[sapphic intro music]

[00:00:00] **Laurel:** Hi everybody, welcome to Sapphic Culture Club. We're your hosts, I'm Laurel Hechanova.

[00:00:10] **Audrey:** And I'm Audrey Nieh.

So to wrap up this year in true chaotic lesbian fashion, we are going to watch a Christmas movie after Christmas has passed.

[00:00:29] **Sapphic Robot Chorus:** LESBIAN CHAOS

[00:00:32] **Laurel:** Thanks to some recent sapphic chatter that we've come across, but a special shout out to Baby, we decided to check out the very generically titled *Friends and Family Christmas*, which is being touted as Hallmark's first lesbian romance.

[00:00:48] **Audrey:** What if — wait, sorry, who came out with the other one? Like the lesbian tree...

[00:00:53] **Laurel:** It wasn't Hallmark...yeah, it was Lifetime. That was Lifetime's lesbian romance.

[00:00:56] **Audrey:** Oh, oh, okay.

[00:00:57] **Laurel:** Yeah. *Under the Christmas Tree*?

[00:00:59] **Audrey:** Yes, that's not lesbian tree. So also some time has passed since we last saw the holiday film that will not be named [coughs]*Happiest Season*. And we've been able to heal just enough to watch another mainstream yellow hair, brown hair Christmas movie.

Will we regret it? Let's all find out together.

[00:01:20] **Laurel:** Before we jump in, it's worth noting that the director, Anne Wheeler, also directed the 1999 lesbian classic *Better Than Chocolate*. And according to IMDb, is credited with directing 71 movies and TV episodes since 1975. So if you haven't seen the movie and you don't want to watch it again, Also, why do you, why do you hate Sapphics. Or if

you have no interest and just want to hear a bunch of spoilers, you can skip ahead to...[generic computer voice] “one hour, 29 minutes” and that'll get you past the watch along part. And it'll be where we discuss the conceptual framework and cinematic language of *Friends and Family Christmas*. Uh, just kidding. We're going to talk about what we liked and hated about it.

Uh, but it should be fun.

[cute interstitial music]

[00:02:15] **Audrey:** Okay, so this is how we explain to you how to watch this movie, which we, Laurel and I, just spent the last, like, 45 minutes trying to figure out because we thought we could just watch it on this streaming service called Philo, which I'd never heard of before. But we both signed up for a free trial, a 7 day free trial for a Philo account, which we'll link to, and then we realized that it actually includes ads.

And then we also realized, subsequently, that our ads seem to be different, because Laurel's — our timing just doesn't line up. So this is going to be truly chaotic. I do believe it's going to be streaming on Hallmark at some point?

It looks like it's not like a thing you can just stream at any point. There are, like, showtimes? I don't know, I'm not familiar with the Hallmark model of streaming, but what we're... okay, I don't know, I don't know, I don't know, I don't know what's gonna happen! But apparently you can also watch this on Sling TV if you have that, or something called Furbo, or Fubo TV?

[00:03:14] **Laurel:** Oh, you added the R.

[00:03:16] **Audrey:** I know, it's because it's so close to Furby. As of this date, which is December 26, 2023, you cannot download it. Or rent it, as far as I can find. I think there are other ways that you can probably work around that. But anyway, we have eight ads, watching it on Philo.

[00:03:34] **Laurel:** ...which add a total of 30

minutes to the runtime.

[00:03:37] **Audrey:** Yeah, so apologies. So what we're gonna do is Laurel and I are gonna attempt to watch it together, as in sync as possible.

And if it starts to get out of sync, and we can't handle it, then we are just gonna stop at whatever time. And then we'll both come back and reconvene, and I apologize right now for the mess that this is...

[00:03:59] **Laurel:** No! This is like the most chaotic watchalong...

[00:04:00] **Audrey:** Ok, nevermind! I don't apologize. Yeah, you're welcome.

[00:04:03] **Laurel:** ...we've ever had, and it's totally on theme for the season.

[00:04:06] **Audrey:** like to, um, stay on theme, so this is great.

Yeah, so we'll see how far this goes, um, you know, you can probably tell right now, depending on the duration of this episode, if we made it. As of right now, we have no idea.

Okay, so we're gonna do Philo. I'm probably gonna cut out ads, which means if you have commercials in the version you're watching, when you get to an ad, just pause us, and then hit play again when your commercial's over.

We're gonna start it at the 7 second mark, because that's when the screen turns black after the first commercial, I don't know. You know, right before the opening titles. So we're gonna queue it up to 7 seconds, and then we're gonna say, 3, 2, 1, play, and as we're saying play, hit play. Yeah, so let's see what happens.

Anything else you want to add before we embark on this adventure?

[00:05:00] **Laurel:** No. I really, I really want to see this sapphic, uh, modern classic.

[00:05:07] **Audrey:** It's good that you're going with such low expectations.

[00:05:13] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, everyone get your expectations really high first.

[00:05:16] **Audrey:** Yeah, and then stick around afterwards. We will probably, I mean, we will definitely talk about this movie, whatever that means, and...Yeah, that's it. Are you ready? Okay. Okay. So, it's cued up at seven seconds again, and then Ah! Okay, I'm so nervous. Ready? Three, two, one, play.

[00:05:41] **Laurel:** Ooh,

[00:05:42] **Audrey:** Oh my god, a fucking photographer?!

[00:05:44] **Laurel:** I know!

[00:05:48] **Audrey:** Yep, I guess so.

[00:05:49] **Laurel:** Brown hair photographer, here we go.

[00:05:52] **Audrey:** Yep, in the legacy of lesbian photographers. I think we...should we take a shot every time there's like a trope?

[00:06:00] **Laurel:** Oh, man. [gasps]

[00:06:07] **Audrey:** I can't...

[00:06:09] **Laurel:** Well, you're doin it,

[00:06:12] **Audrey:** Ew. Sorry. That's really...

What is your mark? I don't understand.

[00:06:58] **Laurel:** The what?

[00:07:00] **Audrey:** You know, the lab. The Brooklyn Artist Lab.

[00:07:02] **Laurel:** Oh, right.

[00:07:11] **Audrey:** As you know.

[00:07:24] **Laurel:** Yeah, she seems real broken up about it. Here we go.

[00:07:48] **Audrey:** Daughter, you say?

[00:07:57] **Laurel:** Aww, that's cute.

[00:07:59] **Audrey:** Oh, I'm glad it’s not a...

[00:08:00] **Laurel:** They're setting her up on a lesbian date.

[00:08:02] **Audrey:** I was worried. It was like she's straight, falls in love with...

[00:08:07] **Laurel:** Right, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:08:09] **Audrey:** ...a sister or whatever.

You can tell she's a serious artist 'cause they're black and white.

[00:08:23] **Laurel:** Right, right. And her loft.

[00:08:42] **Audrey:** Let's talk about you being gay.

[00:08:55] **Laurel:** I'm not actually your dad, but I wanted to talk to you as your father.

[00:09:04] **Audrey:** You have nothing...

...except for those earrings.

[whispers] Lesbian...

[00:09:59] **Laurel:** Man, for being a high-powered lawyer, she's really flustered easily.

[00:10:11] **Audrey:** Wonder where this is going.

[00:10:13] **Laurel:** Yeah. Look at these hats! Lesbians love their hats.

[00:10:22] **Audrey:** And their quilted jackets too, apparently.

I'm sorry, this guy's wardrobe, like, these giant black gloves. What is going on here?

[00:10:37] **Laurel:** Yeah, those gloves are so big! What is going on?

[00:10:41] **Audrey:** I have questions.

[00:10:47] **Laurel:** They should have just not had him wear gloves.

[00:10:51] **Audrey:** How would you know it was winter in New York if it weren't for the giant gloves?

That was fast. Wow.

[00:11:39] **Laurel:** Yeah...

[00:11:47] **Audrey:** Oh no...

Christmas call.

What? I don't get it.

[00:12:12] **Laurel:** No...

[00:12:18] **Audrey:** Was this written by ChatGPT?

[00:13:07] **Laurel:** Did you ever watch *Grey's Anatomy*?

[00:13:09] **Audrey:** A little bit, like I think the first season maybe?

[00:13:13] **Laurel:** The photographer reminds me of someone who was in, like, the lesbian couple.

[00:13:23] **Audrey:** Wait, are they the same person that plays Miranda's love interest in the new *Sex and the City*

[00:13:30] **Laurel:** [gasps] Oh, I think so, yeah.

[00:13:31] **Audrey:** Because I was thinking that too when I when she first appeared that she was like a baby version of her.

[00:13:35] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah. I hope she makes a cameo.

[00:13:40] **Audrey:** As her older sister?

You can tell she's a lawyer because she's still wearing her turtleneck in the evening.

What...? Her friend is like, in the know with the universe, I guess.

[00:15:08] **Laurel:** Good idea. I just like how excited she is, I don't know what she's talking about.

[00:15:13] **Audrey:** I have no idea. You know, the symposium.

[00:15:16] **Laurel:** Yeah, there are bricks right there, you can align them using the bricks.

[00:15:39] **Audrey:** You know, Shawn Trebek.

[00:15:42] **Laurel:** Is that Alex's kid?

The line reads are so weird sometimes.

[00:16:20] **Audrey:** Yeah!

[00:16:22] **Laurel:** What are you doNATing to the chaRITy thing you've been awFULLy busy

[00:16:26] **Audrey:** Right, her inflection is making me think she actually hasn't read the script before.

[00:16:33] **Laurel:** Her gay best friend also had some weird...

[00:16:36] **Audrey:** Yeah, for sure. I mean, just the writing in general. This was making me think it was written during the writer's strike? By someone's like, high school niece? I don't know.

[00:16:52] **Laurel:** ...and which if so, great job for a high schooler.

Okay, what do you think? Um, they will be stunned by each other's beauty.

Okay, nope, guess not.

[00:17:17] **Audrey:** Nope.

[00:17:17] **Laurel:** Oh...maybe this is like an...

[00:17:17] **Audrey:** I don't think they're gonna like each other.

[00:17:20] **Laurel:** enemies to lovers, yeah...

[00:17:21] **Audrey:** Yeah, I think so.

[00:17:24] **Laurel:** Oh, right, because she's a late creative type, and...

[00:17:28] **Audrey:** Yeah. Oh.

[00:17:29] **Laurel:** ...she's a type A.

[00:17:33] **Audrey:** And she thinks like, Danielle is super lonely.

[00:17:36] **Laurel:** Right, right.

[00:17:39] **Audrey:** Oh, the adventure! See, she's adventurous.

[00:17:50] **Laurel:** Cool, yeah.

[00:17:51] **Audrey:** They're gonna get off on the wrong foot.

[00:17:51] **Laurel:** Off to a rocky start, uh huh, yeah. Is there a generator for like, this kind of plot?

[00:18:02] **Audrey:** That's what I'm saying! It's called ChatGPT.

Why is she so judgy?

[00:18:53] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[00:19:21] **Audrey:** Ooh!

You sound super over it.

[00:20:09] **Laurel:** Oh god.

[00:20:09] **Audrey:** Oh, dang.

[00:20:42] **Laurel:** Did you look at the writer?

[00:20:44] **Audrey:** No, but I think it's like a couple, or it's like two people...

[00:20:47] **Laurel:** I think there were two of them.

[00:20:49] **Audrey:** Yeah.

[00:20:50] **Laurel:** ...but they've both written so many of these.

[00:20:53] **Audrey:** Oh yeah?

[00:20:56] **Laurel:** I wonder how long it takes them. Like, a couple days?

[00:20:59] **Audrey:** Like an hour.

[00:21:01] **Laurel:** Right. And now they have ChatGPT, so, basically no time at all.

[00:21:21] **Audrey:** That was so meh, like it wasn't even enemy to friends, enemy to lovers.

[00:21:26] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah. It was like nothing to

lovers.

Ah haha! Good job.

Did he go look in the oven? Oh, okay.

[00:22:58] **Audrey:** It did look like that.

I'm starting to wonder if these people are real humans. Like, the line delivery and the...OH MY GOD THE GLOVES!

[00:23:12] **Laurel:** Gloves?! What?!

[00:23:14] **Audrey:** Oh, wow. Do you think that...this has got to be a nod to Carol, right?

[00:23:21] **Laurel:** Except this time the yellow hair got the extra — got the pair of gloves.

[00:23:34] **Audrey:** Mm hmm.

Was it?

[00:23:42] **Laurel:** She's lying to her father.

[00:23:46] **Audrey:** Really?

Yeah, they're married now.

[00:23:54] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[00:24:01] **Audrey:** Nice fridge.

I love how they approach diversity. It's like, they really tried, but they couldn't go all the way, you know?

[00:24:30] **Laurel:** So this is her apartment in New York while she's like doing this artist residency?

[00:24:34] **Audrey:** Well, she struggled for two years. I mean, wedding photographers make a lot of money...? No, this is insane.

[00:24:45] **Laurel:** Well, her dad *is* a mathematician and her mother *is* an author.

[00:24:48] **Audrey:** Oh, oh, okay, okay, inherited wealth, or whatever.

[00:25:00] **Laurel:** She secretly seems to hate her parents.

[00:25:36] **Audrey:** What?

[00:25:37] **Laurel:** Ooh, *they're* hitting it off.

[00:25:39] **Audrey:** I know, there's a lot more chemistry here. What's "budgets" code for, Laurel?

Um, my budgets?

[00:25:49] **Laurel:** Maybe we can "collaborate" sometime.

The "renowned author".

[00:26:09] **Audrey:** "I'm a literature professor." Is this an ad for something?

I feel like there's something going on here. Is it just me?

[00:26:30] **Laurel:** I know, she's the Aubrey Plaza of this movie.

[00:26:36] **Audrey:** Oh, maybe she and the mom will hook up. *That's* the movie I want to watch.

[00:26:42] **Laurel:** know.

[00:26:44] **Audrey:** “I'm so glad we're friends now!” Now that I can use you.

What?!

[00:26:56] **Laurel:** Hey...

[00:26:59] **Audrey:** But what about the budgets?

There's a lot going on here. Yeah. Also, I...the photography thing is starting to feel creepy to me.

[00:27:12] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah. Oh, are they roommates? Wait, where did her parents go?

[00:27:17] **Audrey:** I think they're roommates. Love is love. Laurel.

[00:27:21] **Laurel:** Oh god, oh my god.

[00:27:38] **Audrey:** HA! Sorry... Oh. My. God.

[00:27:49] **Laurel:** Amelia looks like someone who was on the Disney Channel?

[00:27:57] **Audrey:** Yeah, kind of... She's also got like...

[00:27:57] **Laurel:** like some child actor?

[00:27:58] **Audrey:** some kind of 90s.... Yeah. She has like a 2000s — early 2000s face.

Or like late 90s, like, like the original Buffy face. What's her name...

[00:28:11] **Laurel:** right, right, right,

[00:28:11] **Audrey:** Kristy Swanson or something?

[00:28:14] **Laurel:** Oh yeah,

[00:28:15] **Audrey:** was she on *Melrose Place*? We should have saved our gloves ad for this episode.

Laurel: AWWW...

Audrey: So I absolutely need these gloves. Laurel, what are you doing?

Why is that so weird? Something is weird.

[00:28:51] **Laurel:** "I have a lot on *my* plate!"

[00:28:57] **Audrey:** What is going on?

Uh oh.

Laurel: [screams]

Audrey: Oh my god, oh...

Wow, this is moving really fast.

Uh, so she's like confessing that she lied to her dad that it went well? Why are the par— why are the parents... I don't know.

This mix-up feels very contrived to me.

[00:30:52] **Laurel:** Oh yeah?

[00:30:55] **Audrey:** What a weird story.

You should write it, all right.

[00:31:04] **Laurel:** Oh my god. There's gotta be a name for this trope too, right? Like, pretending to date and then actually dating.

[00:32:11] **Audrey:** That's so awkward.

Yeah, literally. Oh... Can they make that joke?

[00:32:23] **Laurel:** What did they— what did she say?

[00:32:25] **Audrey:** He was like, it's awfully early to be introduced to parents, and she was like, "Even for lesbians?"

[00:32:29] **Laurel:** Oh my god!

AHHH...

[00:32:51] **Audrey:** That's messed up.

[00:32:52] **Laurel:** Why would you do that to someone? What if she's diabetic?

[00:33:04] **Audrey:** I mean, she's a photographer.

Oh my god. Do you think her... the piece she submits is going to be a photo of Amelia?

[00:33:21] **Laurel:** Oh my god, you're right.

[00:33:23] **Audrey:** Naked?

[00:33:24] **Laurel:** Absolutely. Or picking out a tree and then turning over her shoulder to the car.

[00:33:34] **Audrey:** OH! I wish this was just a big like, *Carol*

[00:33:38] **Laurel:** Uh huh.

[00:33:39] **Audrey:** ...whatever.

Apparently.

[00:34:03] **Laurel:** I feel like all, like her portfolio is just close ups of tree branches at this point. Like what is she taking a picture of?

[00:34:20] **Audrey:** Or of blonde hair?

I know who can reignite it.

[00:34:31] **Laurel:** [groans]

[squeals] Hngh! Stop! No! Ah!

[00:34:41] **Audrey:** Oh my god.

Oh my god. Oh god.

[00:35:11] **Laurel:** I wonder how many of these Christmas decorations have been used in previous Hallmark films.

[00:35:16] **Audrey:** ...in all the Hallmark films? Probably all of them. I wonder if there's like a Reddit of like all the Hallmark movies that show the sort of continuity.

Wait, their lie's for like beyond parents now?

[00:35:45] **Laurel:** Yeah.

It's a weird angle, but. Oh god!

[00:36:02] **Audrey:** What was that? What is going on?

Oh my god.

Do you think Margot's gonna be part of the...part of the story?

[00:36:23] **Laurel:** Oh, good one. It's interesting how their apartment's so big, but their stove is from like 1967.

[00:37:02] **Audrey:** Let's go where? Who?

Does Amelia not have a job? What? Why do the parents need to be babysat?! I'm so confused.

[00:37:18] **Laurel:** I don’t know.

[00:37:22] **Audrey:** What?!

[00:37:25] **Laurel:** Doesn't...? Yeah, I thought she had so many things to do.

[00:37:28] **Audrey:** She, doesn't she need to lawyer? Shouldn't she be lawyering?

[00:37:41] **Laurel:** Oh no, don't turn her into *this* person. Ugh.

[00:37:53] **Audrey:** Wait, no, don't do it.

[00:38:04] **Laurel:** Ugh. Does she have her on speed dial? What was that?

[00:38:22] **Audrey:** Numbers in New York are just three digits.

[00:38:56] **Laurel:** No, don't talk on the bed. Oh my god!

[00:39:25] **Audrey:** Wow.

Why does everyone care?

[00:39:49] **Audrey:** My god.

This is why I don't have roommates.

[00:40:16] **Laurel:** No, don't eat the gingerbread house!

[00:40:18] **Audrey:** From the...from the roof down? Who does

[00:40:23] **Laurel:** They're *decorative*. They taste horrible.

[00:40:26] **Audrey:** This poor actor had to act like...

[00:40:28] **Laurel:** I know.

[00:40:28] **Audrey:** like this was a good thing.

[00:40:36] **Laurel:** She's already borrowing her car?

[00:40:38] **Audrey:** I know. It's a red flag.

Laurel: WHAT.

Audrey: What?

This? This is being donated?

I don't know if I... No, it's not! You're doing *her* a favor!

[00:41:09] **Laurel:** She's using you as junk removal.

[00:41:12] **Audrey:** I know!

[00:41:18] **Laurel:** This has definitely been in another movie.

[00:41:25] **Audrey:** It'd be funny if someone was actually inside.

[00:41:30] **Laurel:** A dead body.

[00:41:35] **Audrey:** This is her way of disposing of a dead body.

[00:41:37] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[groans]

[00:42:17] **Audrey:** I love that they're still wearing their gloves. Like...

[00:42:20] **Laurel:** Yeah.

Sweetie?

She just said that.

No...

[00:43:10] **Audrey:** Why are they making her friend so insufferable?

[00:43:13] **Laurel:** I don't know. Maybe she's gonna turn into some kind of issue later, which would suck.

[00:43:19] **Audrey:** Maybe she's Margot.

[00:43:21] **Laurel:** Oh, she's secretly Margot. Margot's in the bear.

[00:43:25] **Audrey:** Ah!

What? He just put a candle in a bottle and... Is this an innuendo?

[00:43:54] **Laurel:** Is that suggestive? Yeah.

[00:44:22] **Audrey:** Oh boy.

[00:44:27] **Laurel:** We're definitely gonna see her on that stage.

Oh my god!

Audrey: GOD!

AHH!

Laurel: Margot!

[00:45:42] **Audrey:** What? That's fucked up. This is another flag.

[00:45:46] **Laurel:** Take a shot.

No...

[00:46:29] **Audrey:** Let her go.

[00:46:49] **Laurel:** Orange and overalls?

[00:46:51] **Audrey:** One button undone so you know she's an artist.

[00:47:14] **Laurel:** Ugh.

[00:47:15] **Audrey:** Oh god, that should have been the title of the film.

[00:47:24] **Laurel:** What?

Who stuck this fake plant in this tree?

[00:47:29] **Audrey:** They have to kiss, right?

[00:47:32] **Laurel:** Only if they get underneath it.

[00:47:33] **Audrey:** That holly looks like it was purchased from, like, TJ Maxx. Like, what the fuck? Oh, is it?

[00:47:42] **Laurel:** Noooo, stop!

[00:47:50] **Audrey:** Say more.

[00:47:51] **Laurel:** No, no.

They're both wearing beanies.

[00:48:05] **Audrey:** Their, their beanies are exactly the same stock, like, the same style.

[00:48:10] **Laurel:** They just got two different colors of the same beanie at TJ Maxx where they picked up the holly. I

[00:48:34] **Audrey:** [whispers]"Between my legs." What?

I'm so sorry.

What?

[00:49:13] **Laurel:** I wonder what kind of law she practiced.

[00:49:15] **Audrey:** I think she said corporate law.

[00:49:17] **Laurel:** "I *love* corporate law."

[00:49:19] **Audrey:** "I love the law."

[00:49:43] **Laurel:** I wonder if he's gonna do some math at some point in this movie.

[00:49:49] **Audrey:** Like he's gonna save the day somehow by mathing.

[00:49:51] **Laurel:** Yeah.

Why did they say that? Let's cross here. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:50:16] **Audrey:** Yeah, why did they keep that in? That was so important.

[00:50:19] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[00:50:23] **Audrey:** And you're just standing outside.

[00:50:25] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[00:50:29] **Audrey:** Oh my god.

[00:50:29] **Laurel:** Did she bake them? No. A lawyer would have purchased them. She doesn't have time!

[00:50:37] **Audrey:** It's true, when you love law that much, do you really have time to bake cookies?

Oh boy.

[00:51:31] **Laurel:** She's actually been the best at delivering— What is this? Nooooo.

[00:51:42] **Audrey:** Who's been the best at delivering?

[00:51:45] **Laurel:** Uh, dialogue?

[00:51:46] **Audrey:** Kylie? Kylie's the most committed to her role. I feel like everyone else is just kind of...not phoning it in, but like maybe a little drunk?

[00:52:01] **Laurel:** Everyone else feels like they're in a Hallmark movie.

[00:52:05] **Audrey:** Yeah.

Oh wait...math, guys, budget. Dad, I think I'm connecting the dots!

[00:52:20] **Laurel:** Oh, the budget, right?

[00:52:21] **Audrey:** The budget...math.

[00:52:27] **Laurel:** Because I'm on Canva, and this design won't pull itself together.

[00:52:49] **Audrey:** Is he using a...actual typewriter?

[00:53:06] **Laurel:** Oh, here you go.

[00:53:08] **Audrey:** He's gonna volunteer.

[00:53:09] **Laurel:** He needs meaning in his life.

[00:53:11] **Audrey:** Oh, hmm. Maybe you could help math.

[00:53:34] **Laurel:** Oh, a *rainbow* lantern. Because love is love.

No, uh uh.

[00:53:45] **Audrey:** What did she...? Ugh.

She loves law!

[00:54:25] **Laurel:** "That's why I got into corporate law."

[00:54:27] **Audrey:** I thought she was gonna learn how to read.

[00:54:34] **Laurel:** I know, yeah. That's great advice, actually.

[00:54:55] **Audrey:** Oh dang! She was so disgusted with him.

[00:55:01] **Laurel:** Yeah, "Could you read that one more time, but look more disgusted?"

[00:55:05] **Audrey:** Is he gonna help budget yet?

[00:55:08] **Laurel:** Soon, soon.

[00:55:21] **Audrey:** What? This late?

Dang.

[00:56:28] **Laurel:** Who spells out "plus one"?

[00:56:30] **Audrey:** In quotes, too.

[00:56:32] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[00:56:33] **Audrey:** Who spells out plus one? You're like, I can suspend my disbelief for everything else but that.

[00:56:46] **Laurel:** This is where I draw the line.

I guess lawyer is gonna loy.

[00:56:55] **Audrey:** Did you notice she's missing a top drawer?

[00:56:56] **Laurel:** Is this a magical box?

[00:56:58] **Audrey:** Ooh. No, this is where her dress is.

[00:57:03] **Laurel:** Is it Margot? Sorry.

[00:57:05] **Audrey:** Whoa, whoa!

[00:57:07] **Laurel:** What?

[00:57:08] **Audrey:** Is gonna sew her dress? Oh,

[00:57:09] **Laurel:** Out of film? Oh my gosh. What? What were those?

[00:57:15] **Audrey:** Amazing, she has her whole studio all in her giant apartment.

[00:57:24] **Laurel:** Is it Margot?

Or no, is it Amelia? I...

[00:57:27] **Audrey:** Oh, I mean, it's

[00:57:28] **Laurel:** It is Amelia!

[00:57:30] **Audrey:** Oh my god.

[00:57:33] **Laurel:** No! No.

[00:57:37] **Audrey:** Is she wearing the same thing she wore yesterday?

[00:57:38] **Laurel:** She sure is, yeah.

[00:57:43] **Audrey:** They didn't even bother to like, make this seem like it wasn't all filmed in

[00:57:47] **Laurel:** ...one day.

[00:57:47] **Audrey:** one day.

Oh my god!

This is the most unbelievable part.

[00:58:33] **Laurel:** Yeah, right, right, right.

[00:58:40] **Audrey:** These...

[00:58:41] **Laurel:** ...that you can hand your demo to someone successful, and they will take it seriously. Oh, is she gonna stumble and Amelia's gonna catch her because she can't wear heels?

[00:59:47] **Audrey:** She's like, “I gotta eat right now!”

What is it that he has?

[01:00:11] **Laurel:** I love like his and her mother's?

[01:00:13] **Audrey:** Oh, I was thinking like, older, white male, rich man...

Laurel: ...privilege?

Audrey: ...privilege.

So cute!

What?

[01:00:41] **Laurel:** No...

[01:00:58] **Audrey:** Why is everyone so invested? I don't know.

[01:01:02] **Laurel:** It's like a nightmare.

[01:01:26] **Audrey:** ...for herself.

But I'm gonna guilt trip you about it. Make you feel a little guilty.

I have a theory about this plot.

Laurel: Uh huh.

Audrey: I think they went with this trope so that they wouldn't actually have to kiss until the end. Right?

[01:02:13] **Laurel:** Ohhh...I can see that.

[01:02:13] **Audrey:** Because like, it's like fake until it's real, which is going to be like the last minute or something, I don't know.

[01:02:21] **Laurel:** Although I feel like a lot of times when they do the we're fake dating thing, they have to kiss to prove that they're dating at some point.

[01:02:29] **Audrey:** But they've barely even touched.

[01:02:31] **Laurel:** Mm hmm.

[01:02:32] **Audrey:** And I think this makes it easier for like, a family...

[01:02:38] **Laurel:** They're basically gal pals

Until, like, the end. They haven't even, like, gotten close to thinking about kissing.

How many rom coms are, like, based on women as a workaholic?

[01:03:15] **Audrey:** All of them, I think? Whoa...

[01:03:20] **Laurel:** What??

[01:03:38] **Audrey:** Sarah Ramirez, that's what she looks like, right?

[01:03:42] **Laurel:** Mm. Mm hmm.

"Your wonderful artist friends."

[01:04:08] **Audrey:** "I love all your law..."

[01:04:10] **Laurel:** Haha "...all your lawyer friends."

[01:04:24] **Audrey:** [gasps] They touched!

[01:04:28] **Laurel:** I was hoping they were going to shake hands.

[01:04:33] **Audrey:** I know.

[01:04:34] **Laurel:** Uh, what is this?!

No, what Ha ha ha. Ohhhh.

[01:04:45] **Audrey:** It's interesting that they didn't let her dress a little bit more butch for this You know?

[01:04:50] **Laurel:** Really? I feel like they would want both of them to be pretty femme.

[01:04:55] **Audrey:** But she ment— I mean, not butch, but like, less femme...

[01:04:59] **Laurel:** Oh, I...

[01:05:00] **Audrey:** You know, she mentioned being more comfy in her, like, docs.

[01:05:03] **Laurel:** That's, that's what the butchness was.

[01:05:05] **Audrey:** Yeah.

[01:05:12] **Laurel:** Ahhhh.

[01:05:13] **Audrey:** Kith. Kith. Do it. Kiss.

[01:05:21] **Laurel:** It's coming. I

[01:05:30] **Audrey:** Cause I'm a photographer, get it? What's happening? Do it. Kiss. Do it. Kiff. Ah!

Oh my god! Get out of your jacket. I what?

[01:06:00] **Laurel:** "I have to go."

[01:06:00] **Audrey:** "...kiss you."

Wow.

She's like, I don't know. It's gonna be her, huh? Non consensually. Just like the peppermint milk. Peppermint milk.

I'm gonna be really mad if she...her photo thing is like, A bunch of Danielle without her getting

[01:06:45] **Laurel:** Oh my god.

[01:06:46] **Audrey:** consent for that.

This movie is doing a violence.

What?

[01:07:01] **Laurel:** No...

[01:07:02] **Audrey:** What is...maybe it's herself?

[01:07:13] **Laurel:** These kooky kids!

All right.

What?

[01:07:21] **Audrey:** Wait, what happened last night? How does she know?

[01:07:41] **Laurel:** That *is* very lesbian, actually. She doesn't want to get her heart broken again!

[01:08:06] **Audrey:** Listen to your POC friend!

[01:08:34] **Laurel:** Look at this queer person!

[01:08:35] **Audrey:** I know, right?

Cannot wait to see this.

[01:08:49] **Laurel:** It's definitely...it's a thousand percent Amelia.

[01:08:53] **Audrey:** No. What? Why does she get her name on there?

[01:09:09] **Laurel:** What are these auction objects?

[01:09:10] **Audrey:** I know, right?

[01:09:15] **Laurel:** Oh, she put a thing over it. What? How are they supposed to bid on it if you cover it with a curtain?

[01:09:21] **Audrey:** She's gonna... Do you think she's gonna win the teddy bear?

[01:09:24] **Laurel:** Yeah.

OH MY GOD.

[01:09:36] **Audrey:** Oh! Touching!

She's like, “I'm dying.”

Oh my god.

“And then I met Amelia.”

Oh god.

[01:11:17] **Laurel:** Oh no.

[01:11:18] **Audrey:** It's a mirror, Oh.

[01:11:21] **Laurel:** Oh good, okay.

[01:11:23] **Audrey:** Oh

[01:11:24] **Laurel:** It’s nonconsensual portraits of lots of people.

[01:11:29] **Audrey:** Oh my god, this reveal!

[01:11:30] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:11:34] **Audrey:** Everyone's like, “Wow, you're so amazing!”

[01:11:41] **Laurel:** No. Oh my god!

[01:11:47] **Audrey:** What in the...She just jizzed on everyone! What happened?

I...I...I’m so sorry.

[01:11:58] **Laurel:** Oh, get it? This is emotion in motion.

[01:12:02] **Audrey:** Oh god.

I'm speechless. Oh, look, it's me. Oh my god, Laurel.

Is it just me or is she like a little bit drunk or...

[01:12:48] **Laurel:** She's always a little drunk, yeah. She reminds me of like a sitcom mom.

[01:12:54] **Audrey:** Yeah, I think she might be. I feel like I've actually seen her before in something.

[01:13:14] **Laurel:** She's gonna be moving.

[01:13:31] **Audrey:** Kylie's devious.

[01:13:33] **Laurel:** I don't think she means to be.

[01:13:45] **Audrey:** Oh god.

[01:13:46] **Laurel:** Nothing. It's not important. This is...

[01:14:06] **Audrey:** Don't know. She has...she has a lot of feelings.

[01:14:13] **Laurel:** Oh god.

[01:14:25] **Audrey:** Oh, maybe they'll just break up and that's the end of the story. Fake break up. That would be refreshing.

"Come with me to Japan."

[01:14:43] **Laurel:** You can lawyer from there.

[01:14:59] **Audrey:** Byeee.

Oh my god, oh....

[01:15:24] **Laurel:** I definitely think Dani should forgo her dreams for this relationship.

[01:15:30] **Audrey:** Someone should forgo their dreams. Either Dani or Amelia should stop lawing.

[01:15:35] **Laurel:** Mm, mm hmm.

[01:15:58] **Audrey:** "So I got a fake girlfriend so you could have a good time." That makes sense.

[01:16:24] **Laurel:** Is he not gonna budget this whole time?

[01:16:26] **Audrey:** I'm how could he not math?

The Oxford thing...I don't understand.

[01:16:41] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:16:43] **Audrey:** It was right in front of you, the mathing.

[01:17:04] **Laurel:** That's gonna come back, isn't it?

[01:17:17] **Audrey:** Did he just show up? I guess people do that.

[01:17:22] **Laurel:** Yeah.

She's giving up her dreams.

[01:17:50] **Audrey:** Take a break.

“I want to go to Japan.”

Oh, she wants to represent artists. This is so strange.

[01:18:20] **Laurel:** Clients who have *no* money.

[01:18:23] **Audrey:** But need representation.

[01:18:30] **Laurel:** What?!

[01:18:30] **Audrey:** Do you?!

[01:18:34] **Laurel:** Oh my god.

Rainbow ornament.

[01:18:45] **Audrey:** Just to remind you. Because nothing else about this movie is very gay.

[01:19:45] **Laurel:** I feel like the guys are just bringing the same dish back and forth.

[01:19:48] **Audrey:** He's just joking!

[01:20:00] **Laurel:** What was that expression on her face afterwards?

[01:20:02] **Audrey:** Yeah, I know.

[01:20:04] **Laurel:** She's like, “Ha, she bought it!”

[01:20:05] **Audrey:** Yeah, right.

[01:20:09] **Laurel:** Is it double peppermint?

[01:20:10] **Audrey:** It sure is. Oh

[01:20:20] **Laurel:** Nooo!

[01:20:24] **Audrey:** Oh my god, you guys.

[01:20:26] **Laurel:** Oh my god.

[01:20:31] **Audrey:** Okay, so do you think she's gonna go with her, or they're gonna like, fast forward?

[01:20:37] **Laurel:** Yeah, I think, I think they're going to Japan together.

[01:20:52] **Audrey:** [weird kind of ultra-Californian accent] Dannay?

[01:20:54] **Laurel:** Dunny!

[01:20:55] **Audrey:** Denney?

[01:21:02] **Laurel:** What's that character from *Adventure Time*? Who's like, uh, who's like a blob princess or something?

[01:21:12] **Audrey:** The...Space Princess, uh,

[01:21:15] **Laurel:** Yeah! Dunny!

[01:21:16] **Audrey:** Denney? Oh yeah, that's right. Dunny. Lumpy Space Princess.

[01:21:22] **Laurel:** Yeah! There it is. Oh, here's where it all comes together.

[01:21:39] **Audrey:** Oh, it's the parents setting everything up. Mr. Wibble?

That's oddly specific.

[01:21:57] **Laurel:** Oh, this is very *Imagine Me & You*.

[01:22:00] **Audrey:** Yes.

[01:22:06] **Laurel:** Do you think...do you think she's gonna yell "double peppermint coffee"?

[01:22:20] **Audrey:** I hope Margot comes back in the last seven minutes.

[01:22:26] **Laurel:** Nothing happened with the Kylie book subplot either.

[01:22:29] **Audrey:** No, yeah, no.

I feel like this actress is going through the movie just like in disbelief the entire time. You know, like the way she's like looking at everyone.

[01:22:45] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah.

[01:22:52] **Audrey:** Oh, so they're gonna like set something up. Oh, do you think they printed her photos and she's gonna run and see her photos in the park?

[01:23:02] **Laurel:** Okay, but how are they gonna incorporate the bear?

[01:23:07] **Audrey:** They're gonna throw the bear at her while

[01:23:09] **Laurel:** Oh, nice. Just like, side swipe her with the bear.

[01:23:15] **Audrey:** She's like, are you going senile, dad?

Oh my god. Not sus at all.

What apartment?

This feels kind of lesbian, I guess. Stalking your non girlfriend?

Bedford?

[01:24:11] **Laurel:** Nooo, it's a whole gallery of her?

[01:24:14] **Audrey:** I'm really upset right now.

[01:24:25] **Laurel:** Nooo!

A beret! That's another *Carol* thing.

[01:24:26] **Audrey:** You guys, oh...

[01:24:35] **Laurel:** "Without your consent."

[01:24:37] **Audrey:** "Before I met you."

Wait, she loves...?

[01:24:49] **Laurel:** Wow.

[01:24:50] **Audrey:** That was fast,

Literally.

"But I'll come back! Come with me." What?!

[01:25:27] **Laurel:** Wow! Yeah, because we've known each other for a week.

[01:25:38] **Audrey:** We just met like a week ago.

I'd also like to represent you as an artist.

What?! AAAAH!

[01:25:58] **Laurel:** WHAT?! Oh, that's right. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:25:59] **Audrey:** Ohhhh. Yeah, yeah, I remember that when she was wearing the beret and I was, yeah.

[01:26:20] **Laurel:** ...her whole face. [*Laurel note: I think? Kind of unintelligible. Sorry!*]

[01:26:23] **Audrey:** Oh, that's when she was like, [ghastly voice] "It's you. It's me. It's us."

[01:26:27] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:26:31] **Audrey:** I'm sorry, they haven't even kissed. I don't mean to be like, consensual...

[01:26:35] **Laurel:** This...this is the kissing.

[01:26:38] **Audrey:** They...they were faded.

[01:26:47] **Laurel:** Oh my god!

[01:26:51] **Audrey:** What if you're like, not sexually compatible?

[01:26:54] **Laurel:** Yeah, well, they're moving in together.

[01:26:58] **Audrey:** What did I tell you? What, what, where are we at, time wise? There's two minutes left!

Laurel: Yep.

Audrey: Yep.

This poor mom has to deal with Kylie.

[01:27:13] **Laurel:** Yeah. But she loves her work, so it's fine.

[01:27:17] **Audrey:** It's true.

[01:27:23] **Laurel:** What is this song? Wow.

[01:27:30] **Audrey:** It's got a little Cher in it.

[01:27:32] **Laurel:** Yeah, it does.

[01:27:38] **Audrey:** Do you think it's called “Angels in the Snow”?

[01:27:41] **Laurel:** It's called “Friends & Family Christmas”.

[01:27:43] **Audrey:** Oh, it's by Cher!

[01:27:45] **Laurel:** Oh, wow....

[01:28:00] **Audrey:** Oh.

[01:28:00] **Laurel:** Oh. There it is.

[01:28:02] **Audrey:** Mmm. Mmm, I get it. Now, I get it. Now I understand the title.

[01:28:08] **Laurel:** They had to add that to the script,

otherwise it wouldn't make any sense.

Did they add Cher because she's a queer icon??

[01:28:21] **Audrey:** Great question.

I'm gonna need a lot more than this to make up for the hour and a half of not doing anything physical.

[01:28:49] **Laurel:** It wasn't even like, a lot of yearning. Get it? The snow!

[01:28:56] **Audrey:** okay. Okay. Okay. I'm sorry, but okay. I'm hitting pause. The photo at the end, it...it... I have a theory that there is like a sub... there's something else going on that's like a horror movie.

Laurel: [gasps]

Audrey: Cause like, I thought at first it was like, it was what's her but, Danielle taking the photos. But, someone just took a photo...

Laurel: ...*outside* the window.

...through the window.

[01:29:20] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:29:22] **Audrey:** Anyway. Ooh, Margot! That's Margot! Margot is in the film as the other photographer.

[01:29:28] **Laurel:** Oooooh.

[01:29:30] **Audrey:** Well, we did it.

[01:29:32] **Laurel:** Oh my god. [exasperated sigh]

[01:29:33] **Audrey:** I don't know. I don't really know what to say. Um,

[01:29:39] **Laurel:** Well, on a scale of *Happiest Season* to *Carol*...

[01:29:42] **Audrey:** Ugh.

[01:29:42] **Laurel:** ...how would you rank this?

[01:29:44] **Audrey:** Um, I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. It's hard. I feel like it doesn't fit on that same, like, spectrum of movies, because it really does feel like...okay, on the one hand, unlike *Happiest Season*, there's no gay shame, so that's

Laurel: Yeah!

Audrey: ...a huge bonus, that's a huge plus, everyone just, they started the film gay, you know, like, there wasn't any hiding, so that's nice.

[01:30:13] **Laurel:** And it wasn't like a plot point at all, which is nice.

[01:30:15] **Audrey:** No, it wasn't a plot point, yeah, right, it was just like, that was the world they lived in, in which the parents were already accepting blah blah blah.

I think it was cute that they were like, let's make it about the *dad* being matchmakers instead of, typically it's not, right?

[01:30:27] **Laurel:** Oh, that's true, yeah.

[01:30:28] **Audrey:** But on the other hand, it does really feel like this film was at least half written by a bot.

[01:30:36] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:30:37] **Audrey:** You know?

[01:30:37] **Laurel:** I think, I think it's like, these movies, I bet if we watched any other Hallmark rom...

[01:30:43] **Audrey:** Oh, Hallmark, it's like...

[01:30:45] **Laurel:** Yeah, they're all this.

[01:30:46] **Audrey:** You're probably right. I wouldn't know, I literally have nothing to compare it to. I don't know if I've ever seen an entire Hallmark movie before. Have you?

[01:30:54] **Laurel:** I think I've come...like, I've seen parts of a Hallmark movie playing in a house that I happen to be in, but I haven't, like watched it end to end.

[01:31:03] **Audrey:** Yeah.

[01:31:05] **Laurel:** I feel like you don't really have to, though, to get the gist, you know?

[01:31:08] **Audrey:** No, I don't think so.

[01:31:12] **Laurel:** But they had to make it an hour and a half long. It really didn't have to be an hour and a half long.

[01:31:17] **Audrey:** Well for us it was like *two* hours long because of the commercials.

Um, I definitely feel like if you're gonna put it on that scale, it's definitely it's closer to *Happiest Season*.

[01:31:27] **Laurel:** Mm hmm. But still above Happiest

Season.

[01:31:29] **Audrey:** still I guess it's above happiest season. Ah

[01:31:33] **Laurel:** It didn't make me as angry as *Happiest Season* did. I didn't want to throw my computer across the room.

[01:31:40] **Audrey:** Right. But maybe that's good that like you... it's better to feel something.

[01:31:44] **Laurel:** Ugh.

[01:31:46] **Audrey:** Like I really didn't feel anything

[01:31:48] **Laurel:** Yeah, true. Yeah, yeah.

[01:31:49] **Audrey:** You know? Just like, whatever, it's fine. It's like a double peppermint hot chocolate of movies. No, actually that would make me kind of sick.

I don't know. It was, it was like, whatever. I feel like the performances were a little, I don't know. It kind of, It just felt like everyone just got the script, you know? They were doing their best, given the writing.

[01:32:10] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, I guess at least with Happiest Season it wasn't as...it wasn't formulaic.

[01:32:17] **Audrey:** It felt like everyone was committed to their role.

[01:32:19] **Laurel:** It was shot better.

[01:32:21] **Audrey:** Aubrey Plaza added a lot for me.

[01:32:24] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's true. Okay, the other thing that, yeah, you were kind of just saying this, but none of the characters were anything, right? At least like in *Happiest Season*, you had like, Aubrey Plaza, I guess they, they kind of tried to have their, what, what's his name from *Schitt's Creek*, in her gay best friend.

[01:32:44] **Audrey:** Oh yeah.

[01:32:45] **Laurel:** Like they tried to have a gay...a fashionable gay best frieind.

[01:32:47] **Audrey:** Right. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:32:49] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:32:51] **Audrey:** Yeah, I mean, the acting wasn't particularly bad, it just felt like the dialogue was really bad, and...

[01:32:55] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah,

[01:32:57] **Audrey:** ...like, what do you do with that, you know?

[01:32:58] **Laurel:** Yeah, I didn't feel anything for anyone, *but* I mean, I guess this is kind of on to our next, our next question, which is, was it higher or lower than what you expected?

[01:33:10] **Audrey:** I think it was actually slightly lower, because I...because originally I think I had such low expectations that I was weirdly on another level thinking, like a layer to that, I was thinking like, it's actually going to be better because my expectations are so low.

[01:33:25] **Laurel:** Oh. Oh no.

[01:33:26] **Audrey:** So, I know, and so I was like, oh, I'm probably going to be like happily surprised.

Uh, but no, I, I would say it like met my expectations or like it was slightly lower.

[01:33:35] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:33:36] **Audrey:** What about you?

[01:33:37] **Laurel:** I feel like it was fine and I expected it to be fine.

[01:33:41] **Audrey:** Okay, okay. I mean, I will say like I was sort of trying to predict the plot and it wasn't. I was expecting more of an enemy...

[01:33:49] **Laurel:** That's true. Yeah.

[01:33:50] **Audrey:** to friends or enemy to lovers thing and it was instead the pretend girlfriends to real, so it kept me on my toes.

[01:33:59] **Laurel:** Cause they didn't like hate each other except for that initial weirdness.

[01:34:03] **Audrey:** Right. Yeah, that's true. I think that was part of the problem with the storytelling too is like if you're gonna go this formulaic like there wasn't that much tension or any...any real conflict, I guess? You know?

[01:34:16] **Laurel:** Which might be like maybe that's par for the genre?

Audrey: Oh, that's fair.

Laurel: ...of not just like rom coms but like Hallmark rom coms, is that you can't have too much...like you can't have terrible terrible things happen and you can't have like amazing things happen?

[01:34:31] **Audrey:** That's a good point.

[01:34:32] **Laurel:** ...because there are no highs and lows. It's all like mid.

[01:34:36] **Audrey:** Was there anything that surprised you?

[01:34:48] **Laurel:** Oh man. [Uncomfortable pause. Thinking sounds.] I don't think so. No, there, there weren't any surprises. Well, I guess that it was like the dads setting them up and not the moms? I don't know. Um, yeah.

[01:35:02] **Audrey:** Do you think that was an explicit *Carol* reference?

[01:35:05] **Laurel:** What the photos?

[01:35:06] **Audrey:** The gloves and the photos?

[01:35:08] **Laurel:** I feel like it kind of has to— if it's not like that's...I feel like it is. I feel like it's a...a wink to people who have watched.

[01:35:18] **Audrey:** I mean the *gloves*.

[01:35:19] **Laurel:** I know. and and the...and the photo. with the Christmas

[01:35:23] **Audrey:** Yeah, and she's kind of like, she's sort of like a little bit in the background. There's a little bit of a depth of field like blurry thing happening that feels like a little *Carol*-y. She is the blonde one who's getting photographed by the brunette.

[01:35:34] **Laurel:** Right, who was like the quirky artsy, you're right, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:35:38] **Audrey:** So that's nice.

[01:35:40] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,

[01:35:42] **Audrey:** Yeah, I don't know. What do you think about the Margot thing? With like, and Kylie dated Margot? Like what was that?

[01:35:49] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, well, that did feel very like, oh, maybe these people have been in, like, lesbian circles where everybody dates each other, but they're in New York? So that's really weird that, like, this, like, lawyer, lesbian— *two* lawyers! They worked together, right?

[01:36:07] **Audrey:** Oh wait, that, yeah, that's right, you're right. Yeah, yeah, that felt a little forced, unlike everything else, which felt really natural.

[01:36:12] **Laurel:** So, *both* lawyers from this *one* firm dated *two* artists from this *one* lab.

[01:36:20] **Audrey:** Yeah, but I guess they needed...

[01:36:22] **Laurel:** New York is a pretty small place. So that makes sense.

[01:36:25] **Audrey:** And lawyers and artists are always intermingling.

[01:36:27] **Laurel:** Yeah, they are *always* interacting. Yeah.

[01:36:31] **Audrey:** I mean, I don't know, like, I know a handful of lesbians in New York who don't know each other. So, but it's like, okay, this is how they're gonna introduce that, like, a little bit of the conflict, I guess.

[01:36:41] **Laurel:** Why did they even put it in New York then? Like just make it some midwestern city.

[01:36:46] **Audrey:** Where else are lesbians?

[01:36:49] **Laurel:** Right.

[01:36:49] **Audrey:** Where else are you gonna get that many lesbians? And like, the photo thing, right? Like, she's an artist.

[01:36:55] **Laurel:** Oh my gosh.

[01:36:56] **Audrey:** I don't know.

[01:36:57] **Laurel:** I feel like also a female lawyer who's on partner track would be a lot more intense. And she just seemed constantly flustered.

[01:37:06] **Audrey:** Yeah, I'm gonna look up the Letterboxd reviews. Oh here they are, there's a hundred there's over a thousand reviews for this. First one's, "We did it Sapphics! After hundreds of hetero Christmas movies, Hallmark finally gave us a lesbian one. This was everything I needed to be perfect. I need at least five a year now."

I'm good with that. This is...this is good.

[01:37:29] **Laurel:** Well, I feel like now that this exists, we could probably just deepfake the rest of them.

[01:37:35] **Audrey:** Okay, here's a...here's a review. Two and a half stars. "Damn, her photography kinda sucked lol."

[01:37:41] **Laurel:** Oh man.

[01:37:44] **Audrey:** Oh, someone said, someone with the Portrait of the Leading Fire avatar said, "The Carol gloves reference...cinema. Oh man.

[01:37:55] **Laurel:** I do feel for whoever has to come up with like, the groundbreaking art concept for any, like, story, it's, you know, it's like, this art is supposed to wow the people in the film, so you have to come up with something that is like, believably impactful. And yeah, it's tough.

[01:38:15] **Audrey:** That is a hard task and I cannot say that they passed. I don't know if that was like, success.

[01:38:22] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:38:23] **Audrey:** Yeah, it's mostly favorable reviews, uh, 2. 5 stars, "baby's first Hallmark movie, tooth rotting fluff with the lowest stakes ever, but it's what the lesbians deserve 🙂"

[01:38:37] **Laurel:** Did you say "throtting fluff"?

[01:38:42] **Audrey:** I must have a lisp. Tooth. Rotting.

[01:38:45] **Laurel:** Tooth rotting!

[01:38:46] **Audrey:** I don't...throtting fluff, um, with the lowest stakes ever, but it's what the lesbians deserve 🙂"

I don't know if that's supposed to be like a good thing or a bad thing?

Laurel: Is that an insult?

Audrey: Yeah, right, exactly.

[01:38:57] **Laurel:** Like, we got the movie we *deserve*. Thanks a lot. What's the overall rating on Letterboxd?

[01:39:02] **Audrey:** The overall rating is 3. 2 stars. Is that what you would expect?

[01:39:07] **Laurel:** Yeah, because I think on IMDb it was like six point something out of ten.

[01:39:11] **Audrey:** Yeah, it's a lot of people are giving it four stars, like a lot of four, but then it's...there's a fair amount of two and a half, but nothing *that* low.

[01:39:21] **Laurel:** Yeah, I think that's what I would expect all Hallmark movies to get? Is like somewhere between, like somewhere in the middle. So I'm glad that like, at least this doesn't have a bunch of weird conservative downvote type people swarming in.

[01:39:38] **Audrey:** Oh, that's, yeah, that's unlike some other TV shows that we actually care about. Like, what the fuck? No one's coming after Hallmark, apparently. This one person gave it two stars and said, "I mean, it's a four but also a ten, does that make sense?" And yet you gave them a two, so I don't think it makes sense.

[01:39:57] **Laurel:** Right...what?

[01:39:58] **Audrey:** Yeah, I don't, I don't know.

[01:40:00] **Laurel:** I guess I'm also a little bit surprised that there wasn't more gay Hallmark product placement. Like you got the pillow and a couple of ornaments and a rainbow tree?

[01:40:13] **Audrey:** Oh, oh, oh, I see.

[01:40:14] **Laurel:** The "Love is love" pillow? Yeah,

[01:40:15] **Audrey:** Oh, I see the, the gayness. I thought you meant like consumer brands.

[01:40:19] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:40:20] **Audrey:** Yeah. She had her bag...had a rainbow strap, which was like, I guess a little bit more subtle. Or maybe that was her camera. I don't know. I think if we were to go back again and watch it, we would maybe find more rainbow.

[01:40:30] **Laurel:** Yeah, and then we could link it to, um, things that you could buy online, probably.

[01:40:36] **Audrey:** Yeah. Someone gave it a one star. "This was the longest movie I've ever seen." Yes.

[01:40:44] **Laurel:** I wish you could see what movies people liked, like, while you read the review of the movie...

[01:40:50] **Audrey:** Oh yeah. Yeah.

[01:40:53] **Laurel:** Like, I wonder what the crossover is between *Imagine Me & You* fans and this movie getting four stars from people.

[01:40:59] **Audrey:** It's like a complete circle of a Venn diagram I think. Oh, it has to be, right?

[01:41:05] **Laurel:** Randomly click on a four star review and let's see if they say anything about *Imagine Me & You.*

[01:41:10] **Audrey:** This is a...I'm clicking on a five star review.

[01:41:12] **Laurel:** Okay. Yeah.

[01:41:13] **Audrey:** Her favorites are *Black Swan*...

[01:41:16] **Laurel:** Oh.

[01:41:16] **Audrey:** uh, *Bride of Chucky*, *Bound*? I'm sensing a Jennifer Tilly thing...

[01:41:23] **Laurel:** Oh yeah. That's true.

[01:41:25] **Audrey:** *Jennifer's Body*?

[01:41:26] **Laurel:** She's into Jennifers.

[01:41:27] **Audrey:** *Bad Moms*? I think...I think she just likes movies, period.

[01:41:33] **Laurel:** I clicked on one five star review. And she has three films in her profile. Two of them are *Friends & Family Christmas*. One *Friends & Family Christmas* has five stars, the other one has four stars, and then she gave five stars to *Carol*.

[01:41:50] **Audrey:** Oh, okay, huh, interesting.

[01:41:54] **Laurel:** Ooh, okay. What? Go ahead.

[01:41:56] **Audrey:** Oh, oh, the first one that gave five stars, all her favorite films are like Christmas movies

Laurel: WOW.

Audrey: So maybe there's that part of it? That people who, like, just love this type of movie and don't get it, like *Home Alone 2*, *Bad Santa*, *It's a Wonderful Knife*, oh that's the other lesbian one.

[01:42:14] **Laurel:** Oh, right. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:42:15] **Audrey:** *The Family Stone*, those are their favorites.

[01:42:17] **Laurel:** Oh, okay. Got one. Alright. So, this person rated it five stars. And also, Liked it, hearted it, whatever. They also liked *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, um, *Imagine Me & You*, and *Lost and Delirious*.

[01:42:33] **Audrey:** Oi.

[01:42:34] **Laurel:** And *Bottoms*.

[01:42:36] **Audrey:** Okay.

[01:42:36] **Laurel:** ...and *Saving Face*, but they only

gave that four and a half stars.

[01:42:40] **Audrey:** Okay. Yeah, okay, same, same. I found one that's like, um, four and a half stars, favorites are *Booksmart*, *Imagine Me & You*, *D.E.B.S.*, and *Mean Girls*.

I think it's just like, not to be judgy, but just like, if you like this movie, you like all lesbian movies.

[01:42:57] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

And man, how nice. How nice for you.

[01:43:04] **Audrey:** Yeah. Okay, well, we did it!

[01:43:07] **Laurel:** We did it. And I mean, we did it as in we finished the movie, not we did it, everybody, we got a Hallmark lesbian movie.

[01:43:13] **Audrey:** Oh, yeah, no, thank you for clarifying that. I think this is the only holiday movie I've seen this season, unless you count *Female Trouble*, um, which I guess could be counted. What else? Have you seen anything holiday-y? Your annual watching of *Love, Actually*?

[01:43:31] **Laurel:** Oh my god. Uh, I don't think I have. Yeah, I think this was the first and only one for me.

[01:43:37] **Audrey:** The year's not over, Laurel.

[01:43:38] **Laurel:** Unless you count being on a video chat with you and you having a reindeer filter on. As this is my other holiday movie, is...your face, your reindeer face.

[01:43:49] **Audrey:** Do you like my blue eyebrows?

[01:43:51] **Laurel:** Yeah. That was an interesting touch, yeah.

[01:43:55] **Audrey:** Yeah, it's interesting, you can go to Zoom now and change your like, eyebrows and like, lip color

Laurel: What?! So strange.

Audrey: ...and like, give yourself a mustache. It's really special, yeah. We did, my family, um, half of my family or more is in Oahu right now, and so the rest, we all did White Elephant over Zoom yesterday, which was interesting.

[01:44:15] **Laurel:** How?

[01:44:16] **Audrey:** If you know the White Elephant rules. I assigned a proxy for us so that we would have like four gifts... our names and four gift bags there. And so when they were pulled, we, like, pulled out our gifts.

Oh actually, I would like to show you what Heather and the rule this time was like for White Elephant was It had to be either a re-gift or like something you made.

And so Heather re gifted two of these planters that, that I got, oops, for...

[01:44:47] **Laurel:** Okay. Wow. Yeah.

[01:44:49] **Audrey:** Can you describe these to our audience?

[01:44:51] **Laurel:** Oh.

[01:44:52] **Audrey:** Oh, here's the other one.

[01:44:53] **Laurel:** So.

[01:44:54] **Audrey:** [laughter]

[01:44:56] **Laurel:** So if you imagined, um... So it's a set of two. One is light blue, the other one is orange. And if you kind of thought like, hmm, what would a fertility planter look like? Or, um, yeah, so it's cut off right above these very large breasts and just like a little bit below, uh, a large butt.

[01:45:23] **Audrey:** Juicy is how I would

[01:45:24] **Laurel:** But then it.

also has drainage holes, um, underneath. So that's, that's very thoughtful of them.

[01:45:29] **Audrey:** Yeah, they're 3D printed, someone gifted them to me. I think it was, was it to me? I think Heather would have freaked out if it was to her knowing, you know her, um, body integrity concerns.

[01:45:39] **Laurel:** Oh god, yeah, you're right!

[01:45:41] **Audrey:** But I guess like, they are, people put like, succulents and stuff in it, so it grows kind of like a sort of body, you know, like a cactus. Here are the, um, these are the people that make them.

[01:45:54] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:45:55] **Audrey:** And every time you order something from them, they give their dog a treat. I hope they feed their dog

[01:46:00] **Laurel:** I know.

[01:46:00] **Audrey:** ...when you're not ordering gifts. Anyway, this was re-gifted to my family and, um, it didn't get stolen during the white elephant.

So, yeah, um, holidays.

[01:46:15] **Laurel:** Oh man.

[01:46:17] **Audrey:** [whispers] What else do we say about this movie? Uh, oh, who would you recommend this to, Laurel? Or would you recommend this to anyone? Would you watch this with, like, family?

[01:46:25] **Laurel:** No. No.

[01:46:26] **Audrey:** Oh my god.

[01:46:27] **Laurel:** No. Definitely not. Cause I don't want them to have questions about things like oh, is this, is this how lesbians usually get together? I don't know.

[01:46:37] **Audrey:** The answer is yes.

[01:46:39] **Laurel:** Do they all say I love you and let's move in together by the end of the week? Like, also yes. Yeah, I don't know. I guess I could say for fans of *Imagine Me & You* and fans of every lesbian movie, this is for you.

[01:46:56] **Audrey:** This is for you!

[01:46:57] **Laurel:** Yeah. Do you love every lesbian movie?

[01:47:02] **Audrey:** It sounds like a threat. This is for YOU.

[01:47:03] **Laurel:** You're gonna love... This is the movie you deserve. Who would you recommend it to?

[01:47:09] **Audrey:** I think it has to be someone who already likes Hallmark movies for me.

[01:47:13] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:47:15] **Audrey:** This feels very specific. You know, like people who put it on in the background while they...

[01:47:21] **Laurel:** Make Christmas cookies.

[01:47:22] **Audrey:** Exactly, and drink their Sauvignon Blanc or whatever.

[01:47:25] **Laurel:** Oh, or also, like, if you are a parent who views yourself as an "ally" and has...have maybe called yourself an ally in previous situations, this might also be for you!

[01:47:42] **Audrey:** that should be part of the tagline, like, "*Friends & Family Christmas*, a movie for allies!"

Yeah, I think that's good. I, I, I feel like I'm good now? Like, I don't know if I ever need to watch, like, another Hallmark movie ever again. Personally, it just feels so tepid bathwater.

[01:48:01] **Laurel:** I do feel like the double peppermint coffee thing, it's an analogy for Hallmark movies. Like, they were really hoping that like,

Audrey: Oh like they're so sweet? Tooth rotting?

Laurel: Yeah, yeah, like, like, how Amelia was totally into them after she tried them, like, they're hoping that that's the effect that Hallmark movies have on, on other people as well.

[01:48:22] **Audrey:** It's like a virus. Yeah, it's it's very pumpkin spice latte. Except somehow sweeter.

[01:48:28] **Laurel:** Oh my god.

[01:48:28] **Audrey:** Like, my teeth hurt. Like, not like, I don't think I could do, like, single peppermint, let alone double.

Um, uh, yeah, well, you know, we did it, um...good for us? I don't know what else to say about this movie, um...

[01:48:45] **Laurel:** We're so tired.

[01:48:46] **Audrey:** You know what it is, actually a lot of people said this... (We're so tired!) A lot of people said this in their Letterboxd reviews, like how there was zero chemistry, I actually thought both the actors were totally fine.

[01:48:56] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:49:00] **Audrey:** Kinda cute! Why I feel like, uh, what's that movie, that I can't remember, *Imagine Me & You*, kind of works for me, even though, watching it now, I'm like, oh god, this is bad.

I do think Piper Perabo and Lena Headey had a lot of chemistry, like, they really gave me the warm fuzzies.

[01:49:15] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[01:49:16] **Audrey:** And these two, it just, there was no, you know...

[01:49:19] **Laurel:** They really should have had Kylie in one of the roles. Like, Kylie, it should have been a Dani and Kylie...

[01:49:25] **Audrey:** Yeah, yeah, I think that could have worked.

[01:49:28] **Laurel:** Yeah.

[01:49:31] **Audrey:** But that's okay.

[01:49:32] **Laurel:** Yeah!

[01:49:33] **Audrey:** Maybe that's part of it, maybe they can't have too much chemistry because then you're like too, it's too erotically charged or something?

[01:49:37] **Laurel:** Oh, right, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah. It's true. It's gotta be very PG-13. Maybe G.

[01:49:45] **Audrey:** I mean, I'm sure they have some kind of like PG, I think, like, almost G?

[01:49:49] **Laurel:** Yeah, yeah.

[01:49:50] **Audrey:** They probably have some kind of, like, checklist or, like, rubric around what, what's allowed, right?

[01:49:56] **Laurel:** Yeah,

[01:49:57] **Audrey:** ...for a Hallmark movie, and I think too much chemistry is, or *any* chemistry...?

[01:50:01] **Laurel:** Definitely no eroticism. Yeah.

[01:50:04] **Audrey:** Yeah. Okay. [Uncomfortable silence.] Sorry!

[upbeat interstitial music]

[01:50:14] **Laurel:** Well, thanks for watching along with us today.

Audrey: If you did. If you survived that.

If you did, Yeah. if you made it to the end with us, um, wow. Yeah, well we did this together. Tell us what you thought of *Friends & Family Christmas*. Leave a comment on Instagram at SapphicCultureClub or you can email us *everything* that you thought at SapphicCultureClub@gmail.com.

[01:50:38] **Audrey:** Please send us a thesis-length review of this movie. Yeah, and lastly, you can find links to things we've mentioned, um, that include how to watch this, although I guess it's too late if I'm telling you now. As well as the episode transcript in the episode description wherever you are listening to this podcast.

[01:51:00] **Laurel:** I hope we get some emails that are just, like, audio files of people weeping.

[01:51:06] **Audrey:** Maybe we are being too skeptical and like, maybe this is beloved.

[01:51:12] **Laurel:** We’re a couple of grumps. We're just, like, lesbian grinches.

[01:51:16] **Audrey:** It's what happens when you turn into an elder gay. You get grumpy. No, I'm glad this exists! Yay!

[01:51:25] **Laurel:** I feel like we have a large shelf of movies that we're glad exist.

Like *Happiest Season* is on, is on that shelf for me. It's like, I'm glad that people have it.

[01:51:36] **Audrey:** I would say yes. *That* I'm on the fence about, but it is like a little bit of a pyramid of...our shelf. It's like, there's just a few movies on the tippy top that we love to death, and then everything else is kind of, you know, varying degrees of...

[01:51:51] **Laurel:** True. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. yeah. No, there are movies that I genuinely love, but there are movies that are maybe, like, just, I'm glad this exists for other people.

[01:52:00] **Audrey:** Yes.

[01:52:03] **Laurel:** Oh, man, I'm so tired.

[01:52:06] **Audrey:** Oh, I'm going to go watch something horrific now to cleanse the palate.

[01:52:10] **Laurel:** That sounds great. Yeah, yeah.

[01:52:12] **Audrey:** I actually, I'm going to go see *American Fiction*. So hopefully that'll be more, more exciting. Um, all right. Byeeee.

[01:52:19] **Laurel:** Thanks, everybody. Bye.

[01:52:26] **Sapphic Robot Chorus:** LESBIAN CHAOS

[01:52:30] **Audrey:** I feel sick.