

## Still Buffering 392: "The Traitors (US)"

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, I was—I wanted to share—I was very excited. I showed Charlie and Cooper The Princess Bride over the weekend.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow. That's a—that's a big deal in this family.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Um, Charlie I think had kind of watched at it with me once before but was too little to be interested, so I had waited. I thought Cooper was still too little, but no. They were—

**Taylor:** She's into it?

**Sydnee:** Oh man. They were both 100% into it, locked on it, the whole time. Um... Cooper is really into Inigo Montoya.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Makes sense.

**Sydnee:** After it was over I said, "What were your favorite parts?" And she said, "I like when the guy with the sword killed the other guy and said, 'I want my father back you...'" And then I can't repeat what she said on the show.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She said, "You S-O-B." [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, "Whoa, okay!" [laughs] "Okay, that was your favorite part?" She was like, "Yeah, that was good." I was like, "Okay! Whew!"

**Raleigh:** That checks out.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Cooper has taste. That's good.

**Sydnee:** Charlie was like, "I like when they rhymed peanut."

**Taylor:** [laughs] Also good taste.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I'm surprised Cooper didn't like the smooch the most. Big, big smooch.

**Sydnee:** No, she liked that too. She liked the kissing stuff, yeah.

[unintelligible]

**Sydnee:** Sorry. The cat is trying to climb on my computer right now. No, you can't!

**Raleigh:** She just wants to be a part of it.

**Sydnee:** I know. Well, it's Amelia, too. It's the recluse cat.

**Taylor:** Oh! Well, don't scare her away.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You gotta—you gotta take it where you can get it.

**Sydnee:** Well, usually all I have to do is extend my hand towards her and she'll run, and I did, and she just, like, sniffed it.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** She's a real cat now.

**Sydnee:** I know, she is. You can sit on my lap. Sorry. Anyway, it was a success. I was very excited. They asked if we could watch it again.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Sydnee:** Like, alright. Alright! It was very cute. The part where Buttercup's in the water, about to get eaten by the screeching eels, and in the movie Peter Falk says, like, "She does not get eaten by the eels at this time."

And Fred Savage is like, "Why'd you say that?" And he's like, "Well, you looked nervous." At that exact moment, before Peter Falk cut in, Charlie went, "Does she die?!"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was like, "She does not get eaten by the eels at this time." It was great.

**Taylor:** She was nervous.

**Raleigh:** I always love that the kid response to "we like that movie" is "let's immediately watch it again."

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Rileigh:** It's not like "Oh, that was good. I enjoyed that. Now let's watch something else."

It's like, no, let's watch that as many times as possible until we hate it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It's funny. Like, you know, when it's like a kid movie, like a, you know, like whatever... I get it. 'Cause it's sort of meant to be quick and, like, repeated. It's funny when it's an adult movie that they get fixated on.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** It really is. I mean, it's been a relief. They're at an age now where, like, they like a lot of movies—which are, you know, some are kid, some are adult. Either way they're old enough that we can actually enjoy them. They're at a point where, like, these are good—these are fun movies, you know? I mean, 'cause there are a lot of kid movies that are also fun to watch.

Although, man, they did get obsessed with—okay. There is this movie called Leo. And it is a newer animated film where Adam Sandler plays a lizard that lives in a classroom. It's, like, the classroom pet. And it's, like, 100 years old.

And so, because this lizard has lived in this classroom for so long and watched kids so long, he has a lot of, like, knowledge [laughs quietly] about growing up to share. And it's a movie about Adam Sandler as a lizard giving, like, fourth graders life advice, or something.

And, like, helping each one of 'em learn a lesson about... friendship. [snorts]  
Growing up. I don't know. It's the weirdest...

They love it. We have watched it so many times. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** They are just like—they're like, "This lizard is so funny."

And I'm like, "Yeah. Sure. Adam Sandler, I guess. I guess that's where we are in the comedy ladder now." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Hey, that's not bad, I guess. It's funny, when the things that, like—how hard that must be on the creative end to figure out what kids are gonna latch on to. 'Cause it's never necessarily anything logical. It's just like, "Alright. So we've got a lizard. And we'll get Adam Sandler and, uh, he's 100 years old." [laughs]

Like, where—where we going with this? I don't know. Just—just pull things out of a hat, and then some correct combination, children across the world are gonna say "Yeah, I love that. Let me watch it 80 times."

**Sydnee:** And they get, like, a substitute teacher who really sucks. And then, like, she also has to learn a lesson from the lizard before it... to, like, I don't know, to be happy again. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's a smart lizard.

**Sydnee:** There are lessons, I will say, that like—I was like, "Well, that's a little... I guess that's a pretty sophisticated lesson from that Adam Sandler lizard that they just... "

There was, like, one girl who talked too much. And she was like, "I don't feel like I have a lot of friends." And he's like, "Well, I mean... do you ever let other people talk? Do you ever ask questions? Do you ever say, like, 'How was your day?'" And she's like... It's like the Dale Carnegie lizard. And she's like, "No. I don't." [laughs quietly]

And he's like, "Well, try it out!" And she's like, "Okay." The next day at school she's like, "How was your weekend?" [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I was like, well, that's—that's actually a pretty decent lesson for a kid. Like, kids do need to learn that. 'Cause when you're a kid you don't think about other people, and that's normal. That's developmental. But then you need to, so...

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** So thank you, Adam Sandler lizard. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Their personal in-house therapy lizard.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** It's funny 'cause I feel like kid movies used to not be made to watch in succession like that. 'Cause, you know, you couldn't just rewind a movie unless you had, like, the DVD or, you know, the tape or something. You know, if something came on TV, like all the Disney Channel original movies I watched growing up, they came on TV, and then you couldn't watch it again unless you bought it physically, or it just happened to come on again.

So I feel like they could get away with a lot of stuff that, like, didn't exactly make sense or, like, was kind of wild. 'Cause they figure, oh, these kids are gonna watch it once and then it's gonna be, like, months before they ever watch it again, before it comes back on TV and they only watch it, like, halfway through.

But now kids can just, like, immediately start it over, a dozen times, the first time they ever see it.

**Sydnee:** Or just watch, like, certain parts of it over and over—

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** —and over. That happens, too.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Cooper—we were on a plane recently, and Cooper got obsessed with Labyrinth.

**Taylor:** Okay!

**Sydnee:** 'Cause she found it in the movies on the plane. And she was like, "What is this." And I was like, "I mean... I'm sitting here next to you. I guess if it gets too intense, like..." 'Cause, I mean, I don't think it's, like, bad for kids. But it is a little—it's intense. Um, oh my gosh, she loved it.

But we just kept going back to the part where David Bowie sings to the baby and throws the baby in the air.

**Taylor:** Oh, well, that's what she liked. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. We were very—but she watched the whole movie, and absolutely loved it, and thought it was great. But we kept going back to that one scene. She was like, moving the little dot on the screen like boop, boop, boop, boop, boop, right back to there. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** "I want to see David Bowie throw a baby."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. She loved that part.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** So, Cooper loves Labyrinth.

**Taylor:** Again, good taste.

**Raleigh:** That makes sense also.

**Sydnee:** Labyrinth and Vengeance. She put on a fighting show in her room. She got a punching bag for Easter. I don't... just accept that that happened. She got a punching bag for Easter. And... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** No Easter basket? Just a punching bag?

**Sydnee:** Uh, I mean, there was an Easter basket too. But, like, I never wanna... I'm about to—I hope—I hope I'm not ruining anything for any of our listeners. Like, I did their Easter baskets. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [gasps loudly]

**Sydnee:** Ahh.

**Raleigh:** What?

**Taylor:** That—I don't think, like, believing in the Easter Bunny is on the same level as, like, believing in Santa, right? Like, I feel like most people are like, "Yeah, no, a giant... rabbit... doesn't come into my house. And bring me... I don't know. Cadbury eggs."

**Sydnee:** I never want to do just candy. I always want to do, like, some little—it's usually like bubbles or sidewalk chalk. Something—like, it's springy. And so, like, these are, you know, outdoor thingies to play with.

Um, and this year, like, a little hopscotch set for Charlie and a punching bag for Cooper. Like, the kid that, like, is on a pole with the bag. You know what I mean? Not hanging. Like—anyway, and it came with little boxing gloves.

And she is just in her room constantly just beating the crap out of that thing.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Uh, you made a mistake.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She left us a note. She wrote a note, and she's still learning how to spell so she spells everything out phonetically. [laughs quietly]

And she had written... I can't even describe it 'cause it was phonetic. But it was, "I'm gonna be a fighter. Please come to my show in my room."

[holding back laughter] And we came to her room and she put on the song Eye of the Tiger, and proceeded to beat the crap out of a punching bag.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I would pay money to see that show.



**Taylor:** Oh, absolutely! But it's fall fun and games now, Sydnee, until it's three o' clock in the morning and all of a sudden Eye of the Tiger starts playing and you're just blindsided in your bed. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] She starts waking up at, like, three every single morning and does, like, push ups and sit ups and starts beating the punching bag. [laughs] Drinking protein shakes.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] just a punching bag.

**Sydnee:** She takes it with her to the potty.

**Raleigh:** Oh...

**Taylor:** The—the punching bag?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Gotta—gotta keep training.

**Sydnee:** She loves that thing.

**Raleigh:** No breaks.

**Sydnee:** I'm trying to—we've been working on controlling our temper and, like, healthy ways to channel—like, it's okay to feel anger. We all feel anger. But, like, what do we do with that anger? There are good things to do with it and then there are bad things, and how do we do good things with our anger?

Maybe this is better. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** I don't know.

**Raleigh:** A place where it's acceptable to punch, I guess. That's fine.

**Taylor:** I mean, if you got—if you need to punch something, I guess it's better to have a... controlled punching apparatus. [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** Than just, you know, a sister. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She said, "I can do an uppercut." And then she said, "What's it called when you go from the top?" And Charlie went, "A downercut?" And that's not a thing. But Cooper thought it was. She was like, "Oh, okay, excellent." And so she'll say that, like, "Uppercut. Downercut." [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's good.

**Taylor:** That's gonna be your finishing move. Boom.

**Raleigh:** Downercut!

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's just a head punch.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Oh man.

**Taylor:** That's just a bad thing to do to somebody.

**Sydnee:** I don't know what we're doing. We're making her a fighter. And then Charlie knows Tae Kwon Do, so we're well protected.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Taylor:** You got your, uh, your brute squad there.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** You don't need guard dogs. You have your guard children. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Raleigh:** Um...

**Sydnee:** Uh... I was gonna say something about "I hope they don't turn on me."

**Raleigh:** Like traitors.

**Sydnee:** Like traitors.

**Taylor:** There it is.

**Sydnee:** Eh, there you go.

**Raleigh:** Ah. We're talking about The Traitors—US, I should say, because this was a UK show to begin with, apparently.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Raleigh:** Yes. And—

**Sydnee:** Did Alan Cummings host it there too?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Oh. Okay.

**Raleigh:** Yes. There is a US version, a UK version, and I want to say there's an Australian version and, like, maybe another one. Um, but I believe it was based on the UK show. That was the original. Um, and now there is a US version.

Uh, it is a reality show that Sydnee mentioned to us a while back, and then I thought I discovered it on my own about a month ago, and then I remembered as soon as it started, like, "Oh no. I didn't make up in my head

an Alan Cumming, you know, castle murder mystery show. Sydnee definitely told me about this." Um, and I watched it all in one day and became obsessed with it. So.

**Sydnee:** Um, in the—I wonder if they do reality show contestants on the cast on the other versions too, or if that's just a US thing.

**Raleigh:** You know, that's a great question, 'cause I have no idea. Um... we should say in season one of The Traitors US, it's ten... reality TV stars, and ten... normal people? I don't know. Like, non-reality TV stars. Just...

**Sydnee:** I don't—I don't—yeah.

**Raleigh:** Regular people.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

[phone alarm goes off]

**Raleigh:** Um, season two is just 20... they're not even all reality TV stars. Some of them are, like, former pro athletes and wrestlers and stuff.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Um, but yeah.

**Sydnee:** There's a Bachelor on there.

**Raleigh:** There's a Bachelor. There's a Bachelor on season one and two.

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's right.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. A bunch of people from Love Island. Uh... Big Brother. The Challenge.

**Sydnee:** There's Housewives.

**Raleigh:** Yes, Housewives.

**Taylor:** It's always odd when they mix the reality TV show contestant pool. Because some of these people, like, if you've experienced, I don't know, Survivor, like, you're gonna have a set of skills that are probably useful in this arena.

If you've been on... Real Housewives... I mean, I guess that's a whole other survival game. [laughs] In that scene. But...

**Sydnee:** It's really interesting, because—and I know we're focusing on season one—but what you are talking about becomes part of the narrative in season two.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah?

**Sydnee:** Because you see, like, factions forming of the—the, like—I I don't know what you call 'em. The shows where you're just following people around and watching for drama versus shows that are... competitions of some sort. You went on competing to try to win something.

You see the—what do they call 'em? The gamers?

**Raleigh:** They call them gamers.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, the gamers. Those are, like, the Survivor and Big Brother and stuff like that, as opposed to the Housewives, or the Bravo people I think they call them a lot.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** The Bravo ladies. Um, which is interesting. Yeah, they talk about that a lot in season two, 'cause it's just 20 reality TV people. Um, but—

**Sydnee:** What's the premise?

**Rileigh:** I was gonna say. Basically, the premise of the show is at the very, very beginning they all live in this giant castle in Scotland. Alan Cumming welcomes them all—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Mm-hmm, it's gorgeous.

**Rileigh:** —wearing the best outfits of all time.

**Taylor:** Absolutely.

**Rileigh:** So good. Uh, he picks three people randomly that are traitors, and the other 17 are faithfuls. And they're all, all 20, working towards building this prize pot of money. So they all compete in challenges every week that help add to this money. Um, they're usually all, like, team challenges. And then at the end of every episode there's a banishment where they all vote to get rid of someone with the goal of getting rid of a traitor, because if they make it to the end, the traitors take the money. Um, and split it if there's multiple, but take it for themselves if there's one. And then if faithfuls make it to the end with only faithfuls, then they split the money.

So the goal is to get rid of traitors along the way. Um, and traitors are also murdering a faithful every single night. Quote-un—I mean, not really murdering a faithful. [holding back laughter] They're—they get a letter that says "You've been murdered," which I think is pretty funny. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** They also—the entire group can vote someone off every night as well that they think is a traitor. Well, that's the idea. They're trying to vote off the traitors. And then that is the only moment where someone will reveal who they were.

**Rileigh:** They stand in the circle of truth.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Um, yeah. Which at first I was like, "Oh, this is kind of like The Mole," because they just remade The Mole that's on Netflix.

But it's not, because, you know, in *The Mole*, like, they're trying to sabotage challenges and stuff, you know? And, like, it becomes obvious who's working against them. But it's interesting in this because they're all working together in challenges, 'cause they all want money in that prize pot. 'Cause whoever makes it to the end is getting it.

Um, so really the only thing you have to go off of to figure out who you're getting rid of is just who you talk to and the conversations you have with people, and then who gets murdered, and who votes for who.

So the first couple of banishments it's kind of just like, [makes "I don't know" sound]. "I get weird vibes from you."

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, it is—I think... if you make it through the first couple, it's almost just luck.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because it's—like, there's nothing to go off of. They—I feel like in the first season they try to make some allusion towards, like, people maybe trying to sabotage things. But that doesn't—it doesn't play out that way, 'cause you get the money either way.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** So there's no benefit, if you're a traitor, to sabotaging things.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It felt like a lot of the initial eliminations were just "This person's kind of annoying." [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** "This person made me angry, so I'm gonna tell everyone to get rid of 'em."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, and I think, like—I mean, that's a lesson for reality TV. 'Cause that is true even on a show like—I mean, 'cause the one I watch the most is Survivor. And even on a show like Survivor where there's very clear benefit to, like, in the beginning you should try to keep strong people 'cause you're probably gonna do a bunch of physical challenges, and if your tribe wins nobody goes home so you should keep the strong people.

But if you're annoying enough, they don't care how strong you are. They will send you home. [laughs quietly] There's a very clear bias towards "We should send weak people home. Unless somebody's really irritating. Then we'll definitely send them home first. Then we'll take care of the strength stuff."

**Taylor:** They're not gonna exactly say that's why. They're gonna say "Oh, they—throws off team—team balance." Or, you know, is gonna take—take charge in a way that's not helpful.

It's like, he's... annoying. Just say it.

**Raleigh:** You don't like 'em.

**Sydnee:** "We'll be stronger after this."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, I will say, the best part as an avid reality TV show consumer, um, of the banishments or the evictions or voting people off of this show, I think, is that... I watch Big Brother a lot and that's an anonymous vote where, like, you go into a room, you cast your vote, and they just tell you the number at the end of who voted for who.



Um, in this show, they all sit around a table and have to write a name down on a little board and then show it to each other and say who they voted for, all in order.

Which I think just is amazing. Because then they're all looking at each other in the eyes as they're voting for each other, and if they don't go home, then... they don't go home. And live with them now.

**Sydnee:** It's pretty ruthless.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's a very, um... it's intense and ruthless the way they do that. I wonder if that's not why they shifted to just reality show sort of, like—I don't want to say professionals. But people who were kind of used to what it was like after a while. Because it's very intense, the way that they eliminate each other. People tend to get pretty upset if they're a faithful but they see that, like, the tides are turning against them and they're gonna go home, and there's nothing they can do. People get pretty upset.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** They genuinely feel like, "No, no, no!" Like, "I'm being falsely accused." I don't know. You see, like, real... I don't know. I feel like it's a rare reality show where you, from the beginning, are seeing some pretty consistently real reactions to things. Like... real emotion coming through. This isn't just a game.

**Raleigh:** Which is great because then you have people looking at each other to see if their reactions to things are really genuine or if they're trying to act. Because, like, obviously if you vote someone out and they're not a traitor but everyone thinks they are, when they go up there and say they're a faithful, people that are traitors already know that. So it's like a test of, like, acting skill to be like, "Alright. How can I look like I'm really shocked in this moment?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah. I, uh... I think that it must be pretty exhausting to constantly, like, be thinking about every—like, how my—every expression on

my face. How am I reacting. You know? I mean, that must be pretty exhausting.

**Raleigh:** Which they kind of talk about a little bit, because—and I should say, we're gonna spoil season one. Sorry.

Um, it's on Peacock if you want to watch it. It's been out for a while. But we're gonna spoil it now. Um, Cody from Big Brother, who I loved on Big Brother, um, and in my opinion—he came back on an All Star season and won.

But he didn't win the first time because he was such good friends with his buddy Derek that even though he should've gotten rid of Derek before the final two and he had that power because he knew Derek would win if he got to the final two, he was like, nah, I just love my buddy Derek so much, so I'm taking him to the final two with me.

And then his buddy Derek won all the money. Um, so Cody from Big Brother gets on as a traitor. And... immediately starts talking about how hard it is to, like, have to lie to everyone, all day every day. Immediately in every diary room it's just like, "Man, this is exhausting. I have to lie. Oh, man. I have to lie!"

It's like, well... I mean, yes, in the sense that, like, you know who's gonna be dead every morning. But... you could just not say anything after that. You could just, like, not talk. You know?

**Sydnee:** They—I—well, I mean, I think though that since that's all you're supposed to do is try to figure out who the traitors are...

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** If you're not participating in that conversation it probably is suspect. So you have to. Plus there's the—so I think the way they do the breakfast entrances...

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah, we should've talked about that.

**Sydnee:** So, after—the traitors gather in a turret.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly] Wearing cloaks.

**Sydnee:** Wearing hooded robes. [laughs quietly] And decide who to murder. And then the next morning, the way you find out who was murdered—because they usually cut away before you see the traitors actually write a name down. So it's like, you don't know either.

The next morning, they all enter into the room where breakfast is a couple at a time, two or three at a time. And basically what you're waiting to see is who doesn't come in. And so the entire time, like, you the audience are watching, but also they're all watching each other, because they need to know how shocked, or excited, or whatever are you by each person who's walking in the room, and then what's your final reaction when someone doesn't enter?

Are you sufficiently surprised by this? Which must be—I bet there—it is a beautiful breakfast spread. [laughs quietly] And I bet they're not enjoying it at all.

**Raleigh:** No. Which I think would maybe be my downfall. Even if I wasn't a traitor. Would be the minute I get in that room I'd be like, "Alright. Hand me—who's got that toast? Who's got that coffee?"

And I would not be paying attention to who walks in. [laughs] I would just be focused on the great breakfast! They have so much food! And it seems—and I'm sure they edit it and I'm sure they get more time to eat it.

But the way it's edited looks like the minute the last person comes in they're like, "Oh, this is—this must be who's dead. Thank god you're still here."

And then Alan Cummings comes in and is like, "Well... let's get started. Got another wacky challenge."

**Taylor:** He comes in and he throws their portrait on the floor. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** It's great!

**Raleigh:** Oh, it's so good.

**Sydnee:** He's loving every minute of it.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** He's loving when they're upset. He's loving when they're freaked out. He's loving watching them struggle to do the challenges. Because they're not necessarily very good at challenges. 'Cause like you said, some of them are people who went on, like, competition reality shows, but some of 'em are just, like... people who let cameras follow 'em around. So they're not necessarily, like, in the kind of shape where you'd want to do a bunch of, you know, things to exert yourself.

Or some of 'em just don't seem like... I don't know. I get a vibe from some of the, like, Bravo people like, "I am not gonna do—no thank you." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Well, that's the best part.

**Sydnee:** "I'm not gonna sweat."

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] like, wearing heels while they're supposed to be digging graves.

**Sydnee:** Right!

**Raleigh:** That's the best—

**Sydnee:** They're like, "I'm not wearing heels—" er, "I'm not gonna take my heels off. I'm not gonna sweat. I'm not gonna try hard. Forget this. Like, I'm rich. I don't have to do this." [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's true. That's true.

**Raleigh:** That's the best part of, in my opinion, Kate from Below Deck is on season one. She's also on season two, but on season one, people are convinced she's a traitor from, like, day three. Just, like, the way she asks. They're like, "Oh, it's her."

But they don't vote her off for weeks, or days, or however many days pass. They just don't.

They're all like—they've accepted she's a traitor like it's common knowledge. But they're not gonna get rid of her. And she's not. She is a faithful. But, uh, in challenges she just deliberately doesn't help. And in some of them, like, actively works toward losing them money! And it's crazy! 'Cause, like, it doesn't benefit her in any way to lose money. 'Cause if she makes it to the end that's her money. But she's just like, "Nah, I'm not feeling this."  
[wheezes]

**Sydnee:** "I just don't care."

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] "I don't care."

**Sydnee:** Well, it's like she becomes... she starts hating everyone, and so she wants them all to lose.

**Taylor:** That is—

**Sydnee:** "I want you to lose if you're a faithful. I want you to lose if you're a traitor. I just want you to lose at this thing you're doing in life." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I love that for her. And, you know, 'cause that's—you would think, like, oh, the Housewives don't care about money. Like you said, they're rich.

But no. But Kate's from the service industry. [laughs] She... she came in already, like, dead inside in a very special way. Once people are on her bad side, absolutely she's gonna—"You know what? Whatever. I'm gonna ruin this for all of you. I'm the traitor now! I'm going rogue."

**Sydnee:** That's what it is. She's like—she creates a new position.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** 'Cause she's like, the traitors are trying to win money. The faithful are trying to win money. Kate's... Kate's just trying to ruin everybody's day.  
[laughs quietly]

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

**Raleigh:** It's like when we play Werewolf with our parents.

**Taylor:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And Mom from the beginning is like, "I'm the werewolf. It's me."

**Taylor:** Even when she's not.

**Raleigh:** And she's not! She's not at all. Kate's just like, "Hm, I'm a traitor." She's not. But she's gonna act like one.

**Taylor:** Mom plays the agent of chaos role, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And there's no benefit.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** There's no—like, if they think you're the traitor and then they vote you off, you're just off the show. So, like... you didn't—[laughs quietly] you didn't win anything! [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Did she just want off the show, do you think? Is it just like, "Man, I'm just gonna do everything I can."

**Raleigh:** Well, after a couple episodes every morning she's like, "Man, I wanted them to kill me so bad last night. I keep wanting them to kill me and I keep walking into this breakfast room every single morning!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She does. 'Cause she—well, I mean, she just hates everybody. She's, like, very... "I don't like you people. I don't wanna—these are my hours on Earth and I don't wanna spend them with you. And I'd like to leave now."

**Taylor:** That's fine.

**Sydnee:** I mean, that's very much—which, like, I can understand. And I am certain she is not the first person on a reality TV show to feel that way.

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** To, like, look around and be like, "Oh crap. If I'm gonna win this thing I have to be around these people longer."

I mean, I am certain people have that feeling. But then they say, "But I gotta fake it, 'cause I wanna win."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Kate said, "Nah." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Nah I don't."

**Taylor:** You know, that, uh—I like that show *Below Deck*. I've watched—I don't know. I don't watch consistent seasons. I feel like I just bop around to episodes that people think are really, you know, intense.

But, you know, for a show where you're, like, stuck on a boat with often some of the worst people, but you've at least got your comrades there,

you've got your fellow staff members that you can complain to, I feel like the idea of it's all customers, no—[through laughter] no fellow comrades—like, oh, that'd be awful. I'd hate it too!

**Sydnee:** I mean, I think she enjoys Alan.

**Taylor:** Well, who wouldn't?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Exactly, yeah.

**Sydnee:** But, like, Alan also is enjoying the suffering of the group, I think. And so...

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** He cannot be her ally. 'Cause he is enjoying watching this.

**Raleigh:** I am still fully convinced—and Syd, I think you're the one that said this a while back when you first told us about this show—that someone asked Alan, you know, "What would be—" You know, they were just hanging out one night.

Like, "What would be, like, your dream reality TV show you'd love to watch?" And he, like, describes The Traitors, and then he takes a second and he's like, "Oh. I have this giant castle. And I'm rich."

**Sydnee:** Is it his?

**Raleigh:** "This is what I'm going to do with my life." And creates it, and it is just his fantasy to have in his castle.

**Sydnee:** It does feel that way. Is it his castle, though? See, I've wondered that. And I've googled some other stuff about the show. Like, I know for instance—you know they don't stay in it.

**Raleigh:** I did not know that.



**Taylor:** They don't get to sleep there? Aww.

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Taylor:** Trucked in every day?

**Sydnee:** No, they're faking—all those scenes of them, like, getting ready for bed and, like, the "Who's gonna get murdered?" Like, that's all just filmed ahead of time, and then they just take 'em to some hotel.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Man.

**Sydnee:** They just bus 'em. So they all have to ride in a bus together after all those scenes! [laughs] They just, like, toss 'em all into some cars and drive 'em to a hotel. So when they're walking in for breakfast in the morning they're really arriving to the castle.

**Raleigh:** Ohh.

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** It also makes the evening drinking scenes more interesting to me, that they're all supposed to be, like, hanging out and drinking when you know, like, at some point they're just gonna be like, "Alright, everybody in the van."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Which makes it even better that Kate makes several comments about when people die she's like, "I'm gonna take their room because their room was bigger."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, [crosstalk] their hotel room. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Maybe they got bigger hotel rooms.

**Sydnee:** Now, grant—I mean, I've read about it more recently, so maybe first season was different. But my understanding is they're not actually staying at that castle.

**Raleigh:** That's really funny.

**Taylor:** I do wanna believe it is Alan Cummings' castle. See, I felt the vibe was Alan Cummings just invited all of these people on his own volition, and then designed this whole game. And at some point was like, "Hey, network. I've got all these people... kidnapped at my castle. And, uh, just send over some cameras. TV gold."

**Sydnee:** "It's gonna be great."

**Taylor:** "I've got some great outfits to wear."

**Raleigh:** "You're gonna love it."

**Sydnee:** It's the outfits.

**Taylor:** Oh my gosh.

**Sydnee:** I typed in "Does Alan" and "Does Alan Cummings own a castle... "

**Raleigh:** It's a valid question.

**Taylor:** I hope he does.

**Raleigh:** I do too, but I'm worried that that's just—it's not his castle.

**Taylor:** He should own a castle.

**Raleigh:** He should.

**Sydnee:** Uh... they play at Ardross's Castle in Alness, which is north of Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. It was built in the 19th century in the Scottish baronial style. Um... it was once home to the first Duke of Sutherland.

**Rileigh:** But does Alan Cummings own it?

**Sydnee:** It has been owned by the McTaggerts since 1983, who have renovated and restored it and hired it out for weddings and corporate events.

**Taylor:** Ahh. So they just rent it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** You know, that makes his outfits—you know, they keep getting better, and then you get into season two and of course they get even better. But best part about that is Peppermint from Ru Paul's Drag Race is on season two. [laughs quietly] So—

**Taylor:** Oh really?

**Rileigh:** Yes. So you have all of these people wearing just, like, their regleeur people clothes, and then you have Alan Cummings in the first season. And then in the second season you have all these people wearing regular people clothes, Alan Cummings wearing his insane outfits, and then Peppermint, who makes every challenge outfit into, like, a look.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, I love that.

**Rileigh:** Takes all the clothes they have to wear for the challenges and turns it into, like, a whole look. Um... it is no longer just Alan Cummings, you know, with the outfits.

**Sydnee:** And when he comes to watch them do the challenges—and I feel like—my impression is it gets more elaborate, but it may have started out this elaborate.

They set him up, like, in the middle of a field with, like, a beautiful armchair and, like, a little side table, like, ornate antique-looking side table and, like, a rug underneath.

And, like, he's got tea or whatever he's drinking, some sort of a—like, and he is just, like, in absolute luxury watching these people, like, scrounge around in a loch, or in the mud, or whatever the heck. [wheezes] Like, every time!

Like, he's not just standing there watching it's like, no, no, no. If I'm going to be there, I'm going to be comfortable.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] I don't—I feel like—I don't know, every other host of reality TV shows should take notes from Alan Cummings, 'cause I haven't seen a host that is as enjoyable to watch and seems to be enjoying himself as much. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. It really—it's something that I think, like—again, I don't wanna... I really like Survivor. [laughs quietly] And Justin and I think about it and talk about it a lot, and part of it is because Jeff Probst is, like, all-in. Like, he lives by the Survivor—he feels it. It is part of who he is.

**Taylor:** It's true.

**Sydnee:** Alan Cumming is that with Traitors. He feels this. He is living this reality show. He is selling it. He knows that his job is to make you, the audience, buy whatever is happening. And it works! 'Cause you think they're staying in a castle. And it does seem like some of 'em want to kill each other. And it is shocking when you get to the end and the big reveal. And it is emotional.

And, like, he gets that his job is to sell that, no matter how silly or goofy it might seem at first. And no matter how much—I mean, you've gotta imagine those participants, when he first starts coming out with all this drama, are like, "What are we doing? What is this thing?" [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "What is this show I've gotten on."

And he is not deterred. He is in 100%. Like, this is an acting job. This is my profession. I take it seriously. Here I go.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. You gotta respect that.

**Taylor:** It's wonderful to watch.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I, uh—

**Sydnee:** Rob Lowe's like that on The Floor. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** You and The Floor.

**Sydnee:** I know. Rob Lowe's just as into The Floor as Alan Cumming is into Traitors. I'm just saying.

**Raleigh:** Rob Lowe doesn't have the outfits, though, is my issue.

**Sydnee:** No. Not even close.

**Raleigh:** Um, my only issue—and maybe this is why they switch it to all reality TV show contestants in the second season and why I'm curious to know if they do that in other versions. Um, is—it's like you sign up for the show where the premise is there are going to be people whose sole job is to lie to you about who they are to get to the end and win all the money. That is the—like, it is called Traitors. That is the whole point of the show.

And then when someone lies to them, or they get, like, betrayed by someone, they're like, "How could this happen? How could they do that to me? I don't understand how they could do that." Like, well... it's the—it's—what—it's the point! It's the whole show! It's what you signed up for!

**Sydnee:** I... I think because it is one of those shows where, like, the narrative around—'cause, I mean, some reality shows there's not some big narrative around it. You're just competing. Other reality shows, the narrative is very intrinsic to what's happening. I remember the murder show we watched, Whodunnit...

**Raleigh:** Whodunnit, yeah.

**Sydnee:** The narrative is very important. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because it's like that, I think that you either have to... and that's why you get these people who do all these reality shows. Who keep doing it. 'Cause they, like—they get that right away. They're okay with it. They'll play into the narrative. They'll buy in, yep, 100%. "I'll play along. I'll say things that I know you want me to say. I'll give you little fun *bon mots* for my confessionals," you know? Like, "I know what you want from me and I can deliver all that, but I also have absolutely zero emotional investment in this, because I also know this is just a job."

**Taylor:** It's good TV.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. It's just for TV. But I think that takes a certain kind of person. I mean, I would not be good at that. I will say that right now.

**Taylor:** That's like, what is that other similar murder—but this one was I think a little bit more scripted. The murder show that you had us watch with all YouTube stars.

**Raleigh:** Oh, Escape the Night.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Uh, I got that vibes from that. But that's, I think, the benefit of that show is that it had all... you know—

**Raleigh:** YouTubers.

**Taylor:** —influencers and stuff. Yeah, those people are gonna chew the scenery.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. That's true.

**Sydney:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydney:** And, I mean, I think you realize that—it's funny. I watch, um, TikToks from—well, different reality shows that I've watched. Like, what people—like, TikTokers from there.

Um, and somebody was saying on Survivor, you got—you got used to the idea that Jeff wanted you to say something that would be, like, a really great, like, clip for the next time on or, you know, a clip from tribal council that would really land.

And so there would be this sort of competition. Like, ahead of time, you're thinking what exactly, when he asks these questions, what kind of funny thing or quippy thing or analogy or, like, really clever thing can I do to be the one that, like—'cause he'll keep asking everyone until somebody gives them a good answer.

And then it's like, okay, good, we can—that's the one for the show, and then we'll move on to the next question.

And I feel like you have a lot of people on this show who understand... they get it. That's what we're trying to do here. And by season two it's, like, every—I mean, they get Parvati, who was on Survivor, and—

**Raleigh:** Man, I love Parvati.

**Sydnee:** Parvati, again, like Cirie. I mean, these Survivor players. They're just ruthless.

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

**Taylor:** You've gotta be aware of the act, but you also can't be too honest about it just being a game, though. I liked Brandi early on, but man, every time she would just be like, you know, "Whatever. It's just a game. I don't care. They're not really dead. It doesn't matter." [through laughter] Like...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, people want to—

**Taylor:** She did not sell the fantasy.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** And people want—I think that we all kind of want that sometimes. Like, to be able to disappear into something a little bit. Like, it's a little bit of escapism. And as you're playing this game, I imagine you're looking around like, "Will you all play with me? And then I don't have to feel silly."

And so if somebody's constantly pulling you out of that... it's a great way to lose.

**Taylor:** This is all just a—it's a big roleplaying game. It's a big LARP.  
[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I also—

**Sydnee:** Like, yeah, but don't say it! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I love that they picked the worst Bachelor, and like, one of the most hated Bachelors of Bachelor Nation to be on this show as the Bachelor representation. 'Cause it just—it makes so much sense. And they picked one of the most lovable ones for season two. But to pick Arie from The Bachelor,



who if you are unaware, picked one woman at the end and then said, "Actually, just kidding. I like the other one more."

And changed his mind and went back and picked the other one—yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh wow.

**Rileigh:** Um, which is why people would always make comments about, like, Arie probably being a traitor. Like, you know, he had to come on a show and date 20 women and then he changed his mind at the end. Like, everyone knows Arie.

Um, but yeah. He does become a traitor, which is another facet of this show that I do enjoy, is every time a traitor gets found out, they have the opportunity to recruit another one. But this person does not have to accept. So they have to pick someone they think is going to accept, because, you know, they want them to join them.

Um, but also, someone who would be good at it.

**Sydnee:** That's always fun too, 'cause then that person is ushered up to the secret turret. And they—

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Given their robe.

**Sydnee:** Given their robe.

**Rileigh:** And they get to see who the traitors are.

**Sydnee:** And they get to see who the traitors are. And the way they do it is like you walk in and there's two, like, hooded figures with their heads down so you don't know who they are, and they both, like, pull back their hoods and it's like, "[gasps loudly] It was you!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "Oh my gosh!"

**Sydnee:** It's all so dramatic!

**Raleigh:** It is.

**Sydnee:** They deliver the letters for the murder in, like, seal—sealed with, like, a wax stamp. [laughs] It's just—it's great.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Although I was kind of hoping for some cheesy staged murder scenes like some of these shows do.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I was—you know.

**Raleigh:** I was too.

**Taylor:** First time the guy just walked in and picked up the letter I was like, "Oh, alright." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I do—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's gonna be—made with arsenic? Is he gonna explode? No, he's just gonna read it. Okay.

**Sydnee:** I know. I agree.

**Raleigh:** "By the order of the traitors, you have been murdered."

**Taylor:** Yeah. Blegh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Bye!

**Raleigh:** I do—you have to watch season two, though, because there is a moment in season two, and won't mention names so we don't spoil it, but there is a moment in season two where they tell the traitors, instead of getting to murder someone like you usually do tonight, I'm leaving a chalice in a book in the library, and it's a poisoned chalice, and you have to get someone to drink out of it. And whoever drinks out of it dies. But they don't

know they're dead until the next day at the end of the challenge they've all just done.

**Taylor:** Oh, that's amazing.

**Sydnee:** It's so good.

**Raleigh:** It's so great.

**Sydnee:** Watching them try to trick someone into drinking out of this really old, dirty-looking cup... that is the poisoned chalice.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, they definitely get more into the production of it, I think, in season two. Which isn't necessarily a bad thing. 'Cause like you all were saying, it plays into the fantasy.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Like, they're all playing with each other. They're all into it.

**Sydnee:** And I will just say, we've kind of already spoiled a lot about season one. If you haven't watched it, the last episode when—I mean, it is a—for me, somebody who's watched a lot of reality TV, who has watched a lot of people be betrayed—and, like, people who, like, really were getting into, like, "I've formed lifelong friendships here," and then watch a friend betray them. Like, I've seen that a lot. That happens on reality TV. People get emotionally invested and then hurt.

It is one of the hardest finales I've ever watched. Like, for people really feeling ge—I mean, at least it looks like—I'm not there. I can't say how they felt. But they seem to feel genuinely hurt, betrayed, shocked by the actions of the winner. I mean...

**Taylor:** And Alan Cummings is just in the background giddy as heck.  
[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** He's just looking back and forth, 'cause they all have to stand around this fire pit of truth at the very last episode. And he's just right in the

middle of 'em just looking back and forth about what's gonna happen.  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** "This is the best thing that's ever happened."

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk]

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** "This is fantastic!"

**Raleigh:** Oh man. He, uh—

**Sydnee:** I mean, it's intense. Like, it is a—it is well—like, you couldn't script it better. You couldn't write a more, like, painful and just, "Oh, man!" like, twist-the-knife ending. But it's hard to watch, 'cause those are real people.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** He gives them a little little bags. They get down to a final four, and then he gives them little bags and says "Pick this one if you want to end the game right now and split the money with everyone who's left, and pick this one if you want to have one more banishment. And if anyone doesn't want to end the game, then we won't end the game and we'll banish someone else, and then we'll vote again."

But to figure out who voted for what, one bag, if you throw it in the big fire pit of truth, makes the fire turn green, and one bag makes the fire turn red.

So Alan Cummings just get to throw these bags of powder in the fire  
[through laughter] one at a time.

**Taylor:** Again, I fully believe he just had those. He has those just on him most of the time. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** That had to have been his idea.

**Sydnee:** The way that was written, they were just supposed to say out loud, like, end the game or banish. And as they're filming he's like, "Here are these bags."

The producers are like, "What is he doing? Just keep rolling!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Trust me, trust me."

**Raleigh:** And he was so right.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] "No, it's gonna be good."

**Raleigh:** It's so good.

**Sydnee:** It is. It is very good. It's hard to watch but, I mean, if it's a game, it is a well-played game. Which, I mean, it is a game. It's reality TV. It's a game. It's all a game.

**Raleigh:** Um, but yeah, that's—

**Sydnee:** It gets easier by season two.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Because they're all reality TV people. I don't feel like at least—I have not finished season two. But I will say that no one seems genuinely, like, hurt or sad or upset. Like, they're all in on it. This is all, like, "Whether I win or not, this is just the next step in my career. This is what I do for a living now. I go on reality TV shows, and this is just what I'm doing now."

**Raleigh:** Then it's just battle of the different types of reality TV stars in the second season, which is also great.

**Taylor:** I love that.

**Raleigh:** All the Housewives banding together, talking about how hard it is to be a Housewife and can't, like, minimize their skills from being on reality TV just because they're Housewives. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Oh, I've gotta watch that.

**Raleigh:** Um, yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I should say, when they say "Housewife," they don't mean, like... "I'm a work who works in the house." This is another—

**Taylor:** Oh, Real Housewives.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] The Real Housewives series.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Like, the connotation, they are Housewives. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Which I've never watched those shows, but I just have an idea of what the premise is of them, and the people that are on them, and that is who these women are.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I don't know either. I've never watched those shows either. There are several of 'em that I'm like, "Who—what kind of show... " I'll never know.

**Raleigh:** I also don't know what the challenge is. I think it's another competition, challenge, TV...

**Sydnee:** I think it's actually a game of some sort.

**Raleigh:** Okay. But there are a lot of people from that on there. Um, especially in the second season. But, uh, yeah. That's The Traitors. It's on Peacock. There's also the UK version on Peacock, which I have not watched yet, but is on my list to watch next.

**Sydnee:** But I would watch it.

**Rileigh:** I highly recommend. Thank you, Sydnee, for telling me about it, and thank you both for watching it and talking about it with me.

**Taylor:** Thank you. I enjoyed it.

**Rileigh:** Good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no probably.

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

**Sydnee:** Well... [sighs] We've never talked about American Pie.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And I have... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** It's like an obligation.

**Sydnee:** I feel like it is. I have, like, a reluctance, because it was one of those moves which, like, came out when I was young enough to think like, "Oh, this is cool teen movie!" And then within, like, two years I was like, "Ew... "

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And that's how I feel now. But it also was very—it was 1999. It was so typical of a time. I feel like we must.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Rileigh:** Well, alright. I've never seen it.

**Taylor:** Prepare yourself.

**Sydnee:** Oh boy.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I'm ready.

**Sydnee:** Oh boy. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I think.

**Taylor:** At least Willow's there.

**Raleigh:** Oh, that's good.

**Sydnee:** I know you're not home right now so I don't have to say this, but if you were at Mom and Dad's house, I would say don't watch this one with Mom and Dad.

**Raleigh:** Well, don't worry. I live alone. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I try to warn you. I don't want a Saltburn to happen.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Raleigh:** I appreciate it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I did not watch Saltburn with our parents. I just want to clarify, I want to put that out there. I did not.

**Sydnee:** No. I feel like a lot of people did 'cause it was, like, over the holidays, and so a lot of people were with their families and ended up watching Saltburn. [laughs] With people you don't want to watch Saltburn with.

**Raleigh:** Couldn't get me. TikTok saved me.

**Sydnee:** I loved Saltburn. For the record, I loved it. This is not me knocking it. I just wouldn't want to watch it with my parents. [laughs quietly]



**Taylor:** That's like when—I remember watching Cruel Intentions with Mom and Dad. That was...

**Sydnee:** Oh!

**Taylor:** My generation's Saltburn.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yeah. Yeah. Alright. Well, thank you both. Um, thank you listeners. You should check out Traitors. If nothing else, Alan Cumming, just incredible. Just incredible. Um, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) and check out all the other great shows on our network.

I know the MaxFunDrive is over, but thank you to everybody who became a member or upgraded their membership, or if you already were, or if you told a friend, or if you just listen to our show. But if you participated in the MaxFunDrive in any way, thank you, thank you, thank you so much.

We were overwhelmed with your support. Not just us, the entire network. We're all just, like—we're just grateful, and I don't know what else to say. Thank you.

**Taylor:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** And I hope you love your gifts. Um, 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 Teylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

**Taylor:** I'm just thinking of how to get some of those bags that make fire change colors. I want to have those in my pockets.

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Sydnee:** I used to know this in chemistry, like, which elements make fire different colors. I'll look it up.

**Taylor:** Or ask Alan Cumming.

**Sydnee:** Or—I'll—I'll call Alan.

**Raleigh:** Just ask him.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'll call Alan.

**Raleigh:** Just call Alan.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

[music plays]

**Speaker 1:** Thanks to everyone who contributed during this year's MaxFunDrive. We truly couldn't do what we do without you. With the drive in the rear view, it's time for another proud tradition: our annual charity pin sale!

This year, the proceeds for the pin sale will support Vote Riders, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding ballot access nationwide. Members at \$10 a month or more can purchase MaxFunDrive pins featuring shows from across the network, and all members are able to buy our network pin design, exclusive to this charity sale.

The sale is live now, and it ends Friday, April 12th. For more info, head to [Maximumfun.org/pinsale](https://Maximumfun.org/pinsale). And thanks again for your support!

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