

## Still Buffering 410: Hear Me Out Cakes

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

**Sydnee:** Hello, and welcome to Still Buffering, a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I'm Sydnee McElroy.

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

**Sydnee:** Did I sound weird when I said hello?

**Taylor:** You sounded really... perky.

**Sydnee:** Did I? It felt weird.

**Taylor:** It was very... I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I don't say hello in my life—

**Taylor:** Hello. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Do you know what I mean? Like I don't use—I say 'hi' or 'hey.'

**Taylor:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** But I don't—I'm realizing that—I realized that when I had to take over doing that from Raleigh.

**Taylor:** You could change it up? You could give it a hey.

**Sydnee:** Hey.

**Taylor:** Oh, what's up?

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** That feels weird. Hey. [titters] Hey, what's up?

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's the best way to start a podcast. Just a nice breathy, "Hey."

**Sydnee:** Hey.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** What's up?

**Taylor:** Hey, everybody. Now we're just doing ASMR.

**Sydnee:** I know, I know. I don't know, I—maybe it would, but I thought about that, like why does it feel so weird to say hello? And it's because I don't—the only time I ever say hello—I was thinking like do you ever use the entire word 'hello?' I mean like when I'm greeting people in public, like new people that I'm meeting even, I don't say 'hello.' I say, "Hi, nice to meet you." I don't say 'hello.' Except if I'm answering the phone, and I think it's gonna be like spam.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I'm annoyed. Like I'm annoyed that I'm answering it, I might say like, "Hello," like in an annoyed way. I think that's the only time I say hello.

**Taylor:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** And then it's a robot, and then I'm really mad.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** At the robot? The robot is just doing its robot job.

**Sydnee:** I'm mad that I got taken in by the robot. [chuckles]

**Teylor:** Now, see, I don't even, I just—when I think it's a spam call, I just answer and I just listen. Because if it's automated, no one will say anything.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm.

**Teylor:** So, and I don't know, I don't want them to record my voice and use it for nefarious purposes.

**Sydnee:** This time of year, every four years, less so every two years, but every four years, this time of year, you gotta be so careful answering the phone. Because it's... the person on the other end, for me, is what sounds like a very earnest and well-intentioned and well-meaning young democrat. [chuckles] Who would like some money from me. And I don't know how to say like, "I will promise you that I will hang up this phone and go find some way to give money to some sort of candidate I support electronically, if you just don't make me talk on the phone to you about it." [chuckles]

**Teylor:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** I just don't want to—I don't want to have a phone conversation about it. And I certainly don't want to go through the motion of like giving a credit card number over a phone? It's 2024!

**Teylor:** Syd, I think if somebody's asking you to give a credit card over the phone, they might be doing a scam. They're doing a scammin'.

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Teylor:** That's not the Democratic Party, that's just a little scammer that's got you in their web.

**Sydnee:** I mean like they know I'm not—

**Teylor:** And you're not that much older than me. You should know better.

**Sydnee:** [sighs] Ah... But if they want my—they don't—they're not calling me to convince me to vote, because that would be an easy conversation. Because they'd be like, "Here's why Donald Trump's bad." And I'm like,

"Yeah, you think? Uh-huh. You don't need to—like I'm on—" But they know that about me now. They know they got me.

**Teylor:** I don't know. I don't know. Don't answer those calls anymore, Syd, for your own safety. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Did you make moon water from the Hunter's Moon last night?

**Teylor:** I did not, but I did—so, it's near New York Comic Con this weekend. I went yesterday, and then I had the goal of completing a costume in a night. Which I did, more or less. Yeah... A few stitches and little paint swaps to do before I head out today. But I realized it was the Hunter Moon last night, because I woke—because I came home at like 8:00. Like I left the con when it was closed and came right home. And took a nap, woke back up at midnight. I was like, now it is time I will do my crafting. And I was working under the moon and like, I know this is a big, scary Aries moon that is supposed to bring a bunch of intense energy. I'm just using all of this to stay up and marathon a costume. [chuckles] Which felt like the right use of that vibe.

**Sydnee:** That is a good vibe.

**Teylor:** My costume is moon water. [titters]

**Sydnee:** Now that is—hey, you created it in the light of the full moon.

**Teylor:** I did.

**Sydnee:** It's imbued with the Aries Hunter Moon energy.

**Teylor:** And I did Rio from Agatha All Along, which feels very correct.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yes.

**Teylor:** But you made moon water?

**Sydnee:** I did. Well, yeah, I mean, it was an Aries Hunter Moon. I felt like I had to. And I didn't burn anything under the moon, which I felt bad about.

**Taylor:** [titters]

**Sydnee:** I needed to like, you know, burn something. But I didn't. I burned incense inside the house. It was cold.

**Taylor:** Yeah, it got cold out of nowhere.

**Sydnee:** It was cold and Justin's out of town, so I was alone. Like the girls were asleep. So like I was alone, I didn't want to go outside and burn something by myself.

**Taylor:** Well, you are in Appalachia, so you know, going out on a full moon and setting things on fire, you might invite something.

**Sydnee:** It's, well, I also, I try—so we are in Appalachia. And sometimes the like, all the—there's a lot of folk legends about, if you're listening and you don't know this, about being outside in the Appalachian Mountains after dark. And the do's and don'ts.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I will say that there are times where I am outside after dark here, especially, I mean, really, just alone, where I hear things. And then I decide I need to stay inside for now.

**Taylor:** Mm-hm. The Appalachian Mountains aren't evil. It's just that they're so old that they predate god. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** They do. The Appalachian Mountains are older than the ocean. This is a truth. That's a truth! That's a truth I just said.

**Taylor:** I learned that from you. You told me that. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. They're so old. I cannot stress how old they are. And I don't know what wild magic exists in these mountains that predates our understanding of reality. I don't know. Anyway, sometimes I get freaked out. So last night, I was too freaked out to stand in the light of the full moon

for longer than a few seconds. Like I stood in the light of the full Hunter Moon long enough to put my bowl of water out. [chuckles] And then I rushed inside. Lest the Skinwalkers sense me. [titters]

**Taylor:** Please don't say that word.

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** You know how they get you, you know what they say?

**Taylor:** What?

**Sydnee:** Hey.

**Taylor:** That's what they do, actually!

**Sydnee:** Yes!

**Taylor:** They do.

**Sydnee:** I know! I shouldn't start the podcast that way, because then people will think I'm trying to trick them. If you hear that, listen, if you're out in the Appalachian Mountains—

**Taylor:** It's not Sydnee. It's not a podcast. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's not a podcaster.

**Taylor:** It is not a podcast—well...

**Sydnee:** And you can't answer. You can't answer.

**Taylor:** Okay, but Syd—

**Sydnee:** That's the trick.

**Taylor:** A weird concentration of podcasters are in the Appalachian Mountains, so it could be a podcaster.

[group laugh]

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** But still, don't... knowing enough of us, still don't answer. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Don't answer.

**Taylor:** No, you don't want to be a part of that.

**Sydnee:** Nah-uh. No... But yeah, it's a rule! Like if you're out after dark and you hear, "Hey," don't say anything back. Because they can't get you if you don't answer.

**Taylor:** You know, I wish as a child—because, I mean, you know I was the most scared child.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm.

**Taylor:** I wish I had had like—now like the cultural awareness like, "Ha-ha," you know the TikTokers like, "Oh, we live in the Appalachians. They're kind of spooky sometimes." And it's just like we all understand this. I wish I'd had that comforting knowledge as a child, because I just felt insane for how afraid I was. Like, oh, there's just sounds outside that are terrifying. That's just normal growing up stuff, right? That's just adolescents. [chuckles] Sometimes there are demonic entities from beyond the veil.

**Sydnee:** Do you remember the... Tales from the Lilac Bush, or whatever?

**Taylor:** No?

**Sydnee:** The collection of folk horror film—horror stories, not horror films, horror stories, scary stories. That is Appalachian specific.

**Taylor:** Oh? I would love to read that. I remember you reading it, but I didn't—I never did.

**Sydnee:** Is that what it was called? Let me make sure I get that title right. But that was—I mean, like there is a long... I kept wanting to say the Telltale Lilac Bush, but that's The Tell-Tale Heart.

**Taylor:** That's The Tell-Tale Heart.

**Sydnee:** And that's not—it is the Telltale Lilac Bush.

**Taylor:** Oh?

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

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Ruth Ann Musick, The Telltale Lilac Bush and Other West Virginia Ghost Tales. I will tell you. I read that as a kid. I read it multiple times. It's scary. [titters] And apparently there was a sequel, Coffin Hollow and Other Ghost Tales. But it dates back to '65, that's how old it is. And I would recommend it. I remember there was one of them that was about the couple in it, that the horror story focused on, were named Tom and Mary. And that really messed me up. That's the name of our parents.

**Taylor:** So it was autobiographical? [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I was like, "Why are our parents in this story?" But yeah, I found some mantras to repeat. So, I said some mantras.

**Taylor:** You said last night during the moon?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I did too, but in a very pop culture adjacent way. I was listening to music, and Jimmy Eat World's The Middle came on.



**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Taylor:** And I was like, this is a mantra. This is an invocation that sounds really stupid, but listen to the lyrics. It's really positive. And I like put it on a few times and just like sang along while I was, I don't know, making a cosplay jacket at four o'clock in the morning.

**Sydnee:** I will defend that song any day.

**Taylor:** It's a great song!

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

**Taylor:** If you want to do a witchy ritual, but you don't know a chant, just sing the songs of Jimmy Eat World. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** It is a good song. I like that song. I have seen Jimmy eat World in concert in my life. I do not regret it. I enjoyed it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So, I'm with you. It is a good—it is a good song. Well, I think your cosplay is gonna look great.

**Taylor:** I'm very excited.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. What did you—

**Taylor:** I'm just excited to have a knife. I don't—that's a weird thing to say out loud.

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Taylor:** I said that on the internet.... Well, I made a cool knife. I've got a cool jacket. It's gonna be great.

**Sydnee:** I have multiple knives in my multi tools that I have.

**Taylor:** Yeah, well this is a fake knife.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Made out of foam.

**Sydnee:** Would you like to share what you cosplayed as yesterday?

**Taylor:** Yes, I was Astarion from Baldur's Gate 3. And I actually had a friend that had a photo pass to get some photos with the cast of Baldur's Gate 3. So I actually got a photo as Astarion with the real Astarion, Neil Newbon. Which was really cool.

**Sydnee:** That's awesome. That's very cool.

**Taylor:** That's very cool.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, those are great pictures. I know mom and I were looking at them, and mom was like, "Ah, Taylor is so incredible. This looks so cool. Who is this?"

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** And I was like, "Mom, I'm gonna be honest, this is a moment where—"

**Taylor:** I think she thought I was Lestat. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Well, I said, "I don't know either, but—so don't feel bad. We're both out of touch." [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Your husband would know.

**Sydnee:** Justin would know. Justin would know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. For sure.

**Teylor:** Yeah. It's a very popular video game. I got everything to make that cosplay last year, but I was so busy at work that this is the first time I've had to actually use all of the fabric and stuff that I bought. That one I spent some time on. I made that in two days. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** When you told me it was from Baldur's Gate, I was like, oh, okay, I understand what that means. But I just haven't played it.

**Teylor:** I know you would enjoy it, and I know exactly what character you'd like the most. But that's a different conversation.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Teylor:** There's a very cool lady who's like big and muscly and energetic and fiery, and her name is Karlach. And I'm like, I don't know if Sydnee would romance Karlach or want to be Karlach, but both would be true probably.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm.

**Teylor:** Yeah. It's very a you character.

**Sydnee:** That's the tough part, Tey, about being bisexual, is that you're never really sure. [titters]

**Teylor:** I just lean into it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** I don't know why I... I cosplay characters that I'm just like either.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** Fine.

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, you're being Rio and that—I mean, obviously Rio is an incredible character. I feel the same way about Agatha, Frankly. I'm not sure. Do I want to be Kathryn Hahn in that character? Like, am I like—

**Taylor:** I don't think you need to finish that like, "Do I want to be Kathryn Hahn?" Like, that's the—

**Sydnee:** Well, yes.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Do I want to be Agatha or do I want to marry Agatha? I'm not sure.

**Taylor:** Even after all of her sins?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Okay. Well, this leads into I think our discussion this week, right?

**Sydnee:** I think it does, I think it does, we—so there is a TikTok trend, if you're not familiar with it, where people are making Hear Me Out Cakes. I feel like the concept of Hear Me Out, I mean, it's somewhat self-explanatory. But just in case it's not, because it took me a while to explain this to our mom.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** You tried to explain a Hear Me Out Cake to mom?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Oh, and I have a couple suggestions for mom that I'd like to share.

**Taylor:** Oh? Oh, no. Okay, all right.

**Sydnee:** [titters] So, here—so, the idea of Hear Me Out is that we all have characters or people or figures from books, TV shows, cartoons, whatever, from our lives, that we were—that we found attractive, that maybe wouldn't

be considered conventionally attractive. That's the general idea. And usually I think in this instance, you and I both leaned into sort of like coming of age kind of time for us.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like people that made us or characters that made us think like, what am I into?

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** And the idea on TikTok is that you will get together with a friend or your partner or whoever, a group of friends, it can be multiple people. And you'll kind of make like... like you'll print out pictures of these people or characters, tape them to a skewer or stick or you know, toothpick or whatever. And then you will put them in the top of a cake, one at a time.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And you don't have to explain, I don't think, right?

**Taylor:** You don't have to. I am assuming in this podcast format where we talk about things and explain things that we will be—[chuckles] or are we not? Are we just gonna say names and just giggle? [titters]

**Sydnee:** I think there will be some explanation needed. But that is the idea, we don't obviously have a cake. Or I mean you know, heck, I could lie to you and say I did have a cake. You'd never know, it's a podcast. But I don't—

**Taylor:** I thought about that, like I should have had a cake for this. Because I just would like an excuse to have a cake to myself.

**Sydnee:** [titters] We could have just each had a cake. But I don't have a cake, I'll be honest. But we do—we did put together our lists. I just wanted—do you want me to tell you what I was telling mom? First of all, she had a suggestion for me immediately.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm?

**Sydnee:** She said, "Oh, I know who your first one's gonna be." And I said, "Well, how? And who?" And she said, "Your first one's gonna be the Pillsbury Dough Boy."

**Taylor:** Oh, you were into him.

**Sydnee:** I was as—okay, but I think here's the problem—that's a great entry, by the way. That's a great Hear Me Out Cake entry.

**Taylor:** The... continue. I have a thought, but continue.

**Sydnee:** But I was into the Pillsbury Dough Boy when I was a child-child.

**Taylor:** Yeah, you were just a fan of the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

**Sydnee:** Yes, I just really loved the Pillsbury Dough Boy. This was not something that when I like went through puberty and began to understand like attraction, I was not attracted to the Pillsbury Dough Boy. [titters] I just really loved—and to this day—

**Taylor:** You don't wanna mooch the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

**Sydnee:** He makes me happy.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** See, I don't—and this is where I was like—I was trying to make my list and I'm like, I feel like this should be weirder. But then I also don't know if maybe it is very weird, it's just—because like that, like I'm like, oh, that's a, that's—that doesn't belong on a Hear Me Out Cake. Like, he has solid employment.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** He has baking skills. He, I mean, I don't know, like he seems like an upright gentleman to be attracted to. Like I don't—

**Sydnee:** He's made of dough.

**Taylor:** And some people, I don't know, are... butt heads.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like everybody's got their issues. Like everybody's got something that, you know... we're all flawed individuals. Some of us, I don't know, lie on our taxes. Some of us are made of dough. Everybody has something.

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** I think though, also, wasn't Dough Boy supposed to be a play on like—that's when you're in the military too, right?

**Taylor:** Wait, what?

**Sydnee:** Dough boys?

**Taylor:** I don't know what that—I don't—I am—if there was some sort of grading system on people that are the furthest from understanding the military, I am the farthest end of that.

**Sydnee:** Okay, cavalry men use the term 'dough boys' to deride foot soldiers, because the brass buttons on their uniforms look like the flower dumplings or dough cakes.

**Taylor:** Are you telling me that the Pillsbury Dough Boy was inspired by that?

**Sydnee:** Well, I—

**Taylor:** That he's meant to be some sort of foot soldier? Some sort of... some fodder for the front lines? That's a tragic turn to the story of the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

**Sydnee:** This is what I'm saying, like I thought his hat and his little...

**Taylor:** I think he's just a baker—

**Sydnee:** Neckerchief. Well...

**Taylor:** He's wearing a baker's hat?

**Sydnee:** But what about the little neckerchief?

**Taylor:** Bakers can wear a neckerchief.

**Sydnee:** [titters] I didn't know if Dough Boy was a play on—I mean like, are they playing on the term... Though, I mean, he's made of dough, he's a boy. But also, are they playing on the military term dough boy? Like is he involved in the US military? I just feel like I need to know before I would decide whether or not—

**Taylor:** Okay, so Sydnee has invented Pillsbury Doughboy lore.

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Taylor:** There's an AO3 account out there under a pseudo name. Under Lenore. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I just need to know—

**Taylor:** Sydnee's epic wartime fan fiction about the Pillsbury Dough Boy is what I'm gathering from this conversation.

**Sydnee:** I'm not judging either way. I just, I would want—I would want to have that conversation about, you know, sort of the military industrial complex as it relates to Dough Boy.



**Taylor:** All right, so that's a fair concern before you decide if you are attracted to the Pillsbury Dough Boy, yeah.

**Sydnee:** The other two that mom put out there for herself, once she got over like, "Here's something for you," and I was like, "Whoa, okay." For herself were Prue, from Great British Bake Off.

**Taylor:** That's not a...

**Sydnee:** And I said, "Mom, that's just an adult woman."

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's just a cool adult woman.

**Sydnee:** And then Forky! [titters]

**Taylor:** Huh?

**Sydnee:** From Toy Story!

**Taylor:** From like the newer Toy Story?

**Sydnee:** Yes. Forky!

**Taylor:** Well, okay...

**Sydnee:** How are you—how are you like actual adult human woman, Prue from Great British Bake Off, and Forky?

**Taylor:** The... spork.

**Sydnee:** The spork.

**Taylor:** Hm...

**Sydnee:** Anyway.

**Taylor:** I don't want—because it's our mom, I don't want to talk about that anymore. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I didn't want to talk about it either. I just wanted to throw it out there as like, I explained to mom—it took a while to explain the Hear Me Out Cake. And then like Charlie wanted to play.

**Taylor:** Ah, no.

**Sydnee:** And I was like, "You can't. You actually can't." And I mean, to be fair, like she was mainly just like, "Here are cute people that—" You know, whatever. And like, yes, that's fine. You can find those people cute. [chuckles] Cooper was just naming kids in her class and I was like, "No, this is not—this is not—you guys are missing this." We should not have had this conversation when mom and I were in the front seat of the car, and the girls were in the back seat of the car, and they could hear us. [titters]

**Taylor:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** But our Hear Me Out Cake...

**Taylor:** All right.

**Sydnee:** Do you want to go first, or do you want me to go first?

**Taylor:** Well, you at least presented the Pillsbury Dough Boy. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** And conflicting appeal. But I want to—I've mentioned this before years ago on the podcast, but it was the first fictional character that I was like, that's hot, and I don't think that's correct that I think it's hot. And so I'm gonna bring it back.

**Sydnee:** Okay?

**Taylor:** Balto, the animated dog.

**Sydnee:** I mean...

**Taylor:** It was a handsome dog.

**Sydnee:** He was a very handsome dog.

**Taylor:** He was heroic and athletic, and committed to his job.

**Sydnee:** I don't think that's a big stretch. He saves sick kids.

**Taylor:** I mean, it is a dog, Syd. It's a cartoon dog. Like specifically because I know that Balto is based on a real story. I'm talking specifically about the animated film. But...

**Sydnee:** Yes. Oh, I think it's important, if a character has been represented in different ways in different media, it's important that you know which one we're talking about.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** He had that little like kind of scruff. Like he kind of like had a... you know?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I can't follow you for that one. I mean, he is a dog.

**Taylor:** I mean, I felt weird about that for a long time, so I figured the best way to work through that is to declare it on a, you know, a podcast that anyone and everyone could listen to. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** But that's—but I think that's tough about animals in movies. And that's why like before we started this, we had gone ahead and said like we don't need to talk about Robin Hood as a fox in the animated version, because everybody thought he was hot. Right? Like everybody did. And we don't need to talk about Gadget the mouse, because everybody thought she

was hot. And we are giving, like as we say that we're like, everybody thought this fox and this mouse were attractive, right?

**Taylor:** Did they?

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Taylor:** Did they?

**Sydnee:** Did they?

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

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I mean...

**Taylor:** I don't know! I mean, I guess the line is, is that both of those are like... like they're kind of humanoid animated characters that have animalistic features. Balto is a dog. In that movie he's a dog.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** Like that's—he is a dog.

**Sydnee:** It's tough though, because like you could put up a whole picture—like you could put up a picture of the entire Rescue Rangers cast and I would be like, I mean... maybe, yeah. Just different, I mean just you know, like Chip and Dale.

**Taylor:** Hm... yeah.

**Sydnee:** Monterey Jack? Yeah, Monterey Jack.

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

**Sydnee:** Yeah, Monterey Jack.

**Taylor:** I would say, if I was gonna rank the... [chuckles] the Rescue Rangers cast in order of attraction—

**Sydnee:** Gadget number one.

**Taylor:** Gadget, I'd say then Monterey Jack. I'd say then Dale.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I'd put Chip over Dale.

**Taylor:** Mm-mm, well, that's... we're different people. That's all right. But Dale every day. We can't—I can't bring the fly into it. I don't know why that's the line.

**Sydnee:** I was about to—

[group laugh]

**Sydnee:** I was about to say what about Zipper? Where did Zipper go?  
[chuckles]

**Taylor:** Hm... [titters] But that's a pet. I don't know why that makes sense, but Zipper's a pet.

**Sydnee:** Zipper's a pet. The others are not.

**Taylor:** Hm, but Balto is not. I don't... this is only gonna get weirder from here. All right.

**Sydnee:** That's like, I'll start off with something that I felt was more vanilla. Because some like—I know, I was really trying. And like some of them, I—maybe this is really obvious. You know the movie Dark Crystal?

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** The Gelflings.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah! Wait, you have just all Gelflings as a—

**Sydnee:** No, the two lead Gelflings.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** I don't remember their names. The girl and the guy.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Especially the girl, like more so. But those two like in my head were like so beautiful. And I just—yeah, that was—yeah.

**Taylor:** But Gelflings are like—I mean, they're puppets. [titters] But they're like hot elf puppets, basically.

**Sydnee:** But they're not... I mean, they're elf, but not like—

**Taylor:** Like elven.

**Sydnee:** They're elven, but I don't think they're meant to be—you know how like a lot of elf—like if you think of elves in like Lord of the Rings, they're just like humans with pointy ears really, right?

**Taylor:** Well, I mean, I guess it depends on what else, because some of those elves are ethereal beings. [titters]

**Sydnee:** Well, but they look basically like humanoid.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The Gelflings don't look exactly humanoid.

**Taylor:** No, but like they have exaggerated elven features, I feel like.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, they do. I mean, they're definitely elf related.

**Taylor:** The way that the like, the faces like point kind of forward and like the whole nose-mouth situation. I don't know why it's hot, but it is.

**Sydnee:** [titters] It is. And it's all—their faces are so smooth.

**Taylor:** So smooth.

**Sydnee:** Because they're puppets.

**Taylor:** Because they're made out of felt.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Because they're made out of felt. Just want a nice felty... felty man or woman to make out with.

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** Just that felty face looks really hot.

**Taylor:** That's what like when I'm like trying to find a mate, I'm like, how smooth are they? [chuckles] Are they smooth like felt?

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Do they have a consistent texture to all of their features? Into it!

**Sydnee:** Smooth like felt.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] I think that'll get you a diagnosis of some kind.

**Sydnee:** I'm gonna tell Justin that next time he shaves and say, "Ooh, your face is smooth like felt." [chuckles] And see what happens.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** "What?"

**Taylor:** I think he'll just stare at you in bewilderment.

**Sydnee:** [titters] "Feel my leg. It's smooth like felt."

**Taylor:** [chuckles] No, but that's fair. The Because they're made out of felt Gelflings I think are designed to be attractive.

**Sydnee:** I think so.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Taylor:** All right, am I up?

**Sydnee:** Go for it, yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** The scary air conditioner from The Brave Little Toaster.

**Sydnee:** The scary air conditioner?

**Taylor:** Because he sounds like Christian Slater, and he's got anger issues, and he's hot.

**Sydnee:** He is hot.

**Taylor:** He's an air conditioner, but he's hot.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** I love a tragic character, and he's very tragic. Like I want to fix it. I want to get in there with my tools, and I want to fix him.

**Sydnee:** You want to fix him?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, because he's broken.

**Taylor:** Yeah.



**Sydnee:** Yeah. Okay.

**Taylor:** He sounds like—

**Sydnee:** This is—

**Taylor:** Like I don't know, like he gives a scary psychopath monolog, but he's just... he's just sad because he's stuck in a wall.

**Sydnee:** Right, he can't go anywhere.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** This is so telling, because I also have a character from The Brave Little Toaster.

**Taylor:** [chuckles] Okay. Who's your character in The Brave Little Toaster?

**Sydnee:** The radio.

**Taylor:** Wow! Of course! I say of course, I'm like, yeah, that's like, Justin. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well yeah, that's what I was like—[chuckles] that makes sense that I like Justin because of the radio. I like the radio. But you like the air conditioner that's tragic and stuck on the wall.

**Taylor:** Well, I went back and forth. Because I like the—I mean, in this context of like, but who would you like go out to dinner with? I like the air conditioner. I guess that's my like, that's my bad boy choice. And then I also like the... the... oh my gosh.

**Sydnee:** The vacuum cleaner?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** How did you know that's what I was gonna say? [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** That would be my second to the radio.

**Teylor:** The vacuum cleaner is like the stable like, that's the, you know.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** Kind of the gruff like Harrison Ford type character, you know.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Teylor:** He's got a heart of gold, but he's little rough around the edges. The air conditioner, he's a... he's a loose cannon. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Why is it—why is it so clear though that the toaster is a child? And that's not—

**Teylor:** No, the toaster is a child, the blanket is a child.

**Sydnee:** The toaster and the blanket are children.

**Teylor:** The lamp, I would be friends with. But the lamp—

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Teylor:** And like I say this is a trans—

**Sydnee:** I'm not attracted to the lamp—

**Teylor:** I was like, I know the lamp is gay in a way that he's not attracted to me. And I can't explain that further.

[group laugh]

**Sydnee:** You're gay in that way, the way that you're not attracted to me.

**Taylor:** Yeah, like I don't—

**Sydnee:** That way.

**Taylor:** Like I'm respecting the lamp's boundaries, I guess.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. But I don't think the lamp would be into me either, so I don't know...

**Taylor:** Right?

**Sydnee:** Who is the lamp into then? I'm not into the lamp.

**Taylor:** No one's in—well, I don't—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Somebody's into the lamp.

**Taylor:** Somebody's into the lamp. The lamp will find his person, but...

**Sydnee:** Whatever it is, some—there's always a lamp and someone into it. Someone is always into the lamp. That is a rule of life.

**Taylor:** [titters] Hey, out there, someone's gonna be into the lamp.

**Sydnee:** Don't give up hope.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Hey, listen, if you're the lamp, if you're feeling like the lamp right now, somebody's into you, trust me.

[group laugh]

**Sydnee:** I love that we both have Brave Little Toaster references.

**Taylor:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Wow, the radio...

**Sydnee:** Okay, I had one that I—or is it your turn? Wait, it's your turn.

**Taylor:** Oh, is it? Okay.

**Sydnee:** Because I threw in the radio.

**Taylor:** Well, that's all right. I mean, that was the same property, so you go ahead.

**Sydnee:** Okay. Well, this is not... I don't know if this is weird, but this is not someone that you can visualize. I was thinking like it's good we don't have a cake because there's—this is a character from a book.

**Taylor:** You are attracted to a concept? Oh, a character from a book.  
[chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Well, it is—I mean, I've never seen a visual depiction of this character.

**Taylor:** I am attracted to the inevitable entropy of the universe.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** What are you talking about? Honestly, yes, but—

**Sydnee:** I do have something on my list that's kind of like that, but the... Okay, the character from *The Secret Garden*, Dickon.

**Taylor:** Okay, I don't think I ever read *The Secret Garden*. You're gonna have to educate me.

**Sydnee:** Okay, so there's Mary, is the main character. And her parents die, and so she has to move in with her rich, reclusive uncle. And she's kind of left all alone there. And she's kind of like crappy at first, kind of like mean and contrary. And then anyway, she starts wandering the grounds, she finds a garden that's walled in. And she gets in, and it's a secret garden. There

you go. Secret. But she starts—she wants to bring this garden back to life. And in doing so, she like reminds her reclusive uncle to love again, and helps her cousin, Colin, who's bedridden in the house. And anyway, that's all part of it. But the point is, there's a boy who lives in the village named Dickon, who's like kind of a wild boy. He's like—

**Taylor:** His name's Dickon?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. He's like, he's a human boy, but he kind of has like some sort of mythological creature qualities to him. He doesn't, but like that's the way—like the way that he is portrayed in the book, he knows how to grow things. And he knows about the land and the earth, and he's in touch with the natural world in a way that Mary is not. And so he teaches Mary about all these things, and teaches her how to grow her garden and plant things and bring it to life. And this character in this book was so important to me for so long.

And I don't know—I mean, I have a picture of him in my head, but I've never seen a depiction. But like, I had so many fantasies about running away with Dickon as a young woman. I had so many ideas that like someday Dickon will find me, and we will go grow gardens together. And Dickon will teach me how to grow gardens. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** That is a very obscure reference, but I feel like that is very logical too. Like that makes sense.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** That sounds like a man with admirable traits.

**Sydnee:** Yes. So not too weird, except that he is a fictional character in a book, and I do not have a visual depiction of him to share with you.

**Taylor:** Hm, all right.

**Sydnee:** But the concept of Dickon.

**Taylor:** See, I didn't have it on my list, but as you say that like an obscure literary character, that makes me think like I had a weird fixation. Do you remember A Separate Peace?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Finny was a character that I was weirdly like obsessed with. Which to be fair, it makes sense in retrospect, because A Separate Piece is a little bit like there's some homoerotic subtext there with the two main male leads.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** But you know, like another tragic character that I like—

**Sydnee:** There you go. I know, you do love the tragic characters.

**Taylor:** I do. I could fix Finny. And an air conditioner. All right, I'm gonna go—

**Sydnee:** Who else are you gonna fix?

**Taylor:** This one, I mean, this—there's no defense for this. But I do think there is a defense, actually. Hexxus from FernGully.

**Sydnee:** Hexxus?

**Taylor:** Of course!

**Sydnee:** Which form of Hexxus, I think is the main—

**Taylor:** The hot one that sings with Tim Curry's voice.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm. Okay, not when he's like the gloopy, oily—

**Taylor:** I mean...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You know, the gloop is... glooping.

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** I mean, because eventually Hexxus becomes like a big muscle man.

**Taylor:** Yeah, but I don't I think—I think he's kind of hot. He's a little gloopy—

**Sydnee:** When he's gloopy?

**Taylor:** He's hot in a way, I don't know... But that definitely, definitely—and then I realized that like I was like, well, I was—I put like Hexxus and Pennywise on my list. And like this just—it's Tim Curry. It's anything Tim Curry. Because Tim Curry does-

**Sydnee:** Pennywise?

**Taylor:** Did that feel—because I avoided most horror characters, because there are enough people that are into monster characters that I feel like it's pedestrian.

**Sydnee:** But Pennywise?

**Taylor:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Sydnee:** But Pennywise specifically is a scary clown?

**Taylor:** Yeah? Yes...

**Sydnee:** That's so scary...

**Taylor:** But if he was your boo, you'd be safe.

**Sydnee:** [titters] I mean, I guess I get Michael Myers.

**Taylor:** Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, back up. You get Michael Myers, but you question my Pennywise? Explain why you get Michael Myers.

**Sydnee:** I mean, he's in that very practical sort of jumpsuit thing.

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's why? His practical jumpsuit?

**Sydnee:** He's hardy, he's very strong. I mean, he just keeps coming back.

**Taylor:** I don't know, I think if we're gonna argue for practical jumpsuits and strength, we'd go with Jason. Because Jason, Jason has a tragic backstory. Jason's just a sweet little boy that was neglected.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** See, I left all horror monsters off my list because I was just like, well, everybody knows these people are hot.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, like when you're talking classic horror monsters, like Dracula, Frankenstein, werewolf, obviously.

**Taylor:** Yeah, those are all hot.

**Sydnee:** Right?

**Taylor:** Too hot.

**Sydnee:** All hot.

**Taylor:** Too hot to belong on the cake.

**Sydnee:** The Mummy?

**Taylor:** No, no...

**Sydnee:** No... I wouldn't put the Mummy on the cake.

**Taylor:** No, I wouldn't put the mummy on the cake.



**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** If you listen and put the Mummy on the cake, that's all right, we won't judge you.

**Sydnee:** Now everyone from the movie Mummy doesn't—they don't need to go on the cake. But like we'd all agree—

**Taylor:** That's on the obvious choice cake.

**Sydnee:** Yes, everyone from the movie The Mummy where you're like, oh, god, I don't know what my sexuality is anymore. It's all of this. My sexuality is all of this. [titters]

**Taylor:** But Hexxus definitely—

**Sydnee:** But Hexxus! [chuckles]

**Taylor:** And I don't know, Pennywise as played—but the problem is Pennywise as played by Tim Curry, deep down I know it's Tim Curry, so it's hot. And then the modern Pennywise was played by... one of the hot—all the Skarsgård's are hot. I forget which one.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** My favorite one. I like the one with the sad eyes.

**Sydnee:** He does have sad eyes.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And he's hot too.

**Sydnee:** He is hot. Yeah.

**Taylor:** I could fix him too. I'll fix Pennywise.

**Sydnee:** The Skarsgård's are hot.

**Taylor:** They're all just a different breed.

**Sydnee:** Yeah... Is the Northman a Skarsgård? He's a Skarsgård.

**Taylor:** Mm-hm. Yes.

**Sydnee:** The Northman.

**Taylor:** Yeah, you like the—you like the beefier Skarsgård.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I just, I loved him in True Blood. And then he did that movie where he was just like an angry Viking.... oh, man. Anyway. Okay, okay, Hexxus, I—that, I—if somebody had said that like, "I bet Tey puts Hexxus on the list," I'd be like, yeah, okay, yeah, that makes sense. I didn't see Pennywise coming.

**Taylor:** Well, I was scared of clowns as a kid, and then I realized it was a confused attraction. That's all I'll say about that. Go ahead. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** I feel like this is too obvious as I'm thinking about it, but then I don't know, maybe it's not. You know... [titters] in the movie version of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe?

**Taylor:** Okay?

**Sydnee:** Mr. Tumnus.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is that everybody?

**Taylor:** Well, no, I'm sure it's not.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** I don't think it's *everybody*. [chuckles] But that is a hat—a hot half goat man... What is he?

**Sydnee:** It's the half goat thing I feel like probably throws some people. Not me, clearly.

**Taylor:** I thought you were gonna say like Turkish delight, because I had an unnatural attraction to the description of Turkish delight in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** No, don't get, I—okay, I think that, what you were describing, is universal. I think—

**Taylor:** Is it? All right.

**Sydnee:** I think it's—well, okay, no, I shouldn't say universal. I think for those of us who grew up in a country where Turkish delight was not something... like there were no stores here that sold Turkish delight. There was no internet, so you couldn't order it online. You couldn't even really—I didn't know what it was, other than the depiction in the book and then in the movie. Because I couldn't Google it, there was no Google. So, what is Turkish delight? It looks incredible. It sounds incredible. Yeah, until I actually—I didn't even ever try it until I was in college and I was in England. And I got to finally try Turkish delight.

**Taylor:** Did it live up to your standards?

**Sydnee:** No. [laughs] I'm sorry, if there's somebody out there who's like—okay, I think there's different flavors, is my understanding?

**Taylor:** There are. And I feel like this sounds pretentious; when I was in Turkey, we went to a market where they were making fresh Turkish delight. And that lived up to what I was expecting. That I just wanted something soft and sweet and flavorful, and the texture was so smooth. But like, I don't know. I had a very good experience with Turkish delight. I think it depends on if it's fresh or if it's packaged.

**Sydnee:** I'm sure that make, you're—I'm sure you're right, that makes a difference. Is it—was yours rose flavored?

**Taylor:** I did have the rose flavored one.

**Sydnee:** I think that's the traditional, and I think part of it is that I don't know that I enjoy rose flavor.

**Taylor:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** But that was the, that's the—and I, we like—there were three of us there together, and we were all like kids raised on those books. And so we were like, "Oh my god! Here's Turkish delight!" And we each bought like one piece of rose flavored Turkish delight. And all took a bite and then went, "Oh..." [titters]

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** "Oh..." [titters]

**Taylor:** [That's so sweet??]. But I agree, Mr. Tumnus, I agree. But also, obvious. Is it obvious? Maybe we are just way out in left field with all of our choices.

**Sydnee:** It might be too—well, and let me just, let me just—because I was worried it would be too obvious, let me just layer on that. As I was thinking about other things that might be too obvious, is Jambi too obvious, from Pee Wee's Playhouse?

**Taylor:** Wait, who is he?

**Sydnee:** Jambi is the head in the box.

**Taylor:** Oh, no, I don't think that's too obvious.

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** Because initially I was thinking about—

**Taylor:** We went from like a hot but like slightly anamorphic like character to a head in a box. So, you know.

**Sydnee:** I was thinking about Miss Yvonne.

**Taylor:** Sure, obvious.

**Sydnee:** And like, yeah, that's too obvious. Miss Yvonne, obviously. And then I was like, but Jambi... That would—from the show, I mean... [chuckles]

**Taylor:** What about—[titters] what are the characteristics that drew you to Jambi?

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, he's got an—I know he's, like he's a blue head, but like—

**Taylor:** Okay. Well, sure.

**Sydnee:** He has lovely features. And he's very smart. [titters] And he can do magic. And he always seems to like, know what's going on, like on a level that even Pee Wee doesn't really know what's going on. And then also, when the box is closed, he's just in it. Like his—I mean like the—he's just a head in a closed box. And he must be so chill to be okay with that. Like...

**Taylor:** Or like living in existential horror.

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] Well, he doesn't seem to—I mean, maybe he is. He seems—I mean, I'm thinking like he's just so zen. Like he's reached a level of peace and tranquility within himself that he can just be this head in a box. And when the doors close he's just like, I don't know, meditating.

**Taylor:** Seems like a horrifying existence.

**Sydnee:** I think I need that kind of chill. I would need that kind of balance. Like, you're very chill, this is good. [chuckles] I'm a lot of—

**Taylor:** That's a great—that's a great like first date question. Like if I put your head in a box and you were left in total darkness and isolation—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** With no free will to move about, how would you respond?

**Sydnee:** Just let me know.

**Taylor:** [in a silly voice] Metaphorically.

**Sydnee:** What else do you have?

**Taylor:** [laughs] Okay... I don't know, I don't think this one's controversial. But I do think this is one that like... like I think it makes total sense. We were talking about Agatha All Along. And to me, one of the hottest witches to ever exist is Ursula.

**Sydnee:** Okay. I would say it's not too common. Like I think it's fair to include Ursula. But I see it.

**Taylor:** I mean, I... she's powerful.

**Sydnee:** She's attractive, yeah.

**Taylor:** She like, does herself up, right? Her makeup is always on point. She's got good hair. She gives good face.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Taylor:** Does what she wants to do. I mean, if anything, Ariel could have taken a lesson from Ursula. Like, you don't have to do all this, you could just go for what you want.

**Sydnee:** Just go get what you want. Yeah, I mean, it's very true like—and that, she clearly like takes care of herself. Like you know, and that's a—that can be an attractive quality, somebody who takes that much time to like present themselves.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And she—it's established that she has the ability to shape shift. Like she, you know—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hm.

**Taylor:** Takes on the visage. Vanessa, no. Not into Vanessa. Vanessa's basic. The woman that she—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You know, it's—

**Sydnee:** Vanessa's basic.

**Taylor:** And she—I think Ursula knows that. Because at the end of the day, Ursula goes back to being Ursula, because that is her at her best.

**Sydnee:** That is very empowering.

**Taylor:** She's a confident woman. Confident evil merwitch.

**Sydnee:** Yes, confident and evil. And also like whatever sort of societal like body standards... be darned. I almost said the other word. Darned.

**Taylor:** [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** She is her best self, the way she looks, you know, as a squid.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's true. That's very empowering.

**Taylor:** I will be an Ursula defender all day. [titters]

**Sydnee:** I have several more, but I'll be quick. And I'll just—one, I don't know that anybody's gonna get this reference but you. But do you remember the Troll doll that I had that was dressed as a teeny?

**Taylor:** [chortles]

**Sydnee:** She had like a little—

**Taylor:** What?!

**Sydnee:** She had these little, shiny pink like, kind of like—

**Taylor:** You were—

**Sydnee:** Pants. And a little pink, shiny bra. And—

**Taylor:** They are like physical—like characters that are out in the ether of entertainment, it's one thing. You're talking about a physical Troll doll you had?

**Sydnee:** Yes, a physical Troll doll.

**Taylor:** That you looked at on your shelf and went, "Uh-oh."

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] She had—

**Taylor:** [chortles]

**Sydnee:** She had a like, it was like—she's was like Genie troll, but it was kind of a harem girl inspired outfit, is what it looked like.

**Taylor:** I know exactly the troll you're talking about.

**Sydnee:** And she had hot pink hair. And she... this troll doll top, it was like a little bikini top, like bra top kind of thing, was her top that she wore. It had boobs in it.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I remember that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It had the boobs in it. Like, if you took it off, the troll didn't have boobs.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** They were sewn into the bra.



**Teylor:** So you were into this troll doll?

**Sydnee:** [chuckles] I just thought... I just... Who else do you have? [laughs]

**Teylor:** You're leaving it there?! All right. You know what? Not gonna question it. I had—I don't think you would know it. Well, maybe you would. Do you remember the... it was a very specific like cartoon of Sonic the Hedgehog that was on in the '90s.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Teylor:** I think that the guy that was Urkel did the voice of Sonic?

**Sydnee:** Oh, yeah? Oh, I didn't know that.

**Teylor:** But not Sonic, Sally. Princess Sally.

**Sydnee:** Oh, yeah, okay?

**Teylor:** She knew what—I guess a similar vibe. She was smart, she knew what she wanted. She was kind of the level head.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** Princess Sally was kind of a Princess Leia. Princess Leia would be on my obvious Choice Cake, but Princess Sally, it's another animal too, I'm aware of.

**Sydnee:** [titters]

**Teylor:** Animal-esque.

**Sydnee:** They're all—well, I also will say—

**Teylor:** You got a troll. You got a troll. You had a troll. You had a troll.

**Sydnee:** I had a troll. And I was—

**Teylor:** You had a troll that you physically owned.

**Sydnee:** But I was trying to like stay away from—like, as I was going through my list, I was thinking of... I don't remember the character's name, but remember Christy Carlson Romano's character in Cadet Kelly.

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

**Sydnee:** Okay, but that—she's just, again, a lovely human woman. So that feels like very boring.

**Taylor:** Sure. Well, I mean, yeah. I guess there's a premise to Hear Me Out Cake that is like this character should be in some way unattractive, or you shouldn't be attracted to this.

**Sydnee:** Okay, and I have one. I have one to—this is my last one that I feel like fits this bill.

**Taylor:** All right.

**Sydnee:** I don't know, how many more do you have?

**Taylor:** I... we can end on this.

**Sydnee:** Because if you have one, go ahead.

**Taylor:** Grimace.

**Sydnee:** Grimace?

**Taylor:** He looks like he'd just be so—like you could just—[spoofs Grimace hugging sound] Agh. Just hug, just like—[spoofs Grimace hugging sound] Bwap.

**Sydnee:** [snickers]

**Taylor:** And he's got—

**Sydnee:** But...

**Taylor:** [titters]

**Sydnee:** But didn't the shake change anything for you?

**Taylor:** No, that actually made him more tragic. [titters] Because it was a birthday, and he just wanted people to celebrate his birthday. And everybody got sick from his shake.

**Sydnee:** Tey...

**Taylor:** That made me sad for him.

**Sydnee:** You just want a project so bad.

**Taylor:** I don't think I actually want to fix any of these people. I want to be like dangerous and broken with them. I think that's what I want.

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** But also, can you imagine hugging a Grimace?

**Sydnee:** I will say—

**Taylor:** Can you just imagine how warm and comforting that hug would be?

**Sydnee:** It would be. And I will say, if we're—

**Taylor:** And purple.

**Sydnee:** If we're restricting our choices—

**Taylor:** [whispers] So purple.

**Sydnee:** To the McDonald's family of characters, I would definitely take Grimace over Ronald. I would definitely take Grimace over the Hamburglar.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I would take grimace over Mayor McCheese.

**Taylor:** I think Grimace is the obvious choice.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I think—no, I think—

[group chuckle]

**Taylor:** I'm just saying, I feel as if I could lay down on the warmth of Grimace's purpleness and have all my sins forgiven. Go ahead with your choice.

**Sydnee:** Okay, this sounds like it starts obvious, but... Okay, Jeff Goldblum. Hold on.

**Taylor:** If it's The Fly...

**Sydnee:** In The Fly.

**Taylor:** [cackles]

**Sydnee:** After—

**Taylor:** I almost brought that up when we were talking about Zipper!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's like there's one attractive fly, and it's Jeff Goldblum. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Jeff Goldblum as The Fly. Now I will say, I would probably—

**Taylor:** Wait, what level of Cronenberg nightmare are you still attracted to?

**Sydnee:** I'm talking about before we get to the final—I don't know that I could take it all the way to the last fly—when he's like this—

**Taylor:** [laughs] Are you gonna take the whole fly? Like 70% fly, 30% man.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Because at the end he's like this sort of pathetic creature that's like, "Kill me!" You know? Like, he—you know?

[group chuckle]

**Sydnee:** And that's not—

**Taylor:** That's not my bag.

**Sydnee:** But when he's all like bubbly and bumpy...

**Taylor:** When he's bubbly?

**Sydnee:** [chuckles]

**Taylor:** When he's *bubbly*?!

**Sydnee:** It's still Jeff Goldblum under there!

**Taylor:** There were stages of Jeff Goldblum before that, that you could have stopped at.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, but those are obvious. I'm saying; how far could he go that I would still be like, "Eh, but it's Jeff Goldblum... Eh, it is Jeff Goldblum..."

**Taylor:** Wow, okay.

**Sydnee:** I can go pretty far into that. And I mean, I think that just shows how deeply I would love Jeff Goldblum. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** How much percentage of Jeff Goldblum do you still need to be around to love it? You're talking like a 10%?

**Sydnee:** I think I could—let's say 15. I could do 15.

**Taylor:** You want 15% Jeff Goldblum.

**Sydnee:** I need 15. [laughs] Give me 15% Jeff Goldblum.

**Taylor:** The rest of the DNA can be anything else. [titters]

**Sydnee:** It's just, it's a substandard tip of Jeff Goldblum is all I need.  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** That's fair. You know, I... this is not on my cake, and it's a little bit spoilery, but that movie, *The Substance*, is out now. Have you heard about that, with Demi Moore?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** It's similar, because it's kind of a body horror monster nightmare.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay?

**Taylor:** It's so good. I saw it last—I saw the other night. It was so good. But it relies on the premise that like, could Demi Moore ever not be attractive? And it kind of... I've learned that I can have 0.1% Demi Moore, and it's still hot. [titters]

**Sydnee:** Well, there we go. No, I know what you're saying. I think there are some—and I mean, I think we're talking about also celebrities that it's not just like how they—like they look. They're obviously very lovely to look at. But they've played characters that you're like, "Okay, well, I just... you know. Just gonna love you forever." There's nothing, you just, you couldn't make me not—well, no, you could make me not love you. Many celebrities have done that to me. But let's not get into that. [chuckles]

**Taylor:** Well, that's—I considered like Steve Buscemi, just because people don't consider him traditionally attractive. But like that would be an insult to Steve Buscemi. Because I think he is absurdly attractive. I will not put him on my Hear Me Out Cake, because he is so hot to me.

**Sydnee:** You know what so funny is when I told mom, the first thing she said was, "Well, Tey will put Steve Buscemi on his cake."

**Taylor:** Mm-hm, yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I said, no—I said, yes, we would agree, Steve Buscemi is very attractive. But that is why we would not—Taylor would not put Steve Buscemi on this cake.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** He's a firefighter. A volunteer firefighter. An upstanding citizen with beautiful, sad, wet eyes.

**Sydnee:** Well, I think we need cake now.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I would like cake now.

**Sydnee:** All right, well, I'm gonna go—I don't have any cake. And Justin's out of town, and he's the baker. It's very depressing.

**Taylor:** Oh, no... So your first love was the Pillsbury Dough Boy, and now you have a sweet man that bakes for you.

**Sydnee:** And he's not here.

**Taylor:** But you ended up—so if that's—if that comes full circle for me, then I just... mine was Balto.

**Sydnee:** So it's a dog.

**Taylor:** No...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Someone who is not a dog. I don't know. Anyway. [titters]

**Sydnee:** You know, a Golden Retriever is a whole... it's a whole concept there.

**Taylor:** That is a concept. I guess maybe that's it. Because I'm definitely the, whatever the other one is. The scary cat person, that's me. [titters]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. You need a Golden Retriever. Although Balto was a Siberian Husky.

**Taylor:** Just someone that would bring me desperate medical aid in a snowstorm, is what I'm looking for.

**Sydnee:** Tey... [titters] Well, in the meantime, I'll do that for you.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's just called my sister. [chuckles]

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you, listeners, for getting through our Hear Me Out Cake.

**Taylor:** I'm so sorry, I—this felt pedestrian, but maybe it wasn't. Maybe you're horrified. And if so—

**Sydnee:** Sorry.

**Taylor:** You're welcome.

**Sydnee:** You're welcome—

[group laugh]

**Sydnee:** You said, "You're welcome," I said sorry.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Join us next week. I'm sure there will be terrible things happening on TikTok to talk about.

**Taylor:** Always.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And some more spooky things to discuss.



**Taylor:** Got more spooky week to—spooky month to talk about it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, we do, we do. I don't know if we'll have to...

**Taylor:** We'll figure it out.

**Sydnee:** Okay, all right! We'll figure it out. All right, well, we will talk to you next week. Until then, you should go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), check out all the great shows there that you would 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.

**Taylor:** This has been Still Buffering, your cross generational guide to the culture that made us.

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

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

**Sydnee:** I am still buffering.

**Taylor:** And I am too.

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

**Sydnee:** See, it doesn't feel weird? Like the—I don't know. It's because we're mimicking Raleigh.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I always feel like I say it wrong. I might actually be saying it wrong.

**Sydnee:** No, you're fine. You're doing a great job.

**Taylor:** You too.

**Sydnee:** [titters] Thank you.

[break]

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**Jordan:** And I'm Jordan Morris!

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[break]

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