

FRIENDS

"THE ONE WHERE THEY DANCE IN A FOUNTAIN"

JACOB FINKE

ACT ONE. SCENE ONE.

INT. CENTRAL PERK. NIGHT. It is near closing time. RACHEL, MONICA, PHOEBE, JOEY, CHANDLER, and ROSS are the only ones there. JOEY and CHANDLER are both wearing a white shirt and black pants.

MONICA

It must be Christmas card picture day at the Tribiani-Bing household.

PHOEBE

Yeah, what's that about? Are you guys the new spokesmen for Oreo cookies?

CHANDLER

Very funny. Joey stole my look.

JOEY

Your "look"? You're not cool enough to have a "look."

CHANDLER

I'm cool! I'm cool! You must've seen how I was dressed this morning and copied me!

JOEY

(scoff) Don't flatter yourself. If anything, you copied me!

ROSS

Now, now. Mary-Kate. Ashley. Calm down.

RACHEL

Oh -- it's already past closing time!

CHANDLER

Why are we drinking coffee at 10:00 PM? (Lighting a cigarette) It's a terrible habit.

RACHEL

Chandler! You know you can't smoke in here! That smoke smell clings to the couch. Gunther will smell it.

CHANDLER

I don't care what you think. Because, as was previously discussed, (blows smoke directly into the couch) I am cool.

CHANDLER's lit cigarette falls out of his mouth and into the couch.

MONICA

Chandler! Get that out of there.

CHANDLER digs around in the couch cushion.

ROSS

Does this couch feel warm to anyone else?

Everyone seated on the couch nervously leaps off of it just as a small fire breaks out on the cushions. Everyone is frantic. They throw their coffee on the fire to try to douse the flames, to no avail. JOEY goes behind the counter to retrieve a fire extinguisher which he uses to put out the fire.

JOEY

(To CHANDLER) Nice going, cool guy.

RACHEL

Oh, my gosh, oh, my gosh, oh, my gosh. It's ruined! What am I going to do? Gunther is going to kill me.

MONICA

He's not going to kill you! He'll probably just fire you. The same way Chandler just fired this couch.

CHANDLER

Rach, I am so sorry.

PHOEBE

Don't worry. I know what to do. There's an all-night furniture store ten blocks from here.

ROSS

An all-night furniture store?

PHOEBE

(condescending) This is New York City, Ross. Welcome to the 28th century.

MONICA

Uh, Pheeb. It's the 20th century.

PHOEBE

Yeah, maybe on your calendar...

SCENE TWO. EXT. The streets of New York City. NIGHT. JOEY and CHANDLER are carrying the burnt couch to the all-night furniture store to exchange it for an identical couch.

CHANDLER

I woke up before you today. I got dressed first. Therefore, I have dibs on this outfit.

JOEY

I picked out these clothes last night. I have dibs. And besides, I look better in them.

CHANDLER

Says who?

JOEY

Oh, come on! I'm an actor! It's a fact that I'm good looking. It's my job.

CHANDLER

In your last role, you played the Creature from the Black Lagoon!

JOEY

Hey! For legal reasons, that was the Monster from the Gray Fjord. And, you know what? I like these clothes so much -- I don't think I'm ever gonna wear anything else!

CHANDLER

You're gonna wear this outfit forever?

JOEY

Every day and every night. This is *my* look, after all.

CHANDLER

Oh, okay! I see what's going on here. Well, I'm gonna wear these clothes forever too.

JOEY

Yeah, right. You'll be wearing jeans by tomorrow afternoon. I am committed to this look.

CHANDLER

I'm more committed than you. Whoever keeps these clothes on the longest earns complete ownership of this look.

JOEY

You're on! And you are going down, my friend. I am a master of not changing clothes. In high school, I used to wear the same underwear for a week.

CHANDLER looks disgusted.

SCENE THREE. INT. CENTRAL PERK. NIGHT. RACHEL, MONICA, PHOEBE, and ROSS are still at Central Perk. The couch is now gone.

MONICA

This place seems so much bigger without the couch.

PHOEBE

You think Gunther would notice the couch is gone?

ROSS

I think he'd figure it out once he saw us sitting on the floor.

RACHEL

Those boys better get back here with a new couch soon.

PHOEBE

I hope they don't get rained on.

MONICA

Um, clear skies out there, Pheeb.

PHOEBE

Oh, I know there are clear skies *now*. But this morning, I had a psychic prediction. There is a big rain storm on the way. You know what? I better get going. I don't have an umbrella.

MONICA

I gotta go too. You gonna be okay here alone, Rach?

ROSS

Oh, I'll wait for Joey and Chandler with you, Rach.

MONICA

Alright. See you tomorrow.

MONICA and PHOEBE exit.

ROSS

Can you believe that?

RACHEL

Hm?

ROSS

A "psychic prediction"? I mean, what is she -- a weatherman now?

RACHEL is not listening to ROSS. She is nervously sweeping up. She notices a wallet on the counter.

RACHEL

Oh no! Gunther left his wallet here! He could come back any time to get it! He'll see that the couch is gone!

As RACHEL continues nervously rambling, ROSS starts humming the theme from *Jaws*.

RACHEL

What! What? What is that you're doing?!

ROSS

It's the theme from *Jaws*. Have you... have you seen it?

RACHEL

Seen what?

ROSS

*Jaws.*

RACHEL

No.

ROSS

Oh. (pause) Well, we should watch it together. I have it on tape, and --

RACHEL

Ross, I do not have time for this right now. I have bigger fish to fry.

ROSS

(laughs) Good one.

RACHEL

Good what?

ROSS

(dejected) Never mind.

SCENE FOUR. EXT. The streets of New York City. NIGHT. JOEY and CHANDLER have arrived with the burnt couch at a very shady-looking all-night furniture store. JOEY knocks on a thick metal door. A small eye-door slides open and the furniture store owner addresses JOEY and CHANDLER.

FURNITURE GUY

What do you want?

CHANDLER

(sarcastically) We'd like to see the wizard.

JOEY

We need a couch that looks exactly like this one. Ya know, but, without the burn marks and coffee stains.

FURNITURE GUY

That's not a couch. That's a sofa.

CHANDLER

What's the difference?

FURNITURE GUY

Oh, there's a big difference.

The eye-door slides shut, and, seconds later, the furniture store owner emerges, carrying a new couch (identical to the burnt one) with another employee.

JOEY

Wow, Phoebe was right about this place. That's amazing!

FURNITURE GUY

You guys know Phoebe? The couch is on me.

CHANDLER

Wow, thanks! How do you know Phoebe?

FURNITURE GUY

(dryly) She's my best friend.

CHANDLER

Oh, that's strange because she's never mentioned you before.

FURNITURE GUY

(menacingly) She's my best friend.

CHANDLER

(slightly afraid) Okay, we'll be going now.

CHANDLER and JOEY pick up the new couch and head back in the direction they came from.

CHANDLER

Looking a little sweaty over there, Joe. Thinking of changing into some clean clothes?

JOEY

I don't sweat.

CHANDLER

You don't sweat? That's insane! Everybody sweats.

JOEY drops his side of the couch. They have arrived in front of a fountain.

JOEY

Well, I don't.

CHANDLER drops his side of the couch.

CHANDLER

You stole my look!

JOEY

This isn't your look!

CHANDLER shoves JOEY. JOEY is unfazed. JOEY shoves CHANDLER back, and CHANDLER falls backwards into the fountain. They continue scuffling in the fountain for a while until they see GUNTHER coming.

CHANDLER

(to JOEY) Hey -- hey! Knock it off! There's Gunther!

JOEY

Oh, man! Do you think he sees us?

GUNTHER approaches the fountain. JOEY and CHANDLER get out of the fountain and try to straighten themselves out.

GUNTHER

Joey. Chandler. Why is my couch out here?

CHANDLER

Ah, well...

JOEY

Ah... I'm surprised your couch wasn't out here sooner.

GUNTHER

What?

JOEY

Yeah, I mean, it's the new sensation -- drinking coffee outside. (Nudges CHANDLER.)

CHANDLER

By fountains.

GUNTHER

Did Rachel let you take this couch?

CHANDLER

It was Rachel's idea! She's a very forward-thinking employee, you know.

JOEY

This is gonna be great for business!

GUNTHER

The waitresses will have to carry the drinks three blocks from the coffee shop to here.

CHANDLER

Gunther! My friend! Trust us! Trust... Rachel.

GUNTHER

Rachel is pretty smart. I guess we can try it for a while.

JOEY

Great, great. That's great. Now, Gunther. Which of us looks cooler in this outfit?

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO. SCENE ONE. INT. MONICA'S apartment. MORNING. The next morning, JOEY and CHANDLER (still dressed in black and white) walk into MONICA'S apartment as RACHEL and MONICA are eating breakfast.

CHANDLER

Good morning, ladies.

MONICA

Oh, my -- you guys smell terrible! You're wearing the same clothes as yesterday!

CHANDLER

I am fiercely loyal to this wardrobe choice.

MONICA

You should try being "fiercely loyal" to a washing machine.

RACHEL

I waited for you guys at the coffee house until 2:00 AM. With Ross. It was not fun. What happened?

JOEY

Don't worry -- we covered for you.

RACHEL

Covered for me? What did you do?

CHANDLER

Well, we ran into Gunther, and we told him that he should just leave his couch outside. He thought it was a great idea.

RACHEL

Yeah, you know, he never came back for his wallet.

JOEY

Well, that might be because he was dancing in a fountain with us until 3:00.

MONICA

Wearing matching clothes, leaving couches outside, dancing in fountains with Gunther -- are you guys out of your minds lately?

CHANDLER

Hey, we were just covering for Rachel!

JOEY

Yeah, that reminds me. Gunther had so much fun dancing in the fountain, he's planning a theme party for Central Perk. Everyone needs to wear black and white and come dance in the fountain.

RACHEL

That's crazy!

CHANDLER

Hey now -- do you want Gunther to know that you were letting your friends smoke *after hours* in Central Perk and that you started a fire?

RACHEL

Me? That was you! You were smoking! You started the fire!

CHANDLER

That's not how I remember it. I'm cool. Fire is hot. I wouldn't be caught dead near fire. I'm too cool.

MONICA

You're all idiots.

A strange scraping noise is heard in the hallway. MONICA opens the door to reveal a frazzled PHOEBE holding six multi-colored umbrellas in various stages of being opened and closed.

MONICA

Hey, Pheeb.

PHOEBE

Oh, hey.

MONICA

What's going on?

PHOEBE enters the apartment.

PHOEBE

I brought umbrellas for you all. Blue for Joey. Yellow for Monica. Blue for Rachel. And pink for Chandler.

CHANDLER

Anyone want to trade?

PHOEBE

Okay, now, guys. I can really sense this storm coming any minute now, so carry these umbrellas with you everywhere you go.

JOEY

Sure thing, Pheeb.

PHOEBE

Alright, I've got to go bring Ross his umbrella. See you guys later.

JOEY

Bye.

MONICA

See ya.

PHOEBE exits.

CHANDLER

So Phoebe is sensing storms now?

MONICA

Yeah, she says she just has a feeling.

CHANDLER

I have a "feeling" that I'm going to get married to Pamela Anderson, but I'm not gonna make all my friends walk around with engagement rings, just in case.

JOEY

Come on, we can do this one thing for Phoebe. She'd do it for us.

RACHEL

No, no. I'm with Chandler on this one. How long are we going to coddle Phoebe and let her live in a fantasy world.

MONICA

She'll grow out of it. (dramatically) She will grow out of it, won't she?

RACHEL

Mon, she's 29 years old. 29 year-olds don't normally "grow out" of things.

JOEY

(after a pause) Phoebe's 29? Man, by the time my parents were her age, they had five kids. And Phoebe doesn't even have a boyfriend. That's pretty sad.

CHANDLER

You're 28, Joe.

JOEY

Yeah, but at least I'm not 29!

SCENE TWO. INT. ROSS's apartment. DAY. PHOEBE has arrived to bring ROSS an umbrella. ROSS answers the door; he is still in a sour mood from being ignored by RACHEL.

ROSS

Hey, Pheeb.

PHOEBE

I brought you an umbrella.

ROSS

An umbrella.

PHOEBE

Because of the big storm that's coming.

ROSS

(sigh) Okay, Phoebe, look at this.

ROSS unmutes his TV to show a weatherman giving the seven-day forecast which consists of sun and no rain.

ROSS

There's not going to be any rain! I'm not going to need this umbrella any time soon! You need to stop with this "I have a feeling stuff." It's not going to happen, okay, Phoebe? Do you understand me? I'm not in the mood to humor you, okay?

PHOEBE

(dramatic pause) You and I are a lot more similar than you might think, Ross. People think I'm crazy because I believe I can sense rainstorms coming and because I believe I'm the reincarnation of James Dean. People think you're crazy because you think you have a shot with Rachel. (pause) But I agree with you. I believe you and Rachel are going to end up together. I just... have a feeling.

ROSS

(pause) You really think Rachel and I are gonna... end up together?

PHOEBE

Yes, I really do. I have no doubt about it.

ROSS

(dramatic pause) Thanks for the umbrella, Pheeb.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE. EXT. The fountain. NIGHT. The gang has assembled at the fountain, dressed in black and white. JOEY and CHANDLER are still in their matching outfits. JOEY has an inflatable pool chair with him.

CHANDLER

You must be getting pretty sick of these clothes, huh, Joe?

JOEY

Huh? Oh yeah -- I forgot all about that.

CHANDLER

What?

JOEY

Yeah, I'm over that little fight we had. Clothes? Who cares? My thing now is trying to find the most comfortable place to sit. That furniture store guy and his love of furniture really inspired me. So, I brought this baby (gesturing to the inflatable pool chair) with me. I'm pretty excited about it.

CHANDLER

You can't just forget about the clothes thing! It's important!

JOEY

Naw, not to me, man.

JOEY walks away from CHANDLER.

CHANDLER

(to himself, angrily) He is so cool!

ROSS

Hey, Rach, what do you say after this, we head over to my place and watch *Jaws*?

RACHEL

Oh, I don't think so...

ROSS

I mean, it doesn't have to be *Jaws*! It could be any movie with a giant vengeful shark!

RACHEL

Ross! Enough! I am not going to watch *Jaws* with you. I don't care about *Jaws*. *Jaws* is the last thing on my mind. It's not going to happen.

The weight of this moment hits ROSS deeply as he sees RACHEL's lack of interest in *Jaws* as a metaphor for RACHEL's lack of interest in him. After RACHEL walks away, ROSS shares a meaningful glance with PHOEBE. He smiles, and he is not deterred.

GUNTHER enters to ensure that the gang's party is going on.

GUNTHER

This doesn't look like much of a party.

JOEY

Oh, uh, we were just waiting for you, buddy. Right, guys?

The gang mumbles their agreement as they reluctantly get into the fountain and half-heartedly splash around. PHOEBE is the only one who seems to be having fun.

CHANDLER

(to ROSS) Can you believe Joey? He's completely forgotten about the big fight we had.

ROSS

(uninterested in CHANDLER's problems) Oh, come on. Don't be such a girl. Hey, I'm gonna get Rachel to

watch *Jaws* with me, just you wait. Hey, Rach! Run away from the shark! (slow-motion mimes someone running)

CHANDLER

I am going to punch you.

JOEY

There's nowhere comfortable to sit around here!

RACHEL

(to JOEY) Aw, shut up! You came up with a terrible plan to "cover" for me. I'm freezing! You are a moron.

RACHEL sits down on the edge of the fountain, upset. She tears up a muffin and throws the pieces to some rubber ducks in the fountain. ROSS swims up near her, poking his head out of the water like a shark.

ROSS

Hey, Rach, look. I'm a shark. (snarls)

RACHEL is not interested.

PHOEBE

(to GUNTHER) Hey -- great party, huh?

GUNTHER

Look, I don't know why Joey and Chandler were trying to steal my couch, but I know there's no such thing as 'Fountain Dance Parties.' I'm not an idiot. I just wanted to dance with Rachel in a wet, white shirt. (leaves to dance with RACHEL)

JOEY, CHANDLER, ROSS, and RACHEL are loudly yelling about why they're upset.

MONICA

Enough! Enough! This has gone on long enough! You guys -- you're supposed to be friends, and you're acting like you hate each other. Chandler, no one cares about your "look" or whether or not you're cool -- you're not! But we don't care -- you're our friend. And Joey, is your life really so easy that you have to complain about not having enough comfortable places to sit? You're a moron, but you're my friend, and I love you.

Rachel, you should know by now that Joey and Chandler are idiots, but they did their best, so cut them some slack. And pay attention to Ross for once. And Ross, give it a rest. *Jaws* isn't that great of a movie. And Phoebe... you predicted a storm, and the sky is clear. But, you know what? You're my friend, so...

MONICA opens her umbrella and holds it over her head. The rest of the group is briefly stunned by MONICA's outburst, but slowly, one by one, they pick up their umbrellas, open them, and hold them over their heads -- first ROSS, then JOEY, then RACHEL, then CHANDLER, and lastly a teary-eyed PHOEBE.

GUNTHER

I guess I'll go now.

GUNTHER exits awkwardly.

SCENE TWO. EXT. The fountain. NIGHT. The gang sit together on the couch in front of the fountain.

JOEY

You know, I've learned something. The most comfortable place to sit is wherever my friends are.

RACHEL

Aw, that's very sweet, Joe.

CHANDLER

I have a confession to make.

PHOEBE

I knew it!

CHANDLER

What? No... I dressed this way because I saw a model in a Calvin Klein ad dressed like this, and I thought I could pull it off, but... I can't.

RACHEL

What? No -- come on, you look great.

CHANDLER

Really?

RACHEL

(half-heartedly) I don't know.

ROSS

So, Joey, did you see that Calvin Klein ad too? Is that why you dressed this way?

JOEY

Oh -- no! I dressed this way because I thought it would make me look like Snoopy.

CHANDLER

The cartoon dog?

JOEY

(laughing) What a character!

PHOEBE

I'm really glad we can all unconditionally love each other.

RACHEL

No matter how stupid, immature, or insane we might be.

PHOEBE

It didn't even rain... I'm sorry, guys.

ROSS

Hey, that's okay, Pheebs. These are nice umbrellas.

MONICA

Yeah, thanks, Pheebs.

PHOEBE

This is a magical fountain.

The friends look at the fountain for a moment.

PHOEBE

I think we should come back to dance in this fountain, once a week.

MONICA

How 'bout once a year?

PHOEBE

Yeah, that works.

The friends look at the fountain. END OF ACT THREE.

Over the closing credits, the gang happily dance together in the fountain.

THE END.