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Title: The One Where the Unexpected Happens

Subtitle: Relying on friends to get through Quarantine

“So no one told you life was gonna be this way.” Nobody knew that twenty-twenty would end up being like this, hints the unexpected. It most likely hasn’t gone the way you wanted. “When it hasn’t been your day, your week, your month, or even your year.” However, there is always a bright side, like getting to spend more time with your family, eating a lot, cleaning, shopping, researching, cracking jokes, and trying to figure out the future. And most importantly the friends you have that help you along the way. “I’ll be there for you. ‘Cause you’re there for me too.”

If you weren’t close with your family now, you most likely are by this point. Some things that brought my family joy were playing board games, finding new and old shows to watch, and coffee-filled mornings - sadly, we couldn’t go to Central Perk. Amongst other things, over time my family grew closer. Some people would say siblings have constant disagreement but the relationship between Ross and Monica go to show that siblings truly do end up loving each other. Old shows would consist of really relieving the late 90’s into the 2000s. This then leads to the classic couch potato state of mind, “I don’t even have a ‘pla’,” meaning I have no other plans to attend to.

When there’s a shortage of toilet paper and some food items, you know that “Joey doesn’t share food.” In this case, neither do my siblings. In this time I’ve expanded my cooking and baking skills, I’ve even used the infamous Nestle Toulousé recipe. One of my favorite types of food is Italian food. This is a shared common favorite between all the Tribianni kids. At this time you had to stock up on food because you didn’t know when the next time you were going to leave your house. My

mom would stock up the fridge and not even two days after, the boys had eaten the majority of the things she just had gotten, kind of like when you have three neighbors across the hall who only come to take your food, and steal your meals. With all that food making, comes a big mess.

Sometimes cleaning can be the most healing way to handle situations. As Monica would say, “usually when I’m anxious, I clean.” Whether that be trying to clean up other people’s messes or stress cleaning. When living with brothers or even a boy they always happen to make a mess “and I have to live with a boy.” Maybe you are cleaning up the pieces from your friend’s failed relationship, and in some friend groups that happens a lot. Another type of support from friends is the one where you celebrate the good times and struggle together through the bad. In this time there have been more terrifying times than good. In just about every friend group there is always a mother hen. That person could also be found labeling things, cleaning the toilets 17 times to be exact, and so obsessed with cleaning that she cleans her cleaning supplies. To have those special supplies, you need to shop.

In quarantine, you have a lot of time to think about the things that you do and do not have, like searching on Pinterest for the latest fashion trends that may lead to a career working for Ralph Lauren. At 15 years old there are not a lot of jobs available until you’re 16, so you use your resources. Your parents...Well, that is to a certain extent. “Well, maybe I don’t need your money. Wait, wait I said maybe.” By this point you end up getting a job at Central Perk, flirting with customers, and messing up coffee orders to meet the basic rent needs. Thankfully your old friend from high school takes you in and fixes all your problems. In the end, the people sitting on the orange couch with you always have your back no matter how crappy the coffee truly is. Thank goodness for the paycheck that allows you to shop in this new phase of life.

With a decent amount of free time on your hands, you have the time to research and look up some new things. Whether you are looking up dinosaurs or looking for a new girlfriend because you were supposedly “on a break” with the old one. It takes a good amount of patience to do research and learn new things. In quarantine, there was always drama waiting to be unfolded or something new to occupy your mind so my friends like any other teenage girl would look for some but come to find out there weren’t any because everyone was in isolation. “You can’t give up. Is that what a dinosaur would do?” If you really want to learn new things about this world, politics, the health system, and find new ways to stop the spread of COVID - 19, you learn to dig a little deeper like Ross, the paleontologist. However, you may just have to laugh your way through the corona. That is the best medicine anyway.

If school ends and life just doesn’t go your way at least you got humor to get you through it. “Hi, I’m Chandler. I make jokes when I’m uncomfortable.” In my friend group, the funny one is usually the one who brings the most laughter into any situation. So most days it’s truly the little things that get you through the day.

The truth of the year is that no one knows what is going to happen next. There could be fresh new ideas or bad situations that are a struggle to get through. It’s always good to be optimistic though, trying to find the positive. Nobody can guess the future as Phoebe Buffay can. Something that may help you is singing a song like “Smelly Cat,” your friends may not like it but they listen anyway. Maybe the next season of life will lead you into changing your name to Princess Consuela Bananahammock, because why not. At least your planner is empty and you have no excuse to be late.

“Hi, it’s Phoebe. Someone needs to take my 9 o’clock because it’s, like, 9:15 and I’m not there.”

Through the unexpected, we had to lean on each other and that's all we need. "I'll be there for you. 'Cause you're there for me too." With good friends by my side, the unexpected is much more bearable and I hope it is for you too. There is always a bright side, like getting to spend more time with your family, eating a lot, cleaning, shopping, researching, cracking jokes, and trying to figure out the future. Until the day where we can meet again in apartment 20 or Central Perk, hold onto the things that bring you happiness, especially your friends.

Citation:

The Rembrandts. "I'll Be There for You." L.P., 1995