

Episode Title: Maddie and Tae's Magic Year

Episode Summary: Biscuits & Jam is back this week with country music duo Maddie and Tae. Today, they talk about their perfect Southern breakfast, filming a music video at Reba's McEntire's old house, and how they lean on each other to survive Nashville, marriage, and motherhood. Plus, they share a few stories about their brand new two-part album, *Through the Madness*.

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(Biscuits and Jam Theme begins)

Sid Voice Over: Welcome to Biscuits and Jam, from *Southern Living*. I'm Sid Evans, editor-in-chief of *Southern Living Magazine*, and we're back this week with the country music duo Maddie and Tae. Maddie Font and Taylor Kerr met when they were just 15 years old at a showcase in Dallas and became instant friends, as well as singing and songwriting partners. They moved to Nashville after high school and recorded their breakout hit "Girl In a Country Song," a fun, fearless tune that fired a shot at the bro culture in country music—and it clearly struck a chord. Within a year the song had landed them a tour, a record deal, a #1 spot on the Billboard Country chart, and a CMT Award for Video of the Year. Ever since, their career has just kept gaining steam, riding a wave of great songwriting, honest lyrics, and their infectious sense of humor. Today, they talk about their perfect Southern breakfast, filming a music video at Reba's McEntire's old house, and how they lean on each other to survive Nashville, marriage, and motherhood. Plus, they share a few stories about their brand new two-part album, *Through the Madness*. All that and more this week on Biscuits & Jam.

(Music ends)

Sid Evans: Maddie and Tae, welcome to Biscuits and Jam.

Maddie Font: Thank you, I love Biscuits and Jam, and I actually live five minutes from Loveless Cafe, here in Nashville, which is like the most famous place for Biscuits and Jam, so I eat a lot of them, (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs). I know The Loveless. Lucky you.

Maddie Font: Oh, it's- it's bad, you know, (laughs). We go there a little too-

Sid Evans: (laughs), too close?

Maddie Font: ... it's too close, it's much too close, like there's times when I get off of the bus and I'm like, "Ugh, I really want some biscuits" and just go down like five freaking biscuits with the peach jam, it's the best one in my opinion.

Sid Evans: (laughs) So we're recording this pretty early and I was gonna start out with an easy one, and that is, "What's your idea of the perfect Southern breakfast?" but Maddie, you've already kinda answered that one, (laughs).

Maddie Font: Oh, I- I do have a di- T you go first, because she's more of our breakfast queen.

Taylor Kerr: I love a good omelet, like nothing beats a good three egg omelet with some sausage, cheese, peppers, onion, and then I put Sriracha on top

Sid Evans: Ooh... that sounds good.

Maddie Font: Speaking of Loveless, that's probably one of my favorite places to get breakfast. I feel like a hashbrown casserole is so wonderful. I love a chicken and waffle situation, but then if I'm trying to be healthier, I'll do like, you know, the classic two eggs and bacon, or turkey sausage, or something like that, but the hashbrown casserole is pretty essential for me, (laughs).

Sid Evans: I like the sound of that. Chicken and waffles, uh, it doesn't really check the healthy box, does it?

Maddie Font: No, it doesn't. It depends what the vibe is, (laughs).

Sid Evans: Well, I hope y'all got some breakfast before we got started here.

Maddie Font: I did not, but I will right after, (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs) So, okay. Maddie, you are from Sugar Land, Texas?

Maddie Font: Yes.

Sid Evans: which is just south of Houston, and you're pretty close to the ocean down there, you're close to the Brazos – is it the Brazos River?

Maddie Font: Yeah, the Brazos River, let me tell you, you don't ever wanna step foot in that thing, it is, wooh-wee! Yeah, this is really, (laughs), terrible, but there is like murder stories about the Brazos River, yeah, it's kinda crazy.

Sid Evans: Okay, so stay away from there.

Maddie Font: (laughs) Yeah.

Sid Evans: But other than that, there's a lot of lakes around and it's really pretty down there. Tell me a little bit about what it was like growing up in Sugar Land?

Maddie Font: Well my parents chose Sugar Land in 1995. I guess like, yeah, when I was born because it wasn't super populated, it was really calm, and then it just started blowing up. So now Sugar Land is like, it feels like a huge city now, which is not how it was when I was growing up. And sometimes I miss that open land and all of that, but it was great growing up in that area, because we had the beach. Another thing that Texans do a lot is we float the river, and so we would go to, like, Garner State Park. We would go to New Braunfels. That's one of my favorite things to do, is put a tube in the river and just float along, that's my jam. We'd go down to Galveston sometimes. We'd go to a place called Crystal Beach, which is a little bit more of a cleaner area in Galveston, because sometimes it gets a little crazy over there. But yeah, it was a great place to grow up. I miss it a lot, I feel a little homesick right now, but it's terrible because most of the reason I get homesick is because the food. I'm very food motivated, (laughs), if you can't tell, (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font:

And we just have such great food and the thing that I love the most about Sugar Land is how diverse it is. I grew up with every single culture imaginable, and that was such a gift that my parents gave us, raising us in an area like that, because I got to try so many different foods. I got to immerse myself in so many different cultures and I loved that. But yeah, I've got some serious strong Texas roots, I would say, (laughs).

Sid Evans: Yeah, that whole Houston area, is just so known for its food, and you can really eat your way, (laughs), through the world, you know, just living around Houston.

Maddie Font: Yes Absolutely- absolutely.

Sid Evans: And Taylor, you spent a lot of your childhood in a town called Ada in Oklahoma, am I saying that right?

Taylor Kerr: Ada, Oklahoma, yes.

Sid Evans: So, tell me a little bit about Ada, and what it was like growing up there?

Taylor Kerr: Ada was great, I lived there from the time I was born until I was 14, and then my family moved to a town about an hour away called Silo for my brothers to play baseball. Ada was beautiful. It was great. Lovely childhood, grew up going to church, singing in talent shows. Ada was really where I

found my love and voice for music. I would just sit in my parents' closet, because it had great, (laughs), acoustics in the bathroom. And they didn't wanna get me voice lessons, so what they did, (laughs), is they got me little tapes. So, I remember I would put a tape in, and I would like practice singing, and I would just sit in the closet all day, every day and just sing, and do monologues, and just really hone in on the craft.

Sid Evans: Wow, singing in the closet?

Taylor Kerr: I was like, "I'm just gonna make my own little audience in the closet." I'd set up my stuffed animals, (laughs).

Maddie Font: Yes girl, same, that must be like a singer's thing-

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: ... like, surely a lot of singers did that growing up?

Taylor Kerr: Yeah.

Maddie Font: ... I always think like, "God, why didn't you introduce Tae and I, when we were kids," because I would've been way less lonely in elementary, and junior high, and felt way less like an outcast...

Sid Evans: Well, you mentioned the church and I wanna ask you about that, because so many artists that I talk to got their start in the church. Was that something that happened for you in terms of, you know, the church being a place to kind of perform for the first time, or develop your love of music?

Taylor Kerr: Absolutely, I, uh, there's videos of me and my brothers when I was like three and we were doing the little plays that you do in church, and the feeling that I would get standing on stage singing hymns or whatever it was and just like doing little dance moves. I fell in love with it, and I just wanted more and more and more. So, it definitely started in the church for sure.

Sid Evans: What about you Maddie, was that part of your growing up?

Maddie Font:

I definitely spent a lot of time in church, I loved church as a kid. But my start was actually talent shows, like T was kinda mentioning, that's kind of, you know, where she got her footing for performing as well. And so in third grade, I was like, "I'm gonna do the talent show, and I'm gonna sing," my parents knew, like I would never shut up, like that was the thing. They were like, "Oh my gosh, this is driving me crazy," and I'm like, "See it paid off, thanks for letting me, like, annoy your ear hole's for, you know, 18-years." But, um, I started doing talent shows and so I'm 10-years old up there, and my parents were like, "Oh my gosh, she's gonna throw up, because she's gonna be so nervous." I mean, I was like a social kid, but

definitely not, like, center of attention, that was not how I was. So they were really nervous, and then I got up there and I look back at those videos that my dad has like those really cool big camcorders and I'm looking at it and I'm like, "Oh my gosh, I just had so much confidence," sometimes I wish I could tap into that, (laughs), girl and be like, "Dang, she was fearless," just went up there and did the dang thing, didn't care, it was awesome.

Sid Evans: (laughs) So, the two of y'all met when you were 15 at a showcase in Dallas. And you had both been singing with the same vocal coach. And I guess he recognized that y'all had some things in common. Tell me when you realized that you had more in common than just singing and that this was gonna be a friendship?

Taylor Kerr: Pretty much from the first second we met. I was instantly drawn to Maddie's energy. She's the definition of the yin to my yang. She was so outgoing and I was just like hiding in the corner and we went to dinner for the first time, and we both ordered water, with a side of lemons and like a little Splenda and we made our little home made lemonade at the restaurant, and we were like, "Are we best friends... I think so," (laughs).

Maddie Font: Oh, yeah.

Sid Evans: So, were y'all both writing songs at that point, or were you more just singing when you were 15?

Maddie Font: T was writing songs and didn't realize it, I feel like... is that right, T?

Taylor Kerr: I didn't know how to put music to my lyrics yet, but Maddie was, like, on production and everything.

Maddie Font: Yeah, I mean they were not good, they were not good songs by any means, but I was going for it. So I was introduced to that vocal coach and then I was introduced to a producer, and like any songs that I wrote we would try to get him to, you know, make a little like homemade track or, you know, something like that. And so I was going for it and more like to be a songwriter than anything. And then once I met Tae I was like- because the artist thing did not really sound appealing by myself, that just was kinda like, "Oof that's a lot," and then you're the total center of attention, which is like, "Blech." So, (laughs), so it was perfect whenever we met. I was like, "Oh my gosh," and then there's someone I get to collaborate with and long story short, I was already going back and forth to Nashville to pursue song writing when I was a sophomore in high school.

Sid Evans: Wow.

Maddie Font: ... yeah, I, you know what, I was very blessed, like I feel like God put people in my life to kind of give me connections to progress. Stars were aligning just a little too perfectly to think it was just

chance. So that started happening and then when I met T, I'm like, "Hey, you should come and do this with me." And then that's whenever we were like, "Okay, this is on, let's do this, let's chase it down."

Sid Evans: So, when you're in high school, you tend to talk a lot about your parents and your family-

Taylor Kerr: Yeah.

Sid Evans: ... and I'm wondering if y'all had similar experiences on the homefront, or was it totally different?

Taylor Kerr: Fairly similar in the way that we were raised with the morals, and the things that we were taught, that kind of thing. But I had two brothers and Maddie had a sister and so, I had a little bit of a bigger family and Maddie had a little bit of a smaller family. But other than that, it was very similar, and I will say that was probably one of the things that aided in our friendship, was that we were kinda brought up the same way, and so when we met it was like, "Are we sisters? Were we separated at birth? Because this feels way too natural."

Maddie Font: Yeah.

Taylor Kerr: But, yeah, we both had really lovely childhoods. Our parents both sacrificed absolutely everything they could for us. At such a young age, too. I can't believe, (laughs), our parents took us that seriously when we said, "We wanted to not go to college and chase a dream down in Nashville," but they did.

Sid Evans: Well, and I wanna ask you about Nashville. So, y'all moved to Nashville right after high school, which is kind of crazy ambitious and, yeah, it takes a big bet from your parents to go along with that, but you obviously had the confidence that you felt like you were ready to do that. Talk to me about that move to Nashville and what those first couple of months were like. It must have been a wild time for a couple of 18-year olds?

Maddie Font: Oh, yeah it was wild. T adjusted way better than I did, because she had moved around in Oklahoma. Like, T, you've lived in what, like, six or seven different houses. She's very good with change. For me, I lived in two houses my whole life and it really rocked me. Like I think that was a moment where, if I wasn't willing to sacrifice and do that, then it definitely wouldn't have worked out, but it was, it was hard. I mean we were 17 and learning how to like pay taxes and, you know, (laughs), pay bills-

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: ...and all these things that, you know, normally kiddos get to figure out when they're like, you know, in their 20s, like early 20s out of college. So, we kinda had to skip and grew up really, really fast. It was essential for the process, it was essential especially for me. My faith grew exponentially after that experience. And it was weird because there were times when it would get lonely, or hard, or we

would get discouraged, and just be homesick and then a door would open or an opportunity would come up. We, me and Tae call them, "God winks," being like "Hey, you're on the right path," and so it was kinda undeniable. So, we never gave up and just decided we're just gonna chase it down 'til it happens and it took a while, but it happened, (laughs).

Sid Evans: What was the thing that you missed the most about home Maddie?

Maddie Font: The people. I am such a people person. I like to say, "I am an extroverted introvert," because at heart I'm pretty introverted. But I just love being around people. And so my husband and I, we've been together since I was 15. Like the year I met Tae was the year I met my husband. That was like my little magic year, I always say, (laughs). And so that was hard, you know, we were long distance for two years. And so I really missed him. Like I missed just having him there and my family. I would say that was the hardest part because whenever you go off to college, it's like, yeah, you don't see them every day, but a lot of college kids come over for the weekends or like for us it's like, we can't afford to drive 12 hours every weekend, or, get on a plane, or, you know, stuff like that. So you just have to figure it out, (laughs).

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme)

Voice over from Sid: I'll be back with more from Maddie and Tae after the break.

(AD BREAK)

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme)

Voice over from Sid: Welcome back to Biscuits & Jam, from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, and today I'm talking with country music duo, Maddie and Tae

Sid Evans: Well, y'all were not always Maddie & Tae. You performed under another name for a while-

Maddie Font: Oh gosh-

Sid Evans: ... it was, "Sweet-

Maddie Font: Yep.

Sid Evans: ... Aliana?"

Maddie Font: Yes. It is a atrocious name-

Sid Evans: (laughs)

Maddie Font: ... but, you know, what we had to start, (laughs)-

Sid Evans: ... (laughs).

Maddie Font: ... somewhere, (laughs).

Taylor Kerr: We were very purposeful with it though, I will say, because we really wanted a name that meant something. And honestly I don't remember what it means now, but Aliana means like, "Grace," or something-

Maddie Font: Yeah.

Sid Evans: Well, so when did "Maddie & Tae" become the name? When did y'all land on that? Was it after you moved to Nashville, or did you kind of go into Nashville with that in hand?

Taylor Kerr: That was when we got our record deal. We kept Sweet Aliana for a while until we wrote, "Girl in a Country Song," and it started to get more notice.

Maddie Font: ... so the name Aliana means, "Noble and gracious."

Sid Evans: Okay, well that's nice.

Taylor Kerr: Yeah.

Maddie Font: We have some fans that dug that up too, and they like made shirts and all these things, and we were like, "Ugh... y'all are so sweet." Like, it's kind of like sometimes you like feel embarrassed but then you're like, "Man, you gotta start somewhere." And then we were like, "You know what? Let's just use our names. We have cool names." But the thing is, I'm Madison and Tae is Taylor, but that sounds like a law firm. So, we were like, "Madison and Taylor..."

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: If music ever stopped working out, we'd go get some law degrees and that would be a perfect law firm. (laughs).

Sid Evans: Well I love the y'all use your names., it's not always easy to come up with the one that's right in front of you, you know, um, but it's a great name.

Taylor Kerr: Thank you, thank you.

Sid Evans: All right, I wanna talk about, "Girl in a Country Song," which was your huge breakout hit in 2015. And y'all were basically calling out the bro culture in country music, which was a gutsy thing to do.

And it's a very, (laughs), fun song. It's got a hilarious video, with a bunch of big guys dressed up in skimpy outfits. (laughs) But it's also got a little bit of an edge to it, and I'm wondering if you could take me back to the day that you recorded that song, and when you realized that you had this kind of career changing hit?

Taylor Kerr: You know, the whirlwind that occurred around that song is almost like, there's no way to describe it other than divine. It was meant to be by God, because we wrote it on Saint Patrick's Day of... 2013? Or 2014? I can't remember...

Maddie Font: ... I think 2014.

Taylor Kerr: 2014. And then I think a few weeks later we played it for the head of Big Machine Label Group, Scott. And I just remember his face got beet red, and at first Maddie and I were like, "Oh, no he's angry. Like, we just pissed him off, this is gonna be bad." But he was laughing, like he couldn't breathe, because he thought it was so humorous and hilarious. So, we knew from that moment that we had something special and then we were shipped out on radio tour, I think about a month or two later, and it was up from there, everything happened back-to-back. We got a record deal, we shot the music video, the song came out July 15th. It was all within a short few months.

Maddie and Tae's song, "Girl in a Country Song" comes in and we hear the following at full volume:

Bein' the girl in a country song

How in the world did it go so wrong?

Like all we're good for is lookin' good for

You and your friends on the weekend, nothin' more

We used to get a little respect

Now we're lucky if we even get

To climb up in your truck, keep our mouth shut and ride along

And be the girl in a country song

(Song fades out)

Sid Evans: Well it seems very prescient, and it seems like, to come out with that in 2015, and especially at the age that y'all were... it seems like you were recognizing something that was happening in country music, and calling out something that a lot of other artists would have been reluctant to do. Is that fair to say?

Taylor Kerr: Yes.

Maddie Font: Absolutely, and we're three albums in right now, into our career, and I do think that sometimes, the way that we came in, was like so hot, that we- (laughs). People were like, "Whoa, who do they think they are?" Or like, you know, "Who are these teenage girls, thinking they can, you know, whatever..." And it just goes to show that the truth wins every time. Like, there obviously wouldn't have

been a success if other people weren't feeling the same way that we did, and you know, it's definitely like a wittier kinda tongue-in-cheek song, but there is depth in there. You know, if you listen closely there's lines in there that really describe what the stereotypes were for women, and how we were being portrayed in a genre that Tae and I love and then we put out that song and then all the girls were like, "Let's freaking do this thing, come on," (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs) Well y'all have never been afraid to challenge some of the issues that you see in country music – the way women are treated, the lack of representation of people of color. Now that you're much more established, and you have this huge fanbase, I'm just wondering, has it gotten harder to be vocal about those things?

Taylor Kerr: I would say, the validation that we got when we released, "Girl in a Country Song," was, like Maddie said, "The truth always wins." And we know no other way, than to kinda speak what's on our hearts, and I feel like if we hadn't have gotten that validation with the first single, we might have shied away from that. But every time there's an opportunity for us to sort of speak on any topic that we believe in, we feel like we've been given this platform for a reason to do so. So, of course it kinda gets scary here and there, you're not sure how people are gonna perceive what you're trying to say, but for us, As long as we're authentic to what we believe in, then...

Maddie Font: Absolutely. Tae and I, we're never gonna be the artist that like gets political or ever- ever discusses political things-

Taylor Kerr: No.

Maddie Font: ... but when it comes to how humans are treated, and accepted, and opportunities... You know, just equality is something that we're really passionate about, whether that's people of color, whether that's for women, whatever that is, we really believe in, equal opportunity for everybody and just being vocal about that. But the politics thing – I'm like, "Ugh." I will never go down that road, because it's just- (laughs) no one cares what I have to say. I'm not a politician. So, (laughs), I'm just trying to include everybody and make everyone feel welcomed. I think that's the most important part.

Sid Evans: Now that y'all have been in Nashville for a while, do you see much progress being made in terms of Nashville being more open, more welcoming to new artists?

Maddie Font:

Yeah, I would say the platform that does it best in my opinion is the Highway, XM the Highway. I think that that platform and that outlet of music gives new artists an opportunity to share their music, share their stories. "Girl in a Country Song" got really popular from the Highway. That was kinda where we debuted it. So, for new artists that is such a great place to start.

Sid Evans: Well, so y'all are three albums in, you have a new album out called, "Through the Madness," which is in two parts, volume one and volume two. And there is a really fun song on there- well, there

are a lot of fun songs on there, but there's one in particular that I love, that's called, "Woman You Got," which is basically a woman's warning to her fiancé that he may have bitten off more than he can chew. Ao, (laughs), tell me about where that song came from, and I also wanna know what your spouses think of the song?

Taylor Kerr: (laughs), my spouse is right here, so I can ask him, "What do you think of..."-

Maddie Font: (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Josh: A hundred outta 10-

Taylor Kerr: ... a hundred outta 10.

Josh: ... very true-

Taylor Kerr: Very true, oh.

Maddie Font: (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Josh: ... and, uh-

Maddie Font: Tell Joshie, I miss him.

Josh: ... lots of fun.

Taylor Kerr: He said it's lots of fun, the song actually just came from that I wanted to write about just all of our little quirks. I thought that it was fun to sort of shine a light on all the facets of us, because we got a lot going on. And there's two of us, so it makes it even more fun. We got to kind of write to both of us, because Maddie is definitely more of the perfectionist. I lose my phone. I literally lost my phone yesterday. I lost my keys yesterday.

Maddie Font: I can not hold my liquor, yeah, the liquor line is definitely me, (laughs).

Taylor Kerr: Mm-hmm.

Maddie Font: And then, "The don't dare me," like, "Ugh," I- I- I- I'm a sucker for a good dare.

Taylor Kerr: And you can not trust me in the kitchen, like it's-

Maddie Font: (laughs).

Sid Evans: ... it starts out, "You put a ring on a wild thing," right?

Taylor Kerr: Yep.

Maddie Font: Yes. Yes, it's- and that's so true. Like, I think sometimes I'm like, "Ha, did Josh and Jonah know what they were signing up for." And I don't know if Jonah did, er, like I don't wanna speak for Josh, but I think that it just makes it all that more fun and, you know, we keep them on their toes, (laughs). So there's never dull or boring moments, that's for sure, (laughs).

Maddie and Tae's song, "Woman You Got" comes in and we hear the following at full volume:

*Baby, you put a ring on a wild thing
You say you love me, I know you love me
Love that you love me, baby
I know you know me, but if I know me
I'm gonna drive you crazy
The thing about me is I'm always getting better
The truth is, boy, it might take forever but
When it comes to loving you I'm never gonna stop
And that's the kind of woman you got*

(Song fades out)

Sid Evans: Well it seems clear that y'all had a lot of fun making that video, which is hilarious and it looks like you're in a big mansion. Where did that take place?

Maddie Font: We actually filmed the "Woman You Got" music video at Reba's old house.

Sid Evans: Oh, wow, (laughs).

Maddie Font: It is Reba's old mansion, and it is absolutely stunning. And we won an award for the music video at the CMT Awards and I'm like, "I wonder if Reba's like good luck?" She kinda gave us some good energy over that video. So, I'm like, "Maybe we need to film all of our videos, (laughs), at her house," (laughs).

Sid Evans: Well, it's a great video and y'all clearly were having a good time doing that. There's another song on the album that I love, called, "Girl After My Own Heart,"-

Maddie Font: Yes!

Sid Evans: ... which is kind of a classic, "Stay away from my man," song. What's the story behind that one? Is that based on anything that happened, or is that just more general life experience?

Taylor Kerr: Didn't Jonah get hit on the other day?

Maddie Font: Yes, he did at the gym. I was like, "Uh, excuse me,"-

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: ... but, you know, I take it as a compliment, because I know my husband is a catch, and he is handsome as all get out. So, I'm always like, "Oh, girl, thanks for appreciating my man. He is handsome." But uhm, I wish that the story was a little juicer and maybe we should make one up just for fun, but the real story, (laughs), of, ""Girl After My Own Heart" – basically, me and my mother-in-law are really, really close. I'm close to my mom and my mother-in-law and her and I were hanging out one night and I said, "Hey, uh, should we make mimosas and do some crafts or something?" And she said, "Ah, you're a girl after my own heart," and I was like, "That's so interesting." So, I had that title for a while and then I just thought it would be really cool to write it where you're not being rude to this other girl, like, "You know, I'm not mad. I see what you're looking at. He is fine as all get out, and all that, but, do not go after my heart," you know? And, um I love how classic it feels.

Taylor Kerr: Mm-hmm.

Maddie Font: That one is one of my favorites too, Sid. I'm glad you like that one.

Sid Evans: Yeah, it feels like it could've, you know, been a Loretta song, or-

Maddie Font: Ah.

Sid Evans: ...it feels sort of timeless, you know?

Maddie Font: What? Oh, my gosh, that's the biggest compliment ever! (laughs)

Sid Evans: (laughs) That's a strong statement, I realize.

Maddie Font: Yes.

Sid Evans: It's a great song.

Maddie Font: Thank you.

Sid Evans: Well listen, y'all have been through some very difficult times together. You've been through break-ups, a pandemic-

Taylor Kerr: Yes.

Sid Evans: ... the ups and downs of Nashville, a label that got canceled. How do you guys help each other get through some of these things?

Taylor Kerr: I think the foundation that Maddie and I have built together as, not only coworkers, but as friends and as, really as sisters, it's definitely more of a sisterhood at this point. The foundation has been there and will always be there, and I sort of think of it like a house, you know, sometimes the house gets beaten up, and people come knocking on your door, and you gotta fix things here and there, but the foundation has never ever and will never be cracked, and I think that's just really built on respect, and respecting each other, and communicating with each other and just leaning on each other and being honest when we're going through rough patches, because-

Maddie Font: Mm-hmm.

Taylor Kerr: ...you can't go through things alone, and we always have each other's shoulder to lean on. And so when life starts falling apart, we sort of just go hand-in-hand, and we're like, "All right, we're gonna weather the storms together," and we somehow always make it out. I do not know how, but we do, (laughs).

Maddie Font: (laughs), I will say, it is such a blessing, like, it is such a gift to have someone by your side through this business, because this business will break your heart and then put it back together the next day, and it's this cycle that, you know, you have to have thick skin, you have to have the heart to just keep going and not get discouraged, but like Tae said-

Taylor Kerr: Mm-hmm.

Maddie Font: We try to cling to each other, because that's the only thing that isn't gonna move, like isn't gonna get shaken. Like she said, "Whether the storm hand-in-hand," and be like, "This sucks, and I'm freaking out, and you're freaking out, but we're freaking out together." So, it feels less scary, (laughs).

Taylor Kerr: Yeah.

Sid Evans: Well speaking of difficult experiences, um, Tae you had a really tough pregnancy earlier this year and you had a beautiful baby girl named Leighton. When was the first-time that, uh, Maddie got to meet her?

Taylor Kerr: I think it was probably a few weeks after we brought her home, because-

Maddie Font: Yes.

Taylor Kerr: ... when we got to bring her home Maddie was in Texas with her family and so when she got back the next week, I think you quarantined for like a couple of days, made sure you were...

Maddie Font: Yes.

Taylor Kerr: ... and came over and we had like a cookout at the house, it was so fun and that was such a special moment, Leighton's... "Oh, I remember this voice, I heard this voice in the tummy," (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: (laughs) I was so sweet! Tae's husband Josh was like, "I think Maddie broke the record." I was, I think I held her for like 12 hours. Like, I was so obsessed and I'm still obsessed. Like, just talking about her makes my cheeks hurt, because she is the sweetest, most tiny but mighty baby girl, and even though T had such a traumatic experience into motherhood, Leighton is the greatest gift of all time, for I think all of our lives, even though, even though she did not come out of me, she might as well have, because I'm freaking obsessed with that little pumpkin, (laughs) She is the best.

Sid Evans: Ah, well congratulations, Tae.

Taylor Kerr: Aw-

Sid Evans: That's just a beautiful thing.

Taylor Kerr: Thank you, thank you. She's the best.

Sid Evans: All right, well I just have one more question for y'all, and I'm curious how y'all answer this coming from Texas, and Oklahoma. What does it mean to you to be Southern?

Maddie Font: Oh-

Sid Evans: Tae, let's start with you.

Taylor Kerr: The first thing I think of when I think of Southern, I think of like kind, I think of manners, I think of going outta your way for other people, I think of a serving heart, and just giving back to your community. People of the South just love on each other and it's just a real place of family, and food, definitely food.

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: Yeah, (laughs). This is why we share a brain, that is exactly what I was gonna say. When you go to – and no offense, but like, when you go to New York versus going to like Houston, if you're like, "Hey, where is this?" Like the Houstonian is gonna be like, "It's right over here, look I'll walk with you."

Like, "Hey, where are you from, dah, dah, dah, dah?" In New York they're gonna be like, "Bye, figure it out yourself,"-

Taylor Kerr: (laughs).

Sid Evans: (laughs).

Maddie Font: ... you know what I mean? Maybe not. Maybe there's some, you know, nice people— no there are nice people there, but it's just different. And like T said, just that warmth-

Taylor Kerr: Yeah.

Maddie Font: ...and that welcome feeling. I think being kind and, yeah, giving the shirt off your back, is kind of that Southern culture and I love that, I love that so much.

Sid Evans: Well, beautifully said, and Maddie and Tae, thank you so much for being on Biscuits & Jam.

Maddie Font: Thank you so much! Well, now I'm like, "Well dang, do I have to go to Loveless today? Probably."

Taylor Kerr: I think-

Maddie Font: (laughs).

Sid Evans: Uh, I think you do.

Taylor Kerr: ... mm-hmm.

Sid Evans: (laughs), I think it's calling your name.

Maddie Font: I think it is, "Go to the gym, or go to Loveless?" Aaah, Loveless, (laughs).

Taylor Kerr: (laughs).

Voiceover from Sid: Thanks for listening to my conversation with Maddie and Tae. You can check out their latest album, *Through The Madness Vol.2*, wherever you get music. Make sure to visit MaddieandTae.com for tour dates, music, and more. Southern Living is based in Birmingham, AL. Be sure to follow Biscuits & Jam on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen. And we'd love your feedback. If you could rate this podcast and leave us a review we'd really appreciate it. You can also find us online at southernliving.com/biscuitsandjam Make sure to come back here next Tuesday for my conversation with the one-and-only Kardea Brown, host of *Delicious Miss Brown* on the Food Network.