

S1E8: “Spot the Scammer” with Emma Gray and Claire Fallon

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[00:00:00] Emma: She literally is Anna Delvey.

Claire: Literally.

Kelsey: [laughing]

Emma: Oh my God. They're everywhere. The Delveys are everywhere.

Claire: This is why you don't travel with friends.

[intro music]

Hello my little gossipers and welcome to the Season one Finale of Normal Gossip.

I'm Kelsey McKinney and this is the podcast where we bring you a delicious morsel of gossip from the real world. This week we have Claire Fallon and Emma Gray on with us for an absolutely ridiculous tale but before we get into it, coupla quick housekeeping notes.

This is going to be the season finale for season one but please do not panic. We're still going to be around. We'll be updating all of our social media and we're currently working on a bonus episode but we need your help.

For this season's break we are looking for stories about FAMILY GOSSIP. You can send that to the voicemail at 2679-GOSSIP. But please remember it cuts off at 3 minutes. Or you can send it via voice memo to our email at normalgossip@defector.com.

Make sure you specify it's for the bonus episode. Please make sure it's your own gossip to share so that we can play it. You can leave your name or stay anonymous if you want.

OKAY. This week we have Claire and Emma. Claire and Emma are the hosts of the Bachelor podcast *Love To See it* and the hosts of the general popular culture podcast and newsletter *Rich Text*.

Emma and Claire! Hello! Welcome!

Claire: Hi

Emma: Thank you for having us.

Claire: Thank you so much.

Emma: We're so excited. We're so excited to be here. We're so excited to gossip.

Claire: We're so excited to talk over each other this whole time in our eagerness to react to gossip.

Kelsey: I think that's good. And I'm excited to have you both here. Why don't you both start me off by telling me what your relationship to gossip is.

Emma: I've been thinking about this, cause I've been listening to your pod and I'm like, how will I answer this question? And I don't know that I would have self identified as a gossip beforehand, but the more I thought about it, I was like, Emma, you have to own it. You are a gossip, but I'll say, I think I'm like a benign of benign gossip.

I find gossip to be. Something that can be a really useful tool for bonding, for entertainment. And I like it to feel nice and light and fun. When it veers into darkness...exit.

Kelsey: What was your hesitancy in calling yourself a gossip?

Emma: I feel like it's not... it doesn't really have a positive connotation generally, especially when you're a woman and sort of, um, I think assumed to be somewhat flighty and silly by nature.

And I think often gossip is associated with teen girls in a way that is quite negative and dismissive .

Kelsey: When actually we're just all having fun.

Emma: Exactly.

Claire: Or like when I think of the word gossip, I think of. A very hard stereotype of a middle-aged housewife in a house dress with nothing better to occupy her time with than talking about what she saw over the fence at the Joneses.

Kelsey: Mhm.

Emma: Yes

Claire: Uh, I, however, I'm really not much of a gossip, and I've been trying to figure out why no one ever tells me gossip. And I think that part of it is just that I don't have a very extensive social network.

Kelsey: Okay

Claire: And so no one ever brings stuff to me. You know, I have like a small group of like five close friends who are not friends with each other. So like, no one's bringing me the background info.

And when I used to gossip, it was usually at the office and I don't work at an office anymore. And so my connection to like that, that office, social network and gossip sort of funnel has been cut off for me. And I think I'm very conflicted about it, because I have like two sides that hate each other. I have a side to myself that like wants to be liked and wants to be nice and wants to seem like very sweet. And then I have a side that's just like a raging judgmental bitch.

Kelsey: [laughing]

Claire: and each of those sides of my personality has like complete contempt for the other side. So I'm like, I want the gossip and then I get it. And I'm like, oh, but they seem so nice. Like, it's so sad to hear that actually they're doing that terrible thing. I'm like, so I have a very fraught relationship with receiving the gossip that I think probably has made me a more complicated person to gossip with. And like this podcast has prompted in me like a deep self-examination of my relationship to gossip clearly

Kelsey: There was a slideshow yesterday from some like therapist on Instagram. That was like how to respond to gossip. If you don't want to do it.

Emma: Kelsey you posted that and it, it literally enraged me. I was like, I will not be saying this to anyone.

Kelsey: I felt so angry the whole time I was reading it because it was like "I've only heard nice things about her" and I'm like, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. If you are going to divert my gossip, you must leave. However, if you feel uncomfortable, that's fine. We could push through that.

Claire: The thought of someone coming to you with news of something terrible someone has done, and you say, well, I've only had wonderful experiences with that person. I mean, really think about what you're doing in that moment. You know, you're like, I want to make sure that the public narrative about this person for whatever reason stays uniformly positive,

Kelsey: right. It also feels like post...the last two years of like uncovering Me Too information

Emma: I was going to say that gives me a real, like Me Too red flag situation of like, well, he never assaulted me. So I guess he's good.

Claire: Yeah. My experiences with him have been completely assault free, so I don't feel comfortable discussing this right now.

Kelsey: [laughing] The moral is sometimes people are bad and they should be judged for it, I think.

Emma: And sometimes people just do like weird shit and you want to be able to take a little bit of harmless pleasure in it. And that's also okay.

Kelsey: Yeah. You guys are going to fuckin' love the goss today.

Claire: Oh my God.

Kelsey: Tell me you, you both run, um, a kind of two podcasts that have been about the Bachelor and the Bachelor franchise, which is notoriously gossipy. Can you tell me a little bit about how like gossip functions in the like reality TV realm, how it's different from real life? How it's not?

Claire: Oh, wow. That's, that's a big, that's a big question because I think that gossip functions a role both within the world of the show and also outside of it.

So on the show, there is the perennial question of what did the contestants know about each other? What have they observed about each other? What did they heard about each other? And are they going to bring it to the lead and say, this person isn't here for the right reasons because they have a boyfriend or a fuck buddy, or, you know, an even more horrifying, uh, character destroying sort of slur.

So it can be weaponized in this way, but also if you are the gossip that often redounds negatively to your, you know, credit. So on the show, gossip is this very dangerous, but also powerful tool. And the, the, the mission to rise to the top of the pack. And outside the show, gossip just is what they're, they all just like become celebrities and what are celebrities for, if not, for all of us to gossip about all the time

Kelsey: Right.

Claire: And that's how they stay relevant, because they have no other celebrity qualities other than giving us people to gossip about

Emma: Exactly. In both cases, gossip is a tool. But afterwards, I think the gossip becomes on the whole far less dangerous because when you're talking about building an Instagram or a Tik Tok following even some questionable gossip can, in a way be, be good for building that brand. Um, so there are, there are, I think, like more ways to play with gossip.

And I also think that gossip plays a really important role in keeping the community of bachelor viewers tied together. You know, there are, there's a very popular subreddit dedicated to the

bachelor. I would say that is pretty much exclusively about gossip on the whole. There are bachelor like scoop and gossip accounts.

Kelsey: Reality Steve

E : Yup. Reality, Steve is the originator, but there are a lot of younger people who have now who operate exclusively on Instagram and Tik-Tok, who like full-time do this

Kelsey: oh.

Emma: Yeah. And, uh, Claire and I have even recently started doing bonus episodes where we just gossip because there is this entire ecosystem of questionably true news that is continuously circulating around all of these people.

Claire: Yeah.

Kelsey: You know, that seems fair to me the longer. The longer [scoffs] this is the eighth episode of the show.

But at this point I'm like, is everything gossip, because the more that we like talk about it, the more I'm like, what is a political appointee, rumor, but gossip? What is people getting engaged, but gossip? Do you think that gossip has parameters or do you think it is like an emotion? What, what is it?

Claire: I, it reminds me of the, that annoying thing that people say sometimes that's like really deep people talk about ideas and like shallow people talk about other people. And so the idea of like talking about other people, I think that does feel,

Kelsey: Just say you're lame

Claire & Emma: [Laughing]

Claire: It's like, sorry, I'm just talking about existentialism. And you're talking about how your neighbor is having an affair with the plumber. You and I are not the same.

Kelsey: I agree

Emma: Um, I mean, I must as an intellectual.

Kelsey: Exactly. One of us is having fun.

Emma: Exactly.

Claire: But like so much of what we talk about is about other people. And I think that that also feeds into so many other like fiction is essentially just like a way to gossip without actually gossiping. And I think that's partly why we always see such curiosity about like, oh, is this character based on you?

And like, are the other characters based on people, you know, and what are you implying about them? Like anytime we're telling a story about other people that has its roots in gossip and it's, so it is just like inherently linked to how we love to know what other people are up to. And like what human nature is like and how other people are showing that.

Emma: Can we spend our whole lives trying to like excavate the truth about humanity, about other people and about why people do the things that we do. Like everyone around us is fundamentally to an extent unknowable, even the people closest to us. And I think that gossip functions as a way to try to... to create that exploration, like it just makes complete sense.

And also it's absurd to try to separate ideas from people. Because all of our ideas are fundamentally at their core for the most part about people or about how the world functions with people in it.

Claire: Well speak for yourself. I have a lot of ideas that are purely conceptual and they're not related to people in any way,

Kelsey: Claire, this is not a philosophy podcast.

Emma: Stay in your lane.

Kelsey: Can it.

[music]

Kelsey: Okay. Are the two of you ready to hear some gossip you want to, you want to do some Goss?

Emma: We're ready

Claire: Yes.

Kelsey: Okay. So to set the stage, we are in the pre pandemic world. It's 2019. Okay. It's 2019. Our story concerns a group of friends. There are four friends, Maya and Niah who are twins, Evelyn, and Sophie

What, what, what do you have to say already?

Emma: Just trying to commit the names to memory.

Claire: I'm just thinking that this is the platonic number of friends and a group, and I'm already trying to assign them to their sex in the city counterparts.

Kelsey: [laughing] Okay. So we've got four they're all in their last semester of law school.

And apparently, uh, when you have a law degree, as none of us know, people really want to hire you. So they all have like, firm jobs lined up, right?

Emma: Oh wow.

Kelsey: They're like, I just have to like get through this last semester of law school. And then someone has promised to hire me.

So one night over drinks, they're talking about like this summer space that they have between like graduating and taking these jobs.

And they've decided that instead of going off on their own, they should go on like a trip together to make their money go further. Right. So like, we can share hotels, we can share reservations. We can like share whatever. And this will give us more breathing room.

Claire: They really figured out travel for the first time. They're like sharing a hotel room. It's cheaper.

Kelsey: Yes. They're breaking new grounds. They're drinking frozen margaritas. They're like, you know what we're going to do. We're going to go to Southeast Asia, ostensibly, what they say they're doing is they're going there because like they won't have time, quote, unquote, to fly to Southeast Asia when they're all like very fancy busy lawyers. They're like, we'll have limited vacation days, eventually.

Incredible. Everyone's excited. They've all been friends since the first year of law school.

They're like, we deserve this. This is what's going to help us get through the last semester.

We're going to like motivate ourselves with this trip. But when they start mapping out, like what they want to do, they quickly run into a problem, which is that there are like five different areas of Southeast Asia that they all want to visit and they can't afford to do all five of them.

So they're like, what we really need to do is pick four. They're like where everyone go home for the week. And when we meet next week for drinks, come back with like our ranked version of these five.

Emma: wow.

Kelsey: five and we'll pick for

Emma: This is the democratic process.

Claire: I was just going to say hard to believe this all went left, cause going smoothly at this point.

Kelsey: Okay. So they all come back, they've got their ranked locations, right? They're like one through five. The problem is there are no clear winners. It is impossible to cut one of these locations because like the ones that are ranked fifth for someone are ranked number one for someone else. So it's like, we can't figure out which one of these to get rid of.

And so the twins, Maya and Niah are like, we have an idea instead of cutting one. Why don't we add our friend from undergrad at UCLA who is free this summer and wants to come. And everyone at drinks is like, cool, great. We bring in this fifth person, she contributes to our trip. Now we can afford to go on five.

Emma: Is that how that works?

Claire: They're working with the finances of this with like such complexity, but they can't figure out how to like find out who won the ranked choice system in any way.

They're just like, instead we'll do some financial magic and this new person will pay for our trip.

Emma: I feel like just bringing a new wild card into a well oiled social dynamic,

Claire: This is starting to really feel like a Ponzi scheme.

Emma: I'm nervous.

Claire: I'm suspicious.

Kelsey: Okay. You're going to get more nervous.

Claire: Oh no

Kelsey: ecause the way, the way they've decided to pay for this trip is that they've decided that each one of them is going to have a budget cap and a leg of the trip.

So like you're in charge of booking the hotel and the reservations and making the itinerary for your leg of the ttip.

Claire: Okay.

Emma: Okay.

Kelsey: So they've divided it into five sections and each person gets a leg. Right. Which makes kind of sense if you think about like they're all in law school and they need to study or something.

And so they're like, you need to like figure out a section of this. Everyone needs to do their part, but it's also like, okay, that's a lot of, you've chosen to do something that I personally would never do.

Claire and Emma: [nervously laughing]

Okay. This is an important thing to understand about this group is that the girls who are not the twins, Evelyn and Sophie are like, we feel great about this decision, right?

They're like, this is so nice while they're at drinks. The minute they're like walking back to their apartment, Sophie and Evelyn are like Can you believe this? Oh my God, Maya and Naia are so annoying. Their friend probablysucks.

Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: Like who even is she? I searched their friends while I was in the bathroom on Instagram. And I think she's like some kind of influencer?

And to be clear, they like this decision, like they're in favor of the fifth girl coming on this trip.

Emma: So what are, are they not in favor of the Maya and Niah making the suggestion? They're like this, this changes the power balance in the group. Is that the concern?

Kelsey: I think what it really is is that these are girls who are like bound together by circumstance.

Emma: Ah yes

Kelsey: And they don't really like each other

Claire: Hey, this is not how you I've never, I, I, if I were talking about a friend like this, I'm not going to be like all my high horse. I've never talked about a friend like this. I wouldn't be planning a trip to Southeast Asia with them at that point in time.

Kelsey: yes

Claire: That's like when I'm slowly drifting away from them on a gentle sea of apathy time.

Kelsey: [laughing] Yes. Okay. So they like plan the trip. The trip is planned. Five of them are going. They graduate. It's summer. The trip is here. Okay.

Because our law students are in the middle of the country and they need to get to Southeast Asia. They are flying into LA to make their connection. Okay? At lax, they are meeting up with this fifth member of the group, Maya and Niah's friend. Her name is Jenny. Jenny is Los Angeles. Right. She's like wearing a matching fancy athletisure or suit. She like has a hat. And like, she has nice luggage. She has like those cheekbones that girls in the bachelor have where they're all like pumped with filler and so extremely beautiful.

And Sophie, our friend of a friend. Our like access to this story is like, oh my God, you know, she's so beautiful. She looks just like a celebrity. I'm obsessed with Jenny. And Evelyn is like, she's just tall.

Emma & Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: She's just tall. And she's just dressed. Well, you're like losing your mind. You're just enchanted by her. And Sophia's like, yes, I am enchanted by her. She's arrived at the airport with like those little bottles of vodka for us to mix into our bloody Mary's on the plane. I love her. She's hot. She's gone up to the counter with the flight attendant and persuaded them to put us all in the same row. Somehow.

Emma & Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: I love Jenny and Evelyn is like, oh my God, she's so annoying. So I would like to ask now, like, how are you feeling? Do you trust these people? Do you think Evelyn has a right to be suspicious?

Emma: I don't trust a single one of them. They all make me very nervous.

Claire: I don't. I don't trust anyone with Instagram face to start with. And I definitely don't trust anyone who would go on a trip to Southeast Asia with people that they don't like. So that seems like all of them.

Emma: That's all of them. Yeah. I think we're out.

Kelsey: So Evelyn is whining, right? She's like, I don't like Jenny and Sophie is like, I cannot deal with this line of thinking because my leg of the trip is first.

This is very important. Focus.

The order of the weeks of the trip is: Sophie, our friend of her friend, Maya, Jenny, Niah, Evelyn. Okay. So Sophia and Evelyn are like book-ending this trip. Got it?

Emma: Got it.

Claire: And sorry. The, the, each leg is a week long?

Kelsey: Probably not, but it's a little unclear to me. How long they're there.

Claire: Okay so it's Sophie... Niah?

Emma: One of the twins,

Claire: Maya,

Kelsey: Sophie,

Claire: Maya, Jenny Niah. Evelyn.

Claire: Evelyn.

Kelsey: Exactly. Nice. Good memory.

Emma: So Evelyn is the most negative and she's last? This is, this is a disaster.

Claire: Oh my God.

Kelsey: And also Evelyn is like, she's not stressed yet because her leg is so far away. Right.

Sophie is like, we're landing in Singapore and I have booked the hotel. And what if everyone hates it? Right? She's like a little nervous.

Claire: So now it's like, they're each like throwing a party. They're doing.

Kelsey: Yes.

Claire: Yeah for a wedding.

Emma: And if people don't have fun, then it reflects poorly directly on the person who planned that leg. Oh no,

Claire: no, thank you. I don't like this.

Emma: Yeah. I've I, again, I opt out.

Kelsey: Okay. So this plane lands in Singapore turns out everything's fine. Right? The hotel is cute. They're having fun. Everything's going well. They like, Sophie has booked them a lot of like restaurants for them to eat at. And so they're like, this is great. They're eating street food. They're having so much fun.

Evelyn, like seems to be warming up to Jenny a little bit. So this is great. She like tells her story while they're, while they're like eating dinner one night about how she once ghosted this awful guy. So hard that he thought she had literally died.

Claire & Emma: [both laughing]

Kelsey: And everyone is like laughing, like drinks coming out of their nose laughing. Right? Like everyone is having a great time. Sophie is like, I did it! Patting herself on the back. So on their last day in Singapore, their last day of Sophie's leg, she's planned for them, what she calls a wander day. And that means she's like prepared for each of them a map.

And on the map are like stores and restaurants and like little things that they didn't get to see. And everyone can just like, go see them. Right. So like do whatever you want.

Because there are five of them. It's like a little too many of them to just like wander around and Maya and Niah are like, we want to go to this luxury store.

And everyone else is like, we do not want to go to the luxury store.

Emma and Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: We want to like look around at Singapore. So we have two groups, right? Maya and Niah go away. Jenny Evelyn and Sophie are like walking around, looking at stuff and pretty quickly Evelyn ditches them. Evelyn's like, I have been with you people for so long. I need one afternoon alone. I need to just like, look around Singapore, have some alone time. Goodbye.

And Sophie is like, this is great because I'm trying to bond with Jenny. Right? She's like, this is the best thing that could've possibly happened to me. So Sophie and Jenny are having a really nice time.

They're like going through an outdoor market, right? Sophie like finds a necklace she wants. And Jenny like helps her bargain and like try to get the price down and like convinces her to buy it. They're having so much fun. They pop into like a little booth full of furniture. And this is where Jenny finds the lamp.

Claire: Oh God, I've just never heard a lamp brought up in a way where I just knew

Emma: it's menacing

Claire: I just knew that it was menacing. Bad things are gonna happen with this lamp.

Emma: This is a curse lamp. I can feel it.

Kelsey: The lamp is a floor lamp. So it's like four feet tall. It's one of those like colorful birds where the bird is like looking up and it has like very long legs.

So it's like an elongated, vertical bird,

Claire: one of those and it's yeah!

Emma: a classic.

Claire: I have one in the living room

Kelsey: It's carved out of wood. It's like hand painted Sophie and Jenny are like touching the bird lamp. They're like, it's so soft,

Claire & Emma: [laughing]

Kelsey: Jenny's like, I love it. I'm obsessed with the bird lamp, but this is a big lamp.

Right? And so they're like, ha ha funny, cool bird lamp, continue to shop, but like the bird lamp has ingrained itself in Jenny's brain. And Jenny is like, I need the bird lamp to live.

Emma & Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: And she's like showing Sophie pictures of her house in LA and she's like, look, this is the corner I would put the bird glamping, see how like the belly of the bird matches my couch. See how like this part matches my rug and Sophie was like, damn, yeah, you've got to have it. So they go back to the like little area with the bird lamp and they're like, I don't know. It's like, it's very big. Also we're in Southeast Asia and hopping around a lot. So like how, what are you going to do with this bird lamp?

Claire: I actually have a really good answer for that. They add the bird lamp to the trip. The bird lamp is going to plan the sixth leg of the trip and also chip in. So that'll work out actually to everyone's benefit.

Emma: Brilliant.

Kelsey: Great idea.

Claire: I see how this works now.

Kelsey: Yeah. So they go, they go back to the store. Jenny like asks the guy in charge of the store, like how much the bird lamp is.

And he's like, it's 300 American dollars and she's like, no. And so she like haggles the man at the bird lamp store, and now he's like, it's a hundred American dollars. And so Jenny's like, Sophie, should I buy this bird lamp? And Sophie's like, what about the walk back to our hotel, which is a mile away, this is a big bird lamp.

And Jenny's like, it's fine. It's not that heavy. I'll carry the bird lamp. And Sophie's like, what about the fact that it's huge? Like we're going to have to get on planes and like, what are you

going to do with the bird lamp? And Jenny's like, it's fine. I'll just like tell the stewardess that it's a piece of art that I have to keep with me. And like, she'll just let me bring it on the plane.

Claire: What?

Emma: This woman is insane!

Kelsey: Sophie at this point has watched Sophie at this point has watched Jenny like skirt every rule that exists. So she's like, you know, maybe like this might work, I guess. Sure. So Sophie watches Jenny buy the bird lamp. Jenny is ecstatic, but now the bird lamp has to be like carried everywhere.

There is. Now, as you've said, an extra person on this trip, it is the lamp. It's wearing sunglasses and hats. It's, they're taking pictures with it, right? It's like the lamp is now here. There's not an immediate problem with the lamp because the second week is whose week do we remember? Think back!

Emma: Maya,

Claire: Maya.

Kelsey: Maya! Nice. So it's Maya's week and they're going to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and apparently you can take a train it's a six hour train and the plan was always to take a train. And so the bird lamp is fine. Right? They just bring the bird lamp on the train up to this point. No issue Maya's week is not important. So we're skipping right through it.

Claire: We have a lot of weeks to get through so. Yeah.

Kelsey: Do you remember who has the third leg?

C: Uh, it's Jenny.

Emma: Jenny.

Kelsey: Okay. So it's Jenny's week Jenny's week is in Thailand, right? She has Thailand. You could take a train to Thailand. Um, but I looked it up and it's 24 hours with two transfers.

Emma: Oh no, no, no, no.

Kelsey: In my opinion taking a 24 hour train to Bangkok is a bad idea. just personally. So Evelyn is like lol this bird is dead. There is no way this bird is getting on a plane. The bird is going to be [snaps] out of here. I'm no longer going to have to look at it anymore. I'm not going to have to deal with it.

Emma: Is Evelyn harboring some resentment towards Jenny, that's continuing to grow.

Kelsey: Hardcore. Oh yeah.

Claire: I mean, even if you can take it on the train and all that, I would just be like, now we have to, like, one of our members is not only dragging her luggage. She's dealing with this huge lamp. Like, it just seems like it would weigh the whole group down, but like

Emma: It's so annoying!

Claire: People buy furniture when they're on vacation. So like

Emma: don't they have it shipped!?

Claire: Right. There've gotta be ways to deal with this!

Kelsey: Yes

Emma: I don't understand why she would

Claire: I JUST

Emma: Why would she take it everywhere!?

Kelsey: I don't know. I can't answer the psychological question.

Emma: Ma'am go post office,

Claire: go to the USPS station and, uh, office. In Singapore.

Kelsey: Yeah. It'd be like ship this to my house in LA. Yeah. There are solutions to this. That makes sense. All I have is the information I was given from a friend of our friend.

Claire: Okay.

Kelsey: They did not take any of the solutions that make sense. Okay.

So it's the morning that they're going to Thailand. Right. And Jenny's been like, make sure all your stuff's packed. We need to leave at like 8:00 AM, right from the hotel. Evelyn's like bye-bye to the bird lamp. Can't wait to get on this plane.

[both laughing]

Kelsey: There's no way she's going to talk her way into this. They go downstairs and it's not like a shuttle to the airplane. It's like a fancy SUV with a driver.

Claire: Are they being driven all the way there?

Kelsey: Yes.

Claire: How long of a drive is that?

Emma: What?

Kelsey: It's like 20 hours.

Emma: What, wait, how did not... know this ahead of time,

Kelsey: because everyone's in charge of their own leg

Claire: wait, so they didn't book their own travel? Just like they're just booking plane tickets for each other.

Emma: NO NO.

Claire: That is, this is why you don't put someone else in your airplane tickets the one day they'll just be like, oh, I don't feel like flying. So I got us an SUV to drive 20 hours together. Instead.

Kelsey: Evelyn is also like... have either of you traveled abroad?

Claire: a little bit,

Kelsey: like alone as a woman?

Emma: No, not alone. But lik yes. With groups with the groups of friends Yes.

Kelsey: If you're in group of girls who is like traveling together. There's like a lot of, um, you know, opportunities to make like *taken* jokes.

Emma: mhm

Kelsey: And Evelyn is like, Evelyn is like, you know, we've been making a lot of jokes about like being kidnapped. This feels like ripe territory for me to be kidnapped is just like getting into this SUV. No, Right?. And so Evelyn is like, but I'm going to use time. Right? I'm going to be like 20 hours in a car to go to Bangkok. Absolutely not. So she pitches a fit and Jenny is like, lucky for you. We're not going to Bangkok.

Claire: WHAT?!

Emma: WHAT?!

[midroll]

Kelsey: alright So Jenny has decided the whole group is riding 20 hours in a car, and they're not going to Bangkok. Evelyn is obviously freaking out and Jenny's like, you're no fun. Like, let me

have my surprises. It's my leg of the trip. This is going to be really nice. Like please just get in the SUV. I promise it will be fun. Do you think it's a good idea to get into this SUV?

Claire: No

Emma: Demand more information.

Kelsey: [laughing]

Claire: Does she tell them where they are going or is she just like, it'll be a fun? No, no, absolutely NOT!

Emma: No, no, absolutely not!!

Claire: I am not getting in the car of an Instagram model without knowing exactly where it's going

Emma: In Southeast Asia, having no idea the location, the amount of time I will be trapped in this vehicle. Like absolutely not.

Kelsey: Sophie is like, Evelyn, if you do not get in this fucking car, I am going to murder you myself. And so Evelyn is like fine.

She gets in the car, and they drive and they drive for like six hours and it is a beautiful drive right there. Like this is so pretty. We're having that. We like seeing we're stopping for snacks or we're having fun, whatever they arrive. They arrive at a small village, six hours away. And Jenny is like, this is where, like my ancestral family is from.

And I just wanted to like, come and stop here because it has a really cool like artisan area. And I wanted to like, visit my ancestors. And Evelyn's like, that's cool that you could have fucking told us, like I would have signed off on this like section of the trip. If I had known that that's what we were doing.

Claire:.... yeah.

Kelsey: And everyone is like, Evelyn, you're being really rude. This is where her family is from. Like, be respectful.

Emma: Okay. I'm sorry. No, this is not about respect. She should respect their time and not lie to them about where they're going. And like you're, you're the fifth wheel on this trip.

Kelsey: Yes.

Emma: There's a certain level of respect when you're like entering a group of people you don't know. I'm offended.

Kelsey: Yes. And Evelyn is also like mapping where they are to Bangkok. Right. And she's like, there are still 12 hours left to get from where we are to where we're supposed to be. So the next day they get in the car and they drive six more hours and Evelyn's like, this is not enough. It's 12 hours to Bangkok.

Like why...where the fuck are we? And they're like in a province of Thailand that I'm sure is popular, but I had never heard of it. And they're like eating dinner and Evelyn is pitching a fit. Right? She's like, we were supposed to go to Bangkok. We all wanted to go to Bangkok. You're ruining my life.

Claire: Well

Kelsey: nd Jenny is like, will you fucking chill? She's like tomorrow we are going to the full moon party.

Do either of, you know, what the full moon party is?

Claire: Should I? No, I'm not.

Emma: No.

Claire: I'm not cool. Tell me.

Emma: Yeah, same.

Kelsey: Okay. The full moon party. Is all night beach party on an island in Southeastern Thailand. That is mostly attended by tourists.

Claire: I feel like I've seen this in like bad movies or something

Emma: okay,

Claire: yeah, it starts to sound familiar

Kelsey: So it's like a big beach party. There's like anywhere from 5,000 to 30,000 people come to like each of these full moon parties, there's one every month for the full moon. Right. There are like fireworks. The bars are open all night, you know, it's the classic, like neon lights. You're not allowed to have drugs, but also drugs are everywhere. Right?

[both laughing]

Kelsey: So Maya and Niah are like screeching. Like they're fucking thrilled. And Evelyn and Sophie are like, what is. Like where they're like us right there. Like, what is this party? And so Jenny explains it to them and suddenly they're both like, Oh fuck yeah. Like we can't wait to go to the full moon party. We're going to have so much fun. We're going to be up all night.

Claire: So they're all on board now?

Kelsey: They're all on board for the full moon party

Emma: Do they have places to sleep?

Kelsey: Okay so this is a good question. Most party goers. Thank you for asking, do not stay on the island where the full moon party is.

They stay on like coastal hotels and then they take a two hour boat to the island

Emma: Oh two hours.

Kelsey: People are committed to partying. I do not know what to tell you .

Claire: I literally anywhere like can, can people like grasp this? like you can have an all-night ranger almost anywhere if you're really committed.

Emma: That's true. I just prefer the option to go to sleep without a two hour commute

Kelsey: Yes

Emma: If I desire to do so.

Kelsey: Yes, they're all excited to go to the party. They're all amped up. I don't know what to tell you. Okay. So they eat, they eat their big lunch because to these girls' credit, they're like, you need to eat a lot before you go. Like party

Emma: That is important.

Kelsey: So they like eat a lot of carbs. They like have something to absorb their alcohol and they get on the boat to the island around five.

Immediately they lose cell service.

Emma: oh God, oh no.

Claire: It's happening. They're being taken.

Emma: This is the death trap.

Kelsey: Oh yeah. Jenny says, I forgot to tell you all about that. There's no cell service on the island!

Claire: This woman is shady as fuck!

Emma: Is Jenny a sociopath?

Kelsey: She's like, but your phone's clock will still work. And like, we leave at daybreak right. To go back to our hotel and that boat is at five. So we'll all just stick together.

And if you get lost or like you leave in a group of two, just meet back at the boat at five.

Emma: So what you're telling me is it's 12 hours before they can go to sleep.

Kelsey: Well, no, it's more than that because it's the two hours back on the boat at five. So it's 14 hours from the time they get on the boat to returning to bed.

So they, they get to the party. Everyone's having like a blast. Like it is a good party. It's like, everyone's drunk. Everyone's having fun. They started on the beach. There are like little bonfires. They're taking photos for their Instagrams, right? Everyone is so happy they like go to a bar and they're having a great time.

They're like doing shots, they're doing karaoke. They're like singing, you know, like

[Voice actors singing "Don't Stop Believing"]

Kelsey: They're having so much fun. Right? Everyone is so drunk.

[VO: drunk girl voice] No, no, no, no, no, no. I swear. Your hair looks so good right now. I swear. It's so good. Okay. You're fucking hot.

Kelsey: Around 3:00 AM. Sophie looks up and she's like, where's Evelyn?

[TRANCE MUSIC BUILDING]

Kelsey: She was right here. She's like, huh? That's weird. She probably just like went to the bathroom. So Sophie like goes to the bathroom.

No Evelyn.

She like makes another lap around the bar.

No Evelyn.

She like does a classic white girl thing and she asked the bartender, she's like, can I stand on this bar to see if I can spot my friend who's extremely blonde? And he's like, sure. And she gets on the bar and she's like

No Evelyn,

[ominous music]

[/music cuts out]

Claire: is Evelyn dead?

Emma: I'm like scared for Evelyn

Kelsey: I will remind you. This is a happy podcast.

Claire: Sorry

Emma: I was like, is this a horror film? Or is Evelyn just like find a really hot person to go, like have sex with.

K Okay. Good idea. What are you thinking? Claire?

Claire: My first thought was yes, that she was taken. Second she's hooking up with someone.

Third was she's fucking with them because she's annoyed about how this has all gone.

Um, and fourth is she's found somewhere to sleep. Those are mine. Those are all my,

Emma: I think those are, I think those are really the four iterations.

Kelsey: Those are the Four options. Yeah. So if you're Sophie, what's your move here.

Claire: Panic. Have a meltdown start screaming. A lot of my friends who took my

Emma: Panic. running around,

Claire: uh, no, I would probably be like at five, we're all gonna meet at the boat and she'll be there.

Emma: We discussed this

Claire: Um, and so I'll keep my, keep my eyes peeled, but we planned for this.

Emma: Yeah. I'd probably be like, are there some extra drugs that I can have to like lower my anxiety level?

Claire: Yes. Better to get more intoxicated when this sort of thing happens,

Kelsey: Sophie is panicking. And an important thing to know about Sophie is that she was a camp counselor.

Emma: Yes.

Kelsey: And so she's like, she's like, we're doing head count, right?

She's like Maya and Niah check. She's like Maya and Niah: We have a problem. Evelyn is missing. Do you think this is a problem? Maya and Niah are like, we're panicking. This seems extremely bad. We should definitely know where Evelyn is. And Sophie's like, I agree. She's like we need... where's Jenny? I'm doing my head count.

Right? Maya and Niah we've got. Where's Jenny? Jenny is like in the corner making out with some guy. Do you interrupt her?

Claire: Yes.

Emma: Yeah, probably

Kelsey: Why?

Emma: I feel like Jenny makes out with an enough people

Claire: I feel like, I feel like the important thing here is we have one other person here who knows who Evelyn is and who might be able to say yes, I saw her. She was headed this way

Emma: yeah.

Kelsey: So Sophie is like, I don't give a shit who she's making out with because nobody else is going off alone. We are all going to have buddies and we are going to find Evelyn.

Claire and Emma: [laughing]

Kelsey: So she likes sidles up to Jenny and she like pokes her shoulder and she's like, Jenny, Jenny and Jenny. You know, she's gone, she's making out and she's like, Jenny, Jenny.

And finally Jenny opens her eyes and Sophia's like, Evelyn is missing.

And Jenny to her credit is now like alert. She's like, excuse me, goodbye. What? Sophie's like, she's gone. Like, she... she was here and now she's gone. And like, they can't hear each other. Right. Cause it's a fucking bar and it's so loud.

And so they like go back out into the street and they're like talking. Right? And they're like, okay. Like my first question is, was she at this bar? Like, who remembers her being here? And they're all like, no, she definitely was here. Like she's sang this song with me, how long ago was that? I don't know, like an hour?

And they're like, okay. So we know she was here. Like she could have gone back to the beach. Right. Because there's a lot of partying going on there. There's not like a lot of other places for her to go in this area. So most likely she's like here, couple more bars, or at the beach. What do you think they should do?

Claire: Oh, this is interesting because they could check more quickly if they split up, if they go together takes longer, but they don't risk getting split up again. So I'm going to say with murder movies in mind that they have to go together and systematically check each location where she might be partying.

Emma: You don't think a buddy system would work? I think you could... you could go with the buddy.

Claire: And what if one, what if one, what if one pair of buddy shows up at the meeting place and the other pair of buddies never turns up

Emma: that does sound terrifying?

Kelsey: [laughing]

Claire: I'm fully in horror movie mode.

Kelsey: They pick buddy system.

Emma: Buddy system is just more efficient. That's probably what I, what I would do, honestly.

Kelsey: And at this point they're like, we're freaking out, but like it's entirely likely we're going to find her very quickly. Right? So they're like Maya and Niah you're in charge of this bar and the two bars here, Jenny and I, Sophie are going to go check the beach.

Everyone meet at the beach at four. Right? And then we'll get on the boat at five. Right?

We now have a strategy, Jenny, like texts on her phone, like to Evelyn, are you okay? Obviously this text does not go through because they don't have service.

Sophie and Jenny are like walking back toward the beach. And you know, when you're like trying not to panic, but you are like actively panicking.

And so you're like looking at each other and you're like, this is going to be okay, right? Like, they're like, should we, should we run to the beach? We should probably just like run.

[trance music]

Emma: Oh yeah. It's so cute. Just like two girlfriends going for a little run. Maybe we're being chased maybe we're not. Who's to say? Our friend's totally alive.

[both laughing]

Kelsey: Okay. Exactly why they like, you know, they jog to the beach barefoot and they're like searching around. They're like getting very worried. They're like, Evelyn is not here.

She's not like at the next fire pit. She's not like... It is not looking like she's here. Right. And it's been like 30 minutes. And they were like, if Maya and Niah had found her, they would have come here with her because that's what we told them to do. So they're like the fact that they're not here and we can't find her is very bad.

And they're looking down the line of like, coastal, like, you know, like the bonfires and shit.

They're like, this is a lot of ground to cover. Like how do we make sure that we look at all of it and see if we can find her. And they're like also looking at the ocean and they're like, could she have gone into the ocean?

[ominous pulsing music]

Jenny's like, you know what we're going to do. We're going to bribe this man with a small motorboat to drive us down the coast and the yell for Evelyn.

Claire: WHAT!!

Kelsey: So she like hands him a bunch of cash. They like get in the boat. They're like Washington crossing the Delaware, yelling at the beach right? They're like Evelyn, right.

Trying to find her,

[pulsing music]

Kelsey: they do this for like 45 minutes. No, Evelyn. And they're like, we feel like we've done a pretty good like search of this beach. Like the island is big, but we're pretty certain she's not on

the beach. And they're like, okay, look, you know, they're looking at their phone. They're like, okay, it's four 15.

So like Maya and Niah will be at our meeting spot. Maybe they have Evelyn. So they go back and Maya and Niah are sitting on the beach and they do not look happy. And there is no Evelyn.

Claire: Oh my God.

Kelsey: The four of them spend the last like hour of the night sitting on the beach, just like waiting for their 5:00 AM boat back to the hotel rapidly sobering up.

And like the only hope in their mind is like we told her to be here at five. Right. We told everyone that the boat leaves at five and that she should be here then.

Remember it takes two hours to get back to the hotel and then two hours to get back to the island. So there is a boat at five and a boat at nine

Emma: Oh God.

Claire: 9:00 AM. So like four hours later?

Kelsey: It's the same boat that comes back.

Claire: You're not getting on that five there. You're not getting on the five,

Kelsey: Neither of you were getting on the boat?

Claire: Sorry. No,

Emma: If she's not been found, I don't think you can get on the boat. If there is another boat. I don't think you can get on the first boat

Claire: Because you can sit there and watch everyone get on board. You know, if Evelyn isn't on the boat, right?

Emma: Yeah. But if she's not, what are you gonna do.... leave?

Kelsey: Does it change your mind to know that the boat is running back and forth all night, just at two hour increments.

Claire: Oh, well, there's been boats before?

Emma: So why couldn't they go back earlier

Kelsey: Well, they just weren't, they were staying until 5.

Emma: Okay. But there was like, what you're saying is there was like a 3:00 AM or four hours before a boat or a 1:00 AM,

Kelsey: But the boat is now here.

Emma: Oh this is hard.

Kelsey: You're sitting on the beach, the boat is here.

Claire: Oof

Kelsey: All four of you were together. Do you want to get on the boat?

Claire: And there's no way to contact the like... can, can you, can you like, do the bars have like phones?

Emma: phones?!

Kelsey: If they do, these girls did not think of that. So the other thing to remember is they are very tired and now extremely hung over because they have made a huge mistake and they stopped drinking.

Claire: Oh yeah. You just got to keep drinking until Evelyn is found.

Emma: But the panic. Yeah, I understand.

Claire: I'm going to say that, given the fact that they have looked everywhere for Evelyn, she could have left already, which I didn't initially realize, I am going to say, get on the boat.

Emma: Yeah. I think at a certain point, perhaps you're...you're too, you're no longer functioning and you just need to go back where your phone works.

Claire: Go back and check and see if Evelyn left overnight.

Kelsey: So they stand on the boat dock and they wait for 5:00 AM and the minutes are ticking by.

Claire: Oh God

Kelsey: And it's important to remember that everyone else on this boat is still raging. Right? So like everyone around them is like still drinking, still doing drugs, still like wild. And they're all like exhausted and panicking.

Evelyn does not arrive. The boat leaves.

Claire: Oh my god

Kelsey: Sophie vomits off the edge of the boat because she's like, my friend is lost and now we're leaving this island and she did not show up for the boat that we were supposed to get on. And Jenny is like, petting her back into Jenny is like optimistic.

Emma: Oh my god

Kelsey: Jenny's like, she's okay. Like she probably just went home with someone and like, that's a totally reasonable thing to do. So like don't panic. And Sophie's like, will you shut the fuck up? Like, my friend could be dead.

Emma: I am panicked!

Kelsey: She's like losing it. She was like, you have no idea what you're talking about. Like, you brought us to this island with no cell phone service.

You didn't give us clear instructions. And now Evelyn is missing. And Jenny is like, you know what? You're right. And I'm sorry, you are right to be stressed. I was just trying to make you feel better. Sophie's like, I don't feel better.

Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: So they're like sitting on the boat. Sophie's like gripping her phone. Right. They're all just like staring at their phones, waiting for service to return. Around them, everyone is still partying. Like people are trying to get them to dance. They're like, do it. You know, it's like a whole scene on the boat that they're all very unhappy to be in.

Jenny gets service first. And she knows that because her text to Evelyn goes through.

So she's like, I've got service. And so Sophie, like, you know where you turn your phone on airplane and then turn back on ?

Emma: mhm

Kelsey: So she like turns her phone on airplane and turns it back on. And she has service. And not only does she have services of voicemailnotification.

Emma: [gasps]

Claire: Oh fuck

Emma: oh no. the tension.

Claire: IS IT FROM A GHOST.

Kelsey: She picks up the phone. Right. And she's like, getting it won't play.

Emma: It can't. Right.

Kelsey: Obviously, because it's like, now that you need it to play it, won't right. Not playing, not playing with your phone on airplane mode. It takes it off to play it again. And it's, it's Evelyn's voice going,

Hey, Sophie immediately burst into tears.

Evelyn's like, I'm fine. Sorry. I didn't find you before I left. But things were just getting too crazy and I was freaking out so I had to leave

Claire: Ah!!!!

Emma: wow. Well now I'm just furious at Evelyn.

Kelsey: You're both mad?

Claire: She knows they don't have service.

Emma: You don't fucking do that to your friend. You just say to them, I'm going to go home.

Kelsey: You just say. I'm tired.

Emma: You can't do that. Yeah. You cannot like, no. Oh my God. Now I'm so relieved they got on the boat.

Kelsey: Sophie is like flooded with relief, but she's also like low key mad, right? Like she's like, I'm thrilled that my friend Evelyn is alive. I am not in the mood to like talk to her currently because I am furious.

So when she gets back to the hotel room and evelyn is not there, she does not care. She's like Evelyn probably went for breakfast or something. She ignores it.

Also as we've mentioned many times she's been awake for a million hours so she's like whatever, I'm going to bed.

When she wakes up at 7 pm though after her nice leisurely long nap, Evelyn still isn't there. And now that she's well rested, she's also a little more aware of her surroundings, and she looks over and she's like hmm, not only is Evelyn not here but her bag is gone.

Emma: Wait. what

Kelsey: It is now 7 pm, you've woken up from your nap, evelyn's gone, her bag is gone, what would you like to do?

Claire: I mean, have they tried calling evelyn? Like they have service. What's going on

Emma: Panic call her 1 million times they should have front desk texts,

Claire: IMMEDIATELY. IMMEDIATELY. Text Evelyn, and be like, glad you're alive. We're at the hotel. You're not here. Just making sure that

Emma: you're, that you're okay.

Claire: you're nearby.

Emma: We've been very freaked out or going to sleep, but like, you better be here for dinner,

Claire: proof of life, please. Like where are you now out at our hotel? We thought you went to sleep where are you!

Emma: I'm sorry no! That voicemail. It was like probably from hours before. We don't know if she's okay!

Claire: She could have easily been taken any time in between like three 30 when she left the voicemail.

Emma: Is the lamp still there?

Kelsey: Yes. The lamp is still there

Emma: Has she gone to dispose of the lamp?

Kelsey: Good question.

Emma: Okay

Kelsey: Sophie i's like, I'm not calling this bitch. I have Evelyn on find my friends. So Sophie navigates over to find my friends. Evelyn... is at the airport.

Claire: She's at the airport?

Emma: without telling them?

Kelsey: Sophie calls her no answer. like it rings, but no answer. She calls again. No answer calls the third time the phone goes to voicemail. Evelyn's dot is no longer at the airport. She has Irish goodbye the entire trip.

Claire: WHAT!?

Emma: WHAT NO!!!!

Claire: So all her stuff was gone. They didn't notice that all her stuff was gone.

Kelsey: All her stuff was gone

Emma: And I assume now, like that last leg of the trip, right. Can't happen because they don't even know the plan. But they've presumably all contributed money.

Claire: Is Evelyn international woman of mystery, Anna Delvy. It's like. What's going on??

Emma: I know I'm getting serious. Anna Delvy, vies, Claire and I have been down a deep rabbit hole of a German heiress content

Claire: Fake german heiress content.

Emma: That's all I can see here. Like fake German heiress. is she a scam?She's a scammer. She's a bad friend.

Kelsey: She's a bad friend for sure.

Claire: Sorry I've got...I've got nothing. WHATS HAPPENING. I mean, of all the times to leave. I mean, just, it just seems like she picked that time because no one would be around to stop her?

Kelsey: Yes.

Claire: Did she think that she was literally being held captive by them? That she had to wait until they were on an island without cell surface?

Kelsey: We got this story through someone who knows Sophie. So it is hard for me to read into tell what Evelyn was thinking, but I think she just like got sick of it and was like, I'm not fucking doing this anymore and went home.

Emma: Okay. I respect your right to be over it.

Kelsey: [laughing]

Emma: And maybe even be like, I need to end this trip, but you have to tell people that, and you can't like strand them and just be like, I'm sorry, I've canceled an entire leg of our trip. You have no access to any of the things that was our

Claire: That was her way of contributing to the trip. So now she has gotten this trip essentially for free,

Emma: for free.

Claire: It feels like a scam. It feels like a scam to me.

Emma: it's canceled

Kelsey: the next morning. They like drive to Bangkok. It's another and Bangkok to do the rest of Jenny's leg. They still have Niah's leg and technically Evelyn's leg. But now you have this like empty spot for Evelyn's leg where you were supposed to be in Cambodia and you have no idea what you're supposed to do. And also your flight leaves from Cambodia. What would you like to do? [giggling]

Emma: I'm writing. Evelyn's very bitchy text very bitchy text
[all laughing].

Claire: Like I'm gonna go home.

Emma: No, I think I would lay out exactly, exactly what I need from her. And I would start with a strongly worded message. I'm just like: so glad that you're not dead. We were so worried. Given that you have decided to abruptly leave all of us without warning or any care for our safety. Um, please send us the itinerary as well as Venmo in each of us like X amount of money for the trip that you have received for free.

And you, you have to, you have to hammer home the emotional distress of the entire situation play.

Claire: Yeah

Emma: Play... You got to make her feel guilty

Kelsey: while they're in Bangkok. They ...like Sophie checks her phone and Evelyn is safe at home. She's in the United States now.

Emma: And no contact?

Kelsey: no contact, nothing.

Claire: What! what the fuck!?

Kelsey: She does text Evelyn?

I don't know what she said, but I assume it was something ...and they never hear from her again. Claire: They never hear from her again.

Emma: Wait, what!> did they ever talk to her again and their whole life?

Kelsey: Please Wait, we're going to get there already.

Claire: So much has happened already. I'm like, this has to be the final page. Oh my God. Okay.

Kelsey: So everyone is in such a foul mood. They like make it through Bangkok. They make it through wherever Niah's fucking week is, and they're all like, you know what? We can't do this anymore. Like, we're all bitter. And frustrated and like want to kill each other.

The person who like sent us in this gossip said that if you were watching their, like Instagram's of the trip for the first like three weeks, it was like photos every day, everyone's having a great time.

And then nothing.

Emma: Oh no

Kelsey: So like people knew that there was shit going on. They just weren't sure what it was.

Claire: [laughing]

Kelsey: So they just moved their flights from Cambodia and flew home. And that is the end of our story. I do have some final updates for you,

Claire: Please

Kelsey: which are,

Emma: Oh thank God.

Kelsey: Jenny sweet talked the stewardess into letting her bird fly

Emma: Wow being pretty really does pay well.

Claire: I think maybe Evelyn was just like I just don't want to be there when she definitely gets what she wants, just because she's tall and pretty. I just can't, I can't handle it. I have to leave without saying a single word.

Kelsey: I have to ruin everyone's trip.

Claire: She's looking out for her....Oh, she's setting a healthy boundary.

She's looking out for her own emotional health.

Kelsey: Is she?

So Jenny arrived back in Los Angeles with her precious bird lamp and they live happily together. Maya and Niah went to work for some big law firm. Evelyn also moved to Los Angeles after graduation. And the last time Sophie was there, she saw both of them

Claire: like....

Emma: wait...

Claire: like saw them.

Emma: What? Like...

Kelsey: yes,

Emma: like together? Like the three of them hung out?

Kelsey: separately, three of these separately.

Emma: So Sophie has reconciled with Evelyn. That's what you're saying. What did, what's the explanation?

Kelsey: I don't know. I don't know the explanation.

Claire: Sophie was able to be convinced by Evelyn that what she did was forgivable and therefore it was like soundly based in something, but not something terrible to be convinced because Sophia is still friends with Jenny.

Kelsey: could you be convinced of this?

Claire: So how, how, like what, what would you have to be told by a friend to forgive this behavior and to ever be friends with them again,

Emma: You know what maybe Sophie just like a really sort of a sucker and also really loves her friends saying our friend of our friend said like,

Kelsey: ding ding ding Sophie just like cannot be in a fight with anyone.

Claire: It's called quietly, not being friends anymore. My God,

Emma: no, I, I sort of get it because I am so allergic to like thinking that someone's mad at me. And so I think I understand Sophie a little bit, but I think this might be like a bridge too far even for me. Like you ruined our collective trip. You made me think you were dead.

You then like sent a cryptic voicemail and then ghosted me when I tried to figure out where you were and you just flew home? And no, that is extremely selfish behavior. That's not a person you should be friends with. She nee to cut her out.

Kelsey Do you want to hear the final kicker?

Claire: Yes.

Emma: There's more!?. Oh my God.

Kelsey: Yeah. I've really never planned the Cambodia leg.

[GASPING]

Emma: WHAT

Claire: Oh, what did I say? So explanation, scam,

Emma: scammer!!!!

Claire: She was like, I'm just going to find a reason to dip before my leg.

Emma: Yeah. She, and she was laying the groundwork from moment one. She's like, wow, Maya Naya. So annoying. And then she's like, wow, this girl, Jenny is too hot. Fuck her. And then she's like, why would I go on this van and then she just panicked.

Claire: She should have left when she had one.

Emma: They're going to find out

Claire: if she had left, when it was the van thing and the changed itinerary that would have looked kind of legit and then said, she just waited until the middle of a perfectly normal night and was like, you know what? I'm just going to dip now. This seems like a nice time.

Emma: What? I don't understand what she was thinking. If I hadn't planned it, I would be so panicked. I wouldn't even get on the initial plane

Claire: But that's because you would be intending to deal with it when the consequences came and what she is realizing is like,

Emma: true.

Claire: Just don't deal with the consequences you leave.

Emma: She literally is Anna Delvey. Oh my God. They're everywhere. The Delta,

Claire: This is why you don't travel with friends.

Kelsey: The only explanation I have been able to come up with for this is that you have to leave when no one is around, because otherwise they're going to demand the itinerary from you.

Claire: Yeah. Yes.

Emma: Oh, tactically. It completely makes sense. Like now I understand why she did this, but it's like very much scammer con woman behavior.

Claire: It would seem sort of rational and fair to leave at the point where you're like, I'm being like...I'm not, I don't consent to this new itinerary, this new way of travel. I don't intend, but yeah. Then your present, they can demand the money or the itinerary, yada, yada.

But if you leave during the party, then no one there to demand anything from you, but it's really obvious that you're doing a scam, but then Sophie is still friends with her. So she gets everything she wants. Ah, we, you know what?

Emma: Wow. I hate... I found a new mortal enemy and her name's Evelyn

[exit music]

Kelsey: Claire and Emma! Thanks so much for coming on the pod.

Emma: Oh my God. We're both so angry. Now.

Kelsey: Where can our listeners find you? Where would you like to be found?

Emma: Uh, you can find me on Instagram and Twitter at Emma lady rose, and you can find our newsletter rich text at claireandemma.substock.com. And you can find our podcasts on Instagram at ClaireandEmmapod.

Claire: And I'm on Instagram and Twitter at Claire E felon. Although I'm mostly hibernating, so you will never see me.

K Thank you both so much for coming on you for

Emma: having you for having us. This has been an honor.

Claire: Bye

[outro music]

Thank you so much for listening to the first season of normal gossip

If you disagreed with our takes or have a gossip story to share, please email us@normalgossipatdefector.com or you can leave us a voicemail at 2 6 7, 9 gossip.

And PLEASE don't forget to send us your family gossip for our bonus episode.

You can follow me on all social media at @mckinneykelsey , and you can follow the podcast on Instagram at @normalgossip

Thank you to Calvert, Kalyn, Alex, and Eleanor for doing the voice acting for our drunk girls.
Thank you to Danny for the gossip!

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I'm Kelsey McKinney And remember...you did not hear this from me