. I was like, "I just wanna stay home and... watch Netflix, and... enjoy not being in law school for another week."

And Mom was like, "No, you gotta go make friends," and then I did.

**Sydnee:** Did she tell you to "Do be a doobee"?

[pause]

**Rileigh:** What?

**Taylor:** Do be a doobee?

**Sydnee:** Mom put a note... I swear I think this was my first day of med school. I might've been— it was at a level where you don't expect to get notes from your mom.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So it was either college or med school, and I'm thinking it was med school. I think. Somehow I had been at home before that, and I think—

**Rileigh:** I was gonna ask how it ended up in your bag.

**Sydnee:** There was a gap between where I lived... in college, like, and then the apartment that Justin and I moved into when I started med school. There was, like, a little gap in between there where I stayed at home for a brief period of time. And I think it was just a few weeks, even.

But in that time period, I started med school, and Mom put a note in my bag that said "Do be... a... " And then she put in, like, quotes, "Doobee."

And then drew a little bee. And so it was, like, spelled B-E-E.

And I think what she meant was, like, "Go do things, say yes, have fun. Like, join— be a joiner," I think is maybe a...

**Taylor:** I thought a doobie was a derogatory term, though.

**Raleigh:** That's what I thought.

**Taylor:** Like, somebody that was, like, mainstream and, like, not cool.

**Raleigh:** And, like, boring and basic.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That is— I know, I know what you're saying. That is what I had always— Mom uses— Mom used the word doobie the way we would, I think, basic would be in the common vernacular now, right?

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And so, like, she would say, like, "Well, they're such a doobie." [laughs quietly]

Which also is weird, because doobie also meant joint for a long time.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which is... that's a marijuana cigarette. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Oh, thank you, Syd, for the... the clarification, there.



**Sydnee:** I didn't know if Rileigh knew.

**Taylor:** It's like a DIY vape.

**Rileigh:** I had no idea.

**Taylor:** Rileigh.

**Rileigh:** Ahh. Okay. Thank you for putting it in language I understand.

**Sydnee:** It's an analog—

**Rileigh:** As a youth. You know who makes friends better than anybody, though, is your daughter, Sydnee. Charlie McElroy makes more friends than anyone I have ever met. I don't know where she got it from, I gotta be real. 'Cause, like, we all have friends, but she makes, like— like, everybody is her friend.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, no. She is friends with everyone. She, like— if someone in her class does something not nice, like teases her or makes fun of her or hurts her feelings, and I'll be like, "Well, honey, you know, not— not everybody's gonna be your friend. Not— you know, that sounds like that kid maybe was having a bad day or has some stuff to work through on their own. I don't know." [laughs quietly] We don't know what their life is.

**Rileigh:** That other nine-year-old. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Like, she immediately becomes defensive. And it's like, "They're my friend. And it's fine." Like, of every— it doesn't matter who it is or what they did. Like, "They're my friend."

"Oh. Oh. Okay. Everybody's your friend."

**Rileigh:** Adults. Small children. Teenagers. People her age.

**Sydnee:** Adults, or yeah, babies. Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Babies.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, in the shows we do, the theater shows that we do—you know, theater shows. Um, for community theater. Like, everyone in the cast is her friend. Adults, kids, everyone. The directors. They're all her friends.

**Raleigh:** She has better social skills than I do. I can admit that.

**Sydnee:** Not Coop.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** She's just more selective.

**Sydnee:** Coop's very selective.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's very choosy. No, she will tell you. If you ask her who her friends are, she will list them for you. She has a definitive, finite, short list.

**Raleigh:** Can list them on one hand.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Those are her friends. And Raleigh, you are not on it.

**Raleigh:** I'm not.

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** No. I'm not one of them. [sighs] Yeah. She told me— I don't think I've said this on the podcast. She told me when I was home for spring break that, um, that I needed to give Mom and Dad grandchildren and that, you know, Sydnee would always be the favorite because she gave them grandchildren.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow!

**Raleigh:** And— I know. Like, out of nowhere.

**Sydnee:** This didn't come from me. Can I just say this, by the way? I have never said this to Cooper.

**Raleigh:** It was, like— like, we were just sitting there hanging out and she was like, "By the way, I know this about you."

And I was like, "Well, I don't have children, you are correct. This is not a secret."

And she said, "Yeah, you've gotta get a husband and have kids."

And I said, "Well, why don't I have a husband, do you think?"

And she, without blinking, looked at me and said, "You're too picky."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I was like, "[scoffs] You're six. How do you know? I mean, you're not wrong! But—"

**Taylor:** Too high standards. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** "How do you know that?"

**Taylor:** Big sis. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I know! And she said, "And the makeup you wear is too plain."

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Raleigh:** She said, like, "Right now it looks like you're not even wearing any makeup."

And in that moment I wasn't. And I said, "Well, I'm not."

And she went, "Mm-hmm. Exactly."

**Taylor:** You were assessed.

**Raleigh:** I know!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** She read me! It was the speed at which she said it. Like, she had been waiting for me to ask her that and was like, "I've been thinking about this. Actually, I have. I know exactly why you don't have a husband."

**Taylor:** Yikes!

**Sydnee:** It's... it's tough. I'll say things like— I'll be doing something and I'll go, "Oh," like, I don't know, groan like I'm trying to pick something up. And I'll go, "Oh, I'm feeling old."

And Charlie is always like, immediately jumps to, "You're not old, mommy. You're beautiful. You're young. You're not old. You're m—" like, immediately. Like, "Let me— let me soothe your concerns."

And right away Cooper'll jump in and go, "You're pretty old. Yeah. You are pretty old. You have a wrinkle there. Do you see that? You have wrinkles there, too. Look at your forehead." [laughs quietly]

I'm like... "I know. I know!"

**Taylor:** That sounds like a good balance of kids to have, though. You got one— one to make you feel nice and one to keep you honest. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Take you back down to earth.

**Taylor:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** She calls me super old. And I'm like, "If you think I'm super old, like, what do you think old is?"

I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I mean— I mean, really, I think at her age, like...

**Raleigh:** Everybody.

**Sydnee:** 20 is old. You know what I mean? So...

**Raleigh:** I was— she didn't really want to tell me goodbye when I left. She was just sitting there and she was like, "I just wanna watch this movie! [through laughter] Why can't I just watch this movie I'm watching! I don't care that you're leaving."

And I was like, "Alright, Cooper. Who knows when I'll see you again. Who knows how old I'll be. Who knows how old you'll be. I don't know! Might be a long time."

She said, "Yeah. You'll probably be a thousand by the next time I see you."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I was like, "Alright! [laughs] Cool, bye!" [laughs] Of course Charlie chases me out of the door and is like, "I love you so much! Here's a flower I got just for you! Let me ask a couple more questions so you don't leave. I love you." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I'm gonna tell you an incredibly long story that I'm making up as we go just to keep you here longer."

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Raleigh:** [sighs] Both ends of the spectrum, there.

**Taylor:** That's alright.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. It's a good balance.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, Tey, what are we talking about this week?

**Taylor:** Uh...

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Given up on segues.

**Taylor:** Apropos of nothing. Uh, we're talking about the album by Hole, Live Through This. It came out in 1994, April of '94. So I guess— what is this? A 30— almost a 30 year anniversary of this album?

**Sydnee:** Wow, that's true.

**Raleigh:** Wow, yeah.

**Taylor:** Wild.

**Sydnee:** Man, that's weird to ask about.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Um... but it was not— it was— you know, I was going back and forth over which Hole album I wanted to bring to the table today. 'Cause Celebrity Skin, which came out I think in '98, came out a few years later, was the one that I first listened to. And then I went back and listened to Live Through This. And I think people consider this the superior album, but the other one was a lot more mainstream, and I think a bit more digestible for me when I was, like, a 12-year-old. [laughs] This was a little too hard for me. I love it now. Now it's my favorite. But...

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it's funny. I was listening and I realized, I don't know that I had heard any of the songs off this album.

**Taylor:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Mm-mm. Or if I had it was not— like, not enough that I remembered, you know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Mmm.

**Sydnee:** I was much more familiar with Celebrity Skin.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I don't think I'd ever heard anything from Hole. I was trying to remember as I was listening and I just— none of it sounded like anything I had heard, and I know that it's not something I've, like— someone has played for me or shown me and, like, said, "This is what this is." Um, so I think this was a first.

**Sydnee:** We could play a song for you that you would recognize, I bet.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, I think—

**Sydnee:** Off the other album.

**Raleigh:** Well, probably.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, off the other album, I bet. But yes, I bet you haven't. That doesn't surprise me with this album.

**Taylor:** Well, part of the reason I also picked this is because this is the album cover that, uh, Courtney Love came for Olivia Rodrigo for mimicking.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Taylor:** Which, you know...

**Raleigh:** Which... [sighs] I mean, I was looking at it. And, like... it's sim— it's similar in the sense that it's a... like, prom queen kind of image.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** But not perfect. And I just feel like that's, like... I don't know.

**Taylor:** I would say it's—

**Raleigh:** It's not an ultra-specific idea.

**Taylor:** No. I think— I mean, I would've thought that it was an homage to this.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But that's— an homage is not copyright infringement. An homage is— I would assume that Olivia Rodrigo was influenced by this album to a certain degree.

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** I think that was kind of her way of making that clear. Courtney Love is gonna fly off the handle when she wants to. Uh, that is definitely something she's known for. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, I mean, I feel like it would be something that's, like, obviously younger artists are going to have inspirations that are not of this generation, and pay homage to them in their music. And I can definitely hear that, I think, in Olivia Rodrigo's music and that album with this. I think I can hear where that would be similar. But, um, also, I mean, the audience—

**Sydnee:** Which album was it? Of Olivia— oh, there it is. I was looking for the— sorry, I was trying to find the album cover to comment. Carry on.

**Rileigh:** Um, the audiences don't necessarily cross over. You know what I mean? So it's not like there'd be people that would be like, "Oh, this is a—" like, I saw the cover and I didn't think "Oh, that looks just like Courtney Love."

Like, I had no idea. I didn't know it until Courtney Love brought it up and posted about it and came for Olivia Rodrigo.

I was like, "Oh. Alright."

**Taylor:** Well, like, I think— and I think of a lot of, like— there are a lot of musical references in, say, Veruca Salt, makes a lot of references to the music that influenced them. Like, they have a whole song about David Bowie. And that's why I started listening to David Bowie, was because Veruca Salt told me to. [laughs] Like...

**Sydnee:** The reference the Beatles a lot.

**Taylor:** Yeah, they reference the Beatles. They reference The Cult, Electric. I... that— I feel like that's part of, like, you know, you get the Courtney Love reference, you go back and you listen to Hole if you like Olivia Rodrigo. I think that's cool. That's good to... make your references known. Um, so I don't know. It's also, like—

**Rileigh:** It's also not an album cover. It's, like, a promotional picture she did. But it's not even a cover of either of her albums.

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's why— I was trying to find it. I was like, "I cannot find the cover of this album."

Finally I found the picture you all were talking about, yeah.



**Taylor:** Just a picture.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, and like, that same imagery, like, the movie Jawbreaker. Like, that last scene when Rose McGowan is walking through— she's— it's literally this. It's the same image, of the prom queen with the mascara. So I don't think it's... it's singular to this. Or if it is, other people have done homages before. But I— you know. Courtney Love's gonna Courtney Love.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's also, like... what Courtney Love was commenting on with that album cover and, like— it's part of sort of the zeitgeist. This idea of a— a perfectly dressed, you know, feminine-presenting person who is also, like, falling apart, or angry, or upset, or isn't perfect in some— you know what I mean? Like, that sort of, like, juxtaposition isn't... I don't know. That's kind of been part of the conversation around women for a long time, I think. You know?

**Taylor:** Well—

**Sydnee:** And I think Courtney Love became a big part of that conversation.

**Taylor:** I mean, I... look. I am... do I wanna put myself in the category of Courtney Love defender? I do. And I know that's a controversial place to be. But I think ultimately a lot of the hate she's received, if a man rock and roll star had behaved in the way that Courtney Love has behaved, he'd be a rock god. He'd be cool. It'd be, "Oh, he's a rebel. He's a punk."

Courtney Love just gets a lot of hate for being a little unhinged, and she is. But I feel like it's— you know. Like, especially this album. This album is so much... like, every song on this album is about the struggle of being a woman in a man's world, being a sexual object, being objectified. Like, she was always very confrontational about that with her lyrics and with her songs, and I think that that still makes— that still makes people uncomfortable. We still haven't figured that out. So, you know.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Well, and you know, to your point, male rock stars have definitely behaved in similar ways and have done really awful things. And there have been books written about it. And they remain famous, and idolized, and... untouchable. So... [laughs quietly] Yeah! I mean, I definitely think, like, part of it is that she's a woman. And we expect her to not do things that men are allowed to do.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I don't think we want to talk about Steven Tyler on this show. [scoffs]

**Taylor:** No. Just pick— yeah. Like, that's— it's not even— actually, it's not even fair to compare her to what male rock stars have gotten away with.

**Sydnee:** Right?

**Taylor:** 'Cause she's just... she just flies off the handle at people and, you know, seems to—but, like, that's probably because of how hard she's had to defend herself in the public eye. I mean, like...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well, and we forget— I mean, we forgive so much. Like, it's not just rock stars, although I think rock star is probably the most— these are the best examples when it comes to, like, people who are also under the influence of substances when they're doing certain things, you know? Like, we tend to brush that off. Like, "Well, they were really drunk. Well, they were really high. Well, you know, of course."

And of course they were, because we expect that. So, I mean, again, I don't know. That's all part of it too, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah. I... I love... I love Courtney Love. [laughs] I love that she refuses to be tamed. I love that she's utterly unhinged. I don't think it was cool that she came for Olivia Rodrigo. But...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You know. That's... that's what... yeah. That's what she's gonna do. I... and that's— and she was always so powerful. I guess that's why I was always so obsessed with her. She just...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like, this album is powerful. It's scary. It's— she is an intimidating force, vocally. And, you know, some of her later albums were a little bit more mainstream, a little bit more softened. The album that came before this is actually a lot more rough, but I feel like this is the sweet spot of... it's approachable, but it's still so mad. And I love how angry it is.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's still pretty hard.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Um, I want to talk about the songs individually, and what we liked. But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:** It's another special group message. Super sloppy. [sighs] We cannot call the Max Fun Drive super sloppy. I don't...

**Taylor:** I think we can—

**Raleigh:** I just think it means special. We've given it a new meaning.

**Taylor:** Maybe, like, our iteration of the Max Fun Drive has maybe been a little super sloppy, so that's alright. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** Here's, um, super sloppy Max Fun Drive... I don't know. 2024. And... [laughs quietly] like I said earlier, this is the time of year where we ask you, our listeners, that if you can, if you're in a position, if you like what we do and you have some money that you can throw our way, we really appreciate your support. And the best way to do that is by becoming a member. So you pledge a monthly donation. That can start at as little as \$5 a month.

That goes to the network, and then directly to the shows that you like. You pick which ones you listen to. I'm assuming ours is one of them, because you're hearing these words as I speak them.

**Rileigh:** It's true.

**Sydnee:** And, you know, the majority of your money goes directly to those artists. Um, and it's the best time to do this. You can do this any time. But do it now, because this is when you get a present for doing it. And who doesn't like gifts?

Uh, so if you join at the \$5 a month level, what kind of present can you expect?

**Rileigh:** Well, if you join at the \$5 a month level, you get all that sweet, sweet bonus content in that Maximum Fun vault.

That's extra episodes, exclusive music, special videos, guest episodes, digital art, all sorts of fun stuff from all of the podcasts on Max Fun. Not just the ones you donate to and not just the ones you listen to, and not just the ones from this year, but the ones from every year of the Max Fun Drive from every single show.

And I did the math, right now, um, as we're speaking, in my head, 'cause that's quick maths, and that's over 600 hours.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Rileigh:** Of bonus content. It definitely—

**Sydnee:** You did that math?

**Taylor:** That's some good math.

**Rileigh:** That definitely was not— that definitely was not a number that was told to me. That definitely is math that I did in my head.

**Sydnee:** Wow.

**Rileigh:** Um, but that's from every Max Fun show from every year, for only \$5 a month.

**Sydnee:** And at \$10 a month...

**Taylor:** You've got enamel pins!

**Raleigh:** Woo, pins are back!

**Taylor:** Pins are back. Everybody loves an enamel pin.

**Sydnee:** I know. A nice enamel pin.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And you—and I should mention, at each higher level you also get the gift associated with the level underneath. So at \$10 a month you get all that bonus content, plus you get to choose which show's specially-made specific enamel pin you like best, and you get that pin. The Still Buffering one is super cute this year.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** We also have higher levels of donation. Raleigh, would you like to share what the next level up, what gift you can expect?

**Raleigh:** Well, at \$20 a month you get choices, 'cause we love to diversify your gift options here at Max Fun.

Um, of course as Sydnee mentioned you get one of those 40 enamel pins. You get all that bonus content. And you can choose between a colorfully embroidered bucket hat that has a super cool Max Fun logo on it, or Games on the Go, which is a bandana that you can wear, but it doubles as a chess board!

It has Easter eggs from every show in the bandanna design. It's super cute. And if you're, you know, hanging out with friends, "Man, I wish we could play some chess right now."

**Taylor:** Who hasn't said that?

**Raleigh:** Don't even— yeah, don't even worry about it. Here you go. Pull it off your head. There. Chess. Checkers.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Tactical bandanna.

**Sydnee:** Honestly— honestly, no joke, I went to a scholarship interview weekend where I was one of the interviewers, and I was asked before I came, like, "Do you have a chessboard you could bring?"

And how much easier would it have been if I had—

**Raleigh:** If you could just wear it.

**Sydnee:** I know! I had to haul a whole chess board and chess pieces over there, and I could've just worn it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So... there are of course higher levels that you can donate, with different gifts. I don't even want to say better. They're all great gifts. And at every level of course you get all the gifts associated with the lower levels.

Um, and it is really important to us that if you can, if you're in a position to donate, that you do. Taylor, I thought maybe you'd want to share why— what this means to us if you are a member, if you've already been donating, or if you're thinking about it, what it means to us as the artists.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah. Well, I mean, I can speak from my personal experience over the last couple years. You know, outside of the podcasting sphere, I make my money by working in bars and restaurants.

And, uh, if it wasn't for this podcast, I don't know what I would've done when the entire world shut down. So I am incredibly grateful for you all keeping me afloat when I really needed it. Like, this is a— an amazing— an amazing opportunity, an amazing thing to be a part of, to be able to, you know, help support me, help finance being able to focus more on my art, both with the podcast and my personal projects.

Like, it's been— it's been life changing. That's not an understatement.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. We really count on you, our listeners, that if you can— and we know not everybody can. And if you're not in a position right now, totally understand. If you could share our show, if you could spread the word, tell a friend. This is a great time to onboard people who maybe are thinking, like, "Oh, what are some new podcasts I would like to listen to?"

Like, you know, tell 'em about us. That would be wonderful, too. Um, and if you have already donated, if you're already a member, if you're upgrading, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We couldn't do this without you. We appreciate you so much. Um, and the website! [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join). Again, [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join).

Right now. This is the time to do it, while you're thinking about it, because you'll forget. I would forget. We all forget, right? We're busy. So, um, if you can, right now we'd really appreciate your support.

Okay. That was super sloppiest as I could do.

**Rileigh:** But in a good way. I would like to clarify, when I said super sloppy the first time, to get in front of the rumors and the accusations, and the allegations, I meant because Super Sloppy Double Dare, as we were talking about last time, is like the special kind of Double Dare. Right?

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Rileigh:** Like, extra fun.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Rileigh:** And that's what Max Fun Drive is. It's extra fun episodes, extra fun times, extra fun gifts. Just like Super Sloppy Double Dare. Not sloppy in the sense that it's sloppy.

**Sydnee:** If the best thing about Double Dare was how sloppy it was, then Super Sloppy was an episode of Double Dare that was even better. Like, celebrating the best parts.

**Rileigh:** Right. Yes.

**Sydnee:** And so these are— we are using sloppy in that sense.

**Rileigh:** Yes. Perfect. Yes.

**Sydnee:** Do you think this slang will catch on?

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Me neither.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] "That's sloppy, man." Yeah, no. That's not gonna— no one wants to hear that.

**Rileigh:** No. No.

**Sydnee:** Stop trying to make sloppy happen!

**Rileigh:** It's not gonna happen!

**Sydnee:** Uh, anyway, Taylor.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Back to Courtney Love love. The Courtney Love love... that you were expressing.

**Taylor:** Uh, yeah. Well, um, I mean... and it's not just— obviously it's not— Hole is not just Courtney Love. She's the frontwoman of the band. But, uh, I love this album. Um, and I don't— I think it was revolutionary for its time. I think it's still revolutionary for a... to have these kind of songs so directly address what it's addressing.

Um, I mean, the song Jennifer's Body, which is on this album, and the song name inspired the movie title Jennifer's Body. Um, but the song itself is about a— like, a murder case that was well-known at the time of a woman who was kept as a sex slave, and murdered. And that was— I mean, I think that we don't— like, violence against women in a mainstream, like, you know, rock song... like... that's— it's still something that we don't... we don't comfortably talk about or recognize.



**Sydnee:** It's kind of interesting to me how— as I was reading about how was this album received, and it was so well received. Like, not just by fans. It was critically acclaimed.

Um, which I... it surprised me, because it was a— because she's a woman. [laughs quietly] Because this was a female rock band. Um, and you don't necessarily always see that kind of glowing praise, and especially back in the early 90's, for a woman singing about things that also are... I mean, uncomfortable sometimes, I think, for men to talk about and think about. I thought that that was really interesting. I mean, it spoke to how good the album was. But, like, I don't know. Maybe there was, like, a moment there in the 90's where we were almost ready to talk about this stuff more openly.

And then I don't know what happened, 'cause I don't feel like that continued. I feel like by the early 2000's... we'd returned to, like... I don't know. Something that looked shiny on the outside. [laughs quietly] Do you know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Eh... I— you know, I— it's— I think it's 'cause it's so good, but it's so confrontational. Like, there's nothing coy about what she's singing about. You know. It's interesting. The song Jennifer's Body is not used in Jennifer's Body, but the song Violet is, which is on the same album.

**Raleigh:** Ohh.

**Taylor:** And, I mean, I think that those songs match up. Like, the— you know, Violet, I... it's the... you know. They get what they want and they never want it again. Go on, take everything from me. It aligns with the movie very well.

But it's very clearly about how, you know, as a woman, you know, you're kind of used once and then you're tainted. Then you're dirty, and then that's all you had to give. Like, it's a great song to go with the movie. But it's just a... these are... the— the trend of, like, showing feminine rage on, like, TikTok.

Like, this is— this is a woman's rage in an album. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It is.

**Raleigh:** Absolutely.

**Taylor:** It's a coming of rage album. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Coming of rage. I love that.

**Sydnee:** Do you think anybody said that at the time? That would've been a good line in a review.

**Taylor:** Uh, I will fully own that I saw Teeth, the musical, last night, and they call it a coming of rage comedy. So I stole that.

**Sydnee:** Ah. Okay.

**Raleigh:** Ohh.

**Taylor:** But you should— if you're in New York for the next two months you should see the Teeth musical, as a side note. It's... if you like Jennifer's Body, or Live Through This, you will also appreciate Teeth the Musical.

**Sydnee:** Ah. Well, um, I really liked— there were a lot of songs on here that I liked. I liked Rock Star a lot.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That one really struck me. I don't know why. Um, I liked Miss World a lot.

**Taylor:** Miss World is probably my favorite. It's one of the softer songs, but I think it's also one of the most poignant.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no.

**Rileigh:** I, um— I really did like Jennifer's Body, and I also liked Doll Parts. Which I was recording about and I saw that it started as a poem that Courtney Love wrote?

**Taylor:** Oh yeah?

**Rileigh:** For Kurt Cobain, apparently? Um, and turned into a song. But I do like that one.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** That's— that's one of the things that, like... Kurt Cobain did sing some background vocals on this album. This, of course, unfortunately came out, like, right after he had passed away. Um, and I feel like that's part of why people talk about how, "Hey, it's a good album. We can recognize it," is that there's persistent rumors that he ghostwrote most of it.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And people will pass off the album like that. Like, "Yeah, it's good... because Kurt Cobain wrote it."

And there's no evidence to that. There's no— there's nothing to back that up. It's believable because, like, Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love were married that maybe he had helped her to some degree, just as much as any married couple would help each other on their projects.

But I feel like it's very dismissive that the only way we can recognize that this is a good album is if we make up the story that a man actually wrote it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Hmm, yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, and I think— I mean—[sighs]. It's weird, 'cause when I think about, like, my cultural perception of Courtney Love, it would've been after this. 'Cause, I mean, I was pretty young when this album came out, you know. And so it would've been a few years later. So after this was already out, after Kurt Cobain was already gone. And I feel like the media at that point was treating her so

unkindly, because she didn't— I feel like probably she was given a bit of a pass for a while while Kurt Cobain was there.

You know? Like, because she— you know, he was so... you know, everybody was pretty much united in the idea that he was a genius.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then after he was gone she probably had a grace period, 'cause this is what women get. Of like, "Well, she's grieving."

And then it was— I mean, I remember she was portrayed so negatively. Like, that is what I remember from, like, images from TV and everything, was that she was a mess. She was such a mess. That was always what it was. But it was weird, because she was a mess, is the message I feel like I was being given.

But also, she was supposed to be cool because her style, like her fashion, became really widespread for a while. Like, she was a big influencer. She was the one who was wearing all those, like, slips as dresses.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And that style— like, there were other artists that were doing it at the time. Like, I don't know if she necessarily created that. But she's definitely the one that people most reference. Like, that is the... that's the image.

**Sydnee:** Like, popularized it.

**Taylor:** Yeah. The— the—

**Sydnee:** Like, that's what—

**Taylor:** The scary baby doll look. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, and like—

**Raleigh:** I see that now.

**Sydnee:** That's what you would see, like, Seventeen and Teen Magazine— like, they would put together outfits— that were much, I will say, like, tamer, you know, G or PG depending on which one we're talking about, rated versions of

those outfits. But still very— and that was always the style reference. "Look like Courtney Love."

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** "Do you wanna look like Courtney Love?"

I mean, I remember thinking that. Like, "Uh, I don't wanna—" not too grungy, but like, a little Courtney Love is the way I wanted to look. Just a little. Just a little, like, dangerous. Just a little on edge.

I mean, which is weird, because she was also— I mean, that was really the message I remember getting about her. That she is a mess. But... dress like her.

**Taylor:** Right. And the fashion, I feel like that dichotomy— 'cause it was elements of, like, innocence cut with elements of like, oh, like, you know, a fallen woman, and I don't know. It's like, I don't— I think the album has that duality and that confrontation in the same way as her fashion at that time did. Which is, like, this— what are the two choices for a woman, right? A virgin or a whore. That's what you get. And she put both of them together, and it was meant to make you uncomfortable. And the music has that recognition in it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Which, you know, it's true. Like, you say that and I think— as soon as you say that, you could make that exact same statement about Madonna, back— early Madonna, and it would be 100%, like, true.

Um, and she got criticized for it too. She was just a lot more polished about everything. Everything was neatly packaged. Everything was, um... you knew she thought out every move she was making, and it was all deliberate. And I think with Courtney Love there was always this air of chaos to it. You know? Like, I don't— it did not feel calculated.

**Taylor:** Well, and that— that element of danger— again, it's that thing that makes rock stars cool. But when it's a woman it's like, "Oh, no, no, no. We can't control her."

It's like a... yeah, that's part of the mystique. But...

**Sydnee:** But it's really true. And if you think about, like, of course Courtney Love would get angry at Olivia Rodrigo. It's Courtney Love. Like, of course— you know.

She's not gonna be, like, laid back and chill about it. That's not who she is. It never was her image.

Um, and how many— again, how many male celebrities, like, occasionally just pop off with the craziest crap, just the wildest stuff? And we're like, "Well, that's who they are."

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** You know?

**Taylor:** And I won't— I don't know if— I don't know if it matters if Courtney Love is a quote-unquote "good person" or not. Like, she's popped off at a lot— I mean, even— we talk about Jennifer's Body. She was angry that the movie was called Jennifer's Body 'cause she thought it exploited her song. But also allowed Violet to be on the soundtrack. So— and in the movie.

Like, she's... she's got a lot of rage and she's very reactionary. I don't know if it's about— but I do think it's like, if we're gonna judge her on standards of what a rock star can and can't do, let's make it even across the board.

**Raleigh:** Right?

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Taylor:** And regardless, the music she's put out I think is incredibly important and incredibly influential.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, no doubt. I mean, that I think is very clear. 'Cause again, like, I feel like to be a female artist in that time period— I mean, again, early 90's. The stuff that was still just, like, said about women. [laughs quietly] Just, like, constantly, publicly, on TV, it was just such a different world. And so to break through that and be critically acclaimed, and everybody agree, like, not only is this something that girls like, this is something that everyone can like.

'Cause that's the other thing too, right? There was always this sort of concession. Like, "Well, girls can make music for girls. That's okay."

Which is still— I mean, I think that still persists.

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, how often does Taylor Swift get dismissed that way. Like, "Well, little girls."

And it's like, everyone listens to Taylor Swift! [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Even the music that Olivia Rodrigo makes, on the album that Courtney Love said, you know, the art was super similar, like, that's quote-unquote "angry girl music."

Like, oh, it's just for girls that are mad at boys, and girls that want to yell, and... I don't know. That's still— there's girl music.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, I think it's impressive that everyone was able to acknowledge that the album was so important and, you know, as this sort of moment in music history and moving music in a new direction. 'Cause we were, like, still moving out of the... the hair bands and everything of the 80's and, you know, away into this new... I don't know.

It's weird. Isn't it weird to think that this is where the 90's started? And that by the year 2000...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean? Like, 'cause it—

**Taylor:** We were... pop music.

**Sydnee:** Pop music, like Britney Spears—

**Taylor:** Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears.

**Sydnee:** —the Backstreet Boys, and— like, everything went from, like, frayed edges and dark and gritty and maybe a little scary to, like, slick, shiny, plastic, neon colors by the year 2000. It's a weird transition. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. But I think it's impressive. Like, that really shocked me 'cause I thought, well, I bet it was— it's a great album, but I bet critics were crappy because she's a woman. And... no. I mean, and that's— I think that speaks volumes.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, and I think it would be really disingenuous to ignore this album. Like, even at the time, you know? Like, I just— I don't know. It's like a checklist for the horrible stuff that women have to put up with and go through. And it's not— again, it's not coy about it. Like, I don't know. It's violence against women. It's, you know, sexual violence, sexual objectification. You know that line in, uh, what is it? The... "They say I'm plump but I throw up all the time." Like, it's talking about, you know, body image issues.

**Sydnee:** Eating disorders, yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. You know, I love Miss World because it's just sort of like, who you have to be to be someone that people, like, respect or care about, and how destructive it is, you know? That, like, "I've made my bed, I'll lie in it."

Where it's like, you didn't make this bed. You were forced into it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well, we're only ever given two different beds to choose from.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Well, I appreciate that you had us listen to this album, Tey. 'Cause it's really— I mean, it's a weird sort of, I don't know, deficit in my musical memory that I didn't remember these songs.

**Raleigh:** And I never listened.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] But I really enjoyed 'em.

**Raleigh:** And I really, really enjoyed it.

**Taylor:** I'm glad.



**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Thank you for listening.

**Rileigh:** Of course.

**Taylor:** Not the most approachable album. But, you know, I think it's important in music history. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, I think it's good, yeah.

**Rileigh:** I can see how it influenced a lot of where music went after that.

**Taylor:** Absolutely.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. In a few years Cooper will really like this.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She's a little young for it right now.

**Taylor:** There you go. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But soon. Rileigh, what are we doing next?

**Rileigh:** Well. [laughs quietly] Um, Sydnee, you told me about a show a while back. You told both of us about a show a while back that I kind of forgot about, and then discovered and thought I discovered it on my own and realized, no, Sydnee definitely told us about this.

Um, it's called The Traitors. It's Alan Cummings' reality show. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Lovely.

**Sydnee:** It really is his.

**Rileigh:** It's his, and it's so good!

**Sydnee:** It feels like something— it feels like his fever dream, and then it came to life.

**Taylor:** I love that for him.

**Rileigh:** I just want to talk about— we'll talk about the first season, you know. We might spoil a little bit of it. We'll, you know, talk about it generally, and Alan Cummings, really.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Alright. I'm excited.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** One more time before we leave. First of all, thank you for listening. Thank you for joining us. If you have not heard Live Through This by Hole, you really should. Um, like all good albums, it's on Apple Music. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** That's a joke about how I only know how to find songs on Apple Music, not a plug for Apple Music, in case you are joining us for the first time ever.

[all laugh quietly]

**Rileigh:** Welcome. Sydnee doesn't know how to use Spotify.

**Taylor:** That's a regular callback, yeah. That's a...

**Sydnee:** Sydnee's Spotify just skips to random songs and she can't control it, and so that frustrates her. I'm Sydnee. Um...

[all wheeze-laugh]

**Taylor:** You are really new if that's new information to you.

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Taylor:** What are you doing here? How did you get here?!

**Raleigh:** We said our names at the beginning of the episode!

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] Max Fun Drive.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You came 'cause you heard it was a super sloppy Max Fun Drive, and you wanted to check it out. Because this is the time of year where you can join... Maximum Fun as a member. Donate as little as \$5 a month. We would really appreciate anything that you have, the extra that you can throw our way. It really helps us do what we do, do it better, make more of it. It improves our lives, and our shows, and our content. And, um, we so appreciate you. We couldn't do it without you. Again, there are gifts at every level. At \$5, \$10, \$20 a month. Um, [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join) is where you go to do that. And the majority of your money goes directly to the artists that you listen to, that you support. Um, and hopefully we are among them.

Thank you again if you already joined. Thank you, thank you. We so appreciate you. We really— I have said it before. I'll say it probably 30 more times. We couldn't do this without your support, and we appreciate you. So, [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join).

And thank you to Maximum Fun. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I've gotta do thank-yous! And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

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

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

**Raleigh:** I'm still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** That was sloppy there. Like the [crosstalk].

**Taylor:** There it is.

**Raleigh:** Super sloppy!

**Sydnee:** In the old-fashioned sense.

**Taylor:** Wait— oh, so— oh, that's it. 'Cause now I don't know what you mean now when you say sloppy! Is it cool or is it bad?!

**Sydnee:** Man.

**Raleigh:** It's both.

**Sydnee:** No, there's no way. Like, "Your fit is so sloppy."

**Taylor:** No one wants to hear that.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** That's not gonna work. "Those kicks are sloppy!"

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** That kinda worked! I feel like that works!

**Sydnee:** Do people say kicks anymore?

**Taylor:** Sure, yeah. No.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Ohh, the look Raleigh's giving us says no!

[all laugh]

[chord]

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