

Still Buffering 433: The Powerpuff Girls

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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: Uh, Tey, have you ever noticed that sometimes, *TikTok* decides to start showing you a movie?

Taylor: Yes! Yeah.

Sydnee: You know what I mean?

Taylor: Usually not in order, but yes.

Sydnee: Just, like, you start getting clips of the same movie, and you don't know why *that* movie... Sometimes it's like— Okay. Recently, *Gone With the Wind*...

Taylor: Oh, interesting!

Sydnee: ... happened to me. And, like, I like *Gone With the Wind*, and so I— I don't know how *TikTok* knew I liked *Gone With the Wind*. I don't think I've ever indicated that. I don't know if I've ever said that *publicly*.

I really like the book better. I really like the sequel, *Scarlett*. But anyway, I— [laughs]

I don't know why *TikTok* decided *Gone With the Wind*, but that sorta made sense. But then, other times, it doesn't... Like, *TikTok* keeps trying to show me *The Help*, again.

Taylor: [laughs] *TikTok* went through that phase on *my* phone, for a while.

Sydnee: Yeah. And I don't know why it— Like, I don't wanna watch *The Help* on *TikTok*.

Taylor: I got, I think, *all* of *The Devil Wears Prada*. 'Cause I kept getting clips of it.

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: Yep! And I kept thinking, "I'm just gonna watch the movie. I love that movie; I'm just gonna watch it." But I saw enough of it on *TikTok* that it was like, "No, no, no. I feel like my need was sated."

Sydnee: Yeah! *The Devil Wears Prada* happened. Um, *Erin Brockovich*?

Taylor: Oh. Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: That's one that *TikTok* tries to show me. The *Temple Grandin* movie with Claire Danes.

Taylor: The what?

Sydnee: The *Temple Grandin* movie about Temple Grandin?

Taylor: I don't know who that is.

Sydnee: It's a movie— So she is autistic, and revolutionized the way... like, created, like, cattle herding...

Taylor: Oh, yes!

Sydnee: ... things, and...

Taylor: Okay. I—

Sydnee: ... was a big outspoken advocate for the autistic community, and...

Anyway, Claire Danes plays her in a movie. I've never seen the movie, except I've seen a bunch of it on *TikTok*.

Taylor: Well, as you've started explaining it, I was like, "Oh, yeah. I've seen those clips on *TikTok*." Also, I have not seen the movie.

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: But I don't know why the movies... like, the movies that they— Or, um, *Mona Lisa Smile*. Why that?

Taylor: Julia Roberts is paying somebody to... to algorithm her... [chuckles] career. [laughing softly]

Sydnee: [laughs] I don't know what's happening! I'm just getting these— And I'm like, "Why is this the movie?" Like, I've seen the movie *The Help*. I don't need— I don't wanna watch it on *TikTok*. And so I scroll past 'em like, "No, not interested in watching this clip."

It's the same thing right now, with *Handmaid's Tale*. It keeps trying to show me *Handmaid's Tale*. I've never watched the show; I'm familiar. Like, I know the thing. I get it.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. [laughs] You hear the whole thing. The whole, like...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [joking] "I get the whole *gist*."

Sydnee: [laughs] I know what it's about! I don't know. It was one of those things where, like, everybody was watching it. And, sure, it definitely seems like something I should watch and would enjoy, but I just— Sometimes... I'm good. Sometimes, I'm like, "I— Mm. I can't engage with that, in my entertainment."

Taylor: Yeah, I— I watched the first maybe two seasons pretty religiously, and then it got to a point where— I don't think that show is made with insidious purposes, but it just felt too much like, "Do you want to watch another episode where women get horrifically tortured? Do you want to see that?" I'm like, no! I don't, actually.

I've gotten the point that that show is making, that women are treated horribly in this society. Women are treated horribly in the *real* world, too. I don't know if I need a show that just is all about that. Like, I...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I would like to get a wrap-up when these poor women finally are free. And maybe that, like, something bad happens to the bad men. And that one Serena Joy. She also deserves a bad ending.

But let me know when that happens, but I'm out. I'm checked out.

Sydnee: Yes. I'm the same way. I mean—

Well, and I have trouble, honestly— And I don't know, maybe I'm just old now. All the, like, zombie shows that are post-apocalyptic...

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't— ... There's a difference between a movie where, like, it ends - like, I watch the drama, I watch the zombies, and then it was over, and I don't have to think about it anymore. But like, I don't wanna return weekly to *dwell* on a post-apocalyptic, you know, terrifying world where I could be killed at any moment.

I don't wanna think about that every week, 'cause... Because maybe, for some people, it feels like that. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I was gonna say, that *is* what some of us are thinking of every week, just in general.

Sydnee: Right? [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I keep up with *The Last of Us*, because that is— I know the narrative that... I know it's limi— I mean, I'm assuming they're gonna stick to the games. But that is a rare exception for me, in the apocalyptic cinema world. Like, all of the— *The Walking Dead*, *The Walking Dead: Dead City*...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... *Still Dead*, *Still Walking*— I can't.

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: [laughs] *2 Dead 2 Walking*, [through laughter] I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughter rises]

Taylor: [laughing] I can't even tell you.

Sydnee: *2 Dead 2 Walking*! [laughs]

Taylor: *Dead Walking 2: Still Dead... Boogaloo*. I don't— I don't really wanna watch those.

Sydnee: I would watch *2 Dead 2 Walking*. That sounds like...

Taylor: [laughs] I mean... Starring Norman Reedus, maybe you got me. Maybe you got me.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: But I don't know...

Sydnee: Yeah... I just— I mean, I can watch drama. Like, I watched *Severance*, you know...

Even that is hard sometimes.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Like, I don't know! I can watch drama, but it— Man, it's... You know.

Taylor: I think sometimes— And I get it, because ultimately, we're just trying to make money when, you know, a lot of these TV shows just keep getting renewed for more and more seasons.

But we forget that the joy of— The reason we like stories and books and movies, separate from life, is that there is an end to it, and then there's a *point* to it. And then it *reaffirms* something in our belief system, you know?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It goes back to the old— Like, the hero's tale, right? There's a reason we like being told the same story over and over again, about how a good person, they struggle, they face obstacles, and they overcome. It comforts us. It makes us feel, you know... I don't know, better about the way the world works.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Doesn't matter if it's true, or not. It's just part of our history, going back to the beginning of man.

We forget that, when the story is just, "Well, but we could renew for another season, and make some more money, and that means we've gotta take the hero that's retired, and have their happy ending... We gotta throw 'em to the wolves again!"

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: It becomes a little bit— And the fact that it's because we want more profit and more money, it feels like, "Oh..." [laughs] "Our stories have shifted in a horrible way, to reflect reality." [chuckles]

Sydnee: Well, I mean, I think it's true. I think it's why, like, a show I can always return to is *Doctor Who*. Because *Doctor Who* - yes, it keeps going.

But the whole idea is, like, *it* changes, because the Doctor can change. The Doctor can change whenever. You know, he regenerates.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You get a different actor. And a different actor playing the Doctor, we also accept that the Doctor is different now. Like, he's still the Doctor, but they're different!

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: They're *not* the same. And so we have a whole new character with new ideas and feelings and reactions to explore, and a new take on the world, and new adventures. And we're not dragging this sort of, like, beleaguered, long-suffering... you know.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And it's like— You know? And it's also, like, eternally hopefully. Eternally, like, *humanistic*. Eternally that humans are still worth it. No matter how much we suck we're *still* worth it, at the end of the day. That's always the Doctor. So I can keep watching *that* show.

Taylor: No, I get that. Well, I think that the *Star Wars* universe kind of does the same thing. Where yes, there are always... Like, evil rises...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... and then a new good has to rise to defeat it. But, you know, it's cyclical, but it *does* advance. You know, every time a dark power rises, a power of good will rise to face it.

Sydnee: Yes. And, like, that's not... I mean, that's not naive. That's not a version of history and human events that is false.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: I know that can be hard to see, depending on, like, if you're in a hill or a valley, [laughs] at this moment in time.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: But that is the truth.

I never know— We talked about this on *Sawbones*, recently. I never know, like... if you look at something that's happening now, and you can find a corollary in past events, like, "Oh, we've been here before."

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "This is all— *All* this ground has been trodden, all these conspiracy theories have been recycled. All of this is the same noise that people have been making for centuries." Is that... Is that hopeful, when you learn that? [laughs] Or does it make you feel despairing? Like, I don't know.

For me, it's hope. Like, we fought— we beat this before.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: But I don't know if it makes you feel despair to think, like, "But it just came back."

Taylor: Well, I mean, I think that that's just— it's not about hope or despair; it's just about reality. Evil people— Selfish people, greedy people— I don't know. I don't like the word "evil" to describe bad people, 'cause it has this sense of an ultimate thing you can't defeat.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't know if I like using that word.

But *bad* people will always come up, and try to do bad things. And history is important, because then you see, "Hey, other people have stood up against this before, and here's how they did it, step-by-step, so *I* can do that, too. *I*

can be those people, in this generation.” And that’s probably why they don’t want us to have history books anymore. [laughs]

Sydnee: It’s like the Mr. Rogers thing of “Look for the helpers.”

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I think that’s true.

Hey. Uh, I’m excited for *TikTok* to be covering nothing but the conclaves soon. That’s what I’m hoping, is nothing but 24/7 conclave coverage.

Taylor: I thought you were talking— It took me a second. ‘Cause I just started watching that movie last night. I fell asleep - not ‘cause it was boring, but because I started it very late at night, and I don’t think *Conclave* is a movie that you start at [laughs] 1:00 AM.

Sydnee: We have not— We are trying to find a block of time where we can watch it, ‘cause I *do* wanna watch *Conclave*. I have not yet.

Taylor: I am gonna— It’s a daytime movie, for sure. It’s a couple cups of coffee, and then watch it, yes.

Yeah, well, I need to watch that first, so I understand [amused] what’s about to happen. I’ll be happy if *TikTok* is anything but that one girl who won’t wash her face, is what I keep getting. I don’t know if you’ve gone down—

Sydnee: Why won’t—

Taylor: It seems like you *should* be getting those videos as a doctor, but I don’t think you are.

Sydnee: Why won’t she wash her face?

Taylor: Uh, she’s doing... the “Caveman Method,” is what she’s calling it. Which is you don’t put anything— you don’t even let water touch your face. And it rebuilds your skin’s natural oils, and barriers, and then, like— Right

now, she's got this crust built up on her face, and her idea is it will flake off, and underneath will be perfect, new skin. And a lot of doctors and dermatologists have come on *TikTok* and gone, "Uh, no, that is either some sort of dermatitis..."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "... or a fungal infection, and it will not go away naturally."

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: But then, the other— There is also a rising voice conclusion that it's all rage bait, and she's just putting on some sort of complicated makeup to *look* like that. I don't know.

I don't know, but I just wanna stop seeing her flaky face on my *TikTok*.

Sydnee: I have not found that, although I feel like now that we have spoken of it, my phone is near me, and so...

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: ... it will hear me. [laughs]

Taylor: I almost sent it to you, 'cause I was like, "I think that this is something that *Sawbones* could be interested in."

Sydnee: Well, I could, because— Okay, so this would be my— And I haven't seen it, so I don't know about the dermatitis or fungal infection. Certainly, those things could be possible, but I haven't looked at her face, so I have no idea.

I *will* say, though, that— So, yes, we naturally shed skin cells, obviously. Constantly, like, we're doing that.

But it is— Washing *is* important, to facilitate that. That *is*, actually, necessary. It will not just happen on its own on *any* part of our body, including our face. And there is evidence of what happens if you *don't*,

because for a variety of reasons, sometimes - and this is something we encounter medically - a patient cannot perform those functions for themselves on a regular basis.

And so you begin to accumulate sort of, like, piles of dead skin.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: On the skin. And because they just— You know, for whatever reason, they cannot perform those activities of daily living, and wash themselves.

So that's not good. Um, you don't wanna just have that on you, because the dead skin itself is not necessarily *dangerous*... But what can accumulate, in all those little layers of dead skin, *could be* bacteria or fungus, or just like, you know, the oils and debris from the day. And you don't really want that on you.

And so it's not healthy to have piles of dead skin just laying— You know what I mean? That would not... *I* don't even know— I mean, I am not an expert on quote, unquote, "cavemen," whatever *era* of man she is talking about there, but I think we've been washing ourselves, as humans, for a really long time.

Taylor: I mean, I would assume so. It also just seems— This is a growing trend of this, right? It's that Caveman— I don't... Face Care. Caveman Diet. Caveman, I don't know, Exercise. Like...

Sydnee: Yeah, I've heard of the diet thing.

Taylor: We... advanced as a species because we learned more things about how to be healthier, live longer... like, grow things, make things, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Everything you just described, where a bunch of doctors have observed this, and they studied this, and they've understood what goes on, yeah, that's what we've done.

I'm not really sure why, like... [laughs] "You know the best way to be healthy? Go back before we *learned* anything." Like, that seems... wrong. I don't—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That seems like a dumb thing to do.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, that's...

Taylor: I'm just gonna... Centuries of collective knowledge, let's put that aside, and go back to basics. Go back to the beginning.

Sydnee: I mean, I'm never— That's always the weird argument, is like, when people say, "Well, what do you think people did *before* vaccines? What do you think people did *before* antibiotics?"

Taylor: Died a bunch more! [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, they died! I mean, they— [laughs] I mean, like... [laughs] Did some people— Before we had antibiotics, certainly there were people who got bacterial infections, and their bodies fought them off, and they lived anyway. Right? Like, some people *did*. For sure.

And people will use that. Like, "I don't *need* antibiotics for my urinary tract infection, or my ear infection, or my sinus infection, because I believe that humans have been fighting these off for centuries, so what's the big deal?"

Okay, yeah. Some humans did. Others got septic, and died! I mean, like, that's the difference. Is that yeah, but now we have antibiotics, and we can prevent that. So yay! [chuckles] I don't... [laughs]

Taylor: Wasn't, like, tooth problems one of the number one killers, before we had an understanding of antibiotics?

Sydnee: Yeah! Mm-hmm!

Taylor: Like, you just have an abscessed tooth, and that's it! You're dead.

Sydnee: It's like the thing— And I understand why, when we're talking about vaccine advocacy, this is not a point that you wanna bring up. In, like, if you're testifying before some committee in a legislative body, or if you're talking publicly, this is not, like, a *fun* conversation.

But if you start looking at, like, life expectancy before and after vaccines, the difference isn't that before vaccines, people only lived to their 30s, and then after vaccines, everybody lived to their 80s. It's an average. What we're doing is, we're averaging out how long people lived.

The reason the life expectancy got higher is because so many fewer children died.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: Which is not— I mean, there's no *fun* way to say that. Like... 'cause it's sad, no matter what era we're talking about.

But, like, *that's* the difference. We got vaccines, and so you were much more likely to survive past the age of two.

Taylor: I just don't...

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: I mean, now, we say this, and you got, what? People, kids dying from measles in Texas?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's what it is?

Sydnee: Yeah, well...

Taylor: I saw a quote from one of the fathers that was like, "And I'd do it again! I would not..."

Like, okay. I'm confused. So *you're* pro-life when it comes to an unborn clump of cells, and *that* woman that might have an abortion can be arrested. But you, as a father, saying that you would fully let your child die again from a preventable disease... that is "right." That is a freedom. [softly] Okay.

Sydnee: I think what you're hitting on is a kind of— Like, we hear that, and we think, "That is not a logical or rational thought process," right? Like, you hear that, and you think, "Well, that's..." I'm a parent. That sounds totally irrational.

Now, granted, I will give this grace: I don't know how you ever— I don't know how you, like, cognitively process that, so that you can wake up each day afterwards. And so I'm just gonna put that out there. You know, I don't— I don't understand how you function, so maybe you do throw up these sort of fake ideas in your head, and put together some sort of logic structure that makes it worthwhile and okay, just so you can survive.

Taylor: Of course.

Sydnee: I don't know. You know what I'm saying? Like, I wanna say that.

But I think the other part of it is that we're talking about belief versus knowledge. I don't *believe* in vaccines, right? I don't *believe* in them. I know they work, 'cause the science says they do. [laughs]

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: Because they research them, and we can read those papers where they gave vaccines to people, and then they didn't get measles. And then... yay.

I mean, like, this isn't a faith. So I think that's the fundamental problem, is that there are people who are arguing based on their *belief* that we don't need vaccines, or that we *can* drink raw milk, or that we shouldn't wash our face, or that... you know, whatever— "an alkaline diet is the way to go."

None of this stuff is science. It's your belief system. It's because you believe certain things about history, humanity, the world, existence. And that's— I don't know how to fight back against that with facts, because we're talking two different languages, right?

Taylor: Well, I don't— I don't know when belief started getting equal footing as facts. Like, I don't... I feel like there [chuckles] used to be a...

Oh, I was thinking about this— *I* got a *TikTok* that was some guy talking about the vampires in New Orleans. How you gotta be careful...

Sydnee: [chuckles] Yeah.

Taylor: Not enough people are aware of how many vampires are in New Orleans.

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: And then all these people were commenting, like, "No, seriously. It's real." And I went down a rabbit hole of all these people talking about how dangerous the vampires are in New Orleans. [laughs]

Man, you know, this used to be fun for me. It used to be fun, the paranormal, the spooky stuff.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And now, it just fills me with a sense of dread. Not— I'm not afraid of vampires. Are there vampires in New Orleans? I don't know. Anyway— I don't know.

But, like, people are taking this seriously. You could have people getting, like, assaulted on the street, because someone decided that that pale goth dude... was a vampire. Like, it's not fun anymore. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's tough, though, isn't it, Tey? Because I think that's the double-edged sword of: I don't have a problem, fundamentally... with the concept of, like, belief, or faith, or spirituality, or magical thinking. You know...

Taylor: [in agreement] No.

Sydnee: Just sort of this, like, perception of the world, that there might be sort of, you know, supernatural things happening around us that we can't always perceive, or know, or understand. And that, maybe, there is more meaning, or rhythm, or *something* to it all.

I don't have any problem with— And I'm not saying I don't necessarily believe that, myself. I don't know what structure that would fit into. But it's so hard to make space for that, but then... like, how do we keep that positive?

I mean, Beltane is coming up. I fully intend to engage in, you know, rituals to celebrate that. But I don't wanna ever let the things that I believe, and the way that I see the world to help my own human experience and existence be meaningful - to me, you know, to give myself meaning each day... I don't ever want that to infringe on the safety, and health, and wellbeing of those around me.

And that's where that line, we can't seem to find - at least in this country.

Taylor: Well, it's odd, because I don't know how you can't— Like, I feel like there's a way that they very comfortably and pretty easily coexist. It's not even that hard, so you have to be purposefully ignorant to ignore it.

It always makes me think of that one other old parable about the man who's, like... I don't know the setup. There's been a flood, and he's on his roof, and he's like, "God will save me."

Sydnee: Yes! Yes.

Taylor: And, you know, a boat comes, and a helicopter comes, and all this stuff. And the guy ends up drowning. And God's like, "I don't know... I sent him a boat, and a helicopter. You know, what more could I do?"

Like, yeah, we discovered vaccines. We have...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... smart people that have invented all of this amazing science, and all of these ways to know ourselves, and understand ourselves, and heal ourselves. Can you not see that as like... If you need to believe in a big, collective, like, existence, is that not part of it?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Is it not an act of God that people were born that just made all these beautiful creations, and discoveries?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, that seems really easy! Like, yeah, vaccines... sure. It all fits in the— It's all one big picture. Great!

Sydnee: Yeah! And I would not use the word "miracle" for the creation of vaccines, I don't believe it was a miracle per se. But I would attach the adjective "*miraculous*" to what vaccines were able to do for humanity. Especially in regards to children, I would use that word.

I don't know— Again, I'm not putting any sort of spiritual implication on it, but I can see it that way. And I've said before, if you understand the design of the human inner ear, when you study that in med school, and you learn that anatomy, and how it works, and how piles of crystals help you determine your position in space.

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: And the shifting of them tells you if you're upright, or laying down, or whatever. That, to me, is something...

I mean, it's *hard* for me to grasp how that evolved. I know it did, I *know* it did. I... you know, I've studied science.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But if you see that and, for a moment, think, “I feel like there’s something bigger. I feel like there’s a meaning, or a creator, or whatever...” If you feel that, I don’t think there’s anything *wrong* with you for feeling that. I don’t think there’s, you know... You can feel that, too, and then still understand that we evolved that way. [laughs] You can feel both!

Taylor: Right. No, I agree. I mean, I think that as simple as looking at— I don’t know, looking at your veins, and then looking at how a tree grows, there’s always this moment of, [in awe] “Ah! It’s all connected!” [chuckles] Like, it’s...

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: It’s the *same*! But, like, that doesn’t mean that I [laughs] stopped believing in science.

Sydnee: No, exactly. But I *will* be watching the conclave. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Not the movie. I will be watching for that white smoke. I’m so excited— Man, it just takes me back to Catholic school. I cannot wait! [laughs] Everybody’s gonna be so excited, waiting for the conclave to happen!

Taylor: One of my coworkers asked me, “So, like, what’s going on with—” Like, I’m not a practicing Catholic. I’m not... I don’t identify as a Catholic, but they know that that was how I was raised. Like, “So what’s going on with you all, now? Like, is it like draft season?”

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: “Like, what’s going on?” I’m like, nothing! Like, there’s not a newsletter! [laughs] I don’t get, like, a...

Sydnee: There isn’t, but there’s all the political maneuvering, I *guess*. I mean, it... Well, you probably shouldn’t say that. Like, they’re probably— I

don't know. I mean, [through gritted teeth] it *is*... We can say it's not, but it is. But I mean, it will...

I think that it matters, in a worldwide sense, if the Pope continues to be a more progressive figure or not. I do think that that has implications for how people view the world, and how people feel. And in regards to, I don't know, the rise of fascism in this country, having a pope who continues this sort of mission to serve those living in poverty, and to uplift the most vulnerable, is probably not a bad counterbalance.

Taylor: Absolutely not.

Sydnee: So I guess I'm rooting for that. I have my own draft picks, but...

Taylor: Do you?

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: See, I don't... I guess I gotta get up to speed on the... [wheezing laugh]

Sydnee: You haven't gotten those *TikToks*? I've gotten the *TikToks* with, like, "Who were the cardinals in the running for popes?" [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know. That's what I should be getting, instead of all the girl not washing her face. I...

Sydnee: Yeah. You want that, instead. I don't wanna look at the girl not washing her face, either, but you wanna see all the, um... [laughs] all the intrigue.

Taylor: You know—

Sydnee: I've been watching— I'm getting speeches, now, that some of these cardinals have given. Like, I guess they're technically probably homilies they've delivered about different things. There was one talking about, like, the sin of greed when we underpay workers. And I was like, yeah, okay!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Who are you? I like you! [laughs]

Taylor: I just need to see their stats, you know? Like, a Pokémon card. Like, just tell me what their... [chuckles softly] their Hit Points are, what are their attacks?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: What of that?

Sydnee: "How did you feel, when the last Pope said we could bless gay marriages?"

Taylor: [laughs] "Hmm."

Sydnee: "Hmm? [pressing] *Hmm?* ... How did you feel about that?" [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Uh, I don't have any segue from the Catholic Church to *Powerpuff Girls*.

Taylor: No. No, we also got... [laughs] We got 25 minutes in without talking about *The Powerpuff Girls*. We should probably start...

Sydnee: Sorry about that. There was just too much exciting conclave business. And, I guess, face washing.

Taylor: There's a lot. There's a lot in the world. Always so much.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: *Powerpuff Girls*.

Sydnee: So did you ever see— As I was reading and talking about *Powerpuff Girls*, Justin showed me a trailer for a show they almost made on the CW, of *The Powerpuff Girls*.

Taylor: Oh, the live action.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: That was wi— It was, like, a leaked trailer. 'Cause I guess it was never— Like, it's not gonna be made, right?

Taylor: No, no. I think that was one of those projects that, just the leaked footage - which, I don't know if it's like— sometimes, those leaks happen on purpose, right? They wanna see, they wanna kinda get a temperature for how people feel about a project.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And I think that killed it.

Sydnee: That's too bad. I would've liked to— I think the idea of a live action *Powerpuff Girls* is a cool idea, but anyway, I digress.

I was just curious. 'Cause I was like, "I never saw this." I had heard they were doing something, and then I never saw anything about it.

Taylor: No, I had seen that. I remember the outrage directed at it, I think just because it was sort of— it had the air of a gritty reboot, which I think we were a little... at capacity for gritty reboots. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I don't need a [holding back laughter] gritty reboot of... any of my childhood shows, really.

Taylor: No, no. Uh... No, but I do remember seeing the original, when they were the... The Cartoon cartoon... short, when they weren't the Powerpuff Girls; they were the... "Whoop-*butt* Girls."

Sydnee: Yeah, you can't say what they were.

Taylor: I know, yeah. I remember that original segment, um...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... and then being really excited that it was gonna become a *real*, full-fledged cartoon.

Sydnee: Well, I don't remember, like... Man, were there a lot of shows? When I think about the other shows we watched at the time - outside of, I mean... I think the obvious counterargument to anything I'm about to say is, like... *Sailor Moon*, anime in general. Like, the magic girls kind of... cartoons.

But when I'm thinking of over here, in the US, like... a girl-based, you know, cartoon like that, I don't remember watching a lot when I was a kid. I guess there was *Rainbow Brite*? [laughs softly]

Taylor: Yeah, well, I was just thinking, like, *Rainbow Brite*, like... I don't know. There was, like, *Winx Club*. I think that was the later... There were definitely, like, the girl-collective shows, but usually, it was not... It definitely wasn't as much, like, fighting, and punching, and [laughs] violence...

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: *Powerpuff Girls* is just kind of a violent show. Like, in a fun way. That was part of the fun. But it was definitely made, like... It's definitely of a time and place, *The Powerpuff Girls*. Because it's both a bit of a wink and a nod to the magical girl genre...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... so there had to be some US awareness of that, to make that part of the joke land.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: But also, the awareness that we don't... have any shows with girls doing this kind of stuff, you know?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: A bit of a nexus point, there.

Sydnee: Yeah. Oh, I mean, I really— 'Cause when I think about the other cartoons of that era that I was watching, there were girl characters *on* them, but they weren't... I don't know, they weren't the focus, you know?

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, certainly, they weren't superheroes. And that's the other part of it, exactly like you said. Even when I joked about *Rainbow Brite*, Rainbow Brite didn't punch anybody. Um... [chuckles] She wasn't— [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: She wasn't known for, like...

Taylor: But she *should've*, every now and then. Just for a treat.

Sydnee: [laughing] Oh, no. She wasn't— I can't remember her ever engaging in [through laughter] physical combat.

Taylor: Now, a gritty *Rainbow Brite* reboot, I would take in a heartbeat.

Sydnee: I love the idea of a— Actually, that's a good idea.

Taylor: We could use that now, just like... I don't know, especially with as scandalized as rainbows have become... [chuckles]

Sydnee: Well, it would have to be entirely— like, all of her, like, Color Kids? All the Color Kids...

Taylor: Color— Yeah.

Sydnee: It would be a whole, like, the entire LGBTQ— We'd represent everybody.

Taylor: Absolutely.

Sydnee: This would be— No, this is a Queer show that we are talking about. These are not straight people.

Taylor: [chuckles]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] "These are not straight people"

Sydnee: These are— They're the Color Kids! You remember the show. They're not straight people!

Taylor: Yeah. That sounds like a euphemism for asking somebody. "Are you... a Color Kid?"

Sydnee: "Are you a Color..."

Taylor: Like, "Are you a friend of Rainbow Brite?" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing hard] "Are you one of the Color Kids?"

Taylor: Wait, wasn't her little friend called Twink?

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: Yeah, alright. [wheezing laugh]

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm really loving this.

Taylor: Just instead of the little fuzzy alien thing, it's just a mean... thin...

Sydnee: [bursts out laughing]

Taylor: ... gay man.

Both: [laugh]

Taylor: “Twink, I need your help!”

“You can’t call me that!” [laughs]

Sydnee: Who carries around a little, like, fanny pack of Star Sprinkles [crosstalk]...

Taylor: [laughing] Yes!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It’s just Adam Twink.

Sydnee: [laughter rises] This is— See, *this* is the gritty reboot we need. Forget *Powerpuff Girls*.

Taylor: It’s... Hey, original idea here on *Still Buffering*.

Sydnee: Yeah. TM.

Taylor: Let’s talk about it. Um... No, there were *many* reboots of *Powerpuff Girls*, though, yeah. Like...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Three?

Sydnee: They did... I think three. There were several. ‘Cause there was the one... I guess the one— I don’t know which one it was that I got the girls into for a little bit, that Charlie and Cooper really dug. They never saw the *original*.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Sydnee: I may have shown them, like, an episode or two of the old school *Powerpuff Girls*. Um...

Taylor: Because that was... I know the newer one, the one that you're probably thinking of, the one with Bliss, is...

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That was 2016.

Sydnee: Yes. That's the one that, uh, Charlie has seen. Cooper has only seen a *little* bit. I probably - and, even this time around, just our schedules didn't line up. I just rewatched some of the old stuff without them. But I probably need to show Cooper, 'cause I feel like all the fighting and stuff... she would really dig.

Taylor: I think, and especially because the older one was a little... the tone is different, from the original to the 2016 one.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Even though it's *more* similar than some of the other - 'cause the other one is, what, the *Powerpuff Girls Z*, which is the anime?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Which is completely its own thing.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But the old school *Powerpuff Girls* doesn't have as much, like... Like, there's a lot more kind of "wink, nod" humor in the new one.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know, they have a lot of topical jokes. They joke about, I don't know, like, the internet and...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: ... trending videos, and twerking, and things. You know, it's clearly trying to engage with the youth. The old one didn't really try to do that. It was kind of - the joke was they're cute little girls, and they're violent.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm!

Taylor: And that was sort of it for every episode. [laughs]

Sydnee: Which it's interesting, too, because part of the reason that there weren't a lot of shows like that with girls is because there was this sort of acceptance that, "Well, the only kids who like to watch shows about fighting monsters or aliens or, you know, giant animals or whatever, the only kids that would like that would be boys."

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: And so you would make the characters in them boys, and maybe like, a token girl, just to say you have one. But they would be boys, because it's being watched by boys, and they wanna see themselves in the characters, and whatever.

So it's unique, to make a show like this where your characters are girls— And they're not just girls; they're *little* girls. Especially, like, Bubbles, who is a little girl acting like a little girl.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Who likes cute animals, and talks in a squeaky voice, and is, you know, very stereotypical "little girl" character.

But then, there is a lot of the episode that would be taken up by the fighting.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And so you're accepting that a girl would wanna watch *that*, which is— You know, that was kind of— I mean, that acceptance wasn't really there. Even if I think about *Sailor Moon*... Yes, there are battle scenes, but I don't *feel* like the majority of what I'm— and certainly not with, like, a bunch of punching, you know? [chuckles]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: You know what I mean?

Taylor: Sailor Moon fights with the power of love.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: The Powerpuff Girls fight with the power of these hands.

Sydnee: Yes! And that's kind of a unique...

I don't know that there were— What other shows like that featured— like, that starred girls, or *only* girls, certainly, were *on*?

Taylor: I mean, in that— Well, I could think of other things, but they weren't like... I don't know. I remember watching *Totally Spies!* a lot in the same time period, but that had a bigger focus on, like, "They're teen girls that have teen girl lives."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "And then, sometimes, they fight crime." *Powerpuff Girls* really was— the joke was the violence.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: Like, that— You know, it really was just... There was some sort of setup, some sort of slightly uncomfortable— Like, a lot of the bad guys were sort of uncomfortable, and weird.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And then the Girls would fight them. It was a very— Like, it was a pretty simple... Never really had a lot of, like, deep plot development, you know...

Sydnee: No...

Taylor: I don't know, I mean, it was one of those shows that I think walked the line of, like, "Kids could watch this, and enjoy it, but this is also sort of made for adults."

Sydnee: Your characters, too, unless - and I mean, I... I haven't watched *all* of it in a while, and so maybe, as it went on, there are things that changed, but I feel like generally speaking, too, we use these three - the three Powerpuff Girls stay fairly static in, like, who they are, what they like... You know what I mean? We don't undergo some...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... grand character development change within each one.

You know, Blossom is the leader. Bubbles is... you know, likes animals. And Buttercup likes to fight.

Taylor: [laughing softly]

Sydnee: And— [laughs] I don't know. You know what I mean? Like...

Taylor: Yes. Although it is, I think, canonically agreed on that Bubbles is *capable* of the most violence...

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: ... from that— I don't know, it's so funny, the things that stick in your head when you're a kid. But the episode where Fuzzy Lumpkins makes the Meat Gun and turns Bubbles' pigtail into a drumstick...

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: ... and then she goes absolutely insane, and just...

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: ... like, beats the crap out of him, that episode stuck in my head. Like, something about that meat pigtail disturbed me [through laughter] so much.

Sydnee: Well, it disturbed her! [laughs]

Taylor: It was like— Well, yeah! I mean, it was like little-kid level body horror, which I think is why I latched onto it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: But, uh, established that she was actually the one capable of the most violence.

Sydnee: Those were your early vegan impulses. You were so repulsed... by the meat— the idea that...

Taylor: Maybe it *was* that, yeah.

Sydnee: ... that, like, your hair would turn into meat, and then you would have meat attached to your head.

Taylor: I just— Like, literally, that episode just— That idea of just being turned into a disgusting lump of meat... Which I guess we *are*. [mumbling] I mean, we are, but, you know...

Sydnee: It's amazing how much you still love Gaga, despite the meat dress, you know. [chuckles softly]

Taylor: Well, she's apologized for the meat dress.

Sydnee: Oh, has she?

Taylor: Well, not *apologized*. I think she's kind of said, like, "Yeah, you know, I was trying to get attention."

Sydnee: Oh. *Oh!*

Well, you know what? I don't— Man, this makes me feel really out of touch. I guess there might have been some, like, outrage because it was meat, huh? It never...

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: This never occurred to me. I don't remember that controversy, but I can see now that there would've been... people who would say, like, "Hey, that's not respectful; you shouldn't dress in meat."

Taylor: Yeah, no.

Sydnee: "Those are animals." *Oh...* [chuckles] I never thought of that.

Taylor: I guess "apology" is the wrong word. She has since said that that was, maybe— It was not something she would do *now*.

Sydnee: Okay. Interesting. Interesting sidebar. I've never thought about it in that light! I've just thought about, like, "Eugh, that must've felt... weird, to wear meat." [chuckles] Like, that... [laughing]

Taylor: My only thought was just like, I mean, you could do that synthetically. And it would not... Like, I feel like that would just - I would be worried about the *smell*. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: You could make a cool meat dress out of something that's not meat.

Sydnee: That's true. But it's kind of like those challenges they used to do on *Project Runway* where, like, you'd go to the grocery store...

Taylor: Sure.

Sydnee: ... and use unusual materials, like... You don't go buy, like, a tablecloth or some curtains, and make a dress. Like, do something *weird*. You know?

Taylor: Well, yeah...

Sydnee: You were rooting for the ones who were like... "This is entirely aluminum foil," you know?

Taylor: Yeah. But there's a level there, between "It's entirely aluminum foil," and "It's rotting flesh of animals."

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: Like, I feel like that is...

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: I feel like the judges would have some strong feedback for that. Like, "This is not... This is not political fashion."

Sydnee: Yeah, I can't see... [laughs] I can't see Michael Kors loving that. [chuckles]

Taylor: No, [laughs] I can't. I can't put— "This isn't a ready-to-wear!" [laughs] Um...

Sydnee: [laughing] [crosstalk] would have lots of questions. [chuckles]

Um, yeah. I'm assuming I know, but rewatching, which Powerpuff Girl do you still identify with?

Taylor: You know, I don't... I feel like this is just— I was rewatching it, and I'm so old, the character I most identified with was Fuzzy Lumpkins, when he's just alone and...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ... he's in his cabin, and he's telling everything to get away from him, and he wants his privacy. And I'm like, "I don't know when in my life I stopped being a Powerpuff Girl and I started being Fuzzy Lumpkins, but that's it for me."

But if I *had* to choose one... 'Cause I always think of, like, you and Rileigh factoring into it. Because there's three of us.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And it's like, I mean, *you're* the leader, right? You're Blossom. I feel like that's obvious.

Sydnee: I don't know, am I?

Taylor: Well, I think— 'Cause also, even though it's not, like... It's not spelled out as much, she's also the smart one.

Sydnee: Oh. Well, I guess... I guess, yeah.

Taylor: And between the other two, I don't know. Like, I don't...

Sydnee: [laughing softly]

Taylor: I'm not particularly *tough*, but...

How do *you* see it organized?

Sydnee: I don't— I don't know. What I was gonna say is, nowadays, I identify most with the Professor. [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] See! That's what I—

Sydnee: I feel like I'm raising Powerpuff Girls now!

Taylor: That's fair, that's fair.

Sydnee: That's the problem. I feel like, when we were younger and we watched the show - and this would've been pre-Rileigh, so it was just the two of us...

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: I felt like we used to sort of fall into you were Buttercup, and I was *Bubbles*. Which is weird, that I— I look back now, and I don't know why. Like, I'm sitting here, thinking like, "Why did I see myself as Bubbles?"

Taylor: Hey, people change. 'Cause I probably would relate the most to Bubbles now, in that she loves animals.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And she's kind of the least interested in— Well, she's not the *least* interested in violence.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: She does not go to violence first. But she's the most capable of it, which is something that I would relate to. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I think we also were— [chuckles] Yeah. Yeah. And I think, well, we were also—

Taylor: You two would be violent first, but I'd be violent *most*.

Sydnee: I probably— well, I probably would. And I don't know if, like, what we were picking up on - what maybe *I* was picking up on, I'll speak for myself - as a kid, is that Buttercup's character is more... like, because she's tougher...

Taylor: Mm.

Sydnee: ... and she likes fighting, I think especially in the 90s, she read as the most masculine of the three, you know?

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: She was, like, the tomboy, you know what I mean? And so I don't know...

Taylor: Well, she... [laughs] She's also kind of the—

Sydnee: In my head, that was you.

Taylor: She's, like, also sort of the "bad" one, if there is a bad one. I love the episode where she gets a crush on a member of the Gangreen Gang...

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: And, you know, her sisters are in trouble, but she's like, rocking out... [through laughter] with the Gangreen Gang.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I see myself in *that*.

Sydnee: But I— No, it's true. And certainly now, I don't think I'm like Bubbles at *all*. And so I don't know why, as a kid, I would've thought that. That, like, "That's me and Taylor!" [chuckles]

Taylor: [chuckles softly] Well, that's what you do as a kid. You know, you pick your... You pick your *Rainbow Brite* character, you pick your Sailor Scout, you pick your Power Ranger, your Powerpuff Girl.

Sydnee: It was just so backwards, 'cause like... if I picked my Sailor Scout, I mean, it was... Sailor Mars was my Sailor Scout...

Taylor: Right. Yeah.

Sydnee: ... who was angry. [laughs] And violent. [laughing]

Taylor: Who you would see the most as, like, a Buttercup, if you would...

Sydnee: Exactly. I was ready to set people on fire. [laughs]

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

Sydnee: I don't know. It's interesting - what is it about, like— I feel like, if you look at the Sailor Scouts, Sailor Mars is the angry one, but Sailor Jupiter, I would say, is the more, like, tough... Like, you know, you get this kind of— Again, like sports, kind of tomboyish, masculine energy kind of thing.

Why was it the color green that we used as, like, 90s shorthand for, like, [softly] "This is the boyish one"? [chuckles]

Taylor: It is funny, 'cause you would think it would be blue, but it's absolutely not. [laughs]

Sydnee: No. Green means, like, "That's the one..." [chuckles] "Hey, if you're— If you think you might be a lesbian." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah! 'Cause, uh, Patty, or uh... what am I... Oh, my gosh, the *Peanuts* character.

Sydnee: Peppermint Patty.

Taylor: Peppermint Patty, yeah! Patty. I'm s— We're on first-name basis. [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Always— If you wear green...

Taylor: Pat.

Sydnee: ... and you have a visible ring of keys... [laughs] Now we know! [laughs]

Taylor: That's how you signal to the world that you're probably lesbian.

Sydnee: [laughs]

No, but I uh... Yeah, I mean, it's funny, 'cause I can see that now. Like, in my adult life, I would identify with a character that was a leader more, but at the time, it was hard for me to... Maybe just because I was young and insecure, and...

I couldn't have ever seen myself - whoever the leader was, no matter what show we watched, even *Rainbow Brite*... And I adored the character of Rainbow Brite. As a small child, *loved* Rainbow Brite. I was *not* Rainbow Brite.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I couldn't be. I couldn't be the *leader*. I couldn't be in *charge*. Now - I wouldn't say that about myself, now. Now, I can *be* Rainbow Brite. But I couldn't, way back then.

Taylor: [laughs] I'm glad you've made that realization, that you've gotten that point.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Taylor: *You* can be Rainbow Brite.

Sydnee: *I* can be Rainbow Brite. [laughs]

Taylor: See, I don't know. I always had the audacity— 'Cause in my friend group, when we had our assigned Sailor Scouts, *I* was Sailor Moon, and that was very important to me.

Sydnee: You were the leader!

Taylor: But then Sailor Moon was a different kind of leader. She led with her heart, you know? Her whole...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I just saw the *Sailor Moon* musical live this past weekend. It was very lovely. But the whole core of that is like, all of her friends were sort of rejects and weirdos in their own way. And *she* led by loving them all, and by giving them a place to exist. And that was not... You know.

Sydnee: That's very nice.

Taylor: A *different* kind of leader. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Yeah! That's very sweet. And you *were*. I mean, growing up, you were the leader of your little friend group there.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: So... It always made sense to me.

Taylor: Well, I don't... It's, uh... 'Cause you sort of coalesce the Scouts into the Powerpuff Girls, you know? [laughs] You've got the smart one, but also like the confident one... I don't know. That's sort of Mercury *and* Venus...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ... in, uh...

Sydnee: Bubbles?

Taylor: ... Blossom, you know.

Sydnee: Or, I mean, in Blossom? Yeah, in Blossom?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't know. I don't know. There's some math there.

Sydnee: Well, and I mean...

Taylor: You could probably make a chart. Throw in the *Sex and The City* ladies, too. I don't know. [laughs]

Sydnee: There we go. I know.

Taylor: That's pop culture.

Sydnee: Well, and we're gonna leave rainbow bright out of it for now, because we're working on our gritty reboot.

Taylor: Yeah. There's also— There's a lot... You've got boys in the *Rainbow Brite*-iverse that's, you know...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [laughs]

Taylor: You did have the Rowdyruff Boys in, uh, *Powerpuff Girls*.

Sydnee: That's true.

Taylor: Which I always enjoyed.

Sydnee: [laughing] "Rowdyruff Boys."

Well, that was a lot of fun. I need to - like I said, this past week, I mainly just had to watch it while the kids were at school and I was doing other things, so I didn't get to spend a lot of time with the girls watching it. But I wanna go back and watch some of the early episodes.

I'm curious to see if they would connect with that. Especially since, like we've talked about, it *was* so much about the actual sort of, like, *battles*. And...

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: ... that's interesting.

Taylor: And *really*, I think a lot of— I mean, it was a very basic formula. There would be a cool fight, and a *really* freaky, weird, or funny bad guy.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I mean, the bad guys were so iconic. You had, you know, obviously Mojo Jojo.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You had Fuzzy Lumpkins. But, like, Sedusa?

Sydnee: Oh, yeah!

Taylor: Uh... Super hot. Like, that's where it's kind of walked that line, of like, I don't know... with as weird and, like, conservative as we've gotten with this day and age, with this cartoon being able to be made - or *Him*, the Devil character that was... *truly* terrifying.

Sydnee: Truly terrifying.

Taylor: If you— I watched just, like, all the episodes with Him in it, and like, this is... This is actually scary. [laughs]

Sydnee: Him was very scary. I don't know— I think that some of that might be too intense, by today's standards.

Taylor: Which is— I love it! Like, I was like, "Why have I not seen a drag act with Him and Sedusa? Like... They're drag queen characters!"

Sydnee: They're perfect. They're *perfect*. No, that's true; a lot of them were.

Well, thank you, Tey. It was fun to go back and watch some, and like I said, I need to reintroduce Charlie and Cooper to those early ones.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Taylor, I think for next week, we gotta talk about the *Conclave*.

Taylor: Y— Like, the one that's gonna happen, or the movie?

Sydnee: No, the— Just the movie. I don't know what's gonna happen.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: And honestly, it won't have— We don't know how long it's gonna last.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: So almost certainly, we won't know the new pope yet. But let's talk about the movie, and the process.

Taylor: Well, I'm gonna—

Alright. I'm gonna do my homework, and figure out my draft pick.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] We'll create a... [laughing] We'll give everybody a rundown of who's up for pope. [laughs]

Taylor: Is there any sort of, like... I know there's fantasy football, is there some sort of pope-adjacent type? Is there some sort of fantasy conclave? Can we *organize* one? [laughing]

Sydnee: I guarantee you there is, and I guarantee you there are people betting on this. I guarantee there are.

Taylor: I would like to put some money into the pope conclave.

Sydnee: I've never—

Taylor: My fantasy... whatever.

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm not a big betting person. I don't think I would start with the conclave, but I bet you there is *someone* out there— there are groups that have organized, uh, betting on the conclave. [laughs]

Taylor: I like the idea that it's just, like, all the Catholic grannies at the bake sale.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [laughs] Oh, yeah. Alright. Well, that'll be good. Then, everybody will be ready for the conclave.

Taylor: Wonderful.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, Taylor, thank you. If you haven't watched *Powerpuff Girls* before, you absolutely should. It's a lot of fun. It's a cartoon, but I think it is very accessible for adults, even if you don't have the nostalgia we have associated with it. And there's lots of iterations of it.

You should go to MaximumFun.org, and check out all the great shows there that you would enjoy. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind"!

[theme song starts in background, slowly increasing volume]

Taylor: This has been *Still Buffering*, a 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 plays at full volume]

Sydnee: [inaudible over music]

[acoustic sting]

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