

## Still Buffering 393: "American Pie" (1999)

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[theme music, "Baby You Change Your Mind" by Nouvellas 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:** So, how are you all this week?

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles] That's a serious start.

**Sydnee:** Just checking in.

**Taylor:** Post-eclipse hangover affecting anybody?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Taylor:** Yeah, really?

**Raleigh:** I had a really bad headache for like a whole 24 hours afterwards.

**Taylor:** Ohhh.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Taylor:** The witches in TikTok, WitchTok I guess—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — is the way you would phrase that. They told me that if you were— if your spirit guides and your ancestors were like purging you of like bad stuff, that's why you felt that way, so it's a good sign. It's a good sign if you felt a little woozy.

**Sydnee:** I saw that—

**Raleigh:** I had a lot of bad stuff to get purged of, apparently. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** I saw that as well. I sent those to Mom because Mom got sick.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** She told me.

**Sydnee:** And so I told her like, "Well, maybe this is a good thing." And I also saw on WitchTok that if you're on your period, [chuckles] during the eclipse, then you are a high priestess healer. [chuckles] So.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** I guess—

**Raleigh:** Well.

**Sydnee:** I guess I am, is what I'm saying.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** I felt very vindicated. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [half-singing] Learning a lot about Sydnee today.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I did I think the best thing you could do on the eclipse. I planted some plants.

**Sydnee & Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Mm.

**Taylor:** In my little g— like one of those like in-hou— Like what is it, like an inside grow tank?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You know those things? So they're like the, what are they called, hydroponic?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Grow things.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Just trying to— Just— They're all just Audrey 3, Audrey 4, Audrey 5, Audrey 6, Audrey 7. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** There you go.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Oh no, you grew plants during the eclipse.

**Taylor:** They're already sprouting.

**Raleigh:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** I know, and they're already sprouting. It's been less than a week, I'm like, "Is this a good sign or the worst sign?" [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** You didn't buy them on the eclipse though, right?

**Taylor:** No, I just sowed them.

**Sydnee:** You didn't purchase them from some exotic plant dealer?

**Taylor:** No, I was not in Chinatown during the eclipse.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I was inside.

**Sydnee:** That's a questionable part of that movie, really, in retrospect.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I mean, it's about a plant that eats people, so.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah, there's a lot.

**Raleigh:** There's a lot. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, I don't know.

**Sydnee:** The stage version of that is pretty dark.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Did you know that?

**Raleigh:** That involves a lot of dying.

**Taylor:** I've seen it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I saw it when it— It's off Broadway right now, I saw it when the first cast opened up, but right now Jinkx Monsoon is in it, and I—

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Taylor:** The tickets actually aren't that bad. Like you— 'Cause I've been to that theatre, it's not a very big theatre, so there's not a bad seat in the house. And like a low-end ticket is like in the 100s, it's not bad.

**Raleigh:** It's not that bad.

**Taylor:** I might— I might try to catch it while she's still on.

**Raleigh:** Oh, I've heard she's amazing.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I can't wait.

**Raleigh:** And she's up there with Corben Bleu from *High School Musical*.

**Taylor:** That is an amazing combo.

**Raleigh:** I know.

[pause]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was really— I didn't realize that the ending was different, and then I saw that it was. We were looking into doing it at one point, and I saw that they filmed that version of the ending. Have we talked about this before? That they filmed that version.

**Taylor:** I don't think we've talked about it on the show.

**Raleigh:** I don't think so.

**Taylor:** I think we have talked about it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But.

**Sydnee:** In the movie, they tried that ending and they filmed it the way that it is in the stage show, and then when they showed it to test audiences, they were like so upset about it.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** They were like, "We have to fix this." [chuckles] I think it's just sad because it's Rock Moranis.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Well yeah, but it kind of— Having— I mean, seeing the stage show with it— the original ending, like it's a better end to the story, 'cause the whole point of the show is sort of about how he— It's like the rampant consumerism that took over in the— started in the 50s. Like it's kind of—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** It's a comment on that.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** It also brings the song "Somewhere That's Green" full circle, because Audrey ends up in a plant. Somewhere that's green.

**Raleigh:** Somewhere that's green.

**Sydnee:** She's literally somewhere that's green.

**Taylor:** There's a refrain of "Somewhere That Green— That's Green" right before she dies. It's great. I feel like you—

**Sydnee:** You know, a plant.

**Taylor:** Yeah, if you play it for laughs enough, it's all just kinda silly.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like I— All the people dressed as plants come out and dance on the stage at the end, it's all really fun, so.

**Sydnee:** I think the movie just took it really— Like if you see the original film version, it's really serious.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** That's—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And when—

**Taylor:** Maybe that's it.

**Sydnee:** When he feeds Audrey to the plant, it's like sad. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** Feeds Audrey to Audrey.

**Sydnee & Taylor:** [simultaneously] Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Have you— Are you all on glycine TikTok yet? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Sorry?

**Taylor:** [chuckles] I— No!

**Raleigh:** Am I on what?

**Sydnee:** No?

**Taylor:** I—

**Sydnee:** You don't know where to get your high quality, industrial grade glycine yet?

[pause]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** No?

**Taylor:** Raleigh are you completely unaware of this? 'Cause I know what it means, but I'm angry and I won't participate in it. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I have no idea. I have never heard this in my— What does that mean?

**Sydnee:** Really? Oh man. There is—

**Raleigh:** What do you mean "glycine TikTok"?

**Sydnee:** GlycineTok.

**Taylor:** There was a company that makes this industrial grade glycine, right?

**Sydnee:** Donghua Jinlong.

**Taylor:** That decided to use TikTok as a way to advertise what they do.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And for some reason, it got pushed onto— like algorithmically just got pushed onto a lot of people's For You pages, and I— everybody— People made response videos to it, or it just kinda became this meme of like— It was a real company that was really just trying to say, "We have really good [chuckles] industrial grade glycine."



**Sydnee:** They also have food grade glycine.

**Taylor:** Oh okay, great. Good to know.

**Raleigh:** So you looked into this, Syd.

**Sydnee:** Well, I got surfaced the glycine TikToks, and I was like, "What am I wat— [chuckles] What is happening?" Like—

**Taylor:** So you got the originals.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I got the ads.

**Taylor:** Wooow. Okay, 'cause—

**Sydnee:** From the company. And that's what— I was sitting there staring at it, thinking like, "Is this a— Is this going to be a joke of some— No, I'm really just getting an ad for industrial grade glycine." Like it's very— I mean, it's just a very earnest— It would only—

The facts they give you would only make sense if you were in the market to purchase industrial grade glycine— grade glycine, 'cause they tell you like it's been approved by these agencies and it meets these standards, and they're using a lot of abbreviations.

So it like— if you do not purchase industrial grade glycine, you would have no idea what they're saying or what it means, and that is what I was faced with. And I watched it, and I— And then because I watched the entire thing, I kept getting more of these. [chuckles] There's lots of 'em. And so I kept getting—

**Taylor:** Well then it was like people spoofing it. Like people—

**Sydnee:** Then I got those, yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But there's multiple of the original. Like the company has made multiple TikTok... commercials, basically what they are.

**Taylor:** It's...

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** It's fascinating how... I don't— 'Cause I don't really fully understand if it like started out as like a regional thing. 'Cause obviously you get fed videos that are in your region, even if they aren't aligned with your interest.

And I don't know if that was it, it's like it got fed to a bunch of random people regionally, and those people watched it, so then that aligned with like what those people's interests are, and then pushed it to a wider audience?

'Cause it doesn't make sense that we would've gotten those ads. Well they're not ads, they're just TikToks, but like it— Enough people got them that then people started making spoof videos.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And like makeup tutorials with [chuckles] industrial grade glycine, and book reviews about industrial grade— Like TikTok just had fun with it for a minute, but.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** I don't know how I completely missed this, but I am in shock and awe, 'cause I have never heard of this.

**Sydnee:** You should—

**Taylor:** I just get all the spoofs, and I was like, "I refuse to understand the background story on this."

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** "I think it would somehow ruin it for me." [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No I got the original ones, and then there's lots of 'em, and so I've watched lots, so I know a lot about Donghua Jinlong's products, in regards to gly— They do have glycine, but they also have other [chuckles] products, in case you're interested. And I know about the different grades of glycine they have and their uses.

**Taylor:** Ok—

**Sydnee:** And I've seen a lot about their factories and their giant bags of glycine.

**Taylor:** Can I ask, 'cause I— Now I just have— I know I could Google this. What does glycine do? What is it for?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's what I was gonna say. [giggles]

**Sydnee:** Well—

**Taylor:** You said there was food-grade, so we can eat it?

**Raleigh:** I didn't know we could eat it.

**Sydnee:** Yes, it's a— [chuckles] It's an amino acid.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** And yeah. And so like they do use it.. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** They do use it in foods, like it is a like a— it is added to different— I mean they just talk about like the food grade, and you can add it to— I mean like you wouldn't do— like it's when you're making pre-packaged processed foods.

**Taylor:** Yeah, you're not gonna sprinkle some on your hamburgers.

**Sydnee:** No, exactly.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** But then also it is used in like a whole variety of— Hold on, where are all the things that you can do with glycine.

**Taylor:** Oh so now we're just— Okay.

**Raleigh:** Oh lord, it's a thing.

**Taylor:** Now we're just—

**Raleigh:** It does make sense that if any—

**Taylor:** This is very bad like podcasting.

**Raleigh:** — of the three of us were gonna get the originals that it would be you, Syd.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That does make sense.

**Sydnee:** It's— So it's used in a lot of... Have you heard of like Western blots? Like the test, like their lab tests that we do?

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** And different protein analysis. It's used in a lot of research.

**Taylor:** Why would we have heard of that?

**Sydnee:** It's used in research.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It's used in—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You know that answer to that question!

**Taylor:** Come on, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** I know that they talk about it being used in like pesticides and herbicides and stuff like that.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Like it's an additive in those things. I think it's in some antibiotics maybe.

**Raleigh:** And it's edible?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's also, yeah. It is FDA approved.

**Raleigh:** I'm a little concerned about that.

**Taylor:** I mean.

**Sydnee:** It's sweet.

**Taylor:** Everything's edible if you try hard enough.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Well, I guess that's true. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It's sweet, so if you can use it as a sweetener, I suppose.

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] So, but yeah. There is a whole— You should check out glycine TikTok.

**Taylor:** I don't want—

**Raleigh:** I don't—

**Taylor:** My algorithm is already...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Strange and unusual. I don't think I want that in the mix.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** It was— My TikTok had been a mix of glycine, and then people doing different TikToks to the song... about isn't— "It's crazy how the very first sin was a woman who ate."

**Raleigh:** I get that one.

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydney:** Yeah, that. I have tons of that. And then also stuff about JoJo Siwa right now. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Lot of stuff about JoJo Siwa.

**Taylor:** Okay, so two parts gay, one part science.

**Raleigh:** Glycine.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Fair.

**Sydney:** Yeah okay, also I— As long as we're talking about stuff that's happening, JoJo Siwa invented gay pop. [chuckles] So.

**Taylor:** And Tegan and Sara rebuked her! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That was great.

**Taylor:** Without saying a word! They just gave like the nod.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** And a tired sigh. [laughs] Like they— You could just— Their actions just said, "We've been gay for so long."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** “For so long, JoJo. JoJo Siwa, we’ve been gay—”

**Raleigh:** “JoJo.”

**Taylor:** “— in music for so long.” [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Well have you—

**Sydnee:** It’s hard— Go ahead.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, have you seen the drama about her most recent song?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, that it’s not hers.

**Raleigh:** It’s not hers.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Which like I know a lot of artists do that, that’s very common.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** To like, buy songs other people have written, and they get paid for them and they get compensated, and then you publish them and you sing them.

But JoJo Siwa, at her release party for this song, was like, “Mmm, listen to this lyric because it’s an ad lib that came out in the studio about one of my exes.” And then the girl who wrote this song was like, “Nah, that’s just been a lyric in the song the whole time.” [giggles]

**Taylor:** Well, and that was a whole— The one that she was saying that about was a whole other song on the album.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Oh yeah, there's been two.

**Taylor:** There's two songs that are not hers. I don't know if I've ever seen a more like succinct display of karma than you... take a song called "Karma's A—"

**Sydnee:** Called "Karma."

**Raleigh:** "Karma's a B."

**Taylor:** And record it, claim it's yours, and then a bunch of people come out and go, "No, it's not." [chuckles] Like, "Wow, karma really is a B!"

**Sydnee:** It's rough. And does she say, "F-ed around" in it?

**Raleigh:** Yes?

**Taylor:** Oh, she said a bad word.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I— Well she doesn't say it. I— Like I'm not—

**Raleigh:** I think she says, "F-ed around."

**Sydnee:** I'm not censoring myself, I think she says literally "F-ed around."

**Taylor:** Oh oh oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** Like she's a bad girl, but.

**Taylor:** That's worse than that word.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But there's a line you don't cross, which is we don't say the F word, we say, "F-ed around." [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I just wish— Look, I feel— Part of me feels bad for her 'cause she's a kid.



**Sydnee:** Yeah, me too.

**Taylor:** Like, she's a very young person who's getting a lot of hate, and that's hard for me.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** She's basically my age. [chuckles] We're not far—

**Taylor:** Well, you're a kid.

**Sydnee:** You're a kid.

**Taylor:** I wouldn't want the internet to be doing to you—

**Raleigh:** I'm not a kid.

**Taylor:** — what they're doin' to JoJo Siwa.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Taylor:** A young person.

**Sydnee:** And she's been on TV a long time, so I think that's—

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's true.

**Sydnee:** You know? I mean.

**Taylor:** Also, we all saw how she was raised.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** With horrible women yelling at her—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — all day, every day. Like I have a certain amount of— I mean yes, she's a millionaire, she's, you know, she's very well off, but also that's a lot of trauma, too.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** So, I don't really love what she's going through. I just wish, for as much as she wants to do gay pop, I wish some gay elders had helped her...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Do something that's more in line with her.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like.

**Sydnee:** That— Yes. That was my problem with it is that like— 'Cause I've— She got so much— She did another TikTok where she like— she's asking you if you could get one heaven phone call, what would it be?

And everybody was making fun of her because she leans— she's holding like an energy drink, and she leans over on the counter and like puts her arm down right in front of the camera, and it's covered in—

**Raleigh:** Fake tattoos.

**Sydnee:** — what I think are temporary tattoos.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And everybody was giving her crap for it. And I feel like, "Oh, you know, she's— like she's fee— she's just feelin' herself." Just feelin' cool, she's feelin' like tough, and she— God, who cares? Like don't give her a hard time for that, whatever.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like that, you know, but I do think like okay, you didn't invent the genre gay pop, clearly. And there's a way to say... "Let me help you. Let me educate you."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like you know. And I mean it doesn't have to be hate, and it doesn't have to be anger, and we don't have to make fun of her, but like somebody needs to say, "Okay," and she should do a little like... research. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [wheezes] That's it.

**Raleigh:** That's the thing. She knows—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] "Are there gay people? I'm the first one."

**Raleigh:** She should know other gay people exist.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Did she Google "gay people" to see like who else is there?

**Taylor:** "Not many. Alright, I got this."

**Raleigh:** "It's all me. I'm the first one."

**Taylor:** Well that's like with that voice, it's like can somebody call Melissa Etheridge [wheezes] and just say, "Help her!" [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean it—

**Raleigh:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** It really— And it is a weird direction, like the— she's a bad girl, she's dressed like KISS.

**Raleigh:** She did some bad things.

**Sydnee:** I don't know, it's—

**Raleigh:** She acted up and F-ed around.

**Sydnee:** And whatever. It's catchy. It's a catchy song.

**Raleigh:** It is.

**Taylor:** It was— I— What, so two people— Or no, Miley recorded it and didn't release it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And then somebody else recorded it. I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** There was the one who wrote it and recorded it, I think.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think it—

**Sydnee:** I think so.

**Taylor:** — could've come out at any point and time.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And I think it's not— it's not a bad listen.

**Sydnee:** It's a catchy song.

**Raleigh:** It makes sense that it was written 12 years ago though.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** In 2012. It feels very 2012.

**Sydnee:** But somebody needs to help her because I saw TMZ grabbed her and did an interview with her when she was somewhere.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And they were like, "Do you regret saying that about inventing gay pop?" [chuckles], and she was like, "Obviously I didn't— I shouldn't have said I invented it. Like I— Obviously I don't think I invented it, you know. I know I didn't."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And you know, kind of like owning like that was a silly way to word that. But then they're like she's like naming other artists, she's like, "Obviously there's lots of other artists." And she names Lady Gaga, fair. Then she names Madonna and Michael Jackson.

And I just thought those were weird. I mean I guess— Okay, Madonna like... Yeeeeeah, you know. I mean. I think Madonna has been, throughout her career, pretty embraced by the queer community.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** I think that's a fair thing to say.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's Madonna.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I think Michael Jackson's a weird pull.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I don't— Yeah. That's not— May— Gay people might've enjoyed Michael Jackson's music, but there's a difference between music that gay people enjoy and music made by gay people.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Madonna walks that line because I— Madonna has never fully come out.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** But it's well-known fact that Madonna's not straight.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I also think it's funny when there are contemporaries to JoJo. We don't have to go back in time, we don't even have to go to our generation. Like Renee Rapp.

**Raleigh:** Renee Rapp.

**Taylor:** And Haley Kiyoko are right there.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like there are other powerful lesbians making good pop music.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Currently.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** In their 20s.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Like young people.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I think that—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I think that this is great that this is— Not great this is happening but it's a great social experiment, because I've always wondered if we had like a... like a Britney of our generation.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** That went through the same like media evolution that Britney went through, or Miley Cyrus even, that Miley went through, but we had TikTok and Instagram and social media—

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** — live throughout it, what would that have looked like? What would it have looked like when TikTokers were reacting to the first time— to like, you know, "Leave Britney Alone" or like Britney shaving her head. Like that's what's happening.

**Sydnee:** It is.

**Raleigh:** That's what this is.

**Sydnee:** It is. Because like it's the same. We watched Britney Spears go through the same thing except we only saw her when paparazzi caught her, and then we talked about it in our own little spheres, but it wasn't being discussed constantly in a public forum like everything celebrities do is now.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So. I mean that's true. I feel bad for her, she does— she's young, you know.

**Taylor:** It's also like, I don't know, a lot of like the manufactured TikTok outrage directed at her. It's like people are generating income—

**Raleigh:** For her.

**Taylor:** — from their outrage.

**Raleigh:** And yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. So like it's a popular trend to jump on to be like judgmental of this thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Which like I don't know, like again that's just— like that's fine, like you know, make your video to make your views and get your money.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** But like, it sucks when there is anybody on the receiving end of that.

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Taylor:** You know, the glycine trend is not hurting anybody.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Exactly.

**Taylor:** If anything it's helping their sells, 'cause someone out there went "Actually, I need some glycine. Thank you, I know where to go now."

**Sydnee:** I don't—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I don't know why I will ever need to buy glycine, but if I did need to buy glycine—

**Raleigh:** You know where you're goin'.

**Sydnee:** — I know where I could get it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.



**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean I'm just saying.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like her doing some questionable makeup and a reheated song, like lots of pop artists have done that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** She's gettin' a lot of hate for it.

**Sydnee:** And—

**Raleigh:** Syd—

**Sydnee:** And I don't think— Nobody is at risk from like, even though she did not acknowledge that there are a lot of people who've made gay pop for a long time.

**Taylor:** Gay people have been around for at least—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** At least 20 years.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Her saying that isn't suddenly gonna make everybody like forget about Elton John. Like you know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like we're all still aware.

**Raleigh:** That's a good point.

**Taylor:** There's still gay pop.

**All:** [laugh]

**Sydnee:** We're still aware.

**Raleigh:** Syd, I gotta ask 'cause you have two kids that were fans of the artist formerly known as JoJo Siwa and what she once was. What— Do they know that that JoJo Siwa is no longer?

**Sydnee:** They do.

**Taylor:** She—

**Sydnee:** They've seen the "Karma is a—"

**Raleigh:** She— Like her bows and her, you know, pink sparkly high tops, and all that, that's all gone.

**Sydnee:** They like her new look.

**Raleigh:** Oh good.

**Sydnee:** They've seen the "Karma is a B" music video.

**Raleigh:** Bet they liked that.

**Sydnee:** Yes, they liked it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Cooper is— has been singing it on and off.

**Raleigh:** That makes sense.

**Sydnee:** So I think it's stuck in her head at least.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** They liked it, I don't think— They had both sort of moved away from JoJo Siwa as an interest.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** So they weren't like thrilled, like, "Oh gosh, she's back," but they liked it.

**Raleigh:** Okay, good.

**Sydnee:** They dug it, so.

**Raleigh:** I wondered about that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It's speaking to the generation that was—

**Raleigh:** Speaking to the youths.

**Taylor:** Well—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, speaking to the youths.

**Taylor:** Do you think that was part of the design? 'Cause the truth is she is still JoJo.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** She's still sparkly.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** She still has lots of like shiny fantastical costumes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** The color palette is just slightly darker. That's kind of it, and she used a bad word.

**Raleigh:** She used a bad word.

**Taylor:** So is it maybe like, “Oh no, our five- to seven-year-olds are now seven- to 10-year-olds”? [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** It might be calculated. I mean like, whatever it is.

**Taylor:** “Wednesday Addams is very popular.”

**Raleigh:** That’s very true.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That’s very true.

**Sydnee:** That’s a very clever evolution, you know.

**Taylor:** Ah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It is in no way alienating to the audience that would have loved her previously, you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** There you go. Alright.

**Sydnee:** Does that make sense?

**Raleigh:** I’m really glad we’ve spent 20 minutes [through laughter] talking about JoJo Siwa.

**Taylor:** We figured—

**Sydnee:** Well we also—

**Taylor:** No, we got to an answer.

**Raleigh:** And glycine.

**Sydnee:** We had to talk about glycine too.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Very important.

**Sydnee:** That was important.

**Taylor:** We got to talk about glycine.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well—

**Taylor:** I think it's because we are putting off talking about what we're supposed to talk about, actually.

**Raleigh:** That's absolutely what was happening.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think that's true. Let me start off by saying we're talking about *American Pie*, and I want to apologize.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I mean, I don't feel like I should have to apologize to you Tey 'cause you had already seen it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So you kind of knew what you were in for, although I guess I did make you watch it again, so I am sorry for that. Raleigh, I guess I'm sorry for exposing you to it the first time around.

**Raleigh:** It just— I—

**Sydnee:** Listeners, if you watched it because I said we were [chuckles] going to talk about it, I am sorry.

**Raleigh:** A warning would've been nice. Like I knew it was about like sex. I knew that was part of it. I knew that was a thing.

**Sydnee:** I— The way you said, “sex”—

**Raleigh:** But I didn’t know that was the movie.

**Sydnee:** I keep waiting for you to spell it like, “S-E-X” instead of saying—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I—

**Sydnee:** The way you say it like, “I knew it was about...”

**Raleigh:** [quietly] Sex.

**Sydnee:** And I keep waiting for you to go “[whispers] S-E-X.”

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Well, I don’t know.

**Sydnee:** Yes, it is a—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It is in the genre of teen sex comedies.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which... it’s questionable that those exist, right? Like as I say that, I feel icky, I feel gross as I say it.

**Raleigh:** Well do we make them anymore?

**Taylor:** We do, ‘cause there was one recently that was an all-girl cast.

**Raleigh:** Oh, oh you’re right.

**Taylor:** What was that called, right? It had some—

**Sydnee:** Are you talking about—

**Raleigh:** *Bottoms*.

**Sydnee:** — *Bottoms*?

**Taylor:** No, no.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** That is one, but there was another one that was made not long before that with another— I can look it up. It was— It's in the last like decade, it's actors that you would know, Raleigh.

**Raleigh:** *Booksmart*?

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** That's another one.

**Sydnee:** I would say—

**Taylor:** I think you're calling out that there are definitely ones that are made.

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah, you're right, you're right.

**Sydnee:** These are similar. Now they've evolved, they're more progressive.

**Raleigh:** There's not as much sex in them.

**Sydnee:** There's— There's not as much overt sex.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And there's not as much... [pause] I don't even know how to— Like— The— I don't think that you see scenes where we're like laughing at like sexual assault.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Or—

**Taylor:** Fair.

**Raleigh:** Or crimes are being committed.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That's not as typical.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Although those movies might be— I don't know, like I feel like there— it's possible that there are still people who are making and watching those sorts of like teen sex comedies, that are not us.

**Raleigh:** You said it the same way.

**Sydnee:** Well, I don't like saying the words "teen" and "sex" together, is what I'm realizing.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** That's grossing me out. Could they not be like adult sex comedies? [chuckles] Could we just— "Consenting adult sex comedies," how 'bout we make those? [chuckles] That's fine.

**Raleigh:** I think that's just like a lot of like adult... comedies. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Like any movie that features like Jason Bateman and Jennifer Anniston and Paul Rudd.

**Sydnee:** And lots of episodes of *Friends*, really.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, like—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Stuff that our parents like.

**Taylor:** I was thinking of *Lockers*, that's the movie I was thinking of.



**Sydnee:** Oh, yeah.

**Raleigh:** *Lockers*, yeah.

**Taylor:** 2018.

**Sydnee:** See, so it never went away. It has changed I think, but *American Pie*, and we're gonna have to take a break in just a second.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** So I'm just gonna say briefly [chuckles] I would not say that I necessarily even enjoyed it when it came out.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I think that I thought parts were funny, and it was shocking to me. Because I was a teenager and I found it shocking, and you know, when you're that age I think a lot of the stuff where you're like, "Oh my gosh, I'm not supposed to see this!" you're drawn to. Because that's our inclination.

If it's something we feel like we're not allowed to watch, we try to watch it. So I did have that reaction to it. Everyone talked about it, and so I wanted to know about it so that I could be part of the, you know, it was in the zeitgeist, I wanted to be able to talk about it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I knew it wasn't for me. [chuckles] Like it was— this was not made for me, and— or people like me, like by people like me. And at this point in my life, I do not enjoy it and—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** — don't necessarily want my kids watching it. So can I just put that out there? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** But I did make you all watch it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** You did.

**Sydnee:** So let's talk—

**Taylor:** And now we're going to have to talk about it.

**Sydnee:** Let's talk about how gross it is. But first— [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** So... Mother's Day is comin' up.

**Taylor:** Okay, great.

**Sydnee:** This is all yours's heads up, by the way.

**Taylor:** Great insert for this. Yes, Mother's Day.

**Sydnee:** Oh no. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** So wholesome.

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Sydnee:** Mo— Yeah, Mother's Day is coming up. I'm giving you this— like you have lots of lead time, I'm giving you both this warning, so Mom— our mom will appreciate this. Mother's Day is comin' up and the thing is like, you know, you've probably heard a lot of stories from your mom about their life growin' up, but maybe there's some—

Maybe you kind of are hearing the same stories over again, you kinda wanna hear about their life. Maybe there's more you could learn from your mom about things that they went through when they were younger, and challenges and fun moments, and just stuff that you'd love to hear about your mom.

And there's a great gift for Mother's Day that you can give, if that is what you're seeking, and it's Storyworth. So Storyworth is really simple, here's how it works. Every week, Storyworth is gonna email your loved one, in this case maybe your mom, could be anybody.

Could be somebody else, a family member or friend that you care about, but they're gonna email them a thought-provoking question that you get to help pick.

So there are all kinds of questions, you can pick from one of the ones that they offer you about like a moment in your life where you had to be really brave, or the scariest moment in your life, or a time where... you know, I don't know, it can be sad stuff like a friend let you down, or a time where you felt happier than ever before.

All kinds of interesting questions, thought-provoking, stuff that you don't, you know, typically think to ask somebody, but you would wanna know about 'em. So they'll email this question to 'em, they can write down the answer, even put pictures in there.

And it doesn't matter, just a few sentences, a few words, or a whole big, long story. Which, if it was our dad, it would be a whole big, long story.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Our mom would probably be more brief. And after a year, Storyworth is gonna compile all those stories, photos, whatever your loved one had collected into a beautiful keepsake hard cover book, and you can share that and read that, and share it with your kids and their kids, and it can be a like a family heirloom.

So what a wonderful gift to give somebody to say, "I love you, and I wanna know more about you, and I want you to share your life with me." So, Teylor, if our listeners want to get Storyworth for their mom or anyone in their family that they care about, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Well, give all the moms in your life a unique heartfelt gift you'll all cherish for years, Storyworth. Right now, save \$10 on your first purchase when you go to [storyworth.com/stillbuffering](https://storyworth.com/stillbuffering). That's [storyworth.com/stillbuffering](https://storyworth.com/stillbuffering) to save \$10 on your first purchase.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Okay, and that'll be a great book. I can just see it on my bookshelf.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like a keepsake book like that, you know? And then you see your kids and your grandkids point it out on the shelf and saying "What's this?" and then you get to tell a fun story.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** I know, it's wonderful. Okay, now we have to talk about *American Pie*.

**Taylor:** [giggles]

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** So this movie came out in 1999, and it's weird because like there had always been these sort of— I don't know— And I will at least throw this out there. Raleigh, you've probably never seen like *Meatballs*.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Okay, Taylor, did Dad ever make you watch that?

**Taylor:** I did not ever watch *Meatballs*.

**Sydnee:** It was one— And when I say, "Dad made me watch it," what I mean is he was like, "That's a funny movie that I always loved when I was younger, and you're younger now and so you would probably enjoy it," so like that. And then I watched it and I was like, "Ew." [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** "Ew. No. Are they looking through holes in the locker room to look at naked girls? Ew."

**Raleigh:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** "What is this movie?" Right.

**Taylor:** There was a whole generation of movies like that, right?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** *Meatballs, Porkies.*

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Like *Animal House*.

**Sydnee:** Yes. So I don't think *American Pie* is that big of a departure, you— from those movies.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is what I'm saying. Like I think it is of a time that is passed. [chuckles] But was very long before it. It is not— It was not groundbreaking.

The stuff in it that's gross was not gross in a way that those sorts of movies hadn't been gross for a long time. I don't know what set it apart other than that it was just for a new audience, like a new group of young gross people.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Well I mean—

**Taylor:** Well I think it had some— Well I mean, I think that it had its own, you know, selection of shocking scenes that were... were gross. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** What would you say was the most shocking, Raleigh? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** In this movie?

**Sydnee:** In this movie.

**Rileigh:** I— You know what I'm gonna say. [pause] It's in the title of the movie.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah yeah yeah.

**Sydnee:** It is, yes.

**Taylor:** Ah yeah.

**Rileigh:** It was— That was one of the worst things I've ever had to experience in film in my life.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Man.

**Sydnee:** Now—

**Rileigh:** 'Cause I wasn't expecting that. And I don't wanna go into detail about it.

**Sydnee:** I—

**Rileigh:** So if you haven't seen the movie, you can look it up if you really want. [chuckles] But if you have, you know what I'm talking about.

**Sydnee:** I mean, If you haven't seen the movie—

**Rileigh:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** — one of the main characters masturbates with an apple pie.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There it is. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There it is.

**Taylor:** I mean, he violates an apple pie.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** An apple pie did not... did not have— did not deserve that.

**Raleigh:** Did not consent.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** A non-compliant apple pie.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** And it's not like— And it's not— This was my thing. It's not a brief like for goofs, like it's about to happen and then cuts away, or like it's insinuate or something. Like it's just— it's a full scene.

**Taylor:** Yeeeah.

**Raleigh:** Of that.

**Sydnee:** It's weird— [chuckles] Um.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] It's weird, you're right.

**Sydnee:** It's—

**Raleigh:** It is. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You can stop there, you can cut that sentence off and you— we'd all agree with you.

**Sydnee:** I don't think— I believe... And I'm not just gonna say like... boys. I believe that all of us... are capable of different gross things in our private lives that we wouldn't want anybody to know about. This is all I'm— No, not this. So— But what I am gonna say is—

**Taylor:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** — I don't think anybody does this. And I— 'Cause sometimes when you say that, it's naïve. Sometimes when you say like, "Nobody really does that"—

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** — it's like, "Well no, actually people do that." And I do— I think people do lots of weird, sometimes kinda gross stuff.

**Taylor:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** But I don't know that anybody does this.

**Taylor:** Wait, are you saying that nobody has... has, um... Uh, had relations with a warm pie?

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Okay. Now as soon as I saw that I realize I guarantee there were probably some people who tried it because of this movie, weren't there.

**Taylor:** Mm, I— Syd. Syd, I— Come on. We both grew up with untethered internet. Anything that you can possibly imagine.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Somebody has done. I'm not saying it's good or right or okay, but it has happened in the world. So I don't— That's just...

**Raleigh:** [giggles]

**Taylor:** It's just the truth.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] In—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** In one of the— I— [chuckles] I was lookin' at all the different sequels. There were so many se— I never saw any of 'em. There were so



many sequels to this movie, because like there were the orig— Like there was like *American Pie 2* and *3* and like all that kinda st—

Well, *American Wedding*, and you know, like in a line sequels from this movie. And then they tried to do like kind of a *National Lampoon* thing, where they were like, “*American Pie* brings you this,” you know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like it’s from the *American Pie*— not even necessarily like character universe, just like other—

**Taylor:** In the same—

**Sydnee:** — teen sex stuff. [wheezes]

**Taylor:** — zeitgeist, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. In one of `em, it opens up with somebody using a ham sandwich.

**Taylor:** Eh.

**Sydnee:** So like that’s just a theme in these movies.

**Raleigh:** Well.

**Taylor:** Like I— Yeah. [sighs heavily]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] The basic theme—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Again, I don’t think this was unique to any— I mean especially like teen movies, the idea that you have a group of teenagers. Especially like I think at the time, it was classically like a bunch of, you know, like young cis men who are trying to lose their virginity. Like that is a very— I feel like that’s not an uncommon plot line in movies from that generation.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like that's— Now... [chuckles] I don't know, and that's the— I don't feel like you need to go into the plot more than that. And so they try to, and some of `em succeed. And—

**Taylor:** They make a pact.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** They're all supposed to get laid before graduation.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's the film. That's it.

**Taylor:** That's it.

**Raleigh:** Thanks for listening. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Nothing else is discussed.

**Sydnee:** Do you think— You know what's weird? Is that we had— This movie is nothing like this, so I'm not comparing the two movies. I wanna compare some aspect of them. Last year, *Saltburn* came out.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** And everyone freaked out—

**Taylor:** Where are we going?

**Sydnee:** — because of some of the sexual content in it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like there was like a ton of discourse about like, “Oh my gosh! It was so wild and weird and gross!” and all this stuff. I feel like the scene with the apple pie is worse... than anything in *Saltburn*.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That’s my personal...

**Taylor:** Weeell, I mean—

**Raleigh:** I saw *Saltburn*.

**Taylor:** — he kills people in *Saltburn*, soooo. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Okay, I mean not that, not the murder. I mean the sex stuff.

**Taylor:** Ehhhh, I mean some worse things happen. I don’t know.

**Sydnee:** I— Yes. The murder is— I mean obviously.

**Raleigh:** The murder is bad.

**Sydnee:** I mean like in terms of things where you’re like—

**Taylor:** He also— But the main character, like I guess you could say he apple pies a fresh grave, so I don’t know. I don’t know, Syd. I don’t know if I follow you on that. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Hmm...

**Sydnee:** Okay, well the grave scene is...

**Taylor:** It’s not played for laughs, and maybe that’s, you know, it’s—

**Sydnee:** Maybe that’s the difference?

**Raleigh:** Could that be the difference?

**Taylor:** It’s treated with a weird— I mean I’m sure that there is an art film where a young man desecrates an apple pie—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** — where everybody like nods and goes, “Yes. America.”

**Raleigh:** Mm, mm.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** And that happens, but this is not— it’s not played that way.  
[chuckles]

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** No, I guess the grave scene is rough.

**Taylor:** Come on.

**Sydnee:** It’s not— I guess it’s— I guess the thing is the grave scene didn’t— Like there are other things about it that made me a little uncomfortable, but it didn’t— it wasn’t gross. I wouldn’t use the word “gross.” Whereas the apple pie scene I feel like is— I mean, it’s a little gross.

**Raleigh:** There’s just something inherently uncomfy about scenes in movies where you can tell it is supposed to be the funniest thing you’ve ever seen. And you can tell that they were anticipating that everyone was just gonna be losing their minds laughing.

And you just are sitting there silently watching. It’s like, “Mm, I know what you thought my reaction was gonna be, but I am not your target audience here.”

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I... I have to— I don’t— This is just for rewatching the movie for me, and it was an interesting thought to have because I remember watching this movie as like a teenager, and just being so offput by just like... These young men are just such foreign creatures to me, like who would behave this way.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And it's funny now, as a trans man, like lookin' at— Like I was never that. Like it—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It's one of those things that's like, "Well I'm not a boy, 'cause that's what boys do, and that's disgusting."

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Like, it was so gross! And I'm like, "This was something that kept— This idea of what young men are is something that—" I'm saying this jokingly, but, "This is why I stayed in the closet, 'cause that's not me!"

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** "I was never that!" [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Well, it's— I mean, but what you're hitting on is something very valid, and it's— we don't discuss it, I think, as much as we talk about like— I mean I think it is so well-known that media depictions of women and what women look like, sound like, wear, do, are have been, for a long time, harmful because it was one thing and if you didn't fit into that one thing then you weren't valid in some way. It's been that way for men too. Like it—

**Taylor:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I think that we don't necessarily spend as much time talking about it because there's also a power dynamic at play, where like men benefit from a lot of the way they're perceived and treated.

And so like I'm not as worried about it, but we should be, we should be worried about it. Because exactly what you said, if you don't see yourself in like, "This is what dudes do."

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** “These are what dudes are like,” and you can’t see yourself there, that makes you question your own validity of who you are, and how do you see yourself, and what, you know, where do I fit in if I’m not that? And I mean it’s damaging no matter, you know, what gender you are.

**Taylor:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well and the men are always, you know, they’re usually portrayed in a positive light, in this movie they certainly are.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** So you don’t question it as much because the au— the universe of the movie is— still views these four main characters as good guys.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And the women are just sort of, you know, sexy lamps.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But then you look at like who— the exchange student character, the woman. It’s a—

**Raleigh:** Nadia?

**Sydnee:** Nadia.

**Taylor:** Nadia, who is put on broadcast on the internet, without her knowledge, takin’ her clothes off. And that— And then it’s just a— Because of that she’s just sent back to her home country.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like it’s a horrible narrative for the—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** For the woman character that's played for laughs.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So on one end, it kind of makes a joke out of, "Yeah, you can record women being sexy, it's fine. It's a funny thing. It's a— It's okay, you're a man. It's a normal thing to wanna do. Why wouldn't you wanna do it?"

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** But then it's also just like, it's an assault. It's an assault.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's a huge plot point in this movie. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It is, it is. It's wild to me how that would— You could never make that today. Like you could— I mean it's so weird that in our lifetime, that was just part of the movie, and no big deal.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And if you proposed that in a script now, people would look at you like you had lost your mind. You know, like you—

**Raleigh:** Well, it's something the bad guy would do in a movie now.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Exactly.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Well, we've seen the flip side of this. Like you know, they— it's not a fantasy thing, like I looked up, like literally as soon as I finished it, I

Googled like, “*American Pie* hold up?” like question mark. [chuckles]  
Found like some Reddit threads of people arguing—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — about whether or not this movie holds up.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And people brought that up, and a lot of people are like, “Eh, whatever. You know, it’s just a movie, you can laugh at it,” it’s like, “Right, but we’ve all watched documentaries of like women that have been ex— teenagers—”

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** “Young girls that have been exploited on the internet.”

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Taylor:** And forced into sexual situation, been recorded against their will, had revenge porn done against them, and it’s ruined their lives. So it’s like I can’t just— it’s not a joke, it’s not a plot point.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It’s a real-world problem.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I mean if anything, the whole incident benefits Jim, the character Jim in the movie, because that’s why he gets the date with Alison Hannigan’s character.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** She wants to get laid, and she feels like, “Well, I saw that, so.” Like he wins in the end, because of his exposure.



**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [scoffs]

**Taylor:** And then it— like the button on it is him like... like having a video call with Nadia, who's been— Lost her chance to study abroad, sent back to her home country, but it's okay. Look, she still wants to see him take his clothes off, it's funny.

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Sydnee:** It's— What did you think, by the way Raleigh, of Alison Hannigan in this movie? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Um, I mean I love Alison Hannigan. I feel like... I was used to seeing her typecast in a very specific like kind of role, and this is very not that. A little bit than I was expecting from like Willow and Lily.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I think she was a few seasons into *Buffy* when this movie came out.

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Taylor:** So *Buffy* had started.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna ask.

**Taylor:** So I think the movie kind of played off of that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** Where the character you think she's playing is very Willow, and then...

**Raleigh:** And then you—

**Taylor:** Once you get to know her character. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Then you find out otherwise.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's rough too because I feel like when you joke about the fact that like... I don't know, this is my perception from when I was in high school of the kids in band is that like they all kind of were sexually active, but nobody talked about it. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Which like, to be fair, I was in show choir and that was kind of a thing in show choir too.

**Raleigh:** It's true.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So like that was like an astute observation. So much of the movie, just like I don't even know. This was at the same time I was in high school, and it is unrecognizable to me as a high school experience. Do you know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like it's really weird how I graduated in 2001, this movie came out in '99 about people who were seniors at the time, so you know, basically the same, you know, two years older than me. Same time as me.

And... I couldn't even— I could not connect to this high school experience whatsoever. Which is probably 'cause it was made by people who were teenagers in the '70s, right? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well that's kind of like— All the way up until very recently, I mean obviously with, you know, the rise of the internet but specifically

like the social media immediate reaction to things, I think that movie studios have had to start actually like caring about the audience they're representing.

But up until that point, if we were seeing teen movies, it was made by people in their 30s and 40s, who were showing what an idealized version of what teenagers were up to in, what, the '70s and '80s.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And that's kind of the tradition, I think that's why it was always sort of this sort of upheld, "This is what it's supposed to be like." You know, it's not just—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — based on decades before us, it's... written by people that are reflecting on that time and sort of, you now, idealizing it. And now I think things have to be a little bit more up to tone—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — and up to times.

**Sydnee:** I think you're right. I think you're right.

**Raleigh:** Is that why our dad likes those movies so much?

**Taylor:** [chuckles] I think—

**Raleigh:** 'Cause they're like referencing—

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** — when he was a teen.

**Taylor:** I think Dad's one of the few people that actually lived that life.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I don't.

**Raleigh:** [wheeze]

**Taylor:** Just from his stories, from his frat days or whatever.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I think that just— Yeah, that's what it was like. Yeah. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** "Yeah, that's— That was it. Mm-hmm."

**Taylor:** "You had a bunch of bros and you got up to hijinks and you drank a bunch of beer."

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Taylor:** That was it.

**Raleigh:** "It was great."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "It was great."

**Raleigh:** "And everything cost a nickel."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "You had to thwart the dean!" [chuckles]

**Taylor:** "And all of your friend had very nonsensical names."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** You know.

**Raleigh:** You just get Buzzy Bee, Jeff.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Examples.

**Taylor:** Jeff's—

**Sydnee:** Well Jeff's a name.

**Raleigh:** Jeff's fine.

**Taylor:** Yeah, Jeff's a name, that's fine.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Skippin' Buzzy Bee.

**Sydnee:** It is weird though because like the impact of this movie, aside from the fact that everybody quoted it for a while... "That one time in band camp."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like was just a... That is a reference that like if you're from our generation, you say that and instantly you know exactly what somebody's saying.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like you know— Like that is still— That was so pervasive. Jennifer Coolidge as Stiffler's mom, I mean like really that like that was my introduction to her, first of all.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then from that, like our concept of a MILF.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** That's really where— I mean like... *American Pie* did that.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I mean like I don't know, like I feel like there's some things that have resonated from this, like it won't go away. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** No. Well.

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean? Like it won't leave. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I was— 'Cause I don't think— Like *Legally Blonde* and this movie are not that far apart, and—

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** *Legally Blonde* was like 2004 or 5 or something like that.

**Taylor:** Jennier Coolidge is not that, like not that much older.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** But the difference between her when she's playing like sexy mom versus, you know, kind of the goofy character she plays in that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It was very impressive, like, "Oh no, she's really hot."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "She just can play comedic."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "But she's a hot mom."

**Sydnee:** She is a hot mom. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** What did you— What'd you think of the fashion, Raleigh?

**Raleigh:** I mean I loved it. I thought it was great.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It was a big thing. I feel like a lot of it's coming back.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Raleigh:** We're entering a Renaissance of the Y2K era.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I felt like it would be inspirational for you since you're gonna have a Y2K party soon.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Or going to a Y2K party.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I do like that all the dudes' fashion is just T-shirt with flannel, or T-shirt with Hawaiian shirt—

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — overtop of it, which is very true for the time.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** That was—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That was your two kinds of guys, right? You had flannel guy that was a little more serious, and you had Hawaiian shirt guy that was goofy and fun.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** And they— It was the same guy, it was just Tuesday or a Wednesday.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Different fonts.

**Sydnee:** The— Exactly.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well and you got to see Tara Reed.

**Raleigh:** Yup.

**Sydnee:** Who I think of as like the epitome of that era.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like just look at whatever Tara Reed is wearing or doing and that tells you everything you need to know about that decade. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** It was good inspiration. I—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** The reason I'm going to a Y2K party is because I have a friend who's turning 25.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.



**Rileigh:** So, she was born in 1999, so.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Nice.

**Rileigh:** It's 1999, which is perfect 'cause that's when this movie came out.

**Sydnee:** Well, I'm sorry about the movie.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [giggles]

**Rileigh:** It was— I mean, I didn't dislike watching it. I just don't think I was full prepared for what I was about to embark on when I started it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Maybe it— Well, I mean, I think if nothing else, this movie was presented when Taylor and I, when we were teens, as like normal teen behavior.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** And don't— you don't need to question it, this is just— And I do think there is a little bit of like, "Boys will be boys."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I mean, thank goodness things have change dramatically now.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** But it is weird to think that like not— it wasn't that long ago that this is just like, "This is fine. This is all fine."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** "It's funny. It's not just fine, it's funny. It's great. It's hilarious."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "We should all laugh at it."

**Taylor:** Right. I think there— I mean there are still like— There are elements of this movie that I still enjoy.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Eugene Levy.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Love Eugene Levy. I didn't know he was in this.

**Taylor:** Who was in like— He was in eight of these movies, I think.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** He was in a lot of 'em. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** He was in—

**Raleigh:** Oh my god.

**Taylor:** I don't know what contract he signed in blood. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** I know!

**Taylor:** To appear.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It's—

**Taylor:** Is that why we got *Schitt's Creek*? Like he made a deal with the Devil like, "Look, I'm gonna give you a heartfelt meaningful hit show, but you gotta be in eight *American Pie* movies first."

**Sydnee & Raleigh:** [chuckle]

**Taylor:** It's like, "Alright, that sounds okay. Yeah, I'll do it."

**Sydnee:** "Whatever."

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** And he's not even American.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** He's Canadian. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Why did we do that to him? [chuckles] That's so unfair!

**Taylor:** He didn't know the culture, he was just trying to be agreeable.

**Raleigh:** He didn't know.

**Sydnee:** He was like, "That's what these American kids are into, I guess."

**Taylor:** Pie.

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Sydnee:** "See, we would think this is mean in Canada, but in America it's just normal."

**Raleigh:** "It's fine."

**Taylor:** He is a very supportive father—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — of his weird, freaky son.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** He's like, "Look, I don't really know what I'm dealing with here, but I'm gonna try to meet you where you're at."

**Sydnee:** That's good parenting.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Eugene Levy, always a good dad.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I like that the storyline— The one boy that doesn't take part in the cybercrime—

**Raleigh:** Mm, yeah.

**Taylor:** — his storyline's great, you know.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** He joins choir, he learns a softer side of himself, he has a... happy, normal, consensual relationship with Nina Suvari. That's nice.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** It's possible.

**Raleigh:** It's possible.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. You just gotta join choir.

**Taylor:** Just run off that lacrosse field, metaphorically.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** Learn how to be sensitive in choir.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well, that's true, I dated a lot of guys in choir and they were more sensitive.

**Raleigh:** Well.

**Taylor:** Well, you know.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** A lot of `em are also...

**Sydnee:** Yeah, well, okay.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** It's alright. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I— [chuckles] I've always been a very masculine woman.  
[chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles] You were guiding them along their path. You were—  
Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was.

**Raleigh:** You were an important step for them.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was helping them figure something out.

**Taylor:** That's kind.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** It's a service to the community. Thank you.

**Sydnee:** No problem. No problem.

**Raleigh:** Always been such an ally. [chuckles]

**All:** [chuckle]

**Sydnee:** I'm here to help. [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Oh, you're into me. Have you considered men?"

**All:** [laugh]

**Sydnee:** "Have you considered guys?"

**Taylor:** "You can like both, that's alright too, but just asking."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** "So have you? Considered it?" [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** "You should."

**Raleigh:** "Think you'd like it."

**Sydnee:** So— It's so odd that Justin's straight. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** That was a crazy thing to say. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Needle in a haystack, Syd. [chuckles] Needle in a gaystack, Syd.

**All:** [laugh]

**Raleigh:** Noooooo. [giggles]

**Sydnee:** Oh, I'm gonna call him that and he's gonna have no idea what I'm talkin' about. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Ohhh, that's great. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Well on that note.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** What's next week, Tey? [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, I was inspired by the soundtrack of this movie to talk about a band that I don't— we haven't talked about before, which is Bare Naked Ladies. And what is it, *Stunt*? Is that the album that we all listened to?

**Sydnee:** I believe you're right.

**Taylor:** I— Something.

**Sydnee:** I believe that's right.

**Taylor:** It came out the same year, I believe that was '99. I— "One Week" was the big hit off of that. Yeah, *Stunt*.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Taylor:** Came out in '98, came out in '98. And i— I bought that album because they mentioned *Sailor Moon*, so that was my indoctrination, so.

**Sydnee:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** Makes sense. They're— Those are some great songs. I was just lookin' at the track list and I'm excited to listen to it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I'm excited.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Taylor:** I'm gonna take a walk down memory lane.

**Sydnee:** Well, we'll check that out for next week, and again I would thank you, but I guess I just mainly need to say I'm sorry.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] It's fine.

**Sydnee:** About *American Pie*. I had nothing to do with making it.

**Raleigh:** You're welcome.

**Sydnee:** It wasn't my fault. [chuckles] I'm not gonna tell you where to find it, I don't wanna— Listen, if you go on that journey, that— you're gonna have to do that for yourself.

**Taylor:** I paid to rent it.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I paid for this.

**Sydnee:** Oh noooo.

**Raleigh:** We... Money, I paid real money.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I'm gonna mail you both a cheque.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** It's alright. I got to see Jennifer Coolidge drink scotch all hot.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.



**Taylor:** That was worth it.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So that was worth \$4 on Amazon.

**Sydnee:** It has—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It has a few moments here and there. [chuckles] Well thank you very much, thank you listeners. Thank you to Maximum Fun, you can go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) and check out a lot of other great podcasts you would enjoy, and thank you to the Nouvellas for the theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

[theme music fades in]

**Raleigh:** I am Raleigh Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering.

**Sydnee & Taylor:** [simultaneously] [slowly] And I... am... too.

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** Raleigh.

**Raleigh:** Needle in a gaystack.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, exactly! [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** If I make Justin a shirt that says, "A needle in a gaystack," will you guys wear it with me? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Oh my god.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Please. Absolutely. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah.

**All:** [chuckle]

**Sequoia Holmes:** It's Webby season. Hi, I'm Sequoia Holmes, host of the *Black People Love Paramore* podcast, and we are nominated for a Webby, for the episode where I interviewed Hayley Williams.

In case you're unfamiliar, *Black People Love Paramore* is a podcast delving into the common and uncommon interests of Black people in order to help us feel more seen. We would love your vote to help us win this Webby.

Please take a second, go over to the *Black People Love Paramore* podcast social media accounts, and you can find them @BPLPpod across all social media platforms. Hit the link in bio and vote for *Black People Love Paramore*.

[ukulele chord]

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