

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

# DAY & NIGHT

OCTOBER 5-11, 1998

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—  
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MONEY

—  
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THE CARDIGANS

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**FREE**  
SUNWAY LAGOON  
RESORT FOOD  
VOUCHERS

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**FREE GO**

**SWISS-GARDEN  
RESORT DAMAI  
LAUT LUMUT  
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The secret  
life of  
**Courteney  
COX**

ISSUE NO. 141 • PPS036 16/99




ISSN 1511-0095  
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# The secret life of Courteney Cox

Stories about **Courteney Cox** all seem to focus on her break-up with former **Batman** Michael Keaton, her indefinable relationship with **Counting Crows** singer Adam Duritz and her alleged eating disorders. But the popular star of *Friends* and *Scream 2* opens up and reveals herself to be a different person from who you'd thought she was, in this interview with **SUZAN COLON**.

**I'M SPEECHLESS,"** COURTNEY COX sighs. "All ... day ... long, the same questions about *Scream 2*: 'What's the weirdest thing that happened to you on set?', etc., etc. Thank God you're not going to ask me any of those questions!" she says hopefully. Courtney has arrived at the Italian restaurant wearing jeans, a little black jumper and rimless glasses; as a result, I barely recognise the star of *Friends* and *Scream 1* and *2*. It makes sense since, despite her popularity, I feel I don't know much about her. Stories about her seem to focus solely on her break-up with ex-Batman Michael Keaton, her indefinable relationship with Counting Crows singer Adam Duritz, and constant allegations of eating disorders, the mere mention of which makes her eyes roll in their sockets.

Consequently, the 33-year-old actress has become adept at being evasive. "I don't think people want to hear every detail of what's going on with me." She's wrong, but from past experience I know that Courtney is really open when asked things indirectly. So I decide to go the B-road route ... While we wait for our salads, we start scripting the TV version of Courtney's life.

*Courtney's life, part 1: as a TV mini-series*

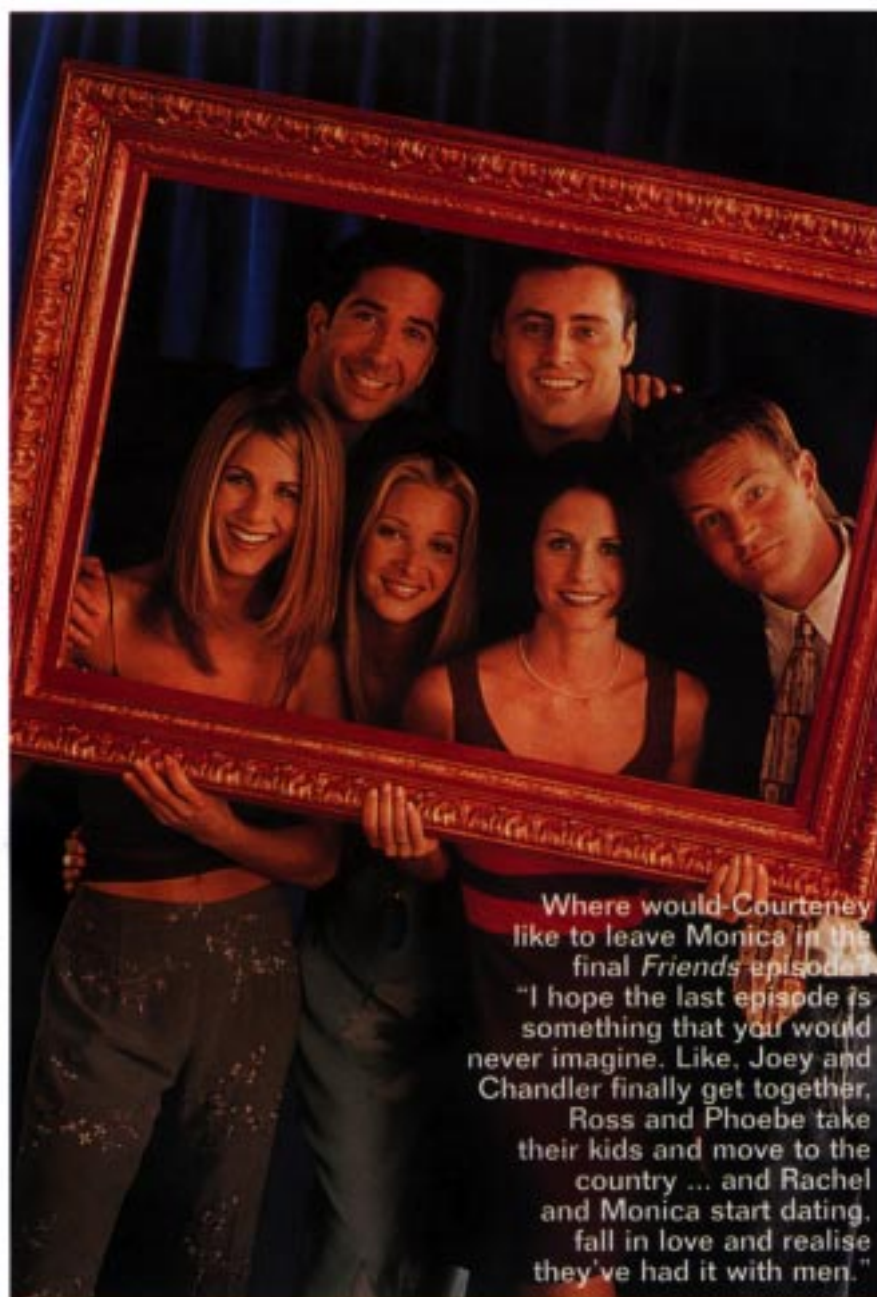
Our story starts in Birmingham, Alabama. We have a girl who never really felt like she fitted in. She hates high school — not the work, just the cliques. She feels very out of place. See, the girl had been in this clique since she was 12. It's the "in group", but it's not a nice group. One of them starts dating her boyfriend, so she's ousted.

She finds that so disturbing that, at one point, her mother talks to the principal about these girls in the clique. The girl decides she wants to move away and live with her father, but she realises there are cliques everywhere. "Then," Courtney smiles, "she graduates from high school and moves to New York."

*Courtney's life, part 2: as a chat show*

Dropping the mini-series angle, Courtney continues:

"I went to New York for two weeks before I graduated and met with Ford modelling agency. I went with my step-cousin (Miles Copeland Jr, brother of The Police drummer Stewart) who walked me in and slipped them a couple of tickets for The Police at Shea Stadium. He greased 'em up pretty good, because, let me tell you, I was only five-foot-five and no beauty," she laughs, no longer making eye contact. The



Where would Courtney like to leave Monica in the final *Friends* episode? "I hope the last episode is something that you would never imagine. Like, Joey and Chandler finally get together, Ross and Phoebe take their kids and move to the country ... and Rachel and Monica start dating, fall in love and realise they've had it with men."

postscript to this story is that she landed a part in Bruce Springsteen's video and became the first person ever to utter the word "period" in a US tampon ad; and for whatever reasons, these two things launched her career.

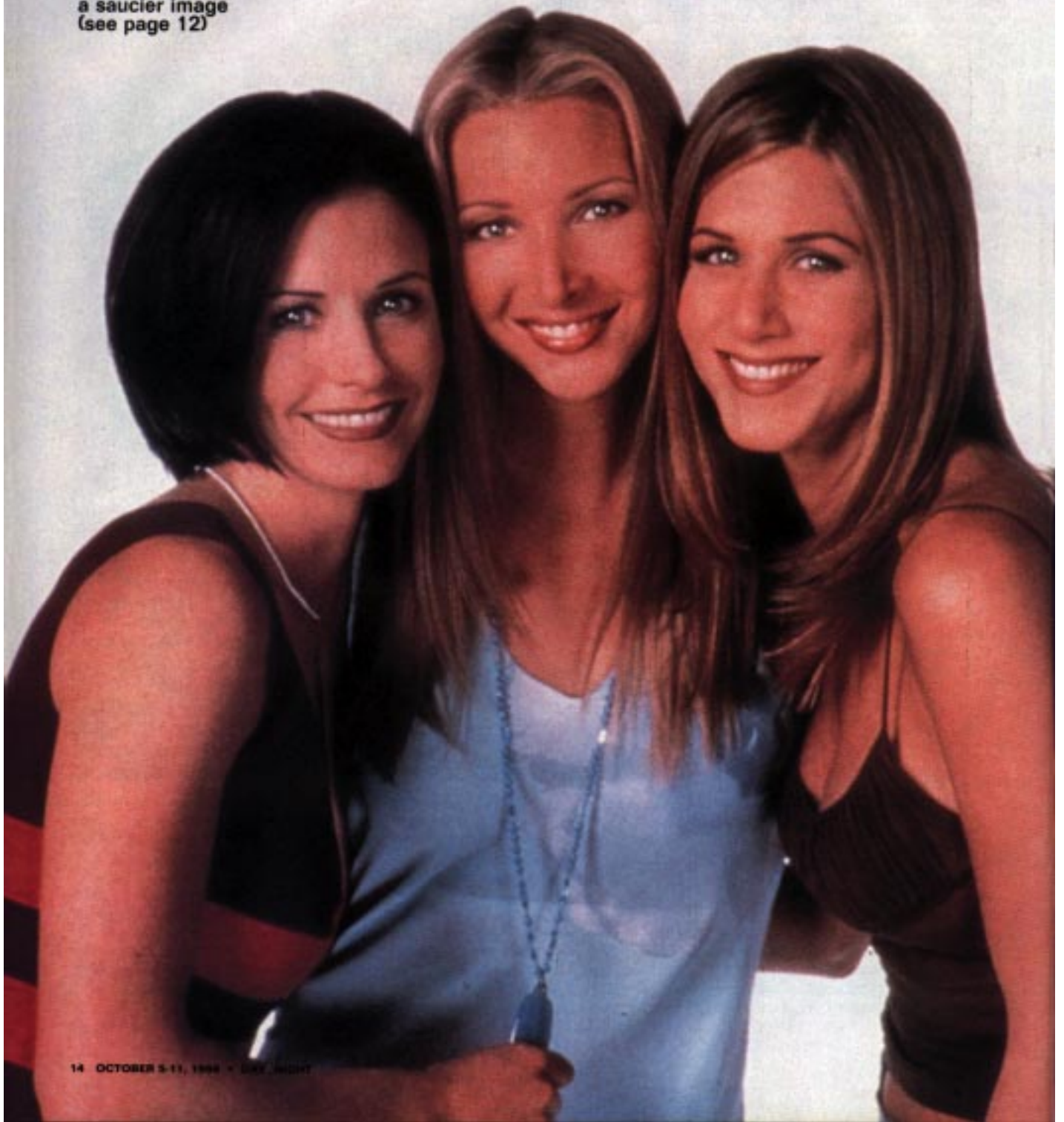
*Courtney's perfect day: a fantasy*

"On a perfect day, I wake up at eight and don't have to be at work till 11. The coffee's already brewing, I play with my dog and have a good 45 minutes to relax.

"Then I'm like: 'Hey, I want to work out — wouldn't that be fun?' I sprint to the gym, get on the treadmill and jog for half an hour, loving every minute of it. I do another cardio, I do the weights. I look at my watch, and it's only 9.15 — I have another hour and a half till I have to be at work!

"I take a shower, put on a pair of jeans and a T-shirt that, though simple, look perfect. Then I get in my car — which is full of gas — and head to work.

Then & Now:  
Courtney Cox (L)  
has dropped her old  
*Friends* look for  
a saucier image  
(see page 12)



"At work I have my favourite breakfast: egg whites, turkey, bacon and tomatoes. There are flowers in my dressing room with a note that says: 'I just wanted to tell you I love you. No strings attached. I'm committed to you, you're not committed to me, and that's OK. You don't even have to call.'

"Then I do my scene, and for some reason, everyone is laughing at every word that drops out of my mouth. I'm feeling great about myself, I'm the best actress in the world. The producers are like: 'Courtney, you were fantastic! Go home!' I look at my watch — I've only been at work for two hours!

"I go home and there isn't one thing for me to do. I check my machine, and everybody's left a message that goes: 'Hey, just thinking about you, but please don't call back because we won't be home.'

"Later, the guy who sent me flowers picks me up, and we go to this really nice restaurant where I order — and finish — the biggest bowl of pasta in the world. With cream sauce. And my stomach is not sticking out at all. We go back to my house; we make out, fool around. Then he says: 'I know you have to wake up early, and I understand. I'm going home, and everything's just fine.' I get in bed. And my teeth are already brushed."

She has this weird dream ...

"In the dream, I'm working on a really dark, interesting, weird movie. It's a great script, and I really have to stretch. I love the director, and I love the other actors. I'm having the best time of my life. When they say: 'Wrap for the day,' I wash off all this black eyeliner, take a shower and go home.

"And there's this wonderful man. And I go: 'What are you doing here? You've been here three days in a row!' Actually, I say: 'Well, hello, honey!' because, in my dream, I have no commitment problems. We cook dinner together, have great sex and go to sleep. And when I wake up I feel exactly the same; not looking at life and where I'm going. That's my biggest problem: I have a fear of commitment. I'm so afraid that they're trying to control me. I have a problem with that, I know I do."

**Courtney's worst possible day:  
another fantasy**

"My idea of a day from hell: I'm supposed to be at work at nine, so my alarm goes off at 7.45; I push the sleep button and don't wake up until eight. I have to be in the car by 8.15, so now I have 15 minutes to get up, take a shower and all that.

"There's no time for coffee, and I go to

feed the dog, but there's no dog food. No, there is dog food, but only dry, no canned. And I can't bear to give Rags just dry food, so I'm looking through the refrigerator for something else.

"I get to work, and somebody reminds me that I have a lunch meeting. I hate lunch. I hate the food that they serve; I don't want to eat in the middle of the day — I just hate it. Plus, I'm wearing the ugliest thing I've ever worn in my life, I didn't have time to blow-dry my hair, and I have no make-up on. Terrific.


"Finish work at six, and it takes an hour and a half to get home. Now, while I'm sitting in traffic, is a good time to knock off all those calls I needed to return, but no-one's there, so when I get home, I have all these messages on my machine. I thought that was my time! But it's not. And I forgot to pick up dog food."

**A moment about Monica**

Courtney has often fended off accusations that she's exactly like her *Friends* character: is that why she did the *Scream* films? Because fighting off serial killers was the most un-Monica-like thing she could do?

"That's my top priority when I read scripts," she says. "It's important for me to play someone who challenges me."

Fast-forward to the final *Friends* episode ever: Where would Courtney like to leave Monica?

"I don't know, but I hope the last episode is something that you would never imagine. Like, Joey and Chandler finally get together, Ross and Phoebe take their kids and move to the country ... and Rachel and Monica start dating, fall in love and realise they've had it with men." 



Courtney's biggest problem is her fear of commitment. She says: "I'm so afraid that they're trying to control me. I have a problem with that, I know I do."