

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Mini-Episode 9: The One About Friends

(Brief intro music)

Leah: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. It's Leah again, and welcome to another mini-episode that I got to record in my living room. Rachel and I have been highlighting different books or TV shows or things that make us happy to help keep you entertained. I sure hope you've been enjoying these so far. I know we've enjoyed making them. And, to be honest, my minis aren't so mini, but I hope you enjoy anyway. I was really racking my brain to come up with something this episode I thought you might be interested in. So, welcome to the one where I talk about "Friends." Okay, I'm not a super fan or anything, but I do own all 10 seasons. Which I bought from Target back in, like, 2010. You know, the one that was in a really nice red box and said 'The complete series!' and cost like \$200? That one. I eyed that sucker for years before I finally coughed up the money for it. And you know, I don't watch them often now. I mostly keep that box because it's so iconic to me. But when I moved to Orlando, straight out of grad school, I didn't have money for absolutely anything extra. For a little while that included having the Internet at home. Honestly, I was super lonely when I first moved. So, I'd pull this collection of "Friends" DVDs where the characters were so familiar to me and get lost in some humor. So, I'm not sure exactly how to break this down. I guess I shouldn't assume that everyone listening has seen "Friends." Although...I mean...haven't you? Anyway, bear with me while I lay out our main characters. I'm going to take the opportunity to list them starting with my favorite. I like all of them, don't get me wrong, but don't we always have a character we relate to the most on a show? Anyway, my personal favorite character is Chandler Bing. Everyone's favorite, heavily sarcastic guy. I am myself pretty darn sarcastic, so I enjoy his character's little quips and jokes. He had a very difficult childhood resulting from a very contentious divorce when he was little. Next, Rachel. She's a fashion obsessed, kind of self-centered, spoiled character who grew up in the lap of luxury and was best friends with Monica. Monica is a sort of a 'everything needs to be super clean and organized and done just so' kind of character. She's a chef, and has one brother, Ross. Ross is an academic professor of paleontology. He's goofy, and loveable, but can kind of be a jerk. He was also pretty spoiled growing up for the simple fact that his mom liked him better than Monica. Joey is our next main character, and he's a womanizing, sandwich-loving Italian guy, who comes from a huge family. He can be pretty clueless sometimes but has a really sweet heart. Phoebe is our last main character, and she had an absolutely terrible childhood. She has a twin sister who abandoned her after their mother committed suicide. Phoebe ends up living on the streets of New York and somehow makes it out relatively unscathed to become a pretty quirky and pretty awesome songwriter. I absolutely couldn't do a "Friends" episode without asking my friends what their fondest "Friends" memories are. Also, could I be saying "Friends" more? Like many people my age, we grew up watching "Friends." The show ended my senior year of high school, and let me tell you, I genuinely thought that it was a semi-accurate portrayal of adult life. I learned upon going to college that that was just not true. Still loved the show, though, obviously, since I'm dedicating a whole mini-episode to it. Anyways, I shot this question off in my group chat, and here's what I got back. My friend Mandi selected the infamous 'pivot' scene. From season five, episode 16 "The One with the Cop." You know, where Ross buys a brand new couch and wants to get it up to his apartment and recruits Rachel, who brings along Chandler, to help? Ross

has this whole diagram drawn out, and clearly has a plan. Except...it's an awfully large couch and a pretty narrow, twisty staircase. So, they hoist it up and are about halfway up the stairs with Ross is yelling, "Pivot, pivot, pivot, pivot!" which was totally not helping at all, and then the couch gets stuck? That one. I asked her why that's her favorite "Friends" moment, and she said that it's because you can really see the teamwork between them, plus it's just super funny. I can't say I disagree. Even though they don't end up getting it up to Ross's apartment, it's not for lack of trying. Also, I really enjoyed. uh, refreshing my memory on this scene by watching the episode again. You know, for...for research. Now, it was pretty hard to pick my own favorite scene. I had to continue all that research until I got to season six, episode 17: "The One with Unagi." This episode features Ross running around and trying to scare Phoebe and Rachel. The girls had taken a self-defense class and were feeling pretty good about being able to defend themselves if the occasion arose. Ross wanted to disprove that one class could make such a difference. Now, I'll admit that Ross kind of comes off as a real jerk in this episode, and it's a little cringe. But I really enjoyed the self-confidence and empowerment that Phoebe and Rachel displayed in the episode. I took a self-defense class for one whole credit back in college, and while I don't necessarily think much of that has stuck a decade later, I remember how good I felt about it at the time. Next, my good friend Michelle picked "The One with the Chick and the Duck." That's the one where Joey surprises Chandler with a tiny little baby chicken. They care for the chick dutifully, especially after Phoebe freaks out on them to let them know just how much work baby chicks can be. This episode is from season three, episode 21. They decide that maybe they weren't ready for a chick and are all set to try and return her. But Chandler, upon doing that, finds out that there's a chance that little Yasmine, the chick, could be euthanized. That appalls him, so he returns home with the chick safely in tow, along with a duck. Her simple reason for liking this episode so darn much is that she wants chickens and ducks with all of her heart and plans on having them someday. But she, unlike Joey and Chandler, understands that you can't just adopt them on a whim. As I'm recording this, it's just past Easter. And I know many folks in years past have adopted little chicks as presents. But what to do with those grown up chickens that you can't keep in your suburban neighborhood? Well, I did a bit of digging for what to do in our area, and it turns out that there is a 'Wisconsin Chicken Chat' on Facebook, and their whole purpose is to rescue and rehome pet chickens and roosters. I'll include a link to that group in our show notes, just in case you accidentally got a chick for Easter but didn't realize that it's mostly prohibited in Oak Creek. The next episode that I'm going to talk about, which is my friend Stephanie's favorite, is "The One with Ross's Tan," or season 10, episode three. I think we can all relate to Ross a little bit. In this episode, he goes to get spray tan because he's jealous of Monica's tan. Except...he gets confused by the relatively simple instructions and gets sprayed, just on his front eight times by the end of the episode. Listeners, I'm not sure if any of you have gotten spray tans, but I have. I'm very pale thanks to my Scandinavian heritage, and a spray tan definitely makes a bit of a difference even with just one layer. I can't imagine what I'd look like with eight, but luckily I have some help given we see Ross in all of his spray tan glory. And just, wow. I hate to think how long that took to wear off. Hope he took advantage of some exfoliation. So anyway, Stephanie selected this episode because she has this super clear, cute memory of watching it with her husband who was dying laughing over it. He was laughing so hard that it made her laugh harder which made him laugh harder—on and on, you get it. She also shared, as an aside, that she could imagine her husband maybe getting in the same predicament. I'm not sure I could picture that, but hey, I'm not married to the guy so who am I to say? The final member of my group chat, Katie, actually chose the episode previous to the last one, meaning she chose "The One Where Ross is Fine," AKA season 10 episode two. This is the one where Joey and Rachel tell him that they want to date, and if anyone who

isn't familiar with the show is still listening, Ross and Rachel have this whole 'will they get together or nah?' storyline for, like, all 10 seasons. So obviously, hearing that Rachel and Joey are interested in each other throws him for a serious loop. He and his girlfriend Charlie host Rachel and Joey for a dinner party, and he gets pretty wasted. Also, fans of the show might note that Charlie and Joey had previously dated, and Charlie basically broke up with Joey to be with Ross. It's pretty clear throughout the episode that Ross is not fine with the idea of Rachel and Joey dating. But he wanders around, saying he's fine in a high-pitched squeaky voice, insisting that he's fine. Katie shared with me that she picked this moment because, in our current situation, that's basically where she is. You see, Katie is a social worker in healthcare and is on the front lines during this pandemic. But she goes to work every day, because her job is truly essential to hospital operations and taking care of patients. I think we can all relate, to some degree, to how Ross is feeling in this episode and how my girl Katie is feeling right now. This pandemic is scary and worrisome. Pretty please, with a cherry on top, stay home unless you absolutely can't, and if you go out please practice that social distancing. If not for yourself, for my girl Katie on the front lines, or for your grandparents, or for your immune compromised neighbor. And that, listeners, brings us to the end of this mini-episode. All the episodes I mentioned will be in our show notes. Subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. You can reach us through the library's Facebook page or website. Be sure to use the #notyourmotherslibrary. Thanks so much for listening, and until next time, happy reading! Or watching. Or however you're spending time these days. Bye!

(Brief outro music)