

Still Buffering 472: Foo Fighters

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[theme music 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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Teylor, I learned a very exciting fact about my cat, Olive.

Taylor: Oh yeah?

Sydnee: Yes. So...

Taylor: I love a cat fact.

Sydnee: I thought you would. I know, I was excited to share it with you. I, uh... Cooper and Charlie had the book fair this past week at school. You know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: The Scholastic book fair.

Taylor: Love that. Love the book fair.

Sydnee: And poor Charlie was home sick for most of the week. Now, she ended up going back in time to get to visit the book fair, but we were very worried that she wasn't gonna get to visit the book fair. So we sent extra money with Cooper, and Charlie made a little list of, like, if they have these three books, I would very much like these three books. And I think a fun pen. [laughs]

Taylor: Gotta get a fun pen at the book fair.

Sydnee: A fun pen. And so it was very cute. Cooper had this little, like—it was, like, on construction paper and written in crayon—list that she had in her pocket that she took with her.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And we gave her enough money that she could get some stuff for her, the books for Charlie. And then she decided when she got there she needed to get something for me and Justin, which was very sweet.

Taylor: Oh, that's sweet.

Sydnee: It was very sweet, because what ended up happening, which I only found out through, like, one of the teachers, is she went up to the counter and she didn't have enough money for everything.

Taylor: Oh no!

Sydnee: So she put back her books. I know! Don't worry.

Taylor: What a sweetheart!

Sydnee: This is not a sad ending. Her class got to—they always, like, let them do the preliminary visit, and then at the end of the week they give them one more chance, if there was something they still wanted. So we sent her with more money. She did end up getting to get the three little books she wanted. [laughs quietly] So it was okay. Happy ending. But so sweet that she put back her books.

And the book she got for me is a book about cats. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's about different cat breeds.

Taylor: Well, that's nice. I like that.

Sydnee: I know! It was very sweet. She was like, "I know you love our cat, so I got you a book about cat breeds."

And it was all these different, like, pictures of different kinds of cats. And so we were flipping through, and she was like, "Do you think we'll find Olive?"

And I said, "Well, I don't know."

I always assume, like, with a lot of—I mean, Olive was a rescue from the shelter. I don't really know her background. [laughs quietly] You know? So to speak. And I assume it's just kind of some mixture, and that you don't really know. I mean, like, I know what a calico looks like.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But then there's lots of cats that just kind of—they're just, like, cats, right? Like, I don't—

Taylor: I feel like, yeah. Just, what, American shorthair?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That's a lot of cats. [laughs]

Sydnee: Exactly. Like, I know the ones that are real fluffy. Olive's not that. I'm talking about her and she's looking at me. I feel like she knows. Well, I'm saying her name. [laughs quietly] She's mostly grey-ish, but she does have, like, some orangey-ness scattered through. But it's not spotty like a calico, you know? It's just kind of like, she looks all sort of... like you took the colors and, like, blended them, like with a paintbrush or something. You know what I mean? Kind of like smooshed together. Which is—

Taylor: Smudgy cat.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's cute, and I thought it was kind of unusual, her coloring, 'cause I hadn't seen a cat exactly like that. But I didn't think it was—I didn't know that it was indicative of anything. So I'm flipping through this book,

and we're looking for a picture of Olive, and we find this cat breed called Australian Mist.

Taylor: Ooh!

Sydnee: And the picture in the book looks identical to Olive. And part of the reason they're called Mist is because their coat kind of, like—it's like it mists together. It's like—it's almost like you painted streaks of color and then, like, got them wet and smushed 'em together a little bit. You know what I mean?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's kind of like a mist. And we looked at this picture and it was like—it was like they took a picture of my cat and put it in this book. And I was like, "Oh my gosh. Is... is this what Olive is?"

And they describe, like, the eyes. Like, these huge green eyes. Which, she was named Olive in the shelter because of her huge green eyes. They named her Olive, and it stuck. We just stuck with Olive when we brought her home.

Um, but anyway, I believe, and I am no cat genealogist, but I believe that Olive is an Australian Mist.

Taylor: Well, that's so nice!

Sydnee: I know. And so then of course I had to read about that. And they were like, this is a very, like, social cat breed. Like, they're great for families and kids. They'll want to be up in your business basically all the time. Like, whatever you're doing, they want to be a part of it. They want to make themselves part of things. They're very curious and playful and, like, they just want to kind of—whatever you're doing, make room for your cat, 'cause your cat's gonna want to be a part of what you're doing. Which is very accurate.

Anything I'm up to, she's, like—like, walking around on me. Like, she'll jump from the counter to ride on my back around the house. And just, like, investigate.

Taylor: I've seen that.

Sydnee: Everything. And I'll tell her, like, "This activity does not involve—like, it does not necessitate a cat. This is actually a cat-free sort of activity."

But she does not care.

Taylor: I don't think any activity is 100% cat-free. Right?

Sydnee: She gets in the shower now.

Taylor: [laughs] Oh.

Sydnee: She sits up on the little seat in the shower, so she's not in the water, but she sits there. She likes a little bit of the spray. Just, like, a mist. She likes a mist. A little bit of the mist.

Taylor: Oh. It's in the name!

Sydnee: Um, and just sits there while I shower now.

Taylor: That's so sweet.

Sydnee: She just wants to be... mainly me. But if I'm not here, she'll still—like, she'll go sit with the girls, she'll sit with Justin. She just wants to be in on everything. And so this is the thing in our house now. Anything—if she's up on the counter, like, while we're trying to cook dinner, and she's knocking things over, and Justin's like, "Ugh, Olive, what are you doing?"

The girls will be like, "It's in her nature. She's an Australian Mist. You can't do—I mean, that's just because she's an Australian Mist. It's just what she... it's what she does." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: She finally gets to be understood.

Sydnee: I do feel like—and now we're excusing anything she does. I'm like, "Oh. It's just her Australian Mist nature. There's just nothing we can do with her, you know?" [laughs]

Taylor: I feel like every cat breed has that, though. Right?

Sydnee: I think it's just a cat thing. [laughs]

Taylor: It's just cats. They've got some good PR. Like, I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Mine's a tuxedo, and everything that you read about—like, "Oh, wow. Tuxedos. They get into everything. Oh, but they're so sweet and loyal, but—and they're so smart."

And it's like, I think every cat, if you looked it up, it's like, "They're so smart. They're so sweet. They're so loyal." [laughs] Like, hmm. I think a cat wrote this.

Sydnee: [laughs] I will say, I don't think there was—and, now, I did not do extensive research. I read, like, a paragraph. 'Cause there was a little paragraph in this cute cat book I got, too.

But I, uh... I have not found any indication that she is necessarily smarter than other cat breeds.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: And I would, um... I don't know if she can—I never know if my cat really speaks English, and I just don't know. Again, she's sitting next to me. I'm just gonna say, like, I wouldn't have assumed she was. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Ohh!

Sydnee: She's so sweet.

Taylor: Ouch.

Sydnee: No, she's—and she can fetch. I will say that. I always think that's smart, that she fetches.

Taylor: Maybe. I don't know. I feel like if a cat—just intrinsically, I have no reason for this. But if cats spoke any language, I feel like it would be Japanese.

Sydnee: Hmm. Maybe.

Taylor: Just seems like the language that cats would be most likely to speak.

Sydnee: Those cats on TikTok that sound like they're trying to speak. You know what I'm ta—you know? Have you seen those videos? Where it's like, doesn't it sound like my cat's talking?

Taylor: I do think—and I'm not the only one that's commented on this. Jack says hello.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: He does. He says, "Hello? Hello?" It's usually when he goes into one of—he's old, so he'll go into one of the two rooms in my house, and if I'm not there, he gets lost. So he has to say, "Hello?"

I go, "Hi, Jack. I'm in here."

Sydnee: [laughs] I don't know. I have thought Amelia sometimes sounds like she's saying hello. 'Cause I'll say hello back. And we'll have a whole conversation of hellos. But there are some cats—there are definitely some cats on TikTok where they make these little, like, [unintelligible mumbling] noises. And it sounds like they're talking, but it isn't English, so... you know.

Taylor: I don't know. Maybe it's Japanese.

Sydnee: It does sound like—it's not like a... I associate cat noises with, like, a single noise that they're making. And this is more of like a collection of vocal inflections, more like speech.

Taylor: It is interesting that they—I mean, I think Jack has devised at least a series of sounds he knows can get him whatever reaction he wants.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Because he does this thing when he's, like—when he has gone without food for, like, 20 minutes. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You know, he's one of those cats that needs to have a little bit of food in his dish at all times, or else he panics. And so if there's no food in his dish, he makes his meow really crunchy and pathetic. It'll be like, "[hoarsely] Mrow. Mrow." And it's only when it's like, "Oh, look at me. I'm wasting away. I have no food." [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I will say that Olive has a similar thing, when specifically she's, like, all over me because she's hungry. 'Cause she's, I mean, she's always sort of with me. But her behavior is definitely different when it's about food. And, like, I also know it's about food because Amelia will sort of, like, be near her and, like, looking at me from across the room. Like, she's not gonna come bug me for food, but she is just gonna, like, "I'm here for backup. I can assert that yes, what she is telling you is true. We do not have food at this time. This is not a game. I am... [laughs quietly] I am validating her concerns. There is no food in our bowl."

But she'll come up to me and kind of be like, "[hoarsely] Oww... Moww... "

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And it's not like—

Taylor: [crosstalk] pathetic. "[hoarsely] Ohh, I don't have food! Help!"

Sydnee: Yeah. It's like she'll open her mouth, and it's almost like the sounds will barely come out. "[hoarsely] Oww... "

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] And that's the "Feed me." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. And it makes you feel bad. It is a very pathetic little raspy meow.

Sydnee: And it works.

Taylor: Like, "Oh, no. You haven't eaten in five minutes. Oh no." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. She was very excited 'cause we had a warm day, and she loves to just go out on the front porch. She's not an outside cat, she's an inside cat. But on warm days she just goes right out on the front porch, right in front of the door, and just rolls around. She just rolls and rolls and rolls.

Taylor: Oh, concrete? Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. I've seen where—it's funny that they're marketed as, like, a cat object, where you can buy a slab of concrete for your indoor cat.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I considered it, but I was like, I'm just buying a slab of concrete. Like, that is not something that I need to be special cat concrete. Like, no. Just go to the hardware store and buy, like, a... you know. One of those, like—

Sydnee: One of those paver things.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I just need, like, a—I don't need to buy specially designed cat concrete. I don't think. I don't think it's different in any way.

Sydnee: I mean, when we, like—the concrete that was poured for our front porch, it definitely was not with a cat in mind. It was just the front porch, so. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Just feels like such an unnecessary cat parent thing to buy. Oh, that—that 40-pound block of concrete that lives in my house now? Yeah, my cat likes it. Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and I mean, and it's tough, because I feel like when you—so, Olive likes to climb me. This has always been. I mean, since—she started riding around on my shoulder when she was little enough that that made sense. She continues to ride around on my shoulder, despite the fact that it no longer—I mean, I permanently have, like—I have scratch marks on my shoulders and upper neck all the time now, because what'll happen is I'm standing at the refrigerator looking inside it for something, and my back is to her, and she jumps up on the counter, which is behind me, and then leaps from the counter to my shoulders.

Taylor: Parkour!

Sydnee: Yes. And I have to be careful, 'cause, like, any time I'm standing with my back to her and the counter, she will jump from the counter to my back. So I'm, like, always... I'm hypervigilant about it now. Especially if I'm, like, cooking or something where, like, startling suddenly might burn me. You know, I'm, like, "Is the cat around? Is she gonna... "

So I got one of those tree things, 'cause I thought, well, maybe she just likes being—like, climbing. Being up high. No, she has no interest in that. It is not me.

Taylor: I feel like it's just a rule. Anything that you buy them that is specifically for them, they're probably not...

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: They're not gonna be into.

Sydnee: No. She has no—

Taylor: I bought Jack—yeah. I bought him a million toys, and he likes to play with Q-tips and hair ties. Um, he obviously does the classic cat thing. He loves to, if there's anything on the table, he'll push it on the floor. That's entertainment.

Sydnee: Yes. Oh yeah. No, we definitely have that. Or if there's a cup of water. If there's any, like, cup of liquid, Olive will just kind of, like, put her paw down in it, and then pull it over.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: And look at me like, "[scoffs] Why is it wet? Like, why is it—I hate this. Why is everything wet?" It's like... [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Her favorite are, um... if—like, we had them for some crafting project, and that's when she discovered them, the little, like, pom pom balls.

Taylor: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: That's is absolutely—like, and actually I can't find any at the moment, because she is—they have all rolled under pieces of furniture. So that's what—any time we, like, move the couch to, like, accommodate the Christmas tree or anything, it's like, there's just pom pom balls everywhere.

Taylor: There they are.

Sydnee: She loves those. Those are her favorite thing to fetch with.

Taylor: It's cool that you have a cat that can fetch. Jack cannot. That's not in his realm of skills.

Sydnee: It was an accidental discovery. It was with those pom pom balls. It was with those pom pom balls. She liked it, and she—I tossed it, and then she brought it back to me and laid it at my feet and looked up at me, and I was like, "Whoa! Whoa! I didn't know this was a thing you did!" [laughs quietly]

She lays them on me at night if she has 'em.

Taylor: Aww!

Sydnee: She'll wait till I'm asleep, and I'll wake up and there'll be, like, pom pom balls just on top of me. And I don't know if, like—

Taylor: Offerings.

Sydnee: Yeah. I don't know if they're offerings, kind of like instead of—which, I mean, I'd prefer to, like, a dead bird or something. But I don't know if it's that, or if it's like she's trying to get me to play with her and I'm asleep, and so she just keeps laying them on me hoping, like, "Well, maybe she'll wake up."

Taylor: "Maybe this one. Maybe this one'll do it."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's sweet.

Sydnee: Yeah. Anyway, so now I have learned that, and it is an excuse for all of her cat behavior.

Taylor: Of course.

Sydnee: Yeah. I think that makes sense.

Taylor: Not that she needed an excuse.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: Cats are an excuse in themselves. Like, "I'm a cat. I'm in your vicinity. I am gracing you with my presence. I will do whatever I choose to do." And I think 99% of cat owners go, "Yeah, oh yeah, you will. I know. Okay."

Sydnee: "I know. I can't help it. I love you."

Taylor: You smell like a sunny afternoon and a warm book and, you know... purr at a frequency that controls my mind. I'm fine with this.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Yeah. I had no problem with her antics before. But, um, I think the constantly knocking stuff over was getting to Justin, and now I say, "Well, you can't... you can't blame her now for it."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause we know it's something she can't control. It's in her nature. It's in her DNA. [laughs quietly] It's not her fault.

Uh, yeah. So, that was our—the Scholastic book fair graced us with many great books. Justin got a book of recipes. We've already tried a couple of them.

Taylor: Nice.

Sydnee: They were, like, one pot recipes. It was very cute.

Taylor: You'll have to send me the passage about tuxedos in your cat book.

Sydnee: I will, I will.

Taylor: I'm curious what it says about Jack.

Sydnee: Yeah. It led Cooper to buy a second cat book for herself, 'cause she enjoyed the cat book she bought for me so much. And this one was just,

like... uh, pictures of kittens, or something? Yeah. So there's just different breeds of kittens. And so we were just, like, flipping through this cute kitten book.

This is the evolution of the kitten poster. Now you just buy...

Taylor: I was gonna say, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: You got a whole collection of 'em.

Sydnee: Yeah. Now you just buy a kitten book. I asked her if the boys still buy—and I don't mean to stereotype, but I just feel like this is what it was like back in elementary school. The boys would buy, like, a poster of a Corvette.

Taylor: Yep.

Sydnee: And as a girl, you were supposed to buy a poster of, like, a cat... or maybe, like, I don't know.

Taylor: A ballerina.

Sydnee: Yeah. Or, like, a Lisa Frank situation.

Taylor: Oh yeah. Yeah, I liked those.

Sydnee: And she said yes, the boys still buy posters with cars.

Taylor: I remember having that classic "Hang in there" cat on a rope poster up in my room forever.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I'm glad to know that [laughs] the old ways are still in place.

Sydnee: Yeah. Nothing has changed. Some things never change. She was very excited—

Taylor: [through laughter] The two—the two genders: corvette or endangered kitten.

Sydnee: That's it. [laughs quietly] She's very into the animal videos in general. Obviously they were both following the Punch the Monkey saga with us.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: They also—I found a video of—okay. I think, if I'm understanding correctly, there was a children's hospital in Edinburgh where as a project for all the kids they had them paint rocks to give—

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: To the penguins.

Taylor: [simultaneously] To the penguins, yeah.

Sydnee: So that the boy penguins could give beautiful rocks to the girl penguins of their choosing. I guess in hopes that they will then mate.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Is that the—is this a—do you do the—like... I don't know exa—I knew that pebbling was a thing, but I don't know all of the ins and outs. So we were watching these videos of these penguins collecting these colorful rocks and then laying them at the feet of other penguins, who look very—I like the whole thing, 'cause the girl penguin is looking like, "Hm. I'll check that out later."

Like, not even really, like, acknowledging the rock. Like, "Yes, I understand. You're laying a rock there. [sighs] I'll see if I want to look at your rock in a little bit. I'm not feeling it right now."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, and... [laughs quietly] and I don't know—and there are multiple colored rocks at the feet of each girl penguin. So, like, does she then, like, look among the rocks and find the one she likes the best?

Taylor: I don't know. I don't really know the other end of that. 'Cause I've seen—I, too, have seen the—the rock presenting part of the interaction. And I know that they eventually, like, mate for life or whatever. Like, they—okay.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: "Because of the rock you have given me, you are now my husband."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I guess humans do the same thing, in a roundabout way.

Sydnee: Yeah. But, like—

Taylor: Yeah. I'm not really sure if it's like a—is it like an audition? Are you auditioning your rock? And then she, like, assesses—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] That's what I was trying to figure out.

Taylor: —all of the rocks and goes, "This one."

Sydnee: 'Cause I couldn't tell. Well, here's the other thing that might be happening. Here's what was confusing me. So they're sitting—each of the girl penguins in this video I saw are sitting in, like, a stone ring? And there's already a bunch of rocks in it. And then there's a big pile where they dumped the painted rocks. And all the boy penguins are flocking to this pile, carefully picking out the rock of their dreams, and then carrying it to the feet of one of the female penguins. And there are other colored rocks at her feet. So, I don't know... are they all from the same dude?

Taylor: I would—I mean, do you think you just keep shooting your shot and dropping a rock?

Sydnee: Until she says yes? Ohh. Maybe that's it. Maybe instead of, like, "I'll choose whose rock I like best," it's like, "Once you bring me the rock that I like the most, then we can do it."

Taylor: Well, 'cause I feel like we're sort of overloading the little penguin system by presenting them with an entire wheelbarrow of colorful, unique rocks, right? 'Cause it emerges from out in the wild where, I'm assuming, a particularly beautiful rock is not something you stumble upon every day.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: So these little penguin guys spend their whole life like, "Oh, I gotta find the right rock for the right lady." And then we just drop a wheelbarrow of, like, once in a lifetime rocks. And they're like, "Oh no! Oh god! Here, this one! Have this one too! Here's another one! Uh, I love you! Here's a rock! Here's another one! This one's blue! Ah! This one's pink!" [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I don't know! I mean, that might be why. 'Cause, like—and the female penguins look so unimpressed by all of them. And I would've thought—I mean, I don't know much about penguins, but I would've thought any of those rocks would've been impressive to the penguin.

Taylor: Well, I mean, I feel like the—once you get into, like, bird courting rituals in general, I'm always a little impressed by how unimpressed the women are.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: 'Cause birds, they really go all in. They do dances, they build art installations, happenings. [laughs] They choreograph with other birds. Like...

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: And it's always like the lady birds just stand there like, "I don't know. I've seen better. I don't know."

Sydnee: I read a study once—I don't know why—about, um...

Taylor: [wheezes] Why wouldn't you read a bird study?

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, well, I don't—it was a study I read, and then I thought, "I don't know what I'm gonna do with that knowledge."

I, uh... [laughs quietly] I read a study about the complexity of songbird songs. And, like, you can tie—like, the birds can tell how complex the song is, and that's who they choose to mate with, so that's the dance equivalent. There is a song equivalent. The more talented of a composer the male songbird is, the more likely he is to find a mate.

Taylor: Well, that's like those, uh... I mean, there are a couple different types of birds that can mimic. But that one documentary that's got all the different bird dances—

Sydnee: I love that.

Taylor: —and the bowerbird. And there's the one that, like, just shows off. Like, rolls up to his lady. He's like, "You want to hear me make a sound like a fire truck? Yeah? What about R2-D2? Yeah? Got that too. Wanna [wheezes] hear me mimic a child's laughter in a playground? I got that." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Honestly that's not too dissimilar from some human dudes.

Taylor: [laughs] I was gonna say, I feel like in the animal kingdom, if there's a parallel for how, like, our type of people, um, court, it's bird.

Sydnee: [laughs] "Hi! Can I tell you about my special area of interest right now?"

Taylor: [laughs] Right? Like, "Look at all of these, uh, things I've collected that are all this very specific color blue. Isn't that nice? Would you like to live with me forever?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, you know, this feels very familiar to me.

Taylor: Is that—was that how Justin courted you?

Sydnee: More or less.

Taylor: I think he did do a series of silly voices, probably.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. And he was like—

Taylor: Having cool things.

Sydnee: Yes. "I like The Princess Bride. Do you?"

"I do. Let's talk about it for 20 hours." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] I thought you were gonna say 20 years. Yep! [laughs]

Sydnee: Or that, or that. Actually, this July, 20 years.

Taylor: Yeah. There you go. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. We will have been talking about—no. I mean, I—and that's still true. 'Cause sometimes he'll be like, "Can I tell you about this thing I'm interested in now?"

And I'm like, "Mm-hmm. Let me—hold on. Let me grab a drink. Let me sit down. Okay, I'm comfortable. Go." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: "I know how excited you are. Do you have—oh, you have things that come with. It has accessories. Okay, show me the accessories. Okay."

Taylor: It's definitely—like, I know that there are different types of sort of hierarchies in the animal kingdom that different types of humans I think mimic. You know, there's definitely the people where it's like, "Well, I've established that I'm the strongest, so naturally you should want to mate with me."

I don't get that. I don't understand that.

Sydnee: Mm-mm.

Taylor: Some people, that's the way they interact, and good for them. But weird little birds doing their weird little bird things, it's like, yeah. That's it.

Sydnee: Uh, I really—that documentary. Is it Planet—is that the section from Planet Earth?

Taylor: It might be, but I think that they... 'cause I watched it just as a piece on its own on Netflix.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: 'Cause it's just... like, it's—it ends with—is it to David Bowie? Is it to a David Bowie song?

Sydnee: I don't remember.

Taylor: Like, the final act of that documentary is the one little bird that, like, when he pulls his wings up he looks like a perfect black oval.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: With, like, a blue streak in it. You know?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: And I—I think it's David Bowie that they have him dancing to. And it's maybe my favorite thing that's ever been committed to film.

Sydnee: It might. I mean, it might well be. I remember—I think it is from the broader documentary Planet Earth. But that section was so popular, I think that's why they pulled it out as its own thing. 'Cause I think so many people—I mean, we all knew that birds had, you know, peculiar mating rituals. But I don't think people knew the extent of it, or what all those different birds of paradise looked like. I think that was what was really shocking, is—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And this was, I mean, I have to say as I'm thinking about Planet Earth, this was... how long ago did they do that? 'Cause I feel like now with TikTok and stuff, we all see weird animals all the time. Like, there's not gonna be an animal where I'm like, "I can't believe an animal looks like that!"

No, I've seen a lot of weird animals. But I feel like Planet Earth hit at a moment where maybe we hadn't all been exposed to all the weird animals yet.

Taylor: Yeah. I agree. Yeah, 'cause that felt very... that was a lot of weird birds.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Very unique-looking birds that I'd never seen before.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I like the bowerbird the most.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I think that's what I relate to the most. Like, he builds a weird little structure and fills it with pretty things.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: It's like... then he stands outside of it and makes weird noises.
[laughs]

Sydnee: Which—which I assume mean "Come look at this!"

Taylor: Yeah. Like, I found—I found, uh, a whole bunch of cool sticks! Look at all these cool sticks!

Sydnee: Come check it out!

Taylor: Hey, I got sticks! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: If I can do this, wouldn't I be a great husband?

Taylor: That's clear. I've showed off my skills.

Sydnee: [laughs] I do think that there is a... it's interesting, 'cause that is... there... there are specific types of humans. [laughs quietly] And they are the ones who said, "Eh. I don't think trying to be the biggest and strongest is gonna work out for me."

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "But I could show off this other set of skills." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. Cut to every young boy that learns to play the guitar.
[laughs]

Sydnee: Ah, yes. That's exactly what that is, yes, uh-huh. And I think we're starting to move into performative male. [laughs quietly] Like, with those performative male contests that they have.

Taylor: Oh, yeah. You know, that—I think we've talked about this in the past. But I feel like that framing of it as, like, it's somehow bad... I don't know. I feel like if a guy wants to drink matcha and read a book and, like, try to pay attention to your needs and have empathy, these are good things, I think. Those are fine. There are definitely worse ways you can be. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I think—I mean—and I don't know what they're trying to say, 'cause I don't really—I mean, I'm too old to completely understand this. [laughs quietly] This cultural idea.

I don't know if what they're trying to say is like, these are men who are performing because they're trying to, like... trick you in some way?

Taylor: Manipulate, yeah, yeah. That's true.

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, are they trying to, like, get you into bed this way? Or is it "I am going out of my way to show you I'm not toxic"? Because honestly, culture has kind of demanded that. Like, if we're gonna feel safe with a man, like, if you want to put out more external cues like, "I am a green flag. You are—like, this is okay. I won't—I'm not trying to hurt you."

That's not a... that's appreciated. You know? Like, that's not—I think that that's a logical thing to do. Considering that we still routinely choose the bear. [laughs quietly] I think that's an okay thing, if all you're trying to do is genuinely show, "I am not a danger."

Taylor: No, that's true. But I—you're right that there is the flip side of that, that if men are donning the regalia of the type of men that women feel safe around purely to lure women in, that sucks. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yes. And I don't know. I don't know. Oof.

Taylor: Oh no.

Sydnee: Again, back to the bear.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I know what the bear's agenda is. I'm not confused. The bear's not gonna manipulate me. The bear might eat me, but I know what the bear's agenda is.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. You know, I mean, to make it full circle, just as a statement, I think if a man has a cat... I have never not known—every guy I know that has a cat is a good guy. I think that's always true.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: As long as it's properly taken care of. A man that can properly take care of a cat, probably an okay human.

Sydnee: Yeah. I think that's a good green flag. Not that, like—and I don't want to insinuate that a dog is a red flag in any way. It's just, there are lots of different guys who own dogs. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs quietly] No. I agree. I agree with that statement.

Taylor: Uh, but... [laughs quietly] speaking of performing men, um, we got way—wow. I think this is the farthest we've gone avoiding the topic.

Sydnee: Well, it's just that animals—we like animals. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. You get me talking about an animal doing something cool and I will be set for the day.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I learned this weekend how you find an ant queen. In the wild. How you can tell a queen from other ants.

Taylor: Oh yeah?

Sydnee: It's the size of the thorax.

Taylor: Oh, I think I knew that.

Sydnee: Because they have muscles there from which wings sprout, but then they shed the wings, so you won't always see the wings. You can't look reliably for wings. You have to look for the thorax size. And then you put it in a test tube with a cotton ball with water behind the cotton ball, so you don't drown it. But, like, you can access it through the cotton. And then it sits for a while and it lays eggs. Only if you collect it during anting season. I don't know if you want to know more about this.

Taylor: Well, I mean, we can talk about anting season instead of the Foo Fighters, I guess.

Sydnee: This is how you start an ant farm. No, let's talk about the Foo Fighters. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: We did pick that as our choice.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: I feel like the Foo Fighters are more, you know, in the divide of—we had a lot of overlapping bands. I feel like this was more of a you band than a me band. Not that I don't [crosstalk] the Foo Fighters.

Sydnee: It was.

Taylor: But...

Sydnee: No, no. I think it was, because this is one of those rare bands that you did not get me into, but a—but I had a boyfriend who got me into the Foo Fighters.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it was kind of late. In, like—if you consider... okay. I was not listening to the Foo Fighters when I think, like, the big hits that everybody knew came out. Right? Like Monkey Wrench, and Learn to Fly. And even Everlong.

Taylor: Really? That was all... I mean, that's all, like, the 90s era, right? Like, the...

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah. Those were—

Taylor: The Color and the Shape? is that...

Sydnee: Yeah, is that where that's from? I was trying to remember all their albums. But that is like—yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Monkey Wrench, Everlong, and My Hero were all on The Color and the Shape.

Sydnee: See, that—I was not listening to Foo Fighters when that came out. Now, I'm not saying I wasn't familiar with those songs. Like, certainly I had, you know, heard... I had heard those songs on the radio and stuff like that. But I wasn't really listening to Foo Fighters at that point. It wasn't until One by One, which didn't come out until 2002, that I really, like, remember—I remember that album coming out, going and buying the CD, and then playing it in my car a ton.

Taylor: That's the one that—I was gonna say, I remember that physical CD being in your CD book.

Sydnee: Yeah. And I played it all the time. And it's weird, because then after that I went back and got really into The Color and the Shape, of course, and Everlong is one of my favorite songs of all time. Um, but it was weird, 'cause it was like, my boyfriend listened to it, and I was like, "Whatever." And then I went and bought my own, and fell in love with One by—I have a history of doing that, though. 'Cause for the longest time, I used to argue that Ben Folds' best album was Songs for Silverman, which isn't true. I know that now.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It was the CD I bought first, so it was like my intro. It was my gateway, you know? Sometimes you fall in love with your gateway album,

even though, like, in ret—as you mature, you're like, "This is... this is not the best. This is good, this is solid, but there's better stuff."

Taylor: I get that. I felt that—I was gonna bring up—we've talked about Veruca Salt in the past, and the first Veruca Salt album I listened to was *Eight Arms to Hold You*, which is still fantastic, but most people feel that it's their earlier album that is their pinnacle piece, that *Eight Arms to Hold You* was their quote-unquote "sellout album."

Um, but I was thinking of them, because *Everlong* was written about Louise Post, of Veruca Salt.

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Taylor: Her and Dave Grohl dated, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I had no idea.

Taylor: Yeah. And she has a song—he wrote that song—it's obviously a positive relationship song—while they were sort of falling in love. And then she has a breakup song about him on *Resolver*.

Sydnee: Aww.

Taylor: *Disconnected* is about Dave Grohl.

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Taylor: Yeah. 90s alternative icon relationship drama.

Sydnee: Oh my god. Like, I know all the words to *Disconnected*.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. Yeah, it's kind of a bummer, because it's a real sad song. And it sings about him leaving her for Hollywood. I forget who he left her for, but it was an actress.

Sydnee: I don't know. See, I don't know this lore.

Taylor: Yep.

Sydnee: That's fascinating to me. 'Cause I loved Disconnected. That was one of my favorite songs.

Taylor: Well, and that's another album that kind of—all of the—we're talking about the Foo Fighters, but now I'm talking about Veruca Salt. But all the albums that Louis Post did without Nina Gordon under the Veruca Salt label tend to get kind of pushed aside, because I do agree that Veruca Salt is Louise Post and Nina Gordon together. But that album I think is still really cool, and that song is a particular highlight.

Sydnee: Huh.

Taylor: But now they kind of operate as a weird story where you have Everlong as the beginning and Disconnected as the end.

Sydnee: That's wild. Well, I'm glad I know that now.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's really sad.

Taylor: Dave Grohl would—

Sydnee: Well, I mean, I'm sure they're both doing fine. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. I think they're both happily remarried multiple times. Or they may—I don't think they were ever married. They dated, but...

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I'm—I'm sure they're fine with it all now. It's sad that—I just discovered it, and so I get to have a moment of like, "Aww." No, I didn't know.

I still remember... even before I listened—this is such a weird memory that I have. Even before I really listened to the Foo Fighters, as I was becoming sort of, like, culturally aware that this was a band that existed, it was far enough back that we were both still living at home. So we're talking high

school, or younger even. And you had a—it was after you had a TV in your bedroom.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But your bed—you had gone through the shift into, like, your futuristic...

Taylor: My Delia's bedroom?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Oh, that was the best bedroom.

Sydnee: It was, like, all white.

Taylor: The lunar lounger, yeah.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. And then, like, purple and green, and spacey.

Taylor: And blue.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: It was like a soft baby blue and then, like—yeah. I had, like, those—so it was all just straight from, like, Delia's.

Sydnee: Delia's, yeah.

Taylor: There was that big round inflatable chair.

Sydnee: Yes, the inflatable chair.

Taylor: And those elliptical white shelves that had, like, three aesthetically placed white seals on top of it.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Yes.

Taylor: Yeah. And I put my bed on the floor. Like, I got rid of a—just—it was two mattresses on the floor to make it—I don't know. I probably thought it looked more Japanese or something. I was a weeb.

And then had those push lights lined up alongside of it, so it looked like a... yeah, like it was a spaceship. [laughs]

Sydnee: It did. I remember being in your Delia's bedroom, and we were watching MTV.

Taylor: Hm.

Sydnee: And the VJ was like, "Next up. We're still trying to figure out, what is Foo, and why are we fighting it? It's the Foo Fighters." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I still remember that! And being like...

Taylor: That's so funny.

Sydnee: "What are the Foo Fighters? Who are the Foo Fi—" like, early days. I mean, that would've been the 90s. I mean...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it'd probably be, like, 90–97-ish.

Taylor: That makes sense. 'Cause they would've been on MTV, but not so ubiquitous that we would've known about them.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Taylor: Speaking of UFOs, that's where they got the name. It was a term for unidentified flying objects from, like, I don't know, World War II or something, were foo fighters.

Sydnee: What?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: The UFOs were... foo?

Taylor: They called them... I think that's right.

Sydnee: Is that right? I didn't know that.

Taylor: I believe it was another term for a UFO.

Sydnee: I had no idea. That's interesting. No, I had never—you know, I didn't at the moment try to research why they were called the Foo Fighters. Like, obviously the MTV VJ didn't know. And this, again, would've been before you could google.

Taylor: That's true. Well, I don't know if they ever were forward about it at first. But, uh, I looked at an interview where Dave Grohl was talking about it. He said it was just kind of a funny... it was just funny. And if we would've realized it would've been the band that became our career, we would've named ourselves something else, 'cause it was... in his words, "The stupidest effing band name in the world."

Uh, yeah. taken from foo fighter, a World War II term for unidentified flying objects.

Sydnee: Oh, it's catchy, though. Obviously.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, it, um... I, like, really, because my boyfriend at the time was into them, I became interested. And then once you see Dave Grohl drum, it's hard to not be kind of fascinated with everything he does. Because he's like Animal from The Muppets.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's just like, and now he has his own band, and what the heck is he gonna do. And, uh, I saw him—I saw Foo Fighters in concert three times?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, I think three different times. They're fantastic. They just—like, it's a fantastic show to watch. And it felt cool, too. Like, I don't know. At the time, I was still developing a musical taste that wasn't our parents'. You know?

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, like, so many of the first cassette tapes and then CDs that I had were, like, stuff that I had heard Mom and Dad listen to and I liked. But it was not my music. Right? Like, my—one of my cassette tapes—I don't know what my first cassette was. It might've been Samantha Fox.

Taylor: [laughs] Samantha Fox.

Sydnee: It might've been. Although Paula Abdul was pretty early too. It was probably something like that. But the Big Chill soundtrack was a—

Taylor: [laughs] What? The Big Chill soundtrack.

Sydnee: Was a cassette tape that I played every time I took a shower. I would go—you know. When you're in that part of your life, you're like, "I take showers for fun now, 'cause I'm a grownup. I'm old enough that I don't—my parents don't make me take a bath. I take a shower."

So probably, like, preteen, adolescent time.

Taylor: Yeah, sure.

Sydnee: I would, like, go in the bathroom with my, you know, boom box, and put on the Big Chill soundtrack. And, like, take a shower, and probably, like, kill my skin with some really, like, high octane benzol peroxide situation. [laughs]

Taylor: And spritz on some, what? Bath and Body Works? I don't know.

Sydnee: For sure. For sure. Uh... [laughs quietly] All those healthy products for your hair. Lots of probably, like, Garnier Fructis.

Taylor: Oh yeah. I was gonna say, I like the L'Oreal. Remember the little round kind of ovular L'Oreal bottles? It was L'Oreal for kids. They had the little eyeball on 'em.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But they smelled so good.

Sydnee: But, uh, my first, like, CDs were similar. Like, Carol King was my first CD, because Mom played Carol King. And I loved—I mean, I'm not saying this was bad music. But for a while, you're just sort of, like, "This is the music that I—I don't know what the musical options are. Here's all my parents' music. I like this best of my parents' music."

And you're not finding yours.

Taylor: And to be fair, I think our parents had particularly good taste in music. I mean, we've joked a million times about Jimmy Buffett. Jimmy Buffett is great, but it's a little—it's a little silly sometimes. Outside of Jimmy Buffett, they also had a very complex, good musical taste that we kind of inherited. I don't think... I remember—not all of my friends I felt had that. You know?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Like, could have a con—had listened to, like, I don't know, Elton John, and David Bowie, and Prince. Like, those were objectively good artists that we were exposed to young.

Sydnee: Absolutely. No, I think it wasn't—it wasn't until I kind of had that—I did that thing in college that—I don't know if kids in college still do this. I don't know if it's a college thing or if it was of a time in college.

But I got a record player, and I wanted to start playing songs on vinyl, 'cause they sounded more real. I don't know. Do people still say that? Is that still a thing?

Taylor: I mean, I think it's still true. I have a record player that I... I like the sound of vinyl. I don't know. I don't know anything about it.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I mean, I still do.

Taylor: But I like it. [laughs]

Sydnee: I still do. Like, I have a record player upstairs in my office, and I have a bunch of vinyl. Some of which I bought on my own through the years, like, from thrift stores and, you know, places where you get, like, old, secondhand vinyl stuff. The—oh, man. The, um, flea market? Incredible vinyl selection. The Milton flea market. So good.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Oh, I bet. I bet.

Sydnee: But Mom and Dad let me have all their records, whatever I wanted out of their records. And I—so I looked through it and I was like, "Holy crap. My parents were listening to all of this? And, like, I didn't know?"

And I was like, I don't know. I got a Coolio CD 'cause my friends liked Coolio. What was I doing?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But anyway. Foo Fighters was one of the first bands that I got—like, I felt like, "This is mine. This is mine. And it's rock and roll. [laughs] It's hardcore." You know?

'Cause I was also super into Weezer. But Weezer still felt, like, nerdy. You know?

Taylor: Yeah. well, [crosstalk].

Sydnee: In a good way.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it was, like, nerdy. Like, I didn't listen to Weezer 'cause I was so super cool. Foo Fighters was like, "I'm also hardcore!" [laughs]

Taylor: Which is funny, 'cause they're both, I would say retrospective—like, they're both music for nerds.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: The same people listen to both.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: So much so that they went on tour together.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: 'Cause it made sense.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] No, you're absolutely right. And it did, at the time, feel distinct for some reason. The music of Foo Fighters felt hardcore in a way that Weezer didn't. But, like, if you look, I mean, there's plenty of, like, pop rock kind of stuff, you know, for both.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, it's not... Foo Fighters would have songs where they'd break into those, like, hard—hard rock sort of riffs and stuff. But there's also a lot of just fun stuff.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. I think it's just that Dave Grohl has an angry, growly voice, and Rivers Cuomo has a soft baby boy voice.

Sydnee: Yeah. I think that's true. And it is—and you see that their pasts kind of weave in and out, because now you look at Rivers and he's 80s metal. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Right. But he's on a journey, and I love that for him. [laughs] It is funny, 'cause I feel like Foo Fighters kind of—they've been doing—I don't want to—it's not in a bad way that they've been doing the same thing since inception, but they have.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. They have.

Taylor: Whereas Weezer has kind of gone through these different, weird iterations of themselves. Like, maybe it's because they achieved that slightly, just slightly higher level of success, where suddenly you're almost caught in, like, a feedback loop of yourself. I don't think Foo Fighters quite breached that, so they could just keep—keep fightin' the foos. Just keep doing it.

Sydnee: Just keep doing it. And, I mean, it—you know. I think it—the people who love Foo Fighters, and I count myself among them, will always love and defend—I mean, like, we are stans. Like, they definitely cultivated a group of fans that will love them forever. Um, it was—I will say, one rough moment for me was Charlie and Cooper were watching this TV show called Ryan's World, and it's this kid who was a YouTuber, and his parents would, like, make these videos of him, like, unboxing things or, like, doing—like, making slime or whatever the heck. I don't know. Whatever this kid did. I didn't really watch. But, like, I remember the girls being into his YouTube videos, and me allowing them to watch them, 'cause they were fairly benign, right? Like, there's a lot of bad stuff I don't want the kids engaging with. This was pretty benign content.

Okay, so they like Ryan. So then he got a TV show, so they watch Ryan's World. And part of it is that he would bring out, like, a special guest. And they were like, "We have a special guest this week. He, uh, is a rock star, and he used to be really popular back in the 90s. And, um, he's, like—his kids are a fan of the show," or something like that. I mean, it was some weird connection. Like, why is—and anyway, it was Dave Grohl.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Sydnee: And so they bring out Dave Grohl and they're like, "Mr. Grohl! Tell us about, what did you do for your job?"

And he's like, "Well, I played in a band."

And it's just like, "Oh my god! What am I—"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: You're so old!

Sydnee: Like, how is this happening?! And the girls are like, "Do you know who that is?"

I'm like, "Yes, I know who Dave Grohl is!"

Taylor: Dave Grohl.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: That's wild.

Sydnee: Watching him play drums was the hottest thing I ever had seen as a teenager. I watched him and I was like, "Oh my god!"

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And now he's the special guest surprise on this kid YouTuber's TV show.

Taylor: I mean, I guess he was—that's probably just to make his kids happy, right? Although I don't... you know, I don't know about his personal life. I think there's drama there, right?

Sydnee: Oh, I don't know.

Taylor: Yeah, I think he's been not the best partner.

Sydnee: Oh, really?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Man. Aren't there some that you're just like, I don't—oh, man. I don't wanna know.

Taylor: He was one that I always thought, like, I don't know, he seems like a normal guy. Like, yeah, he's really successful, but he seems like a normal... I don't think we should ever put celebrities on pedestals, but he's probably a good dude.

And then I think recently it was discovered that he had, like, a secret mistress that he didn't tell his partner about for a decade, or something. And had, like—it was a whole—

Sydnee: Oh, man!

Taylor: Very, very public fallout. Um, I don't know the details, so don't—take whatever I'm saying with a grain of salt, but...

Sydnee: And to be fair, I don't pay enough attention. I also do not put people up on pedestals. I loved Foo Fighter music. I still listen. They're in all my mixes and rotations, you know. I still listen to the music. I don't know Dave Grohl. I hope he's a nice guy, because I love his music. But I have no, you know, loyalty to, "So I will fight and defend him personally." You know what I mean?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, I don't—I have never felt that way about any celebrity. I have never—I have never thought, like, "Well, I'll go to the mat over whether or not this person is a good person, or did whatever, or didn't do whatever."

Because I don't know them. They're celebrities.

Taylor: Well, I agree. And I think that there's a different level where it's like, when someone is outed as, like, an abuser, it's like, oh, man. That ruins everything they made. That's different.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Taylor: When it's just like, ah, someone cheated on a partner, or had a bad breakup or, I don't know. There's a level where it's like, I don't... I don't know. That sucks. People make mistakes. People do stupid stuff all the time. And it doesn't... like you said, like, I don't know them. I don't know the details of this, whatever happened. There's nuance there, between, like, you know, break all of their records and throw them in the street versus, "Oh, that sucks." [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, no, I definitely think there is, 'cause I think that we have to draw lines for, like, I don't ever want to support anything J. K. Rowling does. I didn't know when I bought Harry Potter books a long time ago. I didn't know who she was. Now I do. I don't ever want to give that woman money.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's how I feel. Now, I did not—I'm not gonna burn her books in the street, 'cause I don't burn books. But I'm never gonna give her money. And I have a complex feeling about, like—I own these books. I bought them however—gosh, I don't know. College, I think. I bought them so long—med school, I think, was when the last one came out. I bought 'em so long ago. I own them. Will I let my kids read them? I think? I mean, but I don't know.

So, like, I think you can have those complex, but then draw hard lines. But I'm never giving this person money. I don't want—you know what I mean? I can never support this person because of the things they've done, versus maybe that's not a nice person. Maybe they've done some things that, you know, I wouldn't want to hang out with them. But, like, do I need to cast away all of their—all of the work that maybe brought me joy? I think—I don't know. I think sometimes it's a more complicated question.

Taylor: Just so I'm not spreading information, he did—he fathered a child out of wedlock. He came clean with his family, and as of—not that it's anybody's business, but his—him and his wife are trying to make it work.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: So.

Sydnee: Well.

Taylor: That's the drama that was somewhat recent. [crosstalk]

Sydnee: I wish them the best. Yes. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: No, but you're right. But like, that sucks, but like, we all—I don't know. Like, I have friends that have cheated on partners, and it's not—I don't support that. It's a bad thing to do. But, you know, that's a different level than advocating for the genocide of an entire subset of people, J. K. Rowling. [laughs]

Sydnee: Exactly. Yeah, exactly. And, I mean, I think that when we—especially, like, since the Me Too movement, I think we can all agree, if somebody, you know, committed assault, I mean, people who belong in that category, we don't support. We shouldn't give our money or our time or our attention to, and they should be punished for the things they did. I mean by the law. I don't mean, like, killed.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, you know, suffer legal consequences for committing crimes. And that's different than, like, "That guy is... not a nice guy." Like... he cheated on people. You might personally decide, "I don't want to listen to his music." But, I mean—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Yeah, which you have every right to do.

Sydnee: You know what I mean? And absolutely, you should do that. But I feel like we have to draw those lines between, "Well, it turns out—" I don't

know. Remember how there were all those stories about how Val Kilmer was a jerk? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. Okay.

Sydnee: But, like, I still love to watch Tombstone, you know? Like, I'll still—I watch Tombstone at least a couple times a year, and I'll probably always watch Tombstone. Like, I feel like that's different than other people and the things we learned about them.

Taylor: I feel like there is this... it takes power away from people's ability to actually hold dangerous—usually men, but people—in, like, to consequence, when everything gets risen to the same level.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Taylor: Where it's like, no, no, no. We need to separate the people that are like, "Yeah, that sucks. But I don't know, people make mistakes. I don't know." Versus, like, no, this person should never be allowed to work again, and no one should ever purchase anything that they have ever made. Like, this is a dangerous person, like you said, that should be properly prosecuted.

Sydnee: Yes, they should be in jail. I mean, they are a danger to others, and that's... yeah.

Taylor: When every celebrity failing gets brought up to the same level, it's like, aren't we just—we just take away the ability of victims to advocate for themselves, because people go, "Well, are they actually a bad person, or did they just make a mistake? Or did they just do something stupid?"

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't know. I don't know. And it really, like, necessitates the cognitive dissonance, because I also love Courtney Love, and Dave Grohl and Courtney Love famously hate each other. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. That's true.

Taylor: According to either of them, the other one is the devil incarnate. And I'm like, I don't know. I like both of your music a lot. Please don't ever—

Sydnee: So there's that. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Don't do anything so evil that I have to throw it aside.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But...

Sydnee: Well, I will still—I will listen to the Foo Fighters. I do. They were—they came up—I was listening to one of my mixes yesterday and it came up, so. Everlong.

Taylor: I think—see, I, uh—I feel like Best of You—I don't know what it was about that song that, like, hit, 'cause that was one of their—I mean, I feel like that was already when they were in the territory of, like—why was it such a thing that if a band got too successful we considered them sellouts? Like, now, I don't know. That's just not the way we really process success for musicians these days. But I remember, like, their later albums kind of getting like, "Oh. Now they're big. Like, eh."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And Best of You was one of those, but I loved that song. I still do.

Sydnee: That's a great song.

Taylor: That song hypes me up. That music video is good.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Just a whole bunch of, like, supercut clips. It's really good.

Sydnee: It is really good. No, that is a great song. But you're right, that was about the time where people were like, "Foo Fighters are selling out."

And it's like, no, they're just popular. They're just—people just like their music. It's good. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I don't know. It was weird. Like, I remember when Green Day made a musical, everybody was like, "This is a pinnacle of selling out."

But now it's like, wow. Isn't that cool that a punk band made a musical? That was fun. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, we all had to get over, like, whatever that irony... everybody was ironic and cynical and disingenuous for a while, and that was the cool way to be.

Taylor: I think it's also that just everything about the music industry has destroyed the ability for success for, like, the vast majority of musicians. That now it just would be really cool to see some of the bands that I really love be able to do music for good.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And not have second jobs. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I know what you mean. Well, I am glad we got to talk about the Foo Fighters, 'cause I do love them.

Taylor: Briefly.

Sydnee: Briefly.

Taylor: 30 minutes about various animals. 20 minutes for the Foes.

Sydnee: Sorry.

Taylor: That's alright.

Sydnee: Good animal podcast.

Taylor: Good animal podcast.

Sydnee: What are we talking about next, Taylor?

Taylor: Well, you mentioned that you had seen the Freakier Friday?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Is that what it's called?

Sydnee: Or is it?

Taylor: Freakier, More Friday. Fridayer, Freakier Fridayer.

Sydnee: I may have made that up, that it's called Freakier Friday. I feel like I did. Um... no, it is. It is. No, it is.

Taylor: It is? Okay.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: So the...

Sydnee: Freakier Friday.

Taylor: So that'd be—it'd be fun to talk about the original Freaky Friday, with Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis, and then the new sequel.

Sydnee: Perfect.

Taylor: I haven't watched the sequel. I don't know if I actually ever saw the original. I think I'm familiar enough with it culturally that I understand what it's about.

Sydnee: I, uh, had not seen the original, I realized, until recently. We decided—the girls kept asking about Freaky Friday. They, I don't know. Mom

told 'em about it? I don't even know how they knew about it, but they were obsessed with watching it, so we watched the original in order to then watch Freakier Friday. 'Cause they were like, "Let's watch this new movie."

And I was like, "Well, I mean, hold on. We gotta go back and—we need some context." You do really need to watch the first one to understand the second one.

Taylor: Yeah, I know. Alright.

Sydnee: Well, there's lots of references to it. It's... you're gonna like it. Anyway, you'll see. I think it's funny. I think it's well done.

Taylor: Alright. We're gonna watch.

Sydnee: Little tongue in cheek.

Taylor: We're gonna watch 'em both, and we'll talk about the... [laughs quietly] the Freakier Friday universe.

Sydnee: Yes. Alright, well, thank you, Tey. And thank you, listeners. If you have not, I don't know how you haven't ever listened to Foo Fighters, but you probably—if you think you haven't, you probably have.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You've probably heard one of their songs somewhere floating around there. Um, The Color and the Shape was, like, the big album for them. I agree that—I think Best of You is on One by One, isn't it?

Taylor: Oh yeah, that—yes. I was thinking the album was Best of You, but no, you're right. That's One by One.

Sydnee: Yeah, that was a great album. They're all great, but anyway, you should check those out. And you should go to Maximumfun.org and check out a lot of great shows that would enjoy. And you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our 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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm still buffering...

Taylor: And I am too.

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: I realized you say your cross-generational guide, and then I say the cross-generational guide, and sometimes a cross-generational guide. [unintelligible]

Taylor: Oh. I feel like we had this discussion. We can't say "the". That's a big burden. "A" feels kind of random. Like, it's a... "Your" it's like, well, you're here, so it's yours. We're here for you.

Sydnee: I'm gonna try to do that next time for our intro. Let's see how successful I am.

Taylor: I don't know. Alright. We'll see. I feel like if you think about it— 'cause I couldn't tell you what I just said, and I just said it 10 seconds ago.

Sydnee: That's what happens. And then you accidentally do what I did, which is say "the cross-generational guide." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs quietly] You make a declaration that we can't walk back, now! We gotta raise our standards!

[chord]

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