

## Still Buffering 394: "Stunt" – Barenaked Ladies

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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 Teylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Well, we have puking in our house.

**Raleigh:** Oh good.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, just thought I would start off with that, so if any point during the episode I just disappear, I guess it has captured me as well, the puking.

**Taylor:** Oh no, like—

**Raleigh:** Oh boy.

**Taylor:** — you think— You think that's a possibility?

**Sydnee:** I hope not. I'm— Norovirus is goin' around our community, so. I don't know.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** This is like everybody. That's the fun thing you share with everyone.

**Raleigh:** Hm.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Man.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** So.

**Raleigh:** Well, no—

**Sydnee:** Raleigh, aren't—

**Raleigh:** No puking in this house.

**Sydnee:** Aren't you glad—

**Raleigh:** In case we're all reporting our status on puking.

**Taylor:** I'm— No— Well, that's— I can never say that at my house, 'cause I have a cat.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Taylor:** And you know, cat's they—

**Raleigh:** They do that.

**Taylor:** They love to get their puke on here and then.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Now there's a question, do cats get norovirus? Probably not.

**Taylor:** No, they just throw up hairballs a lot.

[quiet car horn sounds in the distance]

**Sydnee:** Well, I was gonna say, one of our cats puked everywhere yesterday. Like just— I mean, way more than normal. I found cat puke everywhere.

**Taylor:** I don't know. That would be a question for you, not I.

**Sydnee:** Do cats get norovirus? Did my— Did the cat get it— So Mom had it first. Did Mom give it to my cat, who then gave it to my child?

**Taylor:** Ooooo, is that how it worked?

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** I feel like if it spends some time in a cat, that could make it more dangerous somehow.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Can I pass that— This—

**Raleigh:** The lethality increases when it's inside of a cat. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Right?

**Sydnee:** I know— There are so many—

**Taylor:** It could mutate in some horrible way.

**Sydnee:** There are so many questions, like if you Google this. I am in the silent majority that's Googling the question, "Can I get norovirus from my cat? Or can I give norovirus to my cat?" No, it seems to be the answer.

**Taylor:** I would have assumed that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But I'm not the doctor in the room.

**Sydnee:** Well, some— There are viruses and stuff that we can pass back and forth, but just generally there are specific bugs for each species, and it looks like there's another thing that cats get that's similar, but it causes respiratory symptoms. Not puking and pooping. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** So is cat norovirus going on at— going around at the same time as people norovirus?

**Sydnee:** I don't know that—

**Taylor:** That feels like a weird coincidence.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't think you'd have any reason to like assume that.

**Taylor:** I think your cat probably just had a big puke. Sometimes Jack has a big puke.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It does— I do— I hate when the kids are sick, but then I get to sit with them in bed. And watch like Disney movies.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** You get to have a sick day too.

**Sydnee:** Well yeah, like that's what— Before we came to record, we were sitting there watching the Disney movie *Zombies*. You guys ever see that, *Zombies*?

**Taylor:** Uh, no.

**Raleigh:** I have not.

**Sydnee:** Do you know about *Zombies*?

**Taylor:** I think I've seen clips of it.

**Raleigh:** I know about a guy that's in *Zombies* that's very dreamy, that I saw in another show.

**Sydnee:** Mm, is he a zom— Is he the zombie? The titular... zombie?

**Raleigh:** Maybe, his real name is Milo.

**Sydnee:** Yup.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Zed.

**Rileigh:** He was in another show I saw, and he's ver— he's a very dreamy guy.

**Sydnee:** All the zombies have names that start with a Z. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Do they—

**Sydnee:** `Cause they're zombies.

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Do their names get changed, when they become a zombie, to a "Z" name?

**Sydnee:** So they don't— Okay.

**Taylor:** That's like a—

**Sydnee:** They don't—

**Taylor:** — undead name?

**Sydnee:** They're born zombies. They're born zombies.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Because—

**Taylor:** Now wait a second.

**Sydnee:** — 50 years ago... 50 years ago started the zombie apocalypse, where a bunch of people were exposed to some sort of toxic waste. There was an explosion, it involved a lime soda falling on a computer panel. Anyway.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** And a bunch of people became zombies. And so they built a wall between the part of town where the zombies live, and the part of town where the quote unquote “normals” live.

And now they have reproduced, and so there are the zombie grandchildren of the original zombies. And science made bracelets, called “Z bands,” that they can wear, that makes them not wanna eat brains.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** So they don't eat brains anymore, they just look different, and they're discriminated against because of... I guess 'cause their grandparents did eat—

I mean, we have to assume their grandparents did eat brains, 'cause they made a bracelet that would stop them from eating brains, so like we have to... Anyway, now it's a story about tolerance. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** And acceptance.

**Taylor:** I mean, I'm always on board for one of those, but I'm confused as to... what— In what ways are they zombies?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** 'Cause...

**Sydnee:** They have green hair.

**Taylor:** I mean that—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, that's not bad.

**Sydnee:** They are paler than the other... characters, and they have dark circles under their eyes, generally.

**Raleigh:** Do they move slow, or anything like that?

**Sydnee:** No, but if they— So the whole thing is, and this is a weird thing, they— You live under the constant threat of, “What if their Z band malfunctions or falls off?” Or like Zed, the lead zombie, the dreamy zombie, becomes a key member of the football team at the high school.

What if he gets sacked? Then his Z band could get damaged. And then at that point you can go full zombie, which means you get super strong, and also wanna eat brains. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I feel like in a world where we have technology to give zombies a band that makes them not wanna eat brains.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** We could’ve developed this technology further than to just put it inside of a bracelet that could come off at any time. Right?

**Sydnee:** Like insert it into their heads [chuckles] or something?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** It does seem like some sort of implant situation would make more sense.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** If it’s something like—

**Sydnee:** No, it’s just a— it’s like an Apple Watch that they’re wearing, basically.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, again, I'm all for tolerance stories, but I feel like perhaps in this case, they've reintegrated the zombies that have the possibility of eating brains too soon.

**Sydnee:** I— So, it's— I— Okay. It's not— [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I don't wanna be on the side of the normies. I rarely am, but.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] It—

**Taylor:** I don't know about this plot setup. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It's a weird— Because they're very much like leaning into like... they're being discriminated against. Like the zombie side of town looks more like they're living like in poverty.

[drink pouring]

**Sydnee:** They don't have access to the same kinds of things, like Zed keeps trying to grow a flower, but they don't have enough water for him to grow a flower. Like that kinda stuff, you know?

But like... On the flip side, like the reason that they built a wall is 'cause the zombies were eating their grandparents. And so it's— like it's a very different— Like it's not like, "You're different, so we didn't like you," it's like... they were— You know. And it's not their fault.

**Raleigh:** "You murdered our grandparents."

**Sydnee:** They were exposed to like the big cloud of toxic fumes that turned them into zombies, but then they did try to... murder— And maybe did. Like they don't address like did they actually eat people? But you have to assume that probably happened.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean at least one person got ate for them to build a wall.

**Sydnee:** So—



**Taylor:** Like that has to be assumed.

**Sydnee:** Right?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, you can't just assume that that's gonna happen, and make all that fuss over them maybe eating brains.

**Sydnee:** It—

**Raleigh:** Someone's had to have eaten brains.

**Sydnee:** It escalates—

**Taylor:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** So there's three *Zombie* movies. [chuckles] I've seen all three.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] Of course.

**Sydnee:** We were rewatching the first one. Yeah, I've seen all three. The girls love 'em. Because it's the same— It's like all the Disney movies where like they're all a bunch of—

**Raleigh:** I would've watched that too.

**Sydnee:** — cute teens, who like they also sing and dance, so like.

**Raleigh:** I was about to ask if they sing and dance.

**Sydnee:** Oh, of course they sing and dance. And the music's pretty good, I gotta say. The production value of these films, this— it's very good. And like the cheerleader, normie cheerleader, falls in love with the zombie... football player.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** And how will they work it out? It's a real *Romeo & Juliet* kinda thing. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I don't— I feel like these are zombies. If they can reproduce and they can be hot.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Like isn't the whole thing about a zombie is that they're like rotting undead?

**Raleigh:** Dead.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. They really play with that—

**Taylor:** Flesh, like how could you have a hot zombie?

**Sydnee:** I mean—

**Taylor:** I— Well no, I won't say I haven't indulged in some media where I'm like, "That's a hot zombie," but the media doesn't make them— doesn't— People in universe don't make— don't respond to them as hot. I'm just a weirdo who's like, "That's a hot zombie."

**Sydnee:** They make them more like goth. Like the zombies are like the goth kids.

**Taylor:** Sounds like— Or like— I mean are they like undead?

**Sydnee:** It—

**Taylor:** There's a lot of line-crossing here between vampires and zombies.

**Sydnee:** They—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, it's— No, they are not— Like there is no— They do not come back from the dead. Like these are people who are born zombies, like they are genetically zombies, which I think like— I don't know.

**Taylor:** Well how are you genetically a zombie? [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** There's a lot of questions there.

**Sydnee:** They do not get into the lore of this. But what they do is— So like it's like first movie's about the zombies and the "normals," is what they call them. And then the next movie we introduce that there are also werewolves living among them.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Yeah, yeah. Of course.

**Sydnee:** And so like the werewolves are like even more ostracized than the zombies. And so like how do we also integrate werewolves into our now— Like we've accepted normals and zombies can coexist. And then... the third movie, there are aliens.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Okay, so I was gonna ask if there were aliens, because didn't Cooper have a costume at one point that was an alien from the movie *Zombies*?

**Sydnee:** Well, spoilers, you find out by the third movie that our lead normie cheerleader girl Addison was actually an alien all along.

**Taylor:** Ohhhh.

**Raleigh:** What?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Did she know she was an alien?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** [whispers] Okay.

**Sydnee:** She knew... She understood the—

**Raleigh:** So—

**Sydnee:** She understood the plight of the zombies, like being ostracized and discriminated against, because secretly she's been wearing a blonde wig.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Underneath there. This is real. Underneath the blonde wig, she has white hair, and she was born with white hair, and she's always had white hair. And she's tried to dye it, and it won't take. Nothing can be done.

And it is always white, and her parents were so embarrassed of their weird child with white hair that they've made her wear a blonde wig her entire life. So like there's like a big moment where she like takes off the wig, and everybody's like, "[dramatic gasp] She's weird!"

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] So—

**Taylor:** Is— Alright.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like—

**Sydnee:** It's a wild ride, these *Zombie* movies.

**Taylor:** I'm glad they're trying to—

**Raleigh:** So what I'm hearing...

**Taylor:** Go ahead. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I was just gonna say—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** — sounds like there's three species of non-quote unquote "normals" here.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** That also just exist like normals, and don't really have anything different going on. Because that girl was alien the whole time and didn't even know it. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** She wasn't doing alien stuff.

**Sydnee:** Well.

**Raleigh:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** The aliens aren't all there. So like they show up, and that's how Addison figures it out. So like the aliens like land. [chuckles] And they're like.

**Taylor:** They all have white hair.

**Sydnee:** "Hi!" Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Oh, of course.

**Sydnee:** They all have white hair, and she's like [gasps], so like in the second movie, she thinks she's a werewolf briefly. 'Cause she knows she's— She thinks she's weird, and she doesn't know why she's weird, and she's not a zombie. She thinks she's a werewolf but she's not a werewolf. 'Cause they turn into wolves, and she doesn't do that.

**Raleigh:** I'm glad at least they kept that part of werewolves.

**Sydnee:** The werewolves' songs are really good. [chuckles] The dance numbers are really go— It's a very— The dancing and singing is very good in these movies. The plot is—

**Raleigh:** Do they have dance battles?

**Taylor:** How did—?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** How did—?

**Sydnee:** The like werewolf and zombie dance offs.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** Good.

**Taylor:** I'm just confused why werewolves would be more ostracized than zombies. Just to—

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** You know, like practically. Because a zombie wants to eat your brains all the time. A werewolf is a normal person that just wants to eat your flesh like a few nights out of the month.

**Sydnee:** It— There— It's— It kinda— Like the way they describe— [chuckles] Their justification is that the zombies want to assimilate.

**Taylor:** Okay. They accepted the bands, the werewolves rebelled. Alright.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** That makes sense, actually.

**Sydnee:** The werewolves to not— Yeah.

**Taylor:** I get that now.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [chuckles] 'Cause that's like the big— the reason like the movie's starting point, the jumping off point, the reason the movies are happening is because the high school is being integrated between zombies and normals for the first time ever. That is like the... impetus for change. Which is— It is—

**Raleigh:** I think I'm gonna have to watch the *Zombies* movie. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It is weird— I mean like that's the underlying thing the whole time, like they're very much trying to tell this story that's about

discrimination and prejudice, and like that is what they're talking about. But one group, if they take their bracelets off, will eat the other group. And so it's a weird— You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** That— [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Like it's a very like eugh.

**Taylor:** It's not like you can have that moment where—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** — you like turn to your child and say, "You know, this kinda happened in real life, except [wheezes] it didn't."

**Sydnee:** No, I don't want— I wouldn't wanna draw parallels between it.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** And anything, because like that would be— I think that...

**Taylor:** Your kid's gonna ask—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** — "Okay, which— Who wanted to eat brains?"  
"Well nobody. Nobody wanted to eat brains."  
Discrimination is baseless, that's the point. It's not that—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** — these people might try to kill us. We shouldn't—

**Sydnee:** Now—

**Taylor:** — discriminate against them for the fact that they might [chuckles] try to eat our brains!

**Sydnee:** They— I will say, again spoilers, they— [chuckles] they kind of ascend beyond it, because there's this moment where like the bracelet doesn't work, but then Zed can control himself anyway.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** And so then they begin to think like, “Maybe we just genetically have developed the ability to control those urges,” and so... the bracelets aren’t really necessary, they’re more of like a... just in case magic feather kind of thing.

And so like— And then “Could we be our zombie selves around normals? Like could we go full zombie, but not eat brains. Just be like—” ‘Cause when they get zom— when they go full zombie, not only do they get really strong, they get like veiny.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** You know, they look— [chuckles] they look more zombie-ish. It’s kinda like when vampires on *Buffy* vamp out.

**Taylor:** Yeah, but they vamp out ‘cause they’re about to bite you. They don’t just do it to... hang out.

**Sydnee:** The—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** So the zombies like zomb out when they’re about to like go— like they’re about to attack people, but the idea is like they can zomb out without attacking people. They can do it to play football better.

That’s the real key to this is that— how great would the football team be if they all could zomb out? [chuckles] But not eat the other team, just be really strong and tough. Think about it.

**Taylor:** Well, I feel like that would fall under some sort of chemical enhancement, like you know, we— Isn’t that, at that point, the zomb gas that their grandparents exposed to some sort of—

**Sydnee:** Steroid.

**Taylor:** — performance enhancing drug.



**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't know— I think— And I do think that conversation happens in there somewhere, I—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Of course it does.

**Sydnee:** Of cour— I mean like it's really important that we make sure the integrity of the sport isn't challenged. [snorts] [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I just— I don't know. I don't know if this is a good parallel for a tolerance story. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It— I wonder if that's why it wasn't— Although I say it wasn't huge. Among a certain age group, this is giant. Like the *Zombies* movies were huge. They just weren't our age group, but like you know. It was like the next *Descendants* kinda vibe.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like it was like Disney's next like... cute teens in cool costumes who sing well.

**Raleigh:** I mean yes, except they took it then like 12 steps farther, and they were like, "Alright."

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** "Let's get into—" [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It's a weird fanfic there, I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** So, do your kids just look past all these inconsistencies and inaccuracies because like they've got cool costumes and they sing?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm, okay.

**Sydnee:** And they think Zed is dreamy.

**Raleigh:** Mm, well he is. That's true. I didn't see him as a zombie, I saw him as a boy— Well, as a person.

**Sydnee:** Well, he just has— he has green hair. I mean, that's basically it.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I would just like to know the physiology of these zombies, 'cause if they're not rotting, they have the capability of being dreamy...

**Raleigh:** Isn't there a TV show that was based on a comic book, that there was a girl who was a zombie who—

**Sydnee:** *iZombie*.

**Raleigh & Taylor:** [simultaneously] Yes.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** She was a zombie, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** She like existed, but she did eat brains.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** But she... was not dead. Or undead.

**Sydnee:** These zombies don't eat brains.

**Taylor:** Well, she was—

**Sydnee:** They eat something else.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** Like they had like—

**Sydnee:** I think they just eat food.

**Taylor:** — manufactured fake brains.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I don't—

**Taylor:** Like *True Blood*, but brains. *True Brains*.

**Sydnee:** They hadn't gotten into it, 'cause it— Like I said, I've watched these before but it's been a while, and then Cooper wanted to watch it again, since she was home sick.

And so I believe they do eat like gr— Like I think there's like the— this sort of like— they're kinda gross. Like they're— they eat stuff that's kinda gross or something. I don't know, I feel like that is part of it at some point.

**Taylor:** They eat trash.

**Sydnee:** But like—

**Raleigh:** That's what I was gonna say.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, like they eat—

**Raleigh:** Are they eating garbage? [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Something to that effect, like there's something— I don't know. Like part of it, again, they're kind of like the goth kids, or like a little *Addams Family*-ish in the sense that like they're into darker stuff, but it's just their vibe. They're not bad. It's just like they're vibe.

**Taylor:** I feel like they've confused their zombies with their ghouls.

**Sydnee:** I—

**Taylor:** They sound more like ghouls to me.

**Sydnee:** Right? Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean they're not—

**Raleigh:** But they also might kill you if their bracelet falls off.

**Sydnee:** If their bracelet falls off, they might kill you.

**Raleigh:** That's the crazy part for me. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Well, and they said like the— and the way they start to integrate society is with the kids at the high school, and that's weird too if you're like, "They have bracelets, they probably won't eat people but they might. Who should we try to mix first? Children."

**Raleigh:** "Our children."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Hm.

**Sydnee:** And everybody in town was like, "Okay."

**Taylor:** Is it just this one town that's dealing with this problem? The rest of the world's like, "I don't know."

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it's just Seabrook.

**Taylor:** Ah well.

**Sydnee:** That's where they—

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's— this is the only town that had this issue. I know that—

**Raleigh:** The only town that—

**Sydnee:** I don't think the world wants nothing to do with this. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** The only town that has werewolves and aliens and zombies?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** [whispers] Wow.

**Taylor:** It's clearly a Hell mouth.

**Sydnee:** And it's Seabrook.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah. Like Sunnybrook.

**Raleigh:** Is that in t—

**Taylor:** Sunnydale.

**Sydnee:** Sunnydale.

**Raleigh:** Oh. I was gonna say is that intentional, but that's not the name.

**Sydnee:** Where's Sunnybrook? That's from something else. Stoneybrook.

**Raleigh:** What's that from?

**Sydnee:** Is that from... *Babysitter's Club*?

**Raleigh:** Too many fake town names.

**Taylor:** Yeah, we're confusing the fake town names.

**Sydnee:** That's something. I know. Where is Stoneybrook? I mean it's a real university, but it's also in books. Well, I don't know anymore. Anyway. I'll work that out in my head later.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Well.

**Sydnee:** So. Let's not talk about zombies anymore. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Fascinating lore there.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Not what we're talking about today though.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** No I—

**Sydnee:** What are we talking about today?

**Taylor:** I wanted to talk about *Stunt*, which is an album by the Barenaked Ladies that came out in about '98.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And it had a lot of hits on it. It was a big album. I got this album purely because the big hit on this album, "One Week," had a verse about *Sailor Moon*, and I was very into *Sailor Moon* and anime at the time.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** That was the entire reason why I bought this album. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I think there were a lot of people though who— I mean, 'cause "One Week" was huge.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I think there were a lot of people who bought this album 'cause of that song. Now, there are a lot of other good songs on it, but I think you were not alone.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** It was interesting telling Justin that this is what we were talking about 'cause he was a huge Barenaked Ladies fan, back in the day. I mean still is, but like you know, back then. And he said—

And I don't remember this being— this conversation being part of the zeitgeist, 'cause it just wasn't— I don't know, I wasn't in the right circle, but he said it was funny because they had a huge following in Canada first.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** And there were a lot of people who listened to the music before *Stunt* came out. And when everybody started liking it, there was a very strong like, "Well, I liked them before it was cool" vibe.

**Taylor:** Really?

**Sydnee:** With Barenaked Ladies, yes. There is a very— There was a very vocal like, "Oh, okay. You wanna jump on the bandwagon now."

**Taylor:** This was like a Canadian Weezer situation.

**Sydnee:** Exactly.

**Taylor:** Yeah, 'cause I think they formed back in like '88.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So they were around in Canada for a while.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah, this was their fourth album, I think.

**Sydnee:** I know, and it's weird 'cause if you had asked me, I would've thought like, "Oh, that was probably their debut," 'cause like that's when I remember hearing of the Barenaked Ladies. But I think it's just 'cause I'm an American. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I thought that was interesting.

**Raleigh:** Can I say something that struck me about this album that you're gonna think is a weird thing to say, but I stand by it? Is that there's a lot of words on these songs.

**Taylor:** [giggles] Yes, that's fair.

**Raleigh:** Like, well like in the sense that it's not like a lot of standard songs, where like you have like verses that change up the words a little bit, but kinda sound the same, and then the chorus is the same. Like there's a lot of like storytelling almost.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Or like a lot— There's a lot of words.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I know it's a weird thing to say, just it really caught me because it forces you to pay more attention than just, you know, regular music that you can kinda have on in the background. You gotta listen closer to it.

**Sydnee:** I think it is. I think it is like kinda like storytelling.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.



**Sydnee:** I feel like I don't know, I feel like that was very much, especially for the time period. Tey, what— I mean, maybe you would— I don't know if you'd disagree with me. I feel like there was a lot of music like that, where like the storytelling and the lyrics became very important for a while.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well I think that's— I mean, I feel like that's— if— There's always been music like that.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** But maybe in that era, it was something that we were responding to more directly.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah. Let it— Like music wasn't a vibe, it was very much like the story people— You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Well, 'cause it was also sort of the era of the high point, I think, of the music video, where you know, you did watch— Yes, by this point, late 90s early 2000s, there were other things on MTV, but you still watched music videos on MTV. And like a good music video, everybody would be excited to see, you know?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I don't know, of all things, it makes me think of— I think 'cause somebody was— There was like a video that crossed my TikTok of an old person showing it to young people, but... The Offspring. There were a lot of Offspring videos, but like, "Pretty Fly For A White Guy."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's got a lot of words in it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And the— But the video is a whole little movie, like it's telling a story, and a lot of— That was kind of popular like at the time. Like you know, your music video told a story, your song told a story.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It was like a little mini movie that everyone was excited to see.

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

**Taylor:** We don't really have that same relationship with music videos these days.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** Why do you think that is? That's a good question gen— I know that doesn't— Well I don't remember, did— What was the "One Week" music video? I don't remember it. Was it big? Was it popular? Was it memorable?

**Taylor:** I feel like I remember seeing stuff from it.

**Sydnee:** But I— Why isn't that still true, Raleigh, do you think? Because that's a— I mean, I would think we have an even more video-oriented culture now, you know?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** With YouTube and TikTok and everything, like I mean if you even think about like social media, how many people would just use Instagram as opposed to Twitter or— Well X or whatever. I mean like... Why did— Why don't people love music videos as much? You would think it would fit more. I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Well, you know, it's hard because as a Taylor Swift fan, I do love music videos, and she makes a lot of `em.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** So that's something that I think sets her apart because she does make a lot of `em, but I don't know. I— Maybe it's just that... there's not always the same like... "Oh, this person's releasing an album, there's gonna be a music video."

Or like, “Oh, this single just dropped. Let’s watch the music video together because like, you know, they’re showing it on MTV or something.” Like there’s no like communal watch experience.

**Sydnee:** Mmm...

**Raleigh:** Or like release experience. It’s all kind of happening at once because music is just always kind of being released and dropped. And you have people like on Instagram like, “Hey, I’m dropping a new song, this single, tonight, and a music video too.” And then you, you know, watch it in your bed at midnight on YouTube. And that’s it.

**Sydnee:** It’s interesting.

**Raleigh:** I don’t know.

**Sydnee:** So it’s not the joint experience that music videos used to be.

**Taylor:** Well I mean—

**Raleigh:** Yeah, ‘cause I like music videos, I just feel like there aren’t— They don’t make as many of ‘em, maybe because they just don’t bring in people as much as the music brings in people. I don’t know.

**Sydnee:** Mmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean think— Like one of the stipulations to be featured on *TRL* was— it was songs, but it was music videos. And you would— they would show... most of the music video during the countdown.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And that was something— It was sort of like the *Dora the Explorer* effect, right? Because the same songs would be on the countdown day after day, and so you would—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You would see the same music videos, and it would kinda get stuck in your head like the songs.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** It was part of the selling device. Now I don't think we— I mean what is the... The parallel today, I guess, is making a TikTok with the chorus of your song. And hoping that other people replicate it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And you're certainly not gonna get the production value with that.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] You get from a music video.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting. Well, and we don't have channels devoted to— I mean, 'cause that's the other thing, right? You had a whole channel where you would just sit and watch music videos.

**Taylor:** Right. You'd just have it on the background—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — but everybody would be watching the same videos at the same time.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Interesting.

**Raleigh:** It also seems like there's a whole other level of like... production expectation in music videos now. You know what I mean? Like it's like like, "Let's put it on a cool... visual story that like kinda, you know, tells the story of the song, or like goes along with what we're saying, or still features us and our singing but like adds to the vibe, or whatever, or be fun to watch."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** It's like a lot more expectation of something that's almost like a little short movie. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Raleigh:** Like it's really upped the expectation, which I would assume ups the... you know, cost for artists that maybe don't have endless money to be making videos. They put all their money into making the music. And they can't meet that level that's expected, so they just don't for music videos.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

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

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's true. 'Cause I think you could get away with just like a really great concept before.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And it didn't have to be like a bunch of special effects, or like movie quality.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** If you had like a good idea for the video, you know.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** If it was clever or funny or tongue in cheek or whatever. Just, you know... I don't know. Like what Alannis Morissette "You Oughta Know" is just, what, her out in the desert screaming, pretty much. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I love that.

**Taylor:** I always liked the one where there were four Alannises in a car.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

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

**Taylor:** It's a good one.

**Sydnee:** I thought it was four different people the first time that I saw it.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think a lot of people did.

**Sydnee:** [whispers] Yeah. [normal] What— Now Taylor, what surprised me is I didn't think of myself— I mean, I like the Barenaked Ladies. I never was like anti-Barenaked La— But I was— I never thought of myself as a big fan.

But I recognized so many songs as I was listening through this al— I was really shocked, I was like, "Oh my gosh, I guess I did listen to this music 'cause I know so many of these songs."

**Taylor:** Yeah, well I don't— I know that like— I mean some of them were also— Obviously "One Week" was everywhere, and... like, "It's All Been Done" was—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It was the lead to a TV show.

**Raleigh:** They did the intro for *Big Bang Theory*.

**Taylor:** Oh, is that what it was?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah, they did.

**Raleigh:** I learned that looking at their Wikipedia to learn more about them.

**Sydnee:** They did.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** I have heard the song "Alcohol," I really love that song, and I don't know that it clicked until I was listening, I was like, "Oh my gosh, that's Barenaked Ladies and I love this song and I know this song, like why do I know this song so well? But I do."

**Taylor:** Yeah, I also don't know why I know that— I mean, I know I know that song so well 'cause I listened to it a lot, but I'm not really sure if that— I don't know if it's just from listening to the album. That was definitely one that was in my rotation like as a... I guess as a middle schooler? High schooler?

**Sydnee:** I— Yeah, I mean I— Maybe that's why I knew it?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But yeah, I was totally like, "Oh my gosh, I love this song. Why have I not thought about this song in a million years?"

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Like— Okay. "It's All Been Done" was the theme song for the television series *Baby Blues*?

**Taylor:** Okay, that's— Okay, I was like I know— I do— Yeah, the one song is the st— is the opening to *Big Bang Theory*.

**Sydnee:** Ohhhhh.

**Taylor:** But this one I knew was an older show.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That was an animated... show?

**Taylor:** It's based off of a comic, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I do not remember this being on TV though. Okay. Wow. That's weird, how do I not? I mean I remembered "It's All Been Done" just 'cause again, I'd say it was the—

Off this album, it was the one that was, I don't know, second biggest, you know. Like, "One Week" was everywhere, but "It's All Been Done," I mean, I feel like that was playing in a lot of malls. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know, you know what I mean? Like it was playing...

**Taylor:** Well that was one of—

**Sydnee:** Ambiently in a lot of places too. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** They did release that as a single, so it makes sense. That, "Call and Answer," and "Told You So" were all singles that they released, so.

**Sydnee:** Oh okay.

**Taylor:** It definitely got a lot of play. I do— "Call and Answer" is one that I really like. And "Light Up My Room," and they both are kind of sweet, sort of weird romantic songs.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. They are. They are.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, I like, "Light Up My Room."

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's a good one.

**Taylor:** Yeah, 'cause it's got— there's this other story, like it's a sweet story, but it's also about— It's sort of a weird suburban vibe of like there's a some sort of weird electronic field that we can hear radio waves in our teeth. Like it's— [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Which, I mean—

**Raleigh:** I also— Oh, go ahead. Go ahead.

**Sydnee:** No, finish what you were saying.

**Raleigh:** No, I was gonna talk about something different. Go ahead.

**Sydnee:** I was just gonna say, I think they have that kind of vibe where they're— it's a little quirky.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.



**Sydnee:** Like it's good, it's fun, there's nothing about it— It's not novelty pop in any way.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** But they have a little bit of that vibe, you know? It's not, but like there are moments where it's just a little like that. A little kind of like fantastic within the songs, that aren't just necessarily like stories from their lives, that I think is kinda cool.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I was gonna ask, I— We've talked about I look on Genius a lot to look up lyrics while I'm listening to these songs. So I can, you know, make sure I know what's goin' on, and sometimes they have like little background bits about the songs.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** And I got to the song [chuckles] "She's on Time." [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** And it said, as I was looking at it, this song actually wasn't on a lot of American copies of the album, and the song before it, "When You Dream," was the last song on American copies of the album.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** And most standard editions of this album didn't have "She's on Time."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** So I was like, "Oh, I gotta listen to this. This is like a secret song, almost." And is it— It's about him worrying his girlfriend's pregnant, and then she gets her period and she's on time, so she's not, right? Like that's the song. [chuckles] That's what I was getting.

**Sydnee:** Is that what it's about?

**Rileigh:** That's what I was getting from it. I was like, "Alright. I can see maybe why this was a secret song."

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

**Rileigh:** 'Cause I think that's what it is. I was, you know, looking at the lyrics as I was listening, and... you know...

**Sydnee:** Yup.

**Rileigh:** "Girl said 'Listen up, there's a change inside of me'."

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Rileigh:** "Know how frightened I am."

**Sydnee:** That's what it is.

**Rileigh:** "I run for cover, can't say how happy I am to be wrong. She's on time. [chuckles] She's on time. Hallelujah, she's on time."

**Sydnee:** "It's the safest time of the month, they say, for love."

**Rileigh:** [giggles]

**Taylor:** Wow, "But where will we be when baby makes three," okay.

**Rileigh:** Well and it really caught me off-guard because the song right before it is about, I guess, someone's— it's about his child, right? I mean it's a very like—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** You know, kind of sweet song about having a child. "When You Dream." So that's why I was like [wheezes] "What?."

**Sydnee:** That's—

**Rileigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Oh my gosh.

**Taylor:** Well, I will say that— I mean I—

**Sydnee:** It's honest. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Oh I really enjoyed it, I thought it was funny. It was making me laugh 'cause I was like, "Oh."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** You realize what it's about, it's like, "Oh my god, this is great."

**Sydnee:** I don't think it clicked.

**Taylor:** Well I don't think that song was on my— That wasn't on my original CD.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like I've listened to it when I've listened to those like mixes of Barenaked Ladies.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But looking back at the track list, that was definitely not a song I was familiar with. I would've thought it was from a different album.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well I don't know, I think it's kinda sweet when he talks about being a fool with a station wagon—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** — and a yard, I don't know. That's kinda good.

**Rileigh:** Oh, I liked it. I thought it was great. And especially 'cause I did like, "When You Dream," which about— I guess Genius is telling me was about his son.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Rileigh:** That he had had a couple years before then.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "Life's just begun, my sleeping new son."

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. But yeah. I did enjoy that, I thought it was very sweet. So to follow it up with, you know.

**Sydnee:** There's a—

**Rileigh:** "Thank god she's not pregnant."

**Sydnee:** There's something about— I always felt not just about the lyrics, but— which is definitely true about the lyrics, but I also feel like... Who's— Now who's singing on this album? Who's the lead singer on this album, Tey? Was the original lead singer.

**Taylor:** Uh...

**Sydnee:** Um... I forget.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because they changed later.

**Taylor:** It's Steven Page, right?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes. His voice too, is what I was gonna say.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** There's a like this earnest kind of sweetness about— You know what I mean? There's something about it that's just very like... I don't know, I don't know how to describe it. There's no affectation, it doesn't feel like putting on an act, it just feels like...

There's something very earnest about his voice, and the lyrics have that in it too of course, but I don't know, there's something about it that makes it all very sweet.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Barenaked Ladies always felt like they're probably nice guys. Maybe that's a Canadian bias I have.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Maybe I'm assuming that 'cause they're Canadian, I don't know. [chuckles] You know what I mean? Like you felt like, "Oh, these are nice guys."

**Taylor:** Well it always felt— I don't know how— I mean, I guess also this isn't very... like a good description, I don't know. They'd always felt very suburban to me. Like it felt—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like meant for sort of the weirdness that is suburbia. It felt like it is not like music made by people that are trying to be rockstars.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's kind of music for... people out there in the weirdness of small town, wherever.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Do you think that's why you connected to it? 'Cause we lived in the small town, wherever?

**Taylor:** Small town, wherever? Yeah. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** The weirdness of small town, wherever? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think that that's probably why a lot of people connected to it, you know, 'cause it was— There was that sort of strange— I mean that's, again, like you know the "Light Up My Room" has this— It's a love story, but it also seems to be overlaid by "We live somewhere that seems a little unsafe that people probably shouldn't live."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** "But this is where we're stuck."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like there's kind of that overlay that I like.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No I felt like that too. That sort of, what is that, suburban rock?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Suburban pop? Probably pop, not really rock.

**Taylor:** I mean even like the song "Alcohol," it's a pretty dark song.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** But it's very catchy.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Just about, you know, sort of [chuckles] inheriting alcoholism, you know.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Which I don't know— I know Steven Page has... had issues with substance use disorder. I believe that's why he left the band, eventually. [pause] 'Cause that's why I was trying to figure— I think someone eventually was like on later albums, someone else was singing.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** I don't think he's with the band anymore. Unfortunately.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Even though I, you know.

**Taylor:** He's not.

**Sydnee:** He was one of the— yeah. He was one of the founding members. Which I don't know, that's very relatable for where we live too.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Trying to talk about these things earnestly and openly, but it's still underneath it and it can go the wrong direction.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** The other song, Raleigh, I bet you've heard from Barenaked Ladies that wasn't on this album, but like everybody knew, I feel like, back then was "If I Had a Million Dollars."

**Raleigh:** I didn't listen to it before this, 'cause I was listening to the ones on *Stunt*.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** It doesn't sound familiar.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Raleigh:** Was it like in things?

**Sydnee:** No, I just feel like everyone knew it. Don't— Didn't you feel that way, Tey?

**Taylor:** I don't know if it was on the same level as some of the songs on this album, but... I think that was... I would assume that's more because your friends in high school. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I— Okay. You're saying I'm a nerd. I know what you're saying.

**Taylor:** No, no. I'm saying that I think that a lot of normies listened to this album.

**Raleigh:** Mm. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** I think there were people that were big fans of Barenaked Ladies that listened to more of it before and after.

**Sydnee:** I just thought it was a pretty ubiquitous. [sings] "If I had a million dollars..." You've never heard that, Raleigh? Really?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I just thought everybody had heard— I don't know. It also introduced Americans to the term "Kraft dinners."

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I read about it because I read that they had to tell people to stop bringing Kraft dinners to throw at them onstage at their shows.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Because that's what people would do when they played the song.

**Taylor:** That's— You gotta be careful with that when you're a band.

**Sydnee:** On their tours.

**Taylor:** Like if you sing about food, you've gotta make sure that it's food that you want thrown at you onstage.



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

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. No, that's true, but that— Kraft dinners is what we call mac n cheese. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's Kraft mac n cheese.

**Raleigh:** Kraft mac n cheese, yeah.

**Taylor:** I kinda would've assumed that.

**Sydnee:** But they called `em Kraft dinners. Yeah, but I didn't— I mean, I didn't know that, you know.

**Raleigh:** They got more flavors over there.

**Sydnee:** They do.

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

**Raleigh:** And more kinds.

**Sydnee:** We tried that cotton candy one that one time.

**Taylor:** Eugh.

**Raleigh:** It wasn't bad.

**Sydnee:** Wasn't as bad as you'd think.

**Raleigh:** Wasn't bad.

**Sydnee:** It did turn the mac n cheese bright pink.

**Taylor:** Well, that's alright, but I don't think I'd like the flavor.

**Sydnee:** It was interesting.

**Rileigh:** Not as bad as I thought. But yeah I don't think I've heard that. I really... I don't think I had heard... anything at least on this album before.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** I don't know if that's just like the kind of music from this era I had listened to or been introduced to before just wasn't kind of of this vibe. But yeah, I don't think I had heard any of this before.

**Sydnee:** You hadn't heard— Really? Not "One Week"?

**Rileigh:** Mm-mm.

**Sydnee:** That's in—

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That was by far the biggest. Yeah that first— that was the biggest song. I mean everybody— Yeah.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] I remember Mom expressing concern, because the lyric about *Sailor Moon* in "One Week" is "Watching *Sailor Moon* 'cause that cartoon has got the boom boom anime babes that make me think the wrong thing." And Mom was like, "Do you think that's a good thing, if you're watching a show that characters like that?"

**Rileigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** And I'm like [chuckles] "I don't know, Mom. I think the Barenaked Ladies just think the wrong thing when they watch *Sailor Moon*."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** “I think I think it’s important to value love and friendship when I watch *Sailor Moon*.”

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** “And that’s the right thing to think.”

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** “So. Concerned about the wrong thing.”

**Sydnee:** To saving— Saving the world and eating cheesecake.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I— You know what’s interesting too, I thought about this. I love this album, I love these songs, I love this music. It makes me... feel— Like it reminds me of a very specific time, right?

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** Like I connect it with a different time. I wonder, it does strike me as music that... feels like of that era. It doesn’t— Some of the music we listen to, I’m like, “That song could come out today and it would be indistinguishable for the sort of music that’s around today.”

I do feel like this is a little more locked in a different era. I don’t know, there’s something about it that just doesn’t— I feel like there’s not a lot of music being made right now that sounds like this.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I agree.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which I miss. I miss this kind of music. I miss this kind of like hyper-verbal. It’s like the *Dawson’s Creek* of music, like, “Let’s just [chuckles] talk and talk and talk in our songs.” I love that, I love that

vibe. Like so lyrically focused, and... not... I don't know, like I said, there's no affectation there.

There's just— "We're just singing, this is our voice, this is what we think, these are our funny thoughts. Ha ha ha." There, song's over. I don't know, I just— There's something about it I really connect to.

**Taylor:** I think— I don't know and I don't think— I'm not involved in the music world in any way to speak with authority, but I do think that that used to be a more... Like alternative has always been there, that's never gone away, but there used to be more of a platform for alternative music—

**Sydney:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** — to get sort of out to a wider audience. 'Cause that's what this is.

**Sydney:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And you know, there's lots of alt music out there.

**Riley:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** But we just don't necessarily have the same platforms integrated to get it out there, like most of the stuff that you get. You know, the stuff that's gonna get popular songs on TikTok is probably not your most like alternative music.

**Riley:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** It has to be catchier too.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

[pause]

**Sydney:** I mean that's—

**Riley:** Yeah, usually I— Usually I try to think of modern examples of things that I like that are similar—

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** — to the music that you all introduced me to, but I really— I was struggling to think of anything that this made me think of. Hyper-verbal would've been a better way to say they use a lot of words. I realize now.

**Taylor:** It makes sense either way.

**Raleigh:** But I don't know a lot of people that use a lot of words.

**Sydnee:** You described it well. You described it well.

**Raleigh:** I don't know a lot of music like that. And I'm sure you're right, Tey. I'm sure that it is out there, being made.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I just— It's not surface to me, so.

**Sydnee:** It's not floating to the top right now.

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

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I don't know how to seek it out or look for it.

**Sydnee:** It's interesting.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Well, that's part of—

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

**Taylor:** — I think a bigger problem in the music industry. You know, we used to have these— Like even as simple as you used to go to the record store, or the Sam Goody or whatever.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And you would look and see, and take a chance on something new. And like that's just not an interface that... We just look for the song that we've heard.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** You know.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Already, and that's what we listen to. There's not that— There's not a place to search things out.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I know. Did you like it thought, Raleigh?

**Raleigh:** Oh I did, I really enjoyed it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like I said earlier, I really like listening to stuff that, you know, doesn't feel something that's on in the background and just kinda like has like a, you know, more of a vibe than music or storytelling. I really like listening to things that you have to sit and pay attention to, which is why I like like show tunes so much.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** So—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Not that these sound like showtunes.

**Sydnee:** No, it is—

**Taylor:** It's—

**Raleigh:** But it has the same vibe of like you should sit and listen to what they're saying, and I do enjoy that.

**Taylor:** Well there is definitely a crossover there, and maybe that's a, you know, a thing that we all like in music, and that's where it comes from. 'Cause I also like lots of words in music.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like I want a song that tells a story.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well that makes sense, I like showtunes.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That does make sense.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** There's a theatre kid in all of us.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well Tey, I'm glad you picked this.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was fun to listen to it. Justin and I had fun listenin' together and talking about it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And, I don't know, it was a good choice.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well thank you for listening.

**Sydnee:** Rileigh, I think I already know the answer to this question.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** What—

**Rileigh:** Aw, you all know what time it is. Taylor Swift is releasing a new album. At the time of recording it has not come out yet, so I'm very excited to be able to talk about it in a week. But *The Tortured Poets Department* by Taylor Swift comes out tomorrow night at midnight, so.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Talk about that.

**Sydnee:** In my head, I keep— I had *The Dead Poet's Society*.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** That's what everyone keeps calling it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. But same idea, but different words. [chuckles]

**Rileigh:** She said they tried to get— make her give it a shorter name, and she was like, "Hmm... [chuckles] That's what it is."

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well that'll be fun. We did music this week, we'll do modern music next week, I'm excited.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Here we go.

**Taylor:** Alright.



**Sydnee:** Well thank you Tey. Barenaked Ladies, if you're not familiar, if you're a younger person and you've never listened to Barenaked Ladies, you really should. And *Stunt*, I think, would be the most approachable to start with, I think.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like as an album, I think that's a great place to start. But they've got a lot of good music. Thank you to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org). You should go there and listen to a lot of great podcasts. 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.

[theme music fades in]

**Raleigh:** I'm Raleigh Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering.

**Taylor:** And.

**Sydnee:** And.

**Taylor:** I.

**Sydnee:** I.

**Taylor:** Am.

**Sydnee:** Am.

**Taylor:** Too.

**Sydnee:** Too.

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** How fast do you think you could memories all those lyrics when you were younger, Tey?

**Taylor:** It was— Oh god, it was like a cool thing to be able to do the whole— Like a fast verse in “One Week.”

**Sydnee:** It— Mm-hmm. It really was. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I want Kraft dinner.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Me too.

[*Shmanners* theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hi, I’m Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I’m Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And we’re the hosts of *Shmanners*.

**Teresa:** We don’t believe that etiquette should be used to judge other people.

**Travis:** No, on *Shmanners* we see etiquette as a way to navigate social situations with confidence.

**Teresa:** So if that sounds like something you’re into.

**Travis:** Join us every Friday on MaximumFun, or wherever you get your podcasts.

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