

## Still Buffering 397: "Hackers" (1995)

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[theme music, "Baby You Change Your Mind" by the Nouvellas plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** I know we usually don't get political.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Rileigh:** Oh boy.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Rileigh:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** You both looked so nervous when I said that. I feel like this is a pretty— This is politically... asso— attached, politically—

**Rileigh:** Adjacent?

**Sydnee:** Adjacent, thank you. Lost the word. But not— I feel like this is a pretty universal thing we can tap into. Maybe we can come together on this one. Did you— Have you guys heard about that governor who killed her puppy? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] And now it's like her whole platform.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Wait, she made a platform out of killing a puppy?

**Sydnee:** Well—

**Raleigh:** Well, she's just doublin' down real hard. [wheezes]

**Taylor:** Like, "I do what has to get done, and sometimes that includes killing a puppy."

**Sydnee:** That's it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh no, that's terrible.

**Raleigh:** Spot on.

**Sydnee:** And making— Yeah, making hard decisions, some— that she knows how to make hard decisions like she did with Cricket. That was the name of the puppy. Why did she tell us the name of the puppy, by the way?

**Raleigh:** That makes it worse.

**Taylor:** But she killed this puppy because this puppy was just like a puppy, right?

**Sydnee:** It wasn't—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It wasn't behaving well, and I don't know— Listen.

**Taylor:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** I have cats, so I'm not gonna pretend to have dog knowledge, or like dog training knowledge, I don't know what normal... But I guess it was a bird dog. As in you take it when you hunt for some sort of bird.

And a lot of people have been commenting who have expertise in this area, and have said that she approached training the bird dog wrong, and that this is normal behavior for a bird dog of this age, and that she is just a poor trainer. I have no idea. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I don't think it's a very good platform to say that "When—"

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** "— When things get difficult, I will shoot them with a gun."

**Sydnee:** Well. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I didn't know a bird dog was a thing, 'cause I'm not a dog person neither, so as soon as you said, "bird dog," I was picturing like a golden retriever with like a beak, and a— wings on the back.

**Sydnee:** I figured you were—

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

**Sydnee:** I figured you were picturing like Snoopy with Woodstock sitting on his nose.

**Raleigh:** Well, that too actually.

**Taylor:** Snoopy's a bird dog, a dog with a bird.

**Raleigh:** That's a bird dog. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** And also aren't there shoes called bird dogs?

**Sydnee:** There's— I thought there were underwear.

**Raleigh:** Underwear.

**Sydnee:** Or like shorts? Are those the shorts that you don't wear underwear with?

**Raleigh:** Those are the shorts.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Those were— They were *Shark Tank*.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Those were the shorts that you— They have like built in underwear, so you don't have to wear underwear.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Those didn't get funded, did they?

**Raleigh:** I wanna say they did. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [whispers] No.

**Sydnee:** It's possible Justin had a pair.

**Taylor:** Oh no. Well I... I hate this lady, and I hope—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I hope bad things happen to her.

**Sydnee:** I just think it's wild that she wrote a book.

**Taylor:** She— Wait, she's doubling down so hard she wrote a book, "Why I Killed My Puppy?"

**Raleigh:** That— Well that's how people found out about it.

**Sydnee:** Okay, so here's the thing. Nobody asked her "Hey, by the way—"  
" So she is the—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** She is proba— Well, she was. She was probably going to be chosen as Donald Trump's running mate. And then she released a book called "No Going Back." Which that is the truth, then truer—

**Taylor:** Yeah, you can't unshoot a puppy, yes.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Truer words have never been titled on a book. But she wrote a book, and in the book she was like, "You know what anecdote I wanna share with people? I'm gonna share about the time I killed a puppy." And like nobody made her do that.

**Taylor:** Ca— [sighs]

**Sydnee:** She wanted to be vice president and so she wrote a paragraph in a book and then sent it out to the world that— about killing a puppy.

**Taylor:** I think her like— I don't— I mean, I understand in certain circumstances that like if dogs are violent, they're put down, which I don't necessarily agree with that, but like, you can't just kill an animal.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Is it le— Well, I don't know, is that legal in she— what, South Dakota? Is that where she's from?

**Raleigh:** I don't—

**Sydnee:** Is that legal in South Dakota?

**Taylor:** I mean Animal Control puts down animals if they are considered like, violent, like if they've attacked small children, but this dog was just— this did just like was obnoxious and like peed in places, right? Like it was just a— It was a puppy!

**Sydnee:** I— She— It— The story changes. I think she— I think it like attacked some sort of livestock, but I don't know what that means. And then the way she words it, it sounds like it snapped at her, or like turned as if it would bite her, but it's not clear that it actually did bite anyone.

I don't know, all I know is that like she went on to talk about how... You know how Joe Biden had that dog, Commander, in the White House, who

bit some Secret Service agents? And so then Commander had to go live at the other Biden house.

Like that's not even a euphemism, like Commander couldn't live at the White House anymore, 'cause he like bit some—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I don't mean like a farm upstate, I mean like— [chuckles] I mean like the dog lives somewhere else now because he bit some Secret Service agents.

She was like, "See, that's ridiculous. I'd get rid of Commander, that would be one of my first moves, and like I'd say... 'Commander, say hello to Cricket.'"

**Taylor:** Jesus Christ.

**Sydnee:** Which I think means she wants to kill other dogs! [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, "I've killed one, now I have a thirst for blood." That's why we put dogs down, because they get a taste for it. What about— [chuckles] What about people?

**Sydnee:** I don't know, it's the wild— I guess if you go on to read— I've heard other people who— I will never read this book, of course.

**Taylor:** [sighs wearily]

**Sydnee:** But I've heard other people talking about like if you go on to read the rest of the story, she like— after she kills the dog, she goes and kills a billy goat too.

**Taylor:** Just because it feels good? 'Cause it made her feel alive for the first time in her—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Oh my.

**Taylor:** This is a psychopath.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** This is somebody that is unwell! [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] On *The Daily Show*, they said, "Apparently the billy goat was the witness."

**All:** [laugh]

**Taylor:** Jesus Christ.

**Raleigh:** Did you see on *SNL* they had Marcello Hernandez on *Weekend Update* as Cricket #7.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Awww.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Oh no.

**Raleigh:** It's talking about how great Christy was and secretly asking for help the whole time. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I just don't— Like if you— There are so many things— I ran for office once, and there are so many things where like you're trying to always be honest and true to yourself, and talk about things in a real way.

But like you know there are certain things that as soon as you say them, like it's gonna make a bunch of people mad, and that's gonna be the whole day, and like you know? So you're constantly trying to get people to hear you without yelling at you. And so I understand how many difficult topics there are. This is not one of them.

There is no like, "Should I tell people I killed a dog?" Well, I mean, you shouldn't have killed a dog, but also no? No— Like did she not have a single person say like, "Oh, don't tell that. Don't."

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] Don't.

**Sydnee:** "Don't tell that story."

**Taylor:** I mean I guess I'm glad that she did tell that story, 'cause I'm glad we all know that she's—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — like, a puppy killer.

**Raleigh:** Well—

**Sydnee:** I just can't believe like nobody was like, "Hey, uh... I wouldn't—" Like an editor didn't like leave her a note, like the... [grumbles uneasily]

**Taylor:** "Leave this out."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Well, the craziest part is I am 100% confident she didn't actually write that book, that it was a ghost writer who writes for politicians.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It was, she says that! She said that.

**Raleigh:** So...

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I just wanna talk to this ghost writer, who was like, "Yeah, I'll leave that in." 'Cause you know Christy didn't even read her own book. The ghost writer could've been like, "Backspace that bit, she'll never know, she'll never read it."

**Sydnee:** Well, she was like—

**Raleigh:** "No-one has to know."

**Sydnee:** Was she dictating that? Was she saying like, "So then anyway, I take Cricket to the gravel pit, and I'm like 'Look at the flower, Cricket.'" [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Jesus.



**Sydnee:** I mean... I don't know. I guess there's also— What's getting glossed over is there's also a part where she made up a meeting with Kim Jong Un that never happened. I saw her getting drilled for that in an interview. 'Cause she like made up this whole meeting about how she stared down the petty little tyrant, and—

**Raleigh:** That definitely didn't happen.

**Sydnee:** No, it didn't happen, and like she ha— she's now taking it out, 'cause she can't.

[mic movement sound]

**Sydnee:** And people are like, "Why'd you put it in there if it wasn't true?" And she's like, "I'm not gonna talk about that," it's like, "Well, we think you gotta."

**Taylor:** "Alright, then let's talk about the dog, I guess." [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** "Well, let's go back to the dog then!"

**Taylor:** Well, that's the thing like politicians lying, yeah alright, sure. Politicians shooting dogs, is this where— our new normal? Like yeah. Is that— I— "My campaign slogan, 'I'll shoot your dog for you. I'll get that—the hard job done, shooting dogs. That's what no-one wants to do in this country, but needs to happen.'"

**Sydnee:** We finally found the thing... that would unite us all.

**Raleigh:** See, that's what I thought.

**Taylor:** No, but is it?

**Raleigh:** I thought this was the one thing that everyone could agree on, but... I mean she put it out there thinking it would help. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** But I— Okay. I don't know, 'cause I don't watch TV news, but I get served clips of TV news interviews on TikTok. I have not seen a single interview going well for her on any—

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** — on any news station across the political spectrum. I have not seen— And I've seen multiple conservative talking heads out there goin' like, "No... No..."

**Raleigh:** Well I think it's because, "Why did you kill your dog?" is a really hard question to have a good answer to. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] And then none of `em say, "dog." They all say, "puppy."

**Raleigh:** They all say, "puppy."

**Taylor:** `Cause it was a puppy!

**Sydnee:** It was, I'm just saying like it's a ch— it's a more charged word.

**Raleigh:** Some of `em say Cricket. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, you shouldn't have given us his name.

**Sydnee:** Why did she do that?! I mean like—

**Raleigh:** And it's not even like she named him something like aggressive or like— I mean she could've lied about his name if she was gonna lie about a meeting with Kim Jong Un, why didn't she lie about his name and name him something scary? Like—

**Taylor:** Sweet, sweet little baby.

**Sydnee:** Kujo.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Cricket, the bird dog.

**Sydnee & Raleigh:** [chuckle]

**Taylor:** You know—

**Sydnee:** I don't— [chuckles] I mean it's baffling.

**Taylor:** Jesus.

**Sydnee:** It's really like... I mean it's awful, I'm not saying it's not awful, it's just... politicians and so many elected officials have done so many awful things, so like the idea of one of them doing something awful is not new, right? Like one of 'em was president for a while.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** And did awful, awful, horrible things that we all know about, and none of those— like none of those shock me. The fact that she did this doesn't shock me. I mean... There are people who do these things. The fact that she would think like, "This is gonna win over... voters."

**Taylor:** "This is a good story to tell to reflect the kind of person I am." Yeah. Why did she kill the goat?

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

**All:** [laugh]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] It's just— I mean, what a like— what a— Did the goat— What?

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Maybe it looked at her wrong, I don't know! I don't know why she— I'd have to read— God, I don't wanna read Christy Nome's book! To find out why did— I mean it is like a cliffhanger, right? Why did she kill the goat?

**Taylor:** Well it sounds like she—

**Sydnee:** What was the goat's name?!

**Taylor:** She explained why she killed Cricket, I don't agree with it, it's awful, but... But the goat just...

**Sydnee:** Wrong place wrong time. [chuckles] I don't—

**Taylor:** Man, I hate people. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I don't understand anything about this story, it's incredibly baffling. But it— But I really— I mean I have seen— There are so few people defending her. There are so few people out there saying like, "Now listen, sometimes..."

Because what she doesn't understand, and I'm surprised 'cause she lives in South Dakota, and I thought South Dakota was more of like a rural kinda place. Kinda like us, here in West Virginia. You know what I mean?

People who live out in the country and are used to doing their own thing. Let me tell you. West Virginians would not be okay with you killin' your dog.

**Raleigh:** Absolutely not.

**Sydnee:** Absolutely not. And I live in a very red state. People here love their dogs. They— Many of them do love Donald Trump. But they also do love their dogs, and they would not support you killin' your dog.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

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

**Raleigh:** I gotta say guys, I looked up why— [chuckles] I—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Oh.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Wait, it's why—

**Sydnee:** Why did Christy kill a goat?

**Raleigh:** I literally typed into Google, "Why did Christy kill a goat?"

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] 'Cause I didn't need— I didn't feel a need to put her last name, 'cause I thought there was only one Christy out there who killed a goat, and I was right. And someone did the work of reading the book. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Oh god.

**Raleigh:** And wrote an article titled "Nome's Dog-Killing Was Really Bad, But to Understand Her, Consider the Goat." [giggles]

**Taylor:** Consider the goat.

**Sydnee:** Why—

**Raleigh:** What you should know.

**Taylor:** I'm trying to.

**Sydnee:** No. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Well, let's see why she [through laughter] shot a goat. [sniffs] So anyways, this was after she killed Cricket.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** It says, "She's still in an uncontrollable rage. Walking back up to the yard, I spotted our billy goat." [giggles] This is the article now. "The nameless goat's only sin in that moment was being in Nome's field of view." [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** She just killed a goat 'cause she was mad?

**Taylor:** What?

**Raleigh:** "In the book, she tried to justify her snap decision by writing that it 'loved to chase her children, and would knock them down and butt them, leaving them terrified', and also it had a wretched smell." [giggles] Yeah, it's a goat!

**Taylor:** It's a goat.

**Sydnee:** It's a goat!

**Raleigh:** But—

**Taylor:** Goat's whole thing is like headbuttin' stuff.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] “But apparently none of that had been a big enough problem to do anything about it. Not until Nome got angry enough to kill a dog and decided she needed to kill again. So on her way back from killing Cricket, she grabbed the goat and killed it.”

**Taylor:** I—

**Sydnee:** This person needs help.

**Raleigh:** That’s crazy.

**Taylor:** This person needs to be locked up. I don’t— Aren’t there laws against just wantonly killing animals? Like I’m almost positive there are. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** There are. There is explicitly a South Dakota law that says it’s a Class 6 felony to commit cruelty to animals, period.

**Taylor:** I would—

**Raleigh:** But it—

**Sydnee:** Is that considered cruelty if you—

**Raleigh:** Well, that is why she has given reasons—

**Taylor:** I—

**Raleigh:** — in her interviews and in her book—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** — that are very closely tied to the legal justification you could—

**Sydnee:** That’s what I was gonna say, yeah.

**Raleigh:** — you can have for committing cruelty to animals. But they’re very specific, like if it commits bodily harm to like another human, or like destroys property or something, I don’t know. But—

**Taylor:** But—

**Raleigh:** That might not be one. But yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's not— I mean that's something that— Don't you have to like prove that? And then like get authorities?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You can't just— I—

**Raleigh:** You can't just say it in a book that you didn't write.

**Taylor:** This— This world is awful to animals. Animals have no protections, but I thought at the very least you can't just say, "Yeah, I shot it 'cause it was bad," and everyone goes "Okay, sure. Guess it was."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't—

**Raleigh:** Its definitely not how that works.

**Sydnee:** That— See that's— That is an impulse control problem, like that is something that needs— Like you need—

**Taylor:** How does—

**Sydnee:** You need to talk to someone about. Like I've never... I have gotten mad at my cats when they pee on my bed.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Just the one pees on my bed, and pees on Cooper's bed, just the two of us. Not Charlie, Charlie's left out of the line of fire, but us and Cooper. I don't know, we'll figure that out.

But I have never once in my anger over having to wash the sheets again, it— there is not a cell in my body that has wanted to inflict physical harm on my pets.

**Taylor:** Almost every day, when my cat takes a poop.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** He gets scared of the smell of his own poop, and so he runs away from it, but often he runs away from it before he's done pooping, so he leaves a sprinklin' of poop all around my apartment. He's a 15-year-old man. I just clean it up, I move on, I love him.

**Raleigh:** I—

**Sydnee:** I've just not—

**Raleigh:** My guinea pig—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** — peed directly into my cupped hand the other day.

**Taylor:** [laughs] "Here you go."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I was holding her and she was cuddling with me, and like you have to keep a hand under their butt to support their backs, so I had a hand under her butt and I had one on her head, and I was pettin' her and it was such a tender moment.

And then she kinda stuck her head up, and I said, "Oh, you're about to pee," and I was about to put her down so she could pee where she pees, and instead she just settled down and got real comfy, and did like a little like dog circle, where like they circle around and they get comfy again, and she p\*\*\*ed in my hand.

**Taylor:** "This feels like a good place to go."



**Raleigh:** Oh, I can't say that on this podcast, can I?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** [gasps]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** She peed in my hand.

**Sydnee:** We gotta cut that out.

**Raleigh:** I gotta cut that out.

**Taylor:** Bleep it.

**Raleigh:** Oh man, I can't believe—

**Taylor:** Bleep it.

**Raleigh:** I can't believe I'm the one that—

**Sydnee:** You were the one.

**Raleigh:** — that broke the curse rule. We've never done that.

**Sydnee:** You said a curse on our show.

**Taylor:** Is that really a curse? That doesn't feel like a curse.

**Raleigh:** It doesn't feel like a curse to me.

**Taylor:** It's not a big curse.

**Raleigh:** Can you say—

**Sydnee:** Just—

**Raleigh:** You can say it on TV, right?

**Taylor:** Pretty sure you can.

**Sydnee:** A lot of stuff you can say on TV.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I mean like cable TV.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Like the nightly news.

**Sydnee:** Does Dad know how to bleep?

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** I'll teach him. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** I'll teach him how to bleep. He's never had to before.

**Sydnee:** I... Yeah, and I mean I am not gonna— Just as a caveat, obviously I will also say, as someone who works in medicine, I am aware that there are dogs that have attacked, like actually really harmed.

**Raleigh:** Oh, yeah. I mean animals can— Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't wanna get— Right. I don't wanna get into that. Like there is another part of this that is— I have seen the aftermath of.

And so I can understand if there is a dog attacking you or your child or something, in that moment, doing anything to save a human life. Like I'm not sitting here saying like there's no— You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like obviously there are moment where it could be human versus animal, and o— You know, a life a is at stake. This is just not that. This was just not that. There was no part of it that was that.

**Taylor:** No, I mean I wanna— Does she also— Like does she have a fascination with fire? Does she have a...

**Raleigh:** [giggles]

**Taylor:** Problem with bed-wetting? Like I feel like this is— [chuckles] Like you know? I feel like—

**Raleigh:** It's the golden triad or whatever.

**Taylor:** It is. [chuckles] Like.

**Sydnee:** I don't know, it's— I think that's— It's deeply unsettling and— I don't— But I'm glad to see that like this seems to be a unifying thing that most people, whatever their political beliefs, are like, "Ugh, too far." Now I will say it's concerning that this is the only too far.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] And that all the stuff Donald Trump did to women was not too far! Apparently, was not too far! But this is too far. I just wanna throw that out there. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yup.

**Sydnee:** This is the too far. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Apparently our new political test is just before election, every politician has to spend time alone in a room with a goat and a gun, and we have to see what happens.

**Sydnee:** Yup. Will you kill Cricket?

**Raleigh:** I would like to also point out, 'cause we were talking about bird dogs and what's a bird dog, that this article also says that "she was mad at Cricket because he was bad at pheasant hunting and good at chicken hunting." So he still got a bird.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** But I guess the wrong bird.

**Taylor:** Do we expect... dogs to have a concept of different birds?

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] Of species?

**Sydnee:** Okay. I'm assuming you don't want them to hunt chickens, 'cause we don't hunt chickens.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Wild chickens? I don't know.

**Sydnee:** There aren't wild chickens. [chuckles]

**All:** [laugh]

**Sydnee:** They're just— They're domesticated, right? There like farm animals— [laughs]

**Taylor:** I think they're wild somewhere.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, I was gonna— They've gotta come from somewhere.

**Sydnee:** They're not wild!

**Taylor:** Didn't we cover this when we talked about hamsters? That hamsters are in fact wild somewhere in the world?

**Raleigh:** Hold on.

**Taylor:** They just roam in their littler hamster packs.

**Sydnee:** Are there wild chickens? I think what— I think that's supposed to be a clever turn of phrase, because the dog maybe killed a chicken.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That was like on the farm, and— but wouldn't kill the— [sighs heavily]

**Raleigh:** Now, they— [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I can't— I just can't with this. I can't.

**Raleigh:** There are feral chickens.

**Taylor:** Nice.

**Sydnee & Raleigh:** [laugh]

**Taylor:** Nice. Of course there are.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Ooookay.

**Raleigh:** "Locations famous for feral chickens." Oh, do you want something to make you feel really good.

**Taylor:** Planning my vacation.

**Raleigh:** So many are in America. [giggles]

**Sydnee:** Are any in West Virginia?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** That seems wrong.

**Taylor:** Well, they haven't been found yet. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, you—

**Raleigh:** Don't worry.

**Sydnee:** You don't know what we got here.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It makes sense—

**Taylor:** They're extra feral.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** — that most of the locations they're available— they're found in America are in Florida.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** So that checks out.

**Sydnee:** You know, listen Florida. [chuckles] We got everything you got, we're just better at hiding it, so. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Except feral chickens.

**Taylor:** Well, I don't know about that.

**Sydnee:** Hey.

**Raleigh:** We don't have those.

**Sydnee:** It's too bad 'cause that would be good for that python.

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** That's on the loose. Some feral chickens for it to eat. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** You know, I saw a news story the other night about a guy who caught and brought a snake back to the wild in Charleston.

**Sydnee:** I thought it was— Yeah.

**Raleigh:** And I thought maybe it was your snake. [giggles]

**Sydnee:** I don't know, but I saw that article and I was like—

**Taylor:** That's real far for that snake to travel.

**Raleigh:** Right?

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's like a 45-minute drive by car. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] And that's only if the snake took 64.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** You gotta imagine it took some back road. [chuckles] And there's all that construction by the ball exit.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean it's— it'd take you forever. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** That's like—

**Sydnee:** Is the snake taking 64 more than you can handle? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [giggles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** In my head, he's just snakin' along on the side of 64.

**Taylor:** See, I pictured him just behind the wheel of a car.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor & Sydnee:** [chuckle]

**Sydnee:** "Man, I wish they'd finish this construction."

**Raleigh:** He can't even lift an arm up to signal if he's turning or mo— or merging, so he'd just kinda have to like bop his head.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like, "Oop, this way." [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** "This way."

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Sydnee:** We have— We—

**Raleigh:** Guys, we're really bad these days at talking about—

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** — what we're s'posed to talk about on this podcast.

**Sydnee:** Teylor, we need to talk about the movie that was an actual perfect depiction of what life was like back in the 90s, for Raleigh.

**Teylor:** Absolutely.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** It was— It's very accurate to what computers did and what people wore, and how teens were. I asked you all to watch *Hackers*, which is from 1995, and is about a band of teenage hackers that help take down some corrupt, I don't know, Wall Street people that are gonna create an ecological disaster to cover the tracks of their—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Teylor:** — white collar crime.

**Sydnee:** It is... Okay, I had never seen *Hackers*.

**Teylor:** [surprisingly amused] Really?

**Sydnee:** I was only familiar— No, I had never watched it. I was familiar with it, and like certainly there are aspects of it that permeated out culture, I think. I did not realize that's where "leet hacker"—

**All:** [chuckle]

**Sydnee:** I must— That turn of phrase must've come— How many times do they call people "elite"?



**Taylor:** Or—

**Sydnee:** As if— Well you know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Elite.

**Taylor:** “Hack the planet.” [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Oh my god, “hack the planet.” “Hack the planet.”

**Taylor:** Come on, it’s a beautiful film.

**Sydnee:** “I am a criminal.”

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** “My crime is that of curiosity.” [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** That is so 90s. It is very 90s.

**Raleigh:** I audibly went “ugh.” [giggles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** It is a very silly movie, but there’s a lot about it that I really love.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Well, Matthew Lillard is in it, so it’s hard not to love it for that one reason alone.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Matthew Lillard is in it, I think, in one of his most Matthew Lillard roles ever.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Like he's just a total weirdo, and like... I don't know. It's—

**Sydnee:** He's—

**Raleigh:** He's kinda— It kinda reminded me as if his character from *Scream* was allowed to just be a normal teen—

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** — and didn't kill people.

**Taylor:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like he had a better circle of influence.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, like instead of choosing the crime of murder, he chose the crime of hacking.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like he's still a little weirdo.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But he's a good little weirdo.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Instead of an evil little weirdo.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** He— And he doesn't watch scary movies, he just reads everything I guess, because he can quote anything.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Including the Bible. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Didn't expect that out of Matthew Lillard.

**Taylor:** Cereal. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** No, I appreciated that it— He— I—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, but he's a serial killer! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Oh, is he a serial killer?! [gasps]

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** Oh this was this after—

**Sydnee:** [gasps]

**Raleigh:** This was before *Scream*, wasn't it?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** '95.

**Taylor:** But "cereal" as in the breakfast cereal.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** '95, I think that's before *Scream*. Wasn't *Scream* '98?

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

**Raleigh:** That would've been weird. I've gotta—

**Sydnee:** I was gonna say, would've been close.

**Raleigh:** I mean he looks like *Scream* Matthew Lillard in it.

**Taylor:** Yeah, it's definitely close.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. A very young Angelina Jolie there.

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** She was— This was— This would've been probab—

**Raleigh:** '96.

**Sydnee:** There you go. This would've been around *Girl, Interrupted* time too. This was when Angelina Jolie was sooo cool. I mean, I'm not saying she's not now, I just mean like she was the epitome of like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** — cool girl.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't— This was probably before she was wearing the vial of blood around her neck, I think.

**Taylor:** That's also good.

**Sydnee:** That was a whole thing.

**Taylor:** I mean, ma—

**Sydnee:** There was a whole— [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There was a lot goin' on with Angelina Jolie for a while.  
[chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** She's just always been very cool but also kinda spooky.  
[wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. I don't even know where to start with this movie. So Raleigh, you gotta know, people did not understand computers very well at this point in time,

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Clearly not, clearly.

**Raleigh:** [in fake surprise] Whaaaat? [chuckles] I thought they understood them perfectly.

**Sydnee:** So— I don't— Tey, do you wanna give a quick rundown of our plot?

**Taylor:** I think I did.

**Sydnee:** We gotta start back in 1988 with—

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** — Zero Cool. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Zero Cool, aka Dade Murphy, was a young hacker who took down over a thousand computers. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** 1507.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** And what— I guess at the age of... What is— It was— He was 11?

**Sydnee:** Probably would've been like 11.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And so he was banned from using computers, or even a touch tone phone, because those could be used to hack. [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Do you know what a touch tone phone is?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** I wondered—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I had that thought.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** I was like, "Raleigh's not gonna know what they're talking about."

**Raleigh:** I have no idea.

**Sydnee:** Like—

**Raleigh:** I also didn't look it up.

**Sydnee:** — a phone where you hit buttons.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** So a phone.

**Sydnee:** Well, but okay.

**Taylor:** Well, but actual buttons, and they made tones.

**Sydnee:** Boop boop boop boop boop.

**Raleigh:** So like—

**Sydnee:** As opposed to—

**Raleigh:** Like the Nokia I had.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, yeah. Or like a corded house phone where you boop boop boop boop boop.

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** That's a— As opposed to—

**Raleigh:** A dial up?

**Sydnee:** — the rotary phone.

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** The— Have you seen those?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, the—

**Sydnee:** Where you have the little thing and you spin it?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It wasn't that.

**Sydnee:** That is what they're— That is why they say, "touch tone," because you couldn't hack with a rotary phone, but you can hack with a touch tone phone.

**Raleigh:** The concept is—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** — they hack with a corded phone. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** They're hacking through the payphones.

**Raleigh:** Oh I know.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I'm just saying in general, the concept that you could hack through a corded phone is wild.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, it was dial up internet.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Boop boop boop boop boop. [imitates dial up modem noises]  
[chuckles]

**Taylor:** Uh, yes.

**Raleigh:** Thank you for that.

**Taylor:** So—

**Raleigh:** Ambience.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, young Dade was banned from computers until he was 18. So of course as soon as he turns 18, he's back in business, baby.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** But first— for whatever—

**Raleigh:** Back to hacking.

**Taylor:** Yeah, and you know it's funny, like usually the start of the movie where the kid has to be moved by his parents into a place that he hates, it's usually like, "Oh, I used to live in a cool city, and now I have to live in this crappy small town." But in this the set-up is "Aw man, my mom made me move to New York City, that sucks." [wheezes]



**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Like.

**Sydnee:** Exactly, and I love— I was talkin' about— Justin and I were watching it. like the depiction of moms at this point in film, no-one— I think this was— I was thinking about the mom character a lot. So before this age of movies, moms were like, you know, the 50s mom.

Moms like cooked and cleaned and took care of things at home and scolded you for not washing your hands. And then we moved into this era where they were like, "[sighs] Women can do things now. We shouldn't do that to women anymore."

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** "So what do we do to the moms? I don't know... Get 'em divorced, that's a good step, 'cause then we can make 'em sexy." [chuckles] "The moms'll be sexy."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** "And maybe smoke. And they'll always be gone. That's— We got nothin'. We got nothin'. What are moms? There's nobody involved who knows what moms are at this poi— What did mom— What were moms in the 90s? Gone."

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** "Gone. But sexy. But gone." [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, I think it's in— I mean I got the inference that they're divorced because their son cost them \$45,000, which is a— I mean that's a lot of money today, but back in the—

**Sydnee:** In 1988.

**Taylor:** Well, when— when you could afford things? I don't know, I think that was probably less money in 1988 [chuckles] than it is today.

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

**Taylor:** But so I don't know, the dad's out of the picture 'cause the hacker son broke up the— broke— hacked the family. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] He destroyed the family. Why didn't— What did he do when he shut down those Wall Street computers?

**Taylor:** He was just—

**Sydnee:** I guess he was just shutting stuff down.

**Taylor:** — did it so he could.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I mean I think that's—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Just to watch the world burn.

**Taylor:** I feel like that's actually a legitimate depiction of hackers today, 'cause a lot of times hackers just hack things to say, "Look, we shut that website down 'cause we could."

**Sydnee:** And that— I don't know... I was watching it and I kept asking myself the question "Was this cool?" 'Cause there are parts of it, like the way peo— the attitude and the way people talk about computers. Was that— I don't remember that being like the cool thing in the 90s.

**Taylor:** No, I don't think this was— I think— I mean I'm fairly certain that actual hackers hacked the *Hackers* website at the time that this movie came out.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** Yeah, just to kind of...

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

**Sydnee:** That makes sense.

**Taylor:** Make fun of the movie. I do think this was people kind of fantasticalizing what they thought cool computer people would be. You know, 'cause—

**Sydnee:** I— The outfits.

**Taylor:** The outfits, the roller blades? The idea that everybody that hacks, of course, gets around on roller blades.

**Sydnee:** Of course.

**Taylor:** And in situations that—

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** — it is not— This is an odd place to be wearing roller blades.  
[chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I can't get over our lead character, Dade, the vest. The camo vest with the orange stripes or red stripes or whatever on it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** The like parachoot suspender things that are hangin' off the back of him. Sometimes—

**Raleigh:** Well that was fashion, right?

**Sydnee:** No!

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** The— Okay. This is what I was— Okay. [chuckles] There is— At one point, I think Angeline Jolie is wearing like shin guards. Like just out and around. I— This was not... common fashion of 1995.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** I'm not saying no-one dressed like this, I'm just saying the idea that this is the way people looked in the '90s made me feel like, "Did I live in the—" [chuckles] Like I know I was in school in 1995. I mean I was a couple years younger than these people, but still.

**Raleigh:** I mean, you knew what people were dressin' like.

**Sydnee:** I saw peop— I had eyes and saw people.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, you saw people.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, there's the one character who's con— I noticed he was constantly wearing leopard print.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** And then like the boyf— that— the uncool, not hacker boyfriend character of Angelina Jolie is like, "Oh, it's leopard print guy." It's like, "Oh, so that's his thing! [chuckles] He only wears leopard print."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I mean there is the layer of, it's set in New York City.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Where, I mean, I feel like it's somewhat believable that kids in the 90s, teenagers in the 90s, like club kids. This was the era of club kids, like...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Could've been dressing very, very cool and very eccentric. I don't think it necessarily overlapped with kids that were really smart with computers, but who knows!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** None of us were there. Who are we to judge? [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** And they played video games.

**Taylor:** But like cool video games in clubs. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. You went to cool clubs where you rollerblade into the club.

**Taylor:** When he rollerblades behind—

**Raleigh:** And leave the rollerblades on. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Like when he rollerblades up behind Angelina Jolie and like, “I’m gonna beat your score in the video game,” and she’s wearing that all white cotton body suit. Like what is that? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I have no idea. I don’t.. And also, so the guy— the actor who played the main character is doing—

**Taylor:** Johnny Lee Miller.

**Sydnee:** I— Yeah. So I— He’s like a British actor, right?

**Taylor:** Is he?

**Sydnee:** I’m pretty sure.

**Raleigh:** I didn’t recognize him.

**Sydnee:** Because—

**Taylor:** I know him from *Trainspotting*, he’s Sick Boy.

**Raleigh:** Ohhhhh.

**Sydnee:** Okay. I— Yeah, he is, he’s English. Okay, his American accent. Can we just for a second—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** — talk about what is the... What am I supposed to feel about the—

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** — his whole thing? Like...

**Taylor:** It feels—

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

**Taylor:** It's like this character wrote fan fiction about his life.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And this is what he— [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeeeeeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yes, it is. Like. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** No, you're so right, yeah. That's exactly what it is. [giggles]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Sydnee:** I mean, he says things like, "Do my ears deceive me?" Like, who says things like— [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Mess with the best."

**Sydnee:** Who says things like that?

**Taylor:** "Die like the rest." [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I just— [chuckles] I don't know. And he's like our cool leading man.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Also, what is the— Okay. I don't— We haven't even gotten in— I mean, there's the big climactic hacking scene, where they hack so hard that they save the day.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And they're all like at payphones, hacking simultaneously. And he puts on that— those glasses with the extra screen over his eye.

**Taylor:** The one, yeah. I don't know what that does.

**Sydnee:** I sat there lookin' at it goin' "What is that piece of equipment he's wearing? What is it doing?" Is it another screen?

**Taylor:** I don't— It's a little baby screen so he can double hack. He's double hacking.

**Sydnee:** But it's plugged—

**Taylor:** Hacking two times.

**Sydnee:** It's plugged into his laptop, so he's like— he's just lookin' at the same screen.

**Taylor:** Up close.

**Raleigh:** They made Apple Vision [chuckles] before Apple made Apple Vision.

**Sydnee:** There it was.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I like to think, as I was watching this, that the understanding of computers at the time was just “Oh, now things can be done on this kind of screen. There’s a new kind of screen.” So in their head it was like, “Imagine what you could do with so many screens.”

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Which, to be fair, they had a point in that I often find myself with small screen with my phone, and then large screen with the TV, and then a medium sized screen like my laptop, and then even maybe a more medium sized screen like my Switch or my Kindle. Like I often find myself with multiple screens in front of me to keep me occupied.

**Sydnee:** To hack.

**Raleigh:** At all times.

**Sydnee:** Are you hacking?

**Raleigh:** Well no, just like... playing *Animal Crossing*, and trying to keep myself so occupied I can’t have any other thoughts. But—

**Taylor:** Wha— Hmm.

**Raleigh:** I mean they had a point that we have developed many kinds of screens.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Not for hacking. I think hacking is usually done with like a screen.

**Taylor:** They— I mean you might—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I would imagine that maybe multiple computers could be used.



**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** For it at the same time, but I don't think it's how they get their all like— I don't know, I mean it's like the password thing where it's like, "Oh."

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Taylor:** "Elite hacker knowledge is the most common password." It's like I'm pretty sure when hackers steal passwords, they have programs that are designed to run...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Incredibly high numbers of combinations of words and numbers—

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** — until they can figure things out, lock things in.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

**Raleigh:** They don't just guess the password. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah, it's not like, "We know."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "We know this information."

**Sydnee:** Also, Justin made the point, what do you think are the odds that in 1995, the school— the high school sprinkler system was wired into the internet. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh & Taylor:** [laugh]

**Taylor:** You could schedule it?

**Sydnee:** Was hackable. Like this— The internet was barely there. These things were not on the internet yet.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** Like you couldn't hack into some of these things 'cause they weren't—

**Raleigh:** That's a really good point, actually—

**Sydnee:** They weren't on the internet.

**Raleigh:** — that I hadn't thought about.

**Taylor:** I don't think you could've adjusted somebody's class schedule using the internet in the 90s.

**Sydnee:** Mm-mm.

**Raleigh:** I bet that was all on paper, wasn't it.

**Sydnee:** I would—

**Taylor:** It was—

**Sydnee:** I would bet.

**Taylor:** There was definitely like a hard computer database that you could access that would maybe have it, but it's not linked into any sort of system.

**Sydnee:** Well, and that was when it got printed out on those... That paper with the holes—

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** — all along the edges.

**Taylor:** And you just had to hope— like save that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And hold onto it.

**Sydnee:** Do you know what I'm talking about? Have you seen that—?  
[chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Why are you looking at me, asking if I know what you're talking about? [chuckles]

**Taylor:** No, this was—

**Raleigh:** As if was—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Raleigh's never seen this type of paper before. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I started high school in 2014. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I don't know what that paper's called, but it's got the holes all along the edges.

**Taylor:** It's the same paper that our report cards came on.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And also—

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's definitely something where somebody just typed it all in, printed it all out, and your file was gone.

**Sydnee:** Did— Also, do you remember when they would do that thing in middle school where they would tell you your love matches in the school?

**Taylor:** Oh yeah, that was weird.

**Sydnee:** That was also printed out on that.

**Taylor:** Yip.

**Sydnee:** You would take a quiz, and then they would tell you what five kids in the school you're most compatible with. How wild is that?!

**Raleigh:** That's gross.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** That's insane.

**Taylor:** It was super gross.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, that was in middle school.

**Raleigh:** They did that on a TV show I watched, and I remember wat— I think it was *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide*, and I remember thinking like, "Why? Why would you do that to children? These are children." [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** We got real excited about computers, but nobody understood 'em or what to do with 'em.

**Taylor:** Well, and I think that's part of the problem with this movie is that they definitely— I mean it's a movie, so they had to make the hacking look cool. Maybe the people that wrote this movie understood that hacking doesn't actually— You don't go through a three-dimensional like environment.

**Raleigh & Sydnee:** [giggle]

**Taylor:** Like a— Like you're piloting some sort of spaceship through the internet. That do— That's not what it looks like, it's just series of numbers going on your screen.

**Sydnee:** I— How many times did they use that like screen saver? You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Like with all the towers that they were like floating through?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, and then the to— the floating tower, and then like the  $E=mc^2$  and all the equations and stuff floating by. And then the— just like the amorphous shapes and colors.

**Taylor:** Yeah, like it's some sort of weird mystical... I don't know, cell.

**Sydnee:** You're in *Tron*.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean it was, it was like the— "This is— Like this is what it's like to hack, you're in *Tron*."

**Taylor:** I mean part of it is probably it's a movie so they needed to make it visually interesting.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Taylor:** And part of it is definitely like, "Nobody in our audience knows how this stuff works, so this is fine."

**Sydnee:** "This is fine."

**Raleigh:** Well, do you think this was like their hopeful depiction of what the internet would become soon? Like, "Look at how cool it's gonna be!"

**Taylor:** Well.

**Raleigh:** I know it's supposed to be taking place like, you know, in '95, but I just thought, I don't know, like [chuckles] they can't have thought this is how it works, right?

**Sydnee:** I—

**Taylor:** I think that there are— As silly as this movie is, I think that there is an awareness that at some point, everything is gonna be accessible through the internet, which was correct.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like that is— I don't know if today you could hack a school [wheezes] sprinkler system.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** I don't know about that, but—

**Sydnee:** Are they online? I don't know.

**Taylor:** I don't know. But I mean most everything is interconnected.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And—

**Sydnee:** And it was true... We figured out how to connect things, and like the product of "You can do things faster if it's online." That got pushed to a wide variety of businesses and companies and infrastructure and governments before safety and security was pushed as hard. There was a lag.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** There was a time where people were just wildin' out, puttin' everything online, and had no concept of like how vulnerable or easy it would be to mess with that.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And so like I— They are talking about that, which was very true. Like there— that lag did happen, and then, you know, I think we kinda caught up with it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** But that was true.

**Taylor:** Well, and I feel like there's a core message in this movie that is relevant, because the idea is... information should be known.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** It should be shared.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And you know, that in this age where everything is immediately accessible, why shouldn't the general public know what's going on.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** 'Cause they say that several times.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That it's about the freedom of information.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm

**Taylor:** And I mean we deal with that now, right? I think the answer to that is like at some point, the powers that be understood "Okay, we can't keep people from knowing things, so we just have to flood them with so much information that the truth gets lost in the mess."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Which is where we're at today. But I do think that this movie kind of had an awareness of that long before it actually was, you know, a talking point reality.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Taylor:** And that there's no excuse for our government to hide things from us if we can know things immediately.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Well, it also was such a— So... It is true that younger people understood this emerging technology generally better than the older people did.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And so, it was a power that, you know, I mean that— we're probably talkin' like Gen Xers mainly sort of wielded over their elders.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** "We understand this. We can control this. You don't get it. And you have to hire us to make you understand it, so you're kind of at our mercy." 'Cause I mean like ultimately, even the bad guy, what Plague? [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Plague.

**Sydnee:** Plague.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] "Call me Plague." [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Him— So like sinking the ships of course is an evil act, that's bad, but the stealing the money from a big corporation?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know, I mean, am I supposed to get real worked up about that? Like— [chuckles] Like he stole— I don't— I mean, if the hackers had been—

**Taylor:** No, but like—

**Sydnee:** If the hackers, if our heroes had been stealing money from a big evil corporation... I mean, that's just, you know, that's just Robin Hood. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah, but it's like a— The person that is financing him is some like rich lady white collar criminal, I don't know. What is she? She's a—

**Sydnee:** I can't tell. [chuckles]



**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** She wears a sparkly suit.

**Raleigh:** That's her job.

**Sydnee:** Sexy, drinks champagne, doesn't understand what's happening.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** But does order the guy around.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh. Sparkly suit.

**Sydnee:** I thought she was his boss.

**Raleigh:** That's it.

**Sydnee:** And then his employee, and then I was like, "No, they're together," and then I don't know. I had so much difficulty figuring out the relationship between those two and who she was.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** I think she worked for the big company.

**Taylor:** That's the thing, she was—

**Sydnee:** I think she was embezzling.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I don't think that that was— that it was bad that they were stealing from the big company, I think it was "Oh no, these kids might've found our secret files hidden in our garbage that, you know, describes our stealing plan, so we're gonna sink a bunch of oil tankers to distract from it." [chuckles]

**Raleigh & Sydnee:** [chuckle]

**Taylor:** I think that was what makes them bad guys.

**Sydnee:** What— No. That was bad. That was— I am not saying that wasn't bad. Did you all by the way notice that Mark Antony is up in there?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Yeah okay. So, do you know the one Secret Service— Which it's all the Secret Service which is wild to me, by the way.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like it's always the Secret Service.

**Raleigh:** A lot of Secret Service up in there.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** One of the Secret Service agents, Ray, the sexy one.

[pause]

**Taylor:** The sexy one?

**Sydnee:** Is singer Mark Antony. That guy.

[pause]

**Raleigh:** Hmm. I don't remember that.

**Sydnee:** You don't remember him? He was married to J-Lo for a while.

**Raleigh:** Well I knew that. I know who he is.

**Sydnee:** Anyway, we were just watching and Justin—

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was like, "That's a distractingly handsome Secret Service agent. Will he play a role in this film?." And Justin's like, "I think it's Mark Antony," and yes it is.

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** And then he's like partying with the kids at the party.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** They show him there like gettin' down.

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay. Okay.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't— I don't know.

**Raleigh:** I think I would've recognized him.

**Sydnee:** If that was another plot line, I lost it at some point. [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** I knew him as a J-Lo partner at some point. That's it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I also would like to say that there's a scene where the—  
Who's the hacker that gets busted first?

**Taylor:** Um...

**Sydnee:** He later— I recognized him 'cause he played the character Ryan  
Pierce on *West Wing* later. Not that anyone—

**Taylor:** Joey, right? He's the one that doesn't get a cool nickname.

**Sydnee:** Yes, Joey.

**Taylor:** He's just Joey.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Did you notice— So obviously he's like addicted to  
caffeine and cigarettes—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** — as part of his plotline. There is a moment where he has a  
cigarette in both hands, and he's smoking.

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** From a cigarette in both hands. No-one ever has done that.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No-one—

**Taylor:** Joey has!

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Joey has.

**Sydnee:** No-one— I liked it 'cause I had this moment where I was like, "Do the people making this movie not know anyone who smokes?" Like, 'cause there's a lot of smoking in the movie, it's the least attractive portrayal of smoking I've ever seen in a movie.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** It's actually kinda good.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like it's almost like a truth campaign anti-smoking ad, because everyone's smoking, no-one smokes well, there's smoke everywhere. Like every cigarette is like puttin' out—

**Raleigh:** I did think about that.

**Sydnee:** — eight times the amount of smoke they normally do.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And they're all like— they make a lot of the like puff sounds.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like the lip sounds.

**Raleigh:** They don't make it look sexy.

**Sydnee:** Noooo.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

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

**Taylor:** Well, they make him go to some sort of like—

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [giggles]

**Taylor:** — addiction counselling for his computer addiction. And I think the joke is this all made him so nervous and scared that now he's chain smoking.

**Sydnee:** And—

**Taylor:** So now he's got a real addiction because they punished him for his not real addiction.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Which was just having a computer.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] He did hack into a bank.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think he— Well, he did it just to— He— Well he—

**Sydnee:** He just had to do it.

**Taylor:** He hi— Well yeah, the fancy computer, just to show his friends that he deserved a cool handle. That's the thing that sets it all off.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** He was just trying to steal something to show that he could get into that computer. And then the people he stole from got on his tail.

**Sydnee:** And that man. Apparently when the Secret Service shows up at your house, there's a lot of `em, and they bring lots of guns.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I mean, I don't think that part is actually— It might not be the Secret Service, but I do think that that part— Like we live in the age of SWATing, where—

**Raleigh:** I would believe that.

**Sydney:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — that is actually the response to a vague threat from a teenager. [chuckles]

**Sydney:** Well. I enjoyed it, if nothin' else, I think like the i— It's '90s in its idea of what it— Like it's a very '90s thing to think you're cooler than you are. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Yeah. I— Well, but I don't know. I think now, like watching this now, like I think the fashion is great. Would I wear any of it? I don't know. But do I think it's very fun.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I think it's cool.

**Sydney:** It is fun, yeah.

**Taylor:** Like I think probably a generation or two younger than me would look at that and be like, "Oh, I would wear everything that these kids are wearing." [chuckles]

**Sydney:** True.

**Raleigh:** That's true, yeah.

**Taylor:** And I do think that the message of the movie being like, "collective action to combat... like the powers that be is the answer" is correct.

**Sydney:** Mm.

**Taylor:** I mean, their whole manifesto is, you know, that we're around the world and we're all races and we're all genders, and we can't individually work against these people, but as a unit, we can work against you. I think that that's...

**Sydnee:** Yeah, and I think that was a real thing, wasn't it?

**Taylor:** What do you mean?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, there was a real hacker manifesto that they're quoting.

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

**Sydnee:** It was a computer security hacker named Lloyd Blankenship, who went by the handle "The Mentor."

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** Who wrote the hacker manifesto, and kinda— kind of probably, I would think, inspired this idea of like, "This is what hackers are," you know what I mean.

**Taylor:** I know but like with today we have Anonymous.

**Sydnee:** Mm.

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

**Taylor:** I don't know if they wear very cool... you know, fashion.

**Raleigh:** They got those masks.

**Taylor:** And roll— I don't know if they rollerblade..

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** They do have the masks!

**Sydnee:** That's the key, do they rollerblade?

**Taylor:** [laughs] That the good guys are on rollerblades and the bad guy was on a skateboard.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** [chuckles] That's how you know.

**Taylor:** But the assumption is, yeah, in the future none of us walk.  
[chuckles]

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Well, I mean they weren't wrong about that. We do have those hoverboards.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's true. And—

**Sydnee:** Oh man, if they had been around, the hackers would definitely have been on those.

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** I don't know, that the bad guy would've been, 'cause I feel like today—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** — the worst people you know. There's always some dude in a suit, like in Manhattan.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Oh my god, yes.



**Taylor:** Just blowing down the sidewalk on one of those, and it's like, "There are people wal— There are children. There are pigeons. Get off that."

**Raleigh:** "You're in public." [chuckles]

**Taylor:** [chuckles] "Aren't you embarrassed?"

**Raleigh:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Did it replace that— What's the thing with the handle that Paul Blart rides?

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Segway?

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

**Raleigh:** Couldn't replace those.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Raleigh:** Just spend like 20 minutes in the National Mall in DC and you're just gonna see `em everywhere.

**Taylor:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** Oh my god.

**Raleigh:** The Segway tours never stop.

**Sydnee:** Well, Taylor thank you. I had not— I mean really, I had never seen it, and I—

**Raleigh:** I had also never seen it.

**Sydnee:** I was crackin' up. It was a wild ride.

**Taylor:** It's a fun movie, it was—

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** It was not successful in its day, but it's— I think it's nowadays considered sort of a cult classic.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I had a very fun time.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I think it's a lot of fun to watch.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I would rec— There's— Yeah, I would recommend it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, especially now.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

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

**Sydnee:** Um... What's next?

**Raleigh:** Well next, I thought we could talk about some music that is very popular right now. So much so that, you know, we all are familiar with it, and that's Chappel Roan's *The Rise and Fall of a Mid-West Princess*.

**Sydnee:** Perfect.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Can't wait.

**Sydnee:** I'm ready. We've been listening to it.

**Raleigh:** Don't worry, it's on Apple Music, Syd.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Oh, I know. I already downloaded it.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well good.

**Sydnee:** We found *Hackers*— Where did I find it?

**Taylor:** I rented it.

**Sydnee:** Pluto?

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, I paid for it.

**Sydnee:** It was on like— Yeah, but there was—

**Taylor:** Not very cool, I guess. We were supposed to steal it, probably.

**Raleigh:** Coulda hacked for it.

**Sydnee:** I know, I couldn't hack it.

**Taylor:** I know.

**Sydnee:** It's on something called Pluto.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Like the dog—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** — from Mickey?

**Sydnee:** But it— Which is free, but if you watch the ads. You have to watch commercials.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Well.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I don't know, there you go. Then you got options. Or hack it.

**Raleigh:** Or hack it.

**Sydnee:** Hack it.

**Taylor:** Hack the planet. Hack the movie *Hackers*.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I like when he's tellin' him the code. "Backslash, shift, command."

**Raleigh & Taylor:** [chuckle]

**Sydnee:** "Garbage. Colon." [chuckles] Which is— I mean that is probably more like what it is.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You're just typing stuff, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well thank you both, thank you listeners. Thank you to MaximumFun. You should go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) and check out a lot of great shows you'd enjoy. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org), 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 am Raleigh Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering.

**Sydnee & Taylor:** [simultaneously] And I... Am... Too.

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:** I— You know Justin's never done anything as romantic for me as making those buildings light up.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Major burn.

**Sydnee:** With their hacker names. I know.

**Raleigh:** I'll take a lesson from that.

**Sydnee:** I know.

[instrumental music plays]

**Speaker One:** *Sound Heap with John Luke Roberts* is a real podcast, made up of fake podcasts like *If You Had A Cupboard In Your Lower Back, What Would You Keep In It?*

**Speaker Two:** So I'm gonna say mugs.

**Speaker Three:** I little yoghurt and a spoon.

**Speaker Four:** A small handkerchief that was given to me by my grandmother on her deathbed.

**Speaker Five:** Maybe some spare honey?

**Speaker Six:** I'd keep batteries in it. I'd pretend to be a toy.

**Speaker Seven:** If I had a cupboard in my lower back, I'd probably fill it with spines.

**Speaker One:** *If You Had A Cupboard In Your Lower Back, What Would You Keep In It* doesn't exist. We made it up for *Sound Heap with John Luke Roberts*, an award-winning comedy podcast from MaximumFun, made up of hundreds of stupid podcasts. Listen and subscribe to *Sound Heap with John Luke Roberts*, now.

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