

Still Buffering 490: Obsession (2026)

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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: Tey, we had an exciting weekend.

Taylor: Oh yeah? What'd you do?

Sydnee: Well, we went to the Flodge. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: The Fl... the Flodge.

Sydnee: The Flodge.

Taylor: Is that—what is the... the...

Sydnee: It's—so, we went to Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. You know.

Taylor: Okay. I knew that's where you went, but I was trying to figure out the—like, that would be the Gw—Gw—Gwlodge.

Sydnee: I actually think this may date back to Rileigh? Is it Char—god. This is how you know you're getting old. Was it—which kid did this thing?

Taylor: Which of your children?

Sydnee: Well, I don't remember if it was Charlie, or if this goes all the way back to Rileigh.

Taylor: Was it you? Was it me?

Sydnee: It wasn't us, because Great Wolf Lodge has been—like, we did not go there as children.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: But Rileigh did. Like, I remember going with Rileigh as a child, multiple times. Right? So... and now I've taken Charlie and Cooper as children.

Taylor: Well, I can see how that would be confusing, 'cause I feel like—'cause I never went with Rileigh. But you and Justin took her a lot when she was a kid.

Sydnee: Well, and we—didn't we stay there once when we went to a Jimmy Buffett thing?

Taylor: I think that was the sole time that I have spent a night at Great Wolf Lodge. Was it for Jimmy Buffett or was it for—I think I just went to Kings Island with you all once. Maybe there was both. Maybe both happened.

Sydnee: I think both. Well, either way. Somebody used to think when we would say Great Wolf Lodge quickly that it was called the Great Wool Flodge..

Taylor: Like... like wool?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Like the fabric?

Sydnee: The Great Wool Flodge. And so—I think it was Rileigh who would say, "Are we going to the Flodge?"

And we were like, "What? The what?"

Taylor: You know the Flodge.

Sydnee: And that—so the Flodge stuck. So now that's all we call it is the Flodge. Like, ever since. We'll be like, "Girls, do you wanna go to the Flodge?"

We went to the Flodge.

Taylor: It begs the question of what does that F stand for? Now I understand that it stands for nothing, but it sounds like it should.

Sydnee: We went to the Flodge, and we went to Kings Island, because we realized it was the only weekend this summer where we were gonna be able to do it. And we had promised the girls we'll go to Kings Island once this summer.

Um, and we did, and it was the—can I say, first of all, it was the hottest day I've ever been in a theme park anywhere, ever.

Taylor: Oh no.

Sydnee: Oh my god, it was hot. And you know me, I like the heat. I like the humidity. Whew.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Whoa.

Taylor: Yeah, but we've been having that crazy heat wave all throughout the... upper east quadrant.

Sydnee: Yes. It was a lot. It was a lot. And it was—you had to be really patient, 'cause the weather was kind of on and off, and any time there was lightning, they had to shut down all the roller coasters for a while.

Taylor: Just for a while.

Sydnee: Just for a while. Also, also, all the water slides in the Flodge, because they go outside the building and back in—so anytime there was lightning they had to shut down all the water slides.

Taylor: Oh, okay. That makes sense.

Sydnee: 'Cause it's in—yeah.

Taylor: I was gonna say, if there was just rain, that's just more water. That's fine.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: But I guess getting cooked in the tube... [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: In the tube. If anybody's not familiar, Great Wolf Lodge has an indoor water park, I should clarify. That's key information to this. It also—it also, um, is very leaky. And I was standing there. There are multiple places you can't stand in the water park 'cause there's just rain pouring in from the ceiling. And I thought, is this okay? Is this okay?

Taylor: I mean, it's a water park. Everything is wet. It's fine.

Sydnee: Yeah, but... yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know! Feels weird!

Taylor: I mean, I would ra—I don't think any water park should be indoors. That's just a personal preference.

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: Yeah. You know, and I think this is a me thing, because you know me. I'm only so tolerant around being, like, around people that aren't fully clothed.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, I'm not a prude. I'm just weird about bodies. And, like, when I'm outside on a beach, there's the understanding that if a person that is close to naked were to get closer to me, close enough that I do not want to be that close, I can run. I'm free.

Sydnee: You could run. You could.

Taylor: But if you're in an indoor setting, you cannot. You cannot flee from the amount of exposed flesh.

Sydnee: And you don't wanna run inside the water park, 'cause it's slippery, and you'll fall.

Taylor: You're not allowed to.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: You're not allowed to!

Sydnee: I mean, it doesn't stop—listen. People are running in there. It doesn't stop anybody. There are no—

Taylor: I would follow the rules. I would follow the rules.

Sydnee: I feel like there are no rules inside. I don't know what the rules are inside the water park. It doesn't feel like there are rules. Um, I was thinking about it while we were there. First of all, people walk into that indoor water park in tennis shoes. And I think—I was walking around in my bare feet because everything's wet.

Taylor: Ugh!

Sydnee: Everything's wet. And I'm thinking, like, this is gross. This is very gross.

Taylor: You're stepping in bottom-of-the-shoe soup.

Sydnee: I know. And, like, this is—and, like, they're walking along the edge of the wave pool, 'cause the wave pool comes all the way up, like a shore kind of situation. And they're walking along there in their tennis shoes. And I'm thinking, like, they shouldn't allow that. Why do they allow that?

But I don't think there's any rules for that. People, like, line up outside the door first thing in the morning and, like, knock each other out of the way to get, like, the best... chairs in the indoor water park. Like, they sell—and they sell alcohol inside the water park. Like, there's a bar in the water park. There's a restaurant called Buckets where you can get food and, like, normal poolside fare. But then there's just a bar.

So it's like a free for all. It's hot and wet. [laughs quietly] Everybody's walking around.

Taylor: See, that's—

Sydnee: In their tennis shoes.

Taylor: —that's what it is. It's—it just sounds like, to me, it's like a bacterial, like, dream breeding ground. Like, everything here, it's humid constantly. There's all of these just, like, various—there's food floating in the water. Uh, there's just people walking in in their outside clothes. There's so much exposed flesh. Just, like... fluids.

Sydnee: And there's no rules about—

Taylor: Of whatever variety.

Sydnee: You're right. Like, you can bring whatever—like, you can buy food there, or you can bring whatever food in you want, because, you know, a lot of families do. Like, they're staying there, but they don't want to pay for the poolside food. 'Cause it's always, you know, expensive. So you can, like, bring in your own meal and eat it there, if you want to.

Um, I am always surprised at, like—people will go to ride water slides and, like, on a water slide, like, if you're in a bathing suit, things can get—like, they can get shifted around as you're going down the tube. So I always feel

like I wanna wear something that's pretty secure on there, 'cause I don't wanna come flying out of the tube with, like, my boobs hanging out.

But that is not a concern for everyone at Great Wolf Lodge. There are plenty of people who are very comfortable with everything just sort of getting discombobulated in a tube, apparently.

Taylor: It's just like the... have you—this is such a random pull. But the guy that makes the, what, perpetual stew on TikTok?

Sydnee: Yes. Yes, I've seen this.

Taylor: This feels like human perpetual stew is what is being made at the Great Wolf Lodge water park. [laughs]

Sydnee: I remember thinking, I remember having the thought early in 2020 in the course of the pandemic, like, man, this is gonna shut down Great Wolf Lodge for good. [laughs] Like, there's no way. There's no way the Flodge survives this, right? Like, that's gotta be the first casualty.

Taylor: I would assume that the type of people that regularly provide business to the Flodge are also the kind that were injecting ivermectin. I'm sorry, is that unfair?

Sydnee: Hey! Now, listen. [laughs] We love the Flodge.

Taylor: There are outliers, and if you're an outlier, that's not at you. If you're not hit, don't holler.

Sydnee: There is something—I was thinking about it. Okay. As you go up to the water slides in Great Wolf Lodge, and I assume—there are a lot—there are Great Wolf Lodges all over the country, and then there's those, um—there's something similar that's got, like, a safari theme. I forget what it's called. But it's the same idea. You know what I'm saying?

Taylor: Yes, I've been to one of those. I can't remember what they're called, but I went to a convention at one.

Sydnee: Yes. So, indoor water parks abound. there's many. Uh, but—and this is true for outdoor water parks too, I guess. There is a point where you're climbing up slippery concrete stairs, and you're barefoot, and you're climbing up these slippery concrete stairs.

And then they also, for the majority of the slides, you're supposed to go get your inner tube from the big pile and carry it up those slippery concrete stairs with you. You gotta bring your own inner tube. They don't have any slides that you go down like—well, there's two—like, there's little ones that you go down just as a person. But all the big slides you ride on an inner tube, including, like, the big double inner tubes.

And so you have children of all ages carrying these giant inner tubes that are, like, two or three times their size. They're not heavy, but they're awkward. Up slipper concrete stairs. And they're all excited, so they're all running. And I'm watching this and I'm thinking, this feels kind of dangerous. Like, it feels like you're just asking for kids to fall and hurt themselves a lot.

Taylor: Absolutely.

Sydnee: And I was thinking about this, standing in line, and I was telling Justin, like, it feels like this is something from the 80s that we created, and then has somehow, like, flown under the radar of modern parenting. Because I'm looking around thinking, I hate this. This is so dangerous. This is not—I don't feel comfortable with anything that's happening here, as a parent. But, like, everybody else is doing it, so we've just all accepted that this is okay? But this feels very 80s.

Taylor: I feel like water attractions in general feel that way to me.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: You know? It's like, oh, here's this roller coaster. We're gonna strap you in three times. You're gonna have a backup safety bar for the other safety bar. We're gonna do a check on you before you take off. And when it's a water slide they go, here you go. Sit in this wet... wet, loose boat. Climb in this log.

Sydnee: Right? Yeah, sit—I know.

Taylor: Sail—sails away! [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and like, you get to the top of the water slides and it's—I mean, and I guess I will say, we went to Kings Island, and it's similar. Like, it's the summer, so you have a lot of, like, teenagers running things, 'cause they're getting their summer jobs. So, I mean, I guess it's true. Except that also, like, at Kings Island, the Beast shut down for a minute and we were—we had been waiting in line, and we were like, we're not giving up. We're gonna see this through to the end. It was worth it. It's always worth it on the Beast.

But we're waiting, and the teenagers who are running it stand and wait, and then a bunch of old dudes in, like, different colored shirts show up. And, like, these are the guys that run things. [laughs quietly] These are the experts. Like, these are the people we need overseeing this operation. And they're like, "No, no, no. We're here. We're gonna make sure the Beast is working."

And so you know, like, we're gonna be safe. We're gonna be fine.

At Great Wolf Lodge, there's nothing like that. It's all just teenagers running everything. And they are as interested in this as you could be in this job. And so for some of 'em, like, you're kind of walking up there, and I'm waiting for, like, the "Hi" sign. Like, "Go ahead, your turn."

They're not. They're just like, I don't know, it's a free for all. Do your thing.

Taylor: You signed a waiver when you walked in the door. [laughs]

Sydnee: And it's like—

Taylor: There's some fine print at the bottom of the pool.

Sydnee: There's, like, ten-year-olds running around me who are just like, "Go for it, man!"

And it's like, is anybody wa—like, I don't know that anybody's watching us. It doesn't feel like they are. And, like, once you're in the tube, you can do whatever you want.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, if you wanted to fling yourself out of the inner tube, you could. I don't know why you'd want to, but like, also, why do kids do most of the stuff they do? So, like, that was the last thing. I looked at Charlie and Cooper and I was like, "You know to stay in the inner tube, right?"

And they look at me like, "Uh, yeah?"

And I'm like, "No, seriously. Like, don't get out. Stay in the tube until you reach the bottom."

And they're like, "Uh, of course."

But I'm thinking, there's gotta be kids who try to climb out, right?

Taylor: Well, I mean, if that one episode of—I don't know what medical drama it was. But I'm sure it was based on something that happened in real life where it was about, like, I guess it was a fun game that kids, teens were playing, where one of them would go down the tube and stop themselves, and they would all, like, pile up.

Sydnee: Ugh.

Taylor: The joke was to get as many people piled into the tube at once. And, uh, I don't know. Like, you know, you could be going down the tube, following all the rules, and you run into a teen traffic jam.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: The medical emergency was that it was too much weight for the tube, and it fell, and they all crashed to the ground.

Sydnee: Ugh! That was on The Pitt!

Taylor: Was that on The Pitt?

Sydnee: Yeah!

Taylor: What? Oh!

Sydnee: But I don't remember that being part of the storyline. I just remember that a water slide broke.

Taylor: Oh. Well, maybe multiple shows have had that as a storyline, then.

Sydnee: Yeah, probably.

Taylor: Because I definitely—I got the scene in TikTok of the people in the tube, stopping each other.

Sydnee: No, see, that must be a different one, then. Because I don't—in The Pitt, as far as I knew it was just a water slide broke.

Taylor: No, this definitely like a fun teen game.

Sydnee: I don't... I mean, you've got—you've got all of the things that are a recipe for danger. Like, you have unaccompanied minors. [laughs quietly] Running around. And this is not judgment.

Like, Charlie and Cooper wanted to go into the wave pool, and Justin and I were sitting there waiting for our Buckets order to be ready, so we sat there, and we could see them, and they were out in the wave pool by themselves. 'Cause I know that they are both good swimmers. I know that they can handle that. I know that they will be okay. So they were unaccompanied by us, and I felt confident in that decision.

But there are, like, lots of little kids running around. Nobody's watching them. Nobody's monitoring them. I would say the ratio of staff is child is maybe not ideal. [laughs quietly] Um...

Taylor: They're not even checking IDs at the bar.

Sydnee: Well, they're not. I will say that.

Taylor: [laughs] So you've got drunk kids.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] But, like, you've got alcohol in the mix. You've got teenagers there, too. 'Cause, like, there's families with little kids, but then there's also the whole contingent of, like, unsupervised teens. 'Cause, you know, it's the Kings Island thing. Like, that was always true at Kings Island. Like, I remember being an unsupervised teen at Kings Island. And then you're just, like, running around. Like, "Oh my god, this is crazy, we're at a theme park. There's no parents!" [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "What trouble can we get into?" So you've got all—

Taylor: "I'm gonna eat three Smurf ice creams and puke!"

Sydnee: Exactly! You've got all the things! 'Cause then you've got, like, all of these, like, you know, like, parents on vacation who are like, "I mean, the bar's right there. I'm gonna get another wolf-a-rita." [laughs] "And then try to go down a water slide, even though I'm, you know, in my 40s." [laughs]

Taylor: Really, I know it's a controversial—it's something that people have strong opinions about, the introduction of alcohol to kid's parks. Like, on the one hand, I think that was necessary to keep business going. You know, you want something there for the parents. But also, like, maybe this was a bad idea. [laughs] At the Flodge, maybe, definitely.

Sydnee: [laughs] I mean, it is—yes. I—[sighs]. It's tough, though. Because I also feel like—like, we did the whole day at Kings Island, and it was—I mean, again, I am somebody who—I thrive in, like—I like for the air to be the same temperature as my skin. I like hot, humid weather. I like that. That feels good to me. I was wilting. I was being crushed by it. And the kids were, and Justin—I mean, it was a lot. But we did it, and whatever—like, they each had a list of, like, "I wanna ride this ride. I gotta eat blue ice cream. I wanna try this game."

They love the game, the carnival game where they have to guess either your age, weight, or birth month. They love that game, my kids. They always—

Taylor: Huh.

Sydnee: Yeah. They always want to do birth month, and they try to, like—they always ask the same questions, and they try to come up with answers that might fool them, so they'll get a prize.

Taylor: How often do they get a prize?

Sydnee: Well, this time we won. [laughs] We thought it through. We had a plan. [laughs]

Taylor: I feel like... as little kids, like, that's—they're young enough that they could still enjoy the guess my age or weight. Those two things go right out the window if you guys everything above a certain age.

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, maybe birth month.

Taylor: Like, I don't want you to guess. Yeah. Yeah, I would be down with that. I don't want you to guess the other two. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I like—they asked "What kind of party did you have for your last birthday?"

Taylor: Ohh.

Sydnee: Clever—clever question. And, uh... [laughs] my brilliant daughter Charlie looks at me, because in that moment, like, she knows same thing I know. It was a swimming party.

Taylor: Oh, you can't say that.

Sydnee: That's a dead giveaway. We can't say that. And she's like, "Just a party with my friends."

And I was like, "I think you all karaoked, right?"

And she was like, "Yeah, we karaoked. Mm-hmm."

Like, yeah. We're on the same wavelength. We know.

Taylor: Karaoke party could be any time of the year.

Sydnee: Exactly. No clue. And not untrue. We did karaoke. We also swam, but we did karaoke.

Taylor: But Syd, I don't think they're anticipating that the small children are trying to mastermind that game when they get up there.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: They haven't—aren't usually exposed to the Smirl winning spirit, I think. That's like, "Have to win at all costs." [laughs] Like, they're expecting the, you know, the little kid. "[little kid voice] Oh, I had a swimming party. It was hot. I wore sunscreen."

Nope. Not this kid. This kid is... is Sherlock Holmes-ing your butt. [laughs]

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: In reverse.

Sydnee: Well, but it's an all or nothing gambit. 'Cause if they guess it, you get nothing, and you walk away empty handed. And if you get it, you get a stuffed prize that I guarantee you does not cost as much as I paid this gentleman to guess her birth month.

Taylor: That's probably—I'm sure that the park has done that math. They're not like, "You gotta be—you gotta up your game... Kyle! At guessing small children's—like, months of birth. We're losing money on you, Kyle! You gotta get better at this!"

Sydnee: [laughs] Remind me of The Jerk. "It's a profit deal, okay. Step right up and win some crap!"

Taylor: [laughs] I think they know.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, but I mean, we—but my point is, after doing all this, I'm like, I felt like I mommed as hard as I could mom. I was at my end. Like, and we walked back and forth. That's one of the advantages they tell you. If you stay at the Flodge, you can walk back and forth to Kings Island.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's a long walk.

Taylor: I remember that walk.

Sydnee: Especially at the end of a day, it's a long way. And we make our way back. And the least I feel like I am owed at that point, if I am then going to subject myself to a water park or an arcade, 'cause that's the other thing that you can do there... if I'm gonna subject myself to a bunch of kids in a 24 hour a day arcade, I should at least have a beer in my hand while I'm doing it, right? Didn't I earn that? [laughs]

Taylor: Absolutely. No, I agree with that.

Sydnee: That's all I'm saying!

Taylor: Well, that's what I think is the other side of the argument, is like, there's a—there's definitely a, you know... supply and demand situation here that will work out for all parties involved. I just don't like the—there's not a swim-up bar at the Great Wolf Lodge, correct?

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: 'Cause that's where we cross a line.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: The other resort, that's where I went to the con at, and they had a swim-up bar. And I like the idea on paper, 'cause it's like, I like drinking. I like being in water. Ish.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I'm down with this. And, like, they also served food at the swim-up bar. And the moment that I'm just, like, sitting in the water drinking a cocktail, and some drunk dude next to me just picks up, like, a guac and chip and drops the whole thing in the water, and it just slowly floats towards me, I was like, no, absolutely not. [laughs] I am... how much guacamole is in this water? I'm out! I'm out. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't—see, okay. You should not introduce food into that equation. I don't like that. I don't... a drink is one—even a drink is kind of pushing it. 'Cause what you're saying is, "Pee in this pool."

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: Like, when you have a swim-up bar, implicit to that is, "Pee. Just pee here. Everyone pees here."

Taylor: Someone's been sitting at the swim-up bar for five hours. You're like, "I've done the math, bro."

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, 'cause it's a bar, so you're drinking a diuretic, and you're sitting in a pool. I mean, they're all peeing. And if you say you're not peeing, you're lying. Of course you're all peeing. So, like, there's already that element. But even if you can get over that and accept that, like, well, probably everybody's peed in a pool at some point in their life. Like, we can move on from that. The food? No. No! I don't wanna sit in a pool and eat. I don't want to! I under—I'm like, I want to get out of the pool, sit comfortably—poolside, maybe—and eat. And then get back in the pool. But I don't wanna eat while I'm in a pool.

Taylor: Yeah. It's sort of like the same discovery you make when—have you ever made yourself, like, a really decadent bath? And you try to do, like, everything you think you're supposed to do based on, like, a Pinterest idea

of a good bath? Like, "Ooh, I've got a snack. I've got a drink. I've got my music on. I've got candles lit."

And then you get in and like, this is terrible. This is too much going on. I don't... I don't wanna—there's fire, and I don't want any of the food to drop in the water, and I don't... I hate it.

Sydnee: Yes. It's very limited, the foods that—I have learned this too. The foods that I would want bath-side are—I mean, it's very—it's... I don't know. Like... maybe some grapes?

Taylor: See, I was thinking, like, if it was like a fruit, that if it fell in the bath it becomes part of the bath. I guess that's okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. But, like, I don't want to eat chips.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: And I certainly don't want anything, like, I have to eat with a spoon or a fork.

Taylor: No spaghetti in the bath.

Sydnee: I will say, like, as we're saying this, though, Cooper—

Taylor: You didn't say no.

Sydnee: Cooper's favorite way to spend her free time is to get in my bathtub, 'cause it's bigger, and have just, like, a solo bath where she can just chill and, like, watch her pad for a little bit. She watches, like, an old episode of iCarly. And eats, I mean, ravioli.

Taylor: Oh, wow!

Sydnee: Butter chicken. Ribs. Uh, like...

Taylor: Okay, you know what? I think there's some—there's some mad genius to ribs in the bath, I think. 'Cause you get so gross, and then you just—you're in the bath.

Sydnee: You just submerge yourself. She wants the messiest, in my mind, least bathtub, like, appropriate foods. That's what she wants in the bath.

Taylor: She's just cutting out the middle man. Like, I don't need to wash my hands after I eat this. I can just be in the bath.

Sydnee: I—I told Justin—at one point he was like, "I don't think we can let 'em eat butter chicken in the bathtub anymore, because then there's just rice everywhere. And I can't handle cleaning up the wet rice!" [laughs]

Taylor: There's, like, a ring of oil around the bath when you drain it.

Sydnee: I know. Just butter chicken.

Taylor: At that point you're just making a stock. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I know. [laughs quietly] I know! It really—and, like, I will say, now, I bathe less. I shower more and bathe less, because I think about what happens in that tub now.

Taylor: Oh, god.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] There have been ribs in that tub.

Taylor: Yeah. I don't... I don't think I want—I wouldn't take a bath in your tub.

Sydnee: No. No. I mean, I clean it. Like, I do clean it. But... [laughs quietly] the rice is all gone at the moment.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Yeah. We need to talk about this movie.

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I don't know. We're talking about a horror movie, but I think it's already been horrifying enough so far. [laughs]

Sydnee: We already did the scary thing for the day.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] Um, we watched Obsession.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: I don't know how I—like, I had not heard of it. We kind of stumbled on it.

Taylor: Really?

Sydnee: Yes. Neither of us had heard about it, and we were sitting there thinking—I forget. This was, like, two weeks ago. And we were like, "Man, we want to watch a scary movie. What's out there?"

And so we just started looking around, and it popped up on one of the—whatever streaming app it was on, it popped up as one of the new things that, you know, I don't know. I guess if a lot of people are watching it, it goes higher. And so we were like, "Oh. Well, let's watch the trailer for this."

And were like, "Hmm, this looks interesting. We'll check it out."

It was great.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, that's—I got all of the—I started getting the TikTok discourse about it before I actually saw the movie. And [crosstalk].

Sydnee: What is the—tell me why it's, like, pop—what do I not know, and why did everybody know about it? Why is it popular? 'Cause again, I just sort of stumbled on it and was like, "That's a great movie."

Taylor: You know, I don't know how much of this is organic and how much anymore is just when you have a smart social media team.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Because I do think that's part of it. I've noticed, especially as someone that's TikTok is a little bit more geared towards horror communities, that I will get tricked into going to see a horror movie because people that review horror movies regularly will give it really good reviews. And then I'll look—oh, wait. Right way at the bottom, it's an ad.

So, like, I think this movie deserves all the praise it got, but I also don't know how much of, like, a really strong push on social media engagement comes from planting the right seeds there that, you know, blossom.

'Cause these—a lot of—there was just a lot of buzz, for many reasons. I think as far as TikTok goes, one of the big things was the makeup effect that we could talk about that was very, like, low budget makeup effect that was highly effective. I mean, this was all mainly practical effects. So it's a low budget horror film that did big numbers. But I think there's also just a lot of discourse that's a little alarming about who the victim is in this film. Which I'm...

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: I feel like I can intuit your opinions, but I think more just the shared, uh, alarm that people have other opinions.

Sydnee: Really? Uh... yeah. 'Cause I feel like it's pretty clear-cut.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and you know, just obviously we're gonna spoil it. But just the—the briefest of plot summaries. The story follows your main character, Bear, who's got a crush on this coworker of his, Nikki. And he makes a wish on sort of a gimmicky little, like, make-a-wish toy that she will be... madly in love with him. That she will love him more than anybody else.

And the wish comes true in the worst case possible. Where this woman just becomes obsessed with him, and sort of possessed by something that's making her that way, I think is the way to explain it.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's kind of hard to—yeah. I mean, it is—it's kind of like a monkey's paw setup. Be careful what you wish for kind of idea. Um, but she doesn't... she doesn't... it's like it's not her anymore, is kind of what we're supposed to believe. 'Cause at one point he calls, like, the number on the box to complain about it. And he gets somebody on the phone, and they ask, like—they're like, basically, you can't undo a wish. It's too late. Like, the only way—the only way the wish ends is if you die. And then the wish breaks.

Um, but then he's like—he asks him, "Do you want to talk to her?"

And you can hear Nikki, the real person, screaming in the background. And then at the same time, the person that is now Nikki is—is not—I don't know. So I don't know what we're supposed to—like, is Nikki in hell? Can I say that? Is Nikki in heck?

Taylor: Uh, well, I think—I mean—

Sydnee: Where is Nikki? Nikki's not there now.

Taylor: There were other moments where Nikki was sort of present behind her own eyes. In that, like, there's a scene in the bed where she freaks out, and then slips back into fake Nikki.

Sydnee: Yes. Yes.

Taylor: So I think there were those moments. To me it felt almost like, I don't know. You know what the—what was it? Get Out that had the sunken place, that concept?

Sydnee: Yes. Yes.

Taylor: I felt like Nikki was in the sunken place, sort of.

Sydnee: That makes sense.

Taylor: Which makes it, like—I think that the scariest movie was actually the movie we didn't see, which would've been what was happening from real Nikki's perspective.

Sydnee: Oh, god.

Taylor: Where her body was just taken over by something, and she was forced to watch from behind her own eyes as her body was, I mean, from her perspective, having sex with a man that she would not want to have sex with, that she's assaulted. She's doing horrible—she's committing acts of violence.

Sydnee: The commits terrible acts of murder and violence, yeah.

Taylor: There's a scene where she stands there waiting for him and, like, you know, pees on herself because she's—he commanded her to wait, and so she just stands there.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah.

Taylor: That is a horrifying fate that this completely innocent woman has been subjected to.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah. I mean, I guess that makes—that almost makes more sense, if you conceptualize, like, the sunken place that Nikki is in behind her own eyes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. That was—Justin was like, "What if that guy on the phone was the devil? And, like, that's what the devil's like? 'Hey. What's up. Yeah, no, sorry.'"

Taylor: I did—

Sydnee: "Nope. Nothing we can do." Like the devil's just really apathetic. The devil's just, like, a guy who hates his job. [laughs]

Teylor: [laughs] It's, like, just stuck in some—I mean, I guess if you're going to punish somebody for eternity, put them in some sort of customer service, like, telephone answering gig for all eternity.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Man.

Teylor: That would do it.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, absolutely.

Teylor: That wouldn't be the first time I've seen that interpretation of the devil as, like, it's a job he's stuck with, not one that he particularly wants. And I do kind of dig that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, "I don't know. I didn't want you to make this stupid wish where I have to trap this nice girl here. But, like, you made the wish, man. And this is my job, so I'm just doing it."

Teylor: These are the rules. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. These are the rules. But the—okay. There's two things that I want to talk about. Which, like, there's the plot of it, and what—who I think the victim is. Who I thought we would all agree on. And then there's, like, the effects that they did, which were so impressive to me in this movie. Just, like—which, I mean, maybe that's the easier thing to talk about. The lighting?

And I don't notice that kind of thing in a movie, typically. The lighting effects are so incredible, to make her as scary as possible without really doing anything scary. Just, like, the way the light is on her face at times, and you don't—there are a lot of times where, like, he's trying to sneak around, and you don't know if she's awake or asleep, and you can't quite tell if her eyes are opened or closed.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: And when she's, like, hiding in the corner of the bedroom.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, the—the lighting design in this film in general, like, really deserves recognition. 'Cause that very subtle but very consistent storytelling of the darkness is when showing that it's, like, the other Nikki is there. It starts from the minute he makes the wish, and they show her on the porch.

And suddenly—and it's interesting, 'cause she's posed in such, like, a... like a girly girl pose, you know. She's kind of got her hip out, and it's like, that was not—like, the Nikki we got to know up front was a little bit more like—you know, she was sort of fun, casual, not overly feminine. She had her own life. She had her own goals. And that first shot of her, stark black and posed like that, and then that's when we get the other Nikki. It's like, it's really, really brilliant decision-making.

Sydney: Yes. Yes. And it—I think that it, like—that, and then I guess the makeup effects I've been seeing people—is that the uncanny valley makeup?

Taylor: Yeah. Which it felt like that was such a trend on TikTok. And seeing that put to use in a film... like, if you told me that on paper, I was like, oh, that's gonna be—that's gonna be dumb. That's gonna be silly. That's gonna feel like it's referencing TikTok. Why are we doing that?

That's not how it looked. It just looked terrifying. [laughs]

Sydney: Yeah. No, it did. And it worked, because I didn't realize it was a makeup effect at first. I was like, "What are they doing? Why does she... " And, like, your brain doesn't—I mean, that's the whole thing with the uncanny valley. Your brain knows it's not human, but it is human, but it's not human, and you don't know what it is. And they—I mean, I think part is the lighting, is how they're achieving that. Like, it's not just the makeup. But, like, the combination. It... it really... it is a chilling—the movie is so scary.

The way that she behaves, and the way that they have lit and made her up, and then, I mean, of course her acting. But then you combine that with—I think the scene where he is with the other girl in the car, and she comes through the window and bashes the girl's head in on the steering wheel. That is one of the scariest scenes in a movie I've ever seen.

Taylor: Well, and I don't... for the majority of it—I mean, I'm sure there's light CGI. But, like, it's an almost entirely practical film.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I think out of necessity, because of the budget. Like, you know, they just were figuring out ways to do these things. I know that the actress that plays the—I can't remember the character name, but the other girl that does get murdered, like, posted a picture of, like, what the sort of brain soup that the prosthetic was. And, like, that's... that's a—that's a dying art in horror movies that I feel like has been a bit of a blight for a while, is the over-reliance on CGI. Let alone, like, we're started to see, like, AI stuff sneak in. And I really hope big successes like this that are reliant on actual effects makes that a more desirable course.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I thought that was just so well done, and very visceral. And, I mean—and it communicates well, I think, for me, the victim very clearly is Nikki. Um, because his—he is not—the obsession—yes, she is the one obsessed with him. I mean, like, literally in the movie.

The obsession is from his end. Even though this girl has given him no signs that she likes him, even though he has third party information that she's not into him, he is con—he's doing that, like—oh, it's the worst. "If I'm just the nice guy long enough, if I'm just the nice guy, the friend, the nice guy long enough, eventually she'll see. Eventually she'll see."

And it's not enough that she's his friend, and he enjoys being around her, and she's a cool person. It's not enough. He needs her to also be his. And he doesn't really—he's not concerned with what she wants, or what her goals are, or who she really is as a person. He just wants the idea of her. So he gets the idea of her. That's what he gets. He doesn't get her. He gets the

idea of her. And he doesn't really want that. He's not really that interested in it. He doesn't like it.

And the idea that with all the ways she was behaving, he would get out of bed in the middle of the night and go meet another girl that he's texting with, knowing what she's—whatever he thinks she's going through... I mean, he is such a dog. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know how—I mean, obviously he's the bad guy! He caused all this! This is all his fault. It was all his selfish, self-obsessed—he is not interested in her as a person and he never was. That's why he didn't get her as a person, really. He is the reason that all this tragedy happens.

Taylor: I agree. And I think, like, it's not an up-for-interpretation thing. 'Cause I think the movie gives you every clue you need to understand that that is what the story they're trying to tell. This is—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: This is... 'cause I think we've all probably experienced that. I mean, I know in my young life, that was a heartbreak that you have multiple times, where it's like, here's someone that you think of as your friend. This is your bro. This is your buddy. And then they try to make a move on you. And it's like...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It becomes clear that you never saw me for me. I was never a person to you. And you are fully willing to destroy anything that I thought we had together as friends because you would like to sleep with me.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. No, I mean, and that's the sacrifice that—I mean, it really is. It's so unfair. And we see that trope over and over again in media played the other way. Which is like, if she would just turn around and realize that her best friend who's been there for her all along is the good guy and

the nice guy and the whatever. And it's like, no! 'Cause if he was, he would just be interested in her as a human, and not attaining her.

Taylor: And, like, as a PSA, that girl that you think doesn't know you're in love with her? She knows.

Sydnee: She knows.

Taylor: She knows, and she's just trying to be your friend, and she's hoping that you'll do the right thing and... chill with that.

Sydnee: Just be her friend, yes.

Taylor: She 100% knows. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, if you've never gotten any signal that she's interested back... she's not. I mean, that... that's that.

Taylor: Well, and it's—

Sydnee: But—

Taylor: Like, there was the other girl who there were signals that she seemed to be interested in him, in Bear.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Which, like, as a funny nod, the naming of him, calling him Bear is so weird, and it almost seems to subvert the old "Would you choose the man or the bear?"

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: It's like, well, I'd choose the bear, unless the bear is a man named Bear. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] In which case I'm back to the bear.

Taylor: You tricked me there. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, maybe that's what it meant. The man is the bear.

Taylor: Yeah. Well—

Sydnee: You thought the bear was the bear, but the man is the bear.

Taylor: Even when—the first question that... let's just say it's the devil on the phone asks is like, "Do you want to undo the wish?"

He was like, "No, I just want to change it. I want her to be normal."

It's like, so even if there was the option to free her from this, he still wanted to keep her as his.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: He just wanted it the way that he wanted it. Like...

Sydnee: Exactly.

Taylor: He wanted her to be chill, just in love with him.

Sydnee: Yeah. Be a cool girl.

Taylor: Yeah. Be a—what was—low commitment, long distance?

Sydnee: Long distance, non-commitment, yeah. [laughs] That's exactly what he wants! I mean, it's so... it's so, like, transparent. It's so stereotypical. But I think that that's what's so smart about the movie is that as you see that, hopefully what you realize is, he is every guy that especially when we were younger, when we were growing up, the kinds of guys that we were supposed to root for in movies. It's that guy.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: It is the—and this is not a slight on John Cusack. I love many John Cusack movies. And I personally don't know anything about John Cusack as a human. I just have seen his movies.

But the John Cusack archetype. [laughs quietly] It is what we were supposed to root for. Which is the aw, shucks nice guy who just wants—you know, he just loves this girl, and he just wants to, you know, be her, like, really sweet, no-big-deal boyfriend. And, like, why won't she just realize? Why won't she just realize, that terrible girl?

And we were all sort of trained to, like, root for that poor guy. That poor friendzoned guy.

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah, there's a lot of, I think—what is it? The grand gestures in old movies that if you retold them in a horror movie setting, they would be—he showed up in front of my house. He's blasting music from a boom box and he won't stop. I've called the cops! And they're just like, "Ehh, it's a classic grand gesture. We gotta let it play out." I don't know what to do! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I mean, fall in love with him. That's what you're supposed to do.

Taylor: He followed me through an airport. He boarded the plane that I was on, and he hijacked the sound system! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It's terrifying!

Sydnee: No, isn't that sweet? Isn't that romantic?

Taylor: I made a boundary!

Sydnee: But I think you're right! I think that is—I mean... and when she, like—she goes to the party with him and she's trying to, like, dress sexy and be the sexy girlfriend and, you know. And he's, like, trying to exclude her, even knowing other girls are gonna be there. Like, if you take away the fact

that she's under some sort of terrible spell, his behavior is crappy! He's being a bad boyfriend. He's being a bad guy.

Taylor: Well, and that's what some of, like, the discourse was. Men interpreting it as, this is, like, a horror movie from, like, a man's perspective when a girl's really obsessed with you, how suffocating it can feel. And, like, I don't... I don't think that's...

Sydnee: What?!

Taylor: I don't think that's what being portrayed here. But that is a very psychologically interesting interpretation. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and I mean, at the party, the idea that she would be upset that he would kiss another girl in front of her...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's a normal... like, yeah. I can't fathom going to a party—I mean, 'cause they're adults, and I know they're younger than me. I understand that. But even, like, when Justin and I were dating, I can't fathom going to a party where it was like, "Now Justin, you have to kiss this other girl."

And I would be like, "Okay, cool. Go ahead. No big deal."

Like, no. We're grown-ups now. We don't... we don't make out with other people in front of each other if we're not cool with it. Like, that's not... I'm not giving consent for that. So, like, don't. And that's not—that doesn't make me, like, a crazy girlfriend. Like, that's, like, normal! That's a normal thing. Like, no, I would prefer you didn't, thanks. [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, I will... I will say—and that's, you know, storytelling. In that same scene, which was so... it was scary when she pulls the chair back slowly and it's just the creak of this chair, and then she squats down next to him. Like, it was one of those moments in horror that are always my favorite, where it was kind of funny in a really messed up way.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: So I was laughing, but I was also like, "Oh no." But you could have that same scene shot differently, and it would be like, "Oh, this is cute. She loves him and she doesn't want him to kiss another girl," you know.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: It's all about the tone that you're presenting.

Sydnee: And if he's a decent guy, he doesn't want to kiss another girl.

Taylor: Right. Well, and the fact that—

Sydnee: Unless that's—unless that's their deal. Unless they've arranged for—unless they've all agreed.

Taylor: Sure, yeah. But that's he's only—he only seems to respond to the fact that the other girl might be interested in him once he got what he wanted from Nikki.

Sydnee: Yes. Classic.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Classic bad guy who is parading as the good guy. Like, no, I don't—I don't know how on any level you see him as the victim. And I know that he dies. I understand that. I understand that, like, literally, who lives? I guess she is the final girl. But her whole life is destroyed!

Taylor: Right. She's gonna be charged with... three, four murders? Three.

Sydnee: Yes. Her life is destroyed. She's lost all her friends. Her—physically, she has physically harmed herself throughout the course of the movie. So, like, she is physically harmed. She is emotionally, mentally—she's been tortured, because she knows, I guess, in some level what's been happening. Um, and she's lost everything. So I don't see how she won.
[laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I—it was sort of subtle, but the final scene where he comes—he doesn't—he's about to—he takes the pills, but then he goes back out to her. It's because she made the wish that he would love her back, right?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: And that's—so he dies... wherever the sunken place is, he died there. So at least there's that, right?

Sydnee: I guess that's true. I mean, yeah. I don't... I don't interpret it in any other way, that the obsession—I mean, the—I think the twist of the title of the film, I think it is—I think if you are very literal, yes, she is obsessed with him. That's what the movie is about. She's under a spell and becomes obsessed with him.

It is his obsession with the idea of her. That is the toxic thing that causes all the death and destruction. He is the perpetrator of the crime.

Taylor: Oh, absolutely. I mean, like, the few things we learn about her, it's like, she's a writer. She's already having a casual hookup. Like, she's got a guy that she's casually hooking up with to suit her needs. It was the other dude.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, that whole person he was not in love. He was obsessed with... the ownership of her.

Sydnee: Yes. And he, even after he very clearly can tell there's something wrong with her, because she's made up this story about her dad dying, and he figures out that it's made up and she admits that it's made up, but he know—I mean, like, he acknowledges out loud, this is not the way she's been before. There is something wrong. I mean, of course you would interpret it as some sort of, like, maybe she's—mental illness or something. You know, something is happening. Like, you wouldn't assume it was a wish. [laughs quietly] You wouldn't assume your wish came true right away.

But even as he's realizing something is very wrong with her and she is not well, he is still sleeping with her.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: So... on what level is he a decent guy?

Taylor: No. I mean... that's a—it was a very surprising sea of discourse, of people being like, "Well, but I kind of feel bad for Bear."

It's like, no. [laughs]

Sydnee: No. No!

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I don't feel bad for him at all. Because you know what? If he really liked her that much, instead of making a stupid wish, he would have looked at her and said, "Hey. Would you wanna go on a date some time?"

And she could've said yes or no, and he would deal with the consequences from that and move on. 'Cause that's what adults do.

Taylor: Well, and I think that's what—I mean, when you see the people that you're pursuing as whole people, I feel like that's always how you should approach it. Like, I have rejected and been rejected, but it's always come from a place of, like, I like having you in my life. Maybe we're not meant to be partners but, you know, like, we—I see the whole person you are. And so even if you don't want to be with me like that, I still like everything else about you.

I mean, and I think that's also, like, the most important thing in a relationship is, like, seeing and being seen. Like, seeing the entirety of who a person is, and loving that, and having somebody see you like that. So the perversion of that, where, you know, everything she is goes away, because that's not what he wanted, and that's not what he even was aware of.

Sydnee: Yeah. He just wanted the idea. The idea that "I got Nikki." That's it. Yeah. No, it really is the worst. I've been on that end of things where it's like, "Please don't—I know what you're about to say. Please don't say it." Like, I've literally said that before. Don't. Don't. Don't. Please, don't. Don't. And then, man, they do it anyway. And then you have to be like, "No." And I know I'm going to be a terrible b-word now. And you're gonna tell all your friends what a b-word I am. And then you're gonna hate me, and now I've lost a friend, because...

Taylor: Well, but it also goes—

Sydnee: And I begged you. [laughs] I've literally said, "Please don't. Please don't. Please don't." Ugh! There he went.

Taylor: In a lot of cases, it's—there's a no-win situation, because if the girl does say "Yes, I'm into you," and they date, then how quickly does she descend to be what I guess some men interpreted this movie as, as that crazy obsessive girlfriend that won't let you go out and have fun, and make out with other girls every now and then. And oh my god, why can't you just be chill? Like, that is, you know. You can reject a man, and then you're an evil b-word, or you can accept a man, and then you're an evil b-word. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah. I will say, though, if you—first of all, if you haven't seen it, if you like scary movies, if you don't mind—I mean, it is definitely violent. It's definitely gory.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: And, like, and while it is not filmed as, like, assault happening, clearly from the plot of the movie, there's even assault scenes in it. So all of that is part of it. But if scary movies are your thing, it is a very well-done scary movie.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. Well, and it—

Sydnee: And hopefully you would interpret the message. It's an important message that it's—like, if you interpret it correctly, it's an important message.

Taylor: Yeah, in a weird way, it fits in the pantheon of, like, the "Good for you, girl" type horror movies, where something awful happens to a woman, but she gets her revenge. I mean, I guess that's... that's where it kind of sits. But in probably the most brutal way I've seen that play out.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, I mean, I guess it's kind of acknowledging in a way that... that, um—oh, what was the movie with the girl who gets revenge on the guys who assaulted her friend in medical school? What was that movie?

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: Remember that one?

Taylor: Oh my gosh, yes. That was such a good movie. What was that... uh...

Sydnee: Promising Young Woman.

Taylor: I was—I kept saying, a perfect female? No. [laughs]

Sydnee: I know. That's what I was like, it's three words. It's—hold on. Uh, I think it actually achieves similar to that, only I like it a little bit better.

Taylor: 'Cause she lives?

Sydnee: Because... yeah. [laughs quietly] Because she lives. I think that was the only thing with Promising Young Woman, I think it was a brutal realism that the only way the woman could make him pay was to sacrifice herself. But I hate that message. But, I mean, I understand where you're coming from. But I kind of, like, ugh. This is similar in that she survives, and I guess he sort of pays. But she has—I mean, the trauma is visible. And I think that that's—I think that's a nice analogy for what we're trying to say here, right? Like, it's a visual analogy for that.

Taylor: Absolutely. Well, and I wouldn't—it was so successful, I feel like we will probably get a possibly ill-conceived sequel. But, you know. It'll be worth it if we get a scene as, like, you know, the third act cry for help where they go seek out somebody who survived the wish before, and we get a—at least a somewhat healed Nikki. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That has built a life for herself back. I'll take it for that.

Sydnee: Yeah. I don't know what that looks—I don't know if we find the maker of the wish sticks and... kill 'em, or...

Taylor: [laughs] We kill Satan.

Sydnee: I don't know. Kill Satan? [laughs]

Taylor: And he's like, "Thank you. I've been employed in middle management for so long." [laughs]

Sydnee: That'd be a wild sequel, if we go from that to killing Satan.

Taylor: Yeah, no, why not?

Sydnee: Ehh, sure. Oh, well, I'm glad we both watched it. I really—I think it was a great horror movie.

Taylor: I agree.

Sydnee: Um, Taylor, what—oh! I know what we're gonna do next. It was my idea. There's a new documentary out about Burning Man. I watch every documentary that's ever been made about Burning Man. [laughs] I've never been.

Taylor: A very niche interest. "I won't go to Burning Man. I will watch specifically documentaries about it."

Sydnee: Yeah, I'm kind of obsessed with Burning Man.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: For somebody who's never been. And I don't currently have any plans to go. I'm not saying I would never go. I don't—I'm not planning on going, but it's called—

Taylor: Someone invite Sydnee to Burning Man.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] I don't—listen, I'm not taking the kids. That's too much. So maybe when the kids are older.

Taylor: She's already planning it.

Sydnee: But—[laughs] but it's called The Man Will Burn. It's a new HBO documentary. I think there's only two episodes out right now, but I think we should talk about it, because it's... it's about the newer issues with Burning Man, which I don't really know much about, so.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: I think it would be good.

Taylor: Well, I know very little, so I'm excited. Uh, but that won't be next week, 'cause we're gonna take a week of vacation, so we will be back two weeks.

Sydnee: Yes. Exactly. We're gonna relax for a week. You all relax for a week. And then we will be back to talk about The Man Will Burn.

Taylor: Excellent.

Sydnee: Yes. And in the meantime, you should check out—there are a lot of great podcasts you could listen to, while we're off for a week, uh, on Maximumfun.org. Go there and listen to lots of shows that you'll enjoy. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm still buffering...

Taylor: And I am too.

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: I cannot believe [unintelligible].

Taylor: [unintelligible] man good, lady bad. Big, big theme in history.
[laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

[theme music ends]

Taylor: Civilization.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's a—oof. Oof!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Somebody needs to take some film classes or something.

Taylor: Something.

Sydnee: Reading comprehension. [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know. These are the same people that thought Fight Club was, like, I don't know, not about... gay men. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. That Fight Club was about how great fighting is. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah! [laughs] And how hot Brad Pitt is.

Sydnee: Yeah. "In a totally straight way."

Taylor: [laughs] Absolutely.

[chord]

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