

What About



FRASIER

Ben Tripp

“Our bones only ache while the flesh is on them. Stretch it thin as the temple flesh of an ailing woman and still it serves to ache the bone and to move the bone about; and in like manner the night is a skin pulled over the head of day that the day may be in a torment. We will find no comfort until the night melts away; until the fury of the night rots out its fire.”

- Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

- Frasier Crane — A respected doctor in Seattle, WA who has his own psychiatry radio show.
- Niles Crane — Excitable younger brother of Frasier, A.K.A: "Nervous Little Niles".
- Marty Crane — Father of the Crane family, who comes to live in Frasier's apartment.
- Daphne Moon — Hired servant of the household who becomes Niles' wife in Season 10.
- Maris Crane — First wife of Niles Crane.
- Julia Wilcox — Financial reporter for KACL, briefly romantically involved with Frasier.
- Roz Doyle — Friend and co-worker of Dr. Crane at the KACL radio station.
- Ben Tripp — Audience member and author of *What About Frasier*.

Seductive Intellect

A bastard is
funny

a problem
interesting enough to consent for
art

Self-deprecating
ageist only because
the elderly robbed me
of my youth
then I stroke it back
so here I am

Talk is cheap
where we're living
like a bird in a mine

In their age, many
have dignity
but not tonight

Niles' wife has joined
airbnb
to show off his new
desolation
Daphne is still poor, ha ha?
or maybe she has a start-up

These are a few
of the things I thought
were almost funny

Niles was talking in

a secret code language

Roz

slows down

"Frasier Fever" spreading to
city hall

It's upside down

the book is upside down

Frasier's Dad gives a speech

"In my day, we didn't need Psychiatry
we had beer and pretzels."

Both brothers have never been

on the monorail

it's Frasier Crane Day

he wanted hoopla and fuss

next to Frasier you're a child

What time is it

it's an emotional time

the last five minutes of
every episode

You could say Frasier

invented class

It's all just therapy for

his character

subtext doesn't really matter

this woman doesn't know

what it is about the ocean
that makes her so thirsty

What I like
about Frasier
is the cinematography

but who wears a black dress and
a veil on a cruise

Improbably impractical
my friends've been talking
"Ben's really angry about Frasier!"

It's about vulnerability
maybe just a whiff
of desperation
sometimes power makes you ugly

There's a reason
these accents
haven't been used in 50 years

Motivational adult cult
or
pure theater

anti-counter-

counter-cultural
potpourri on the mantle
or veranda which is actually
a fire escape

Pedantry is the mother
of neurosis
breeding opportunities
audiences

smug curses
false apologies
toward eccentric defeat
for these effete men

"Regular" art
not the focus here

Everybody's family is kind of
washed ashore

I dunno
maybe a Frasier T-shirt
is taking it too far

But getting stuck on the monorail
gives all kinds of characters
something to think about

Shame socializes in a paper tower

Look at the Space Needle:
a sensitive backdrop

Present day
I call the Frasier Crane Show
Roz picks up
explains to Frasier
"Ben is having, uh
emotional confusion and feelings
of abandonment.'

Frasier hasn't been on in
over ten years

He was always
there to help, before

What is that a girl does that changes
the inner contents of these male
refrigerators we are not shown

Genre facilities
Getting back to Frasier

If Frasier was a poet
he would be the benevolent poet
who sells his poems to other poets

I went to the coffee house
to meet w/him
he said "I don't believe our conversation
should last much longer this."

His hair had changed

I did see Maris

I've never seen Frasier wear a hat

I didn't hear the blues calling

They drink Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry
at the apt. chock full of pastel ornaments
but they rarely make their own coffee
they drink coffee at the café

Daphne makes their coffee at home

The biscotti actualized
center

Kneeling
craving

crawling

at Café Nervosa

Did he just mention that his brother
is one of the greatest
empathizers in the business?

How does a wedding ring
thrown from a high-rise balcony
damage a Mercedes?

why do we care?

because Frasier was in Art Forum

Some years later he found himself
at seminars/conferences

Texas, darling
it's where the articulation breaks down

And what about Eddie the
dog

When Frasier can't give an opinion
you might as well tag his toe
and call the coroner, he's dead

Only movement will get the blood flowing
but who's the real father

The dreaded glottal stop

A temporary name
for a hypothetical child

Cultural Imperialism

Daphne has a soccer hooligan
ex-boyfriend named Milton

Give your name and your
problem, please

Someone will come on the
line who is an expert
in this situation
and actually poke fun
at the insane

near ruminative perplexity

Precision
accuracy
meditation is better

Season 10 episode 24

Decent family men who
enjoy marksmanship

The gun show's in town

"This country was built by gun-
totting square dancers

Philistines they are."
both brothers acknowledge

Niles would never keep a gun
in the same house as his mother

Niles becoming a gun nut

is actually kind of funny tho
if he joined the militia

If Frasier had his way
every call would end
in auto-erotic suicide

Roz has no agency

Her outfit would look better
if she wore it looser

Daphne's mother is a lush, ribald
amid their relationship, Daphne & Niles

of course they're not animals
up all night imagining the future
of their unborn child

Niles sold his "S" so he could make some \$
the network only allowed the word sperm to be used
by Marty Crane four times
it makes senses
Dad is anti-donor

It's against policy to return
essences

French maritime
pine bark extract

In the same scenario

an infatuated co-worker
and one night of passion

Frasier doesn't wanna sleep with Julia

Risk is involved

I would take Roz over Julia
she seems much more human
and a friend

Julia is a control freak

Just take her out
flamenco dancing or something
while Daphne pours champagne
for Niles

A little less science
a little more romance

Nature isn't worth their shot

Daphne is now expecting
Roz is already a mother a maker

wearing poorly fitting clothes
like it's her job

The Devil w/o a Clause

Was this guy
Daphne's boyfriend
Paul Cusimano

How do I find him

This footage shows the end
of the era of
extreme concert experience

He's not even on the stage
yet
they say he's in the house
like they say Frasier has
left the building
but there is no building

Niles is the bull god
Dr. Crane is a platitude
refusing to apply himself

He acts out

A medley

In conclusion, to me
Paul Cusimano
from the show Frasier
being chosen to introduce
Kid Rock singing
"Fortunate Son"
sounds a lot like Frasier
singing "Tossed Salad & Scrambled Eggs"

Mystics are always tragic
an ode to no ode

Cultural Acceptance

Frasier is meta-modern

A luxury that I can address it as

What you couldn't ever put your
finger on before has a name now

Diary takedowns

They go back and forth in repose

their presentation begging for an
opposite
like something more

If the only answer is comedy
leave me alone, Frasier

Niles
thinking some carnal exchange
may be imminent

stutters when he speaks
the name: Daphne

they start hanging out

Give me money and I'll
tell you a secret

Too intense for me to consider

They are not philosophers yet

Hecuba, the therapist
you are Hecuba

Frasier is threatening everybody all
the time

He's the one with the real
problems
I swear to god

Hecuba's what I'm into

Frasier is too cynical
to understand that
doctorate of nothing

"Poor wretched/captured Hecuba"
after she saw her youngest daughter dead

I know who that child is
and it's not me, anymore
than it is you

When they were attempting
to get water from a fountain

your daughter and Troilus
were ambushed and
shot down by Achilles

She arranged her clothing around
herself carefully so that she was
fully covered when she died

The scores to an overture
luxurious "trouser" fronts
new Russian films

elevator pitches
composite background
engaging sonnets
for overworked business people
not looking for office romance

beneath the shelter of an aged tree
Julia's state-of-the-art cell phone

erupts with a message

She can talk
"Nail their asses to the wall."
she says to somebody
she works too hard

A paunchy Frasier doesn't tell Julia
that Daphne was pregnant

Playing Squash In 20 Minutes

Men about town
psychiatrists, socialites
over-bleached

They did not for a quick sherry play squash
Frasier meets his furnisher polisher

Niles says the polisher, Barry, isn't there
Frasier's just been outed
stalking Roz's new boyfriend
this is nothing new

The KACL family will all be there
for Frasier

Very frank
very expensive

In vino veritas

Someone So Young

Frasier decides it's about time
he got into some new punk
he puts on NOFX "The Decline"

It gets him thinking about
the way he verges on imperialism
not so much fantasy now

at the Wellington Hotel
their former babysitter coos
playing an Oedipal sonata

the piano is a Steinway
with a velvet rope-guard
just sort of christening it

This is Niles' lifetime overseer
"Nervous Little Niles"
he is forever known as, to her

she's wiping his forehead
with his eyes so tight
he could land a role
in "Flower Drum Song"

"I Prefer Not To."

Frasier's Dad thinks this new woman
was brought to the apt. for him
they're competing like magicians

"She was flirting with me!"
they say in unison

"Don't change your hair for me,"
she says, not quite singing
attempting dialogue through lyrics

Frasier looks like a Fascist
Il Duce angrily gesticulating
the piano also looks unhappy

Progenitor, getting ready to fuck
the girl his son has always liked
a more arresting theme in this episode

the most concentrated of all that I've seen

I'm surprised that this woman, Renee,
would fool around with a senior citizen

"You need a placeholder
to keep your dating
muscles toned," Roz advises

Daphne was the mother
until she began intimacy
with the brother

Venus: it's like meeting an old friend
which one is Saturn? Where are the rings

In New York during the Frasier finale

life is just beginning

Every member of the pantheon
has changed, here in the house
that Frasier has decided to show up at
and you have asked me questions
like who do you think you are
making this cacophony amount to what

"Don't go to cafés unless you have friends
who work there, or if you are truly unemployable."
Frasier wannabes of this our North Atlantic

I don't drink coffee
these days
doctor

Basically Frasier likes to
talk about rhetoric (a lot)

There are people
who will pay you to play
the fool, for Socrates

they are his patients
they pay for the apt.

Frasier never did wear headphones
except when he subjected everyone
to his own problems on the radio with Roz

now I get this show

the sounds of doors opening and shutting
KACL static before the jingle

Radio has changed hasn't it?
Before wireless
there was serious prayer

before
FM radio
there was
monastic devotion
so the order of the day is

listen
to
yourself

Nothing Changes

Not like doctor stuff
what I'm trying to say is
come to life, Frasier!

Leave the histrionics in Seattle
I know what it's like: people want to talk to you
everybody knows your name & then you're feeling
inside-out because maybe you drank too much sherry
and the Guggenheim rejected you as a fellow

Frasier As Voyeur

Some people
aren't going to like you
& you can't win them over
unless you're patient or good
at something like playing piano

Not Public Oratory

Frasier
lift yourself out
of that resigned mug

consider it tragic, wanting to be a V.I.P.
meteorology &
Memories are like showers
you need them everyday

Weather is a mediocre talking point
epistemological ghost callers
instantaneous in basic operations

Frasier Is An Asshole

Wouldn't I just be
the worst neighbor ever
in Frasier's building

All dressed-up
but nowhere to go

I'm just another trash peddler
here to see Van Gogh's missing ear

I search the term
"self-aware is evil"

finding anecdotes
about murderous robots
w/satellite hook-ups

I'm feeling transparent
& the balance is right
Eros, Daphne...
a mendicant goes
to see the Oracle

It's clear to me how Roz
is not only inventing sneering
but has an interesting viewpoint
on theories of trust & accomplishment

This is my favorite time of the year
a time to let idols fall
argue all you want Frasier

Goodnight, Seattle

You lecture people
over arcane mediums

I have learned that
the only bad reputation
is the one you can't live up to

These children included the warriors
Paris like Frasier's Dad
all former/formal glory

Does the doctor really think
hygiene is as important
as a label presupposes?

Mental famine is what I get
usually at the 22 minute mark
as events become sincere

These tutorials in discretion
the nervous rush and pleasure in transience
a low profile sheltering no fidelity

The downside of keeping
folks guessing is that it is the same as
asking them for help

I'm holed-up again
in a not-so necessarily intimidating
but never apathetic "countenance"

doctors always speak necessarily
within the high boundaries of scare quotes

Rebound (Part 1)

Both Roz and Daphne
make decent muses

I really somehow distrust that symmetry
cropping up, it's fodder for a baptism
it's hard to watch them inspire action

You need religion sometimes, Frasier
somewhat relatable in elegant recourse
I call Roz again & this time I have no words

Unlike a piece of money
you spend time on money
on tacky Modernist sofas
& you're a hypocrite

Narrative Beyond Roz

I'd like an idea of what's wrong with me
as a submission to sentimental ideals

that seems to have a lot to do
with interior decorating
justifying hard class narratives

There must've been
in my dreams again
a Frasier-like messianic adversary
hurling insults like viscous confetti

An opinion on the death of art
might be
Frasier represents self-pity

Frasier says to me "You are poor, Ben
obstinate, foolhardy, and overall a blowhard
like Bartleby the Scrivener by Melville
look that up in your Funk & Wagnells!"

"You look pale Bartleby!"

I have not felt comfortable lately
when cruising through the aisle of my
local supermarket ever since
the appearance of this supermarket security
the products
they are not uncommon
so I don't try to eat like Frasier does
You can add my name to your list
I can't be anti-Frasier
I can only eat domestic cheese

How To Not Look Like Frasier

Exhibit A

Where is the love?
Who is your barber?
Is a calibration okay?

AWOL

MFA

ASMR

i.e. NPR

W.H. AARP

Hey Frasier

you talk like an ivory dealer
you seem to feel trapped
not having masculinity makes
you want to have masculinity

Has that ever happened before
where you meet someone
and then they travel somewhere
and you never see them again?

Once people want to know you
they discover you might be in trouble
they don't affect you or your privacy
but they demand your attention

Never Be Anti-Frasier/Never Be Anti-Cheers

for Door

I am not anti-Frasier
but it's getting cold out

Frasier is always on during the mornings
while I search for work I feel patronized
how about asking me if I'm OK tonight?

Thanks but no thanks for this expired medication
it's all my insurance could afford, more books to read
I'm an idiot I read them in the shower

(waterproof literary devices)
the wolf and lamb together
this is called the unreliable narrator
or the sublime 'backup'

then modesty is always
a useful one word anecdote

the dye has been set
Non-literary performative television
is true evidence of a leisure class

Caught in the Act

the recluse

versus

the transatlantic

the man of leisure

the soldered patrician

the most quotable

deer in the headlights

Intellectual aegis

plus circumstances of birth

divided by rain

equals what we talk about when

we talk about what we talk about

when time is taken away

How Much To Renew?

So what's the cure for pride?

bad acoustics still on sale

Since I Finally Figured Out How To Plug It In

The price tag on the bird
takes wholesome bites
into the inferior bird—Niles

Pigeon-lyric reverse pastoral
there was something I was
supposed to remember

Just ironing my clothes here
I'm talking about mutability
I put Frasier on subtitles

I did not have poise
at that time as
my clothing and speech
were influenced by Christianity

There was broken glass
under my feet
where we were sitting in the yard

Frasier tells Roz,
"You know in some cultures
this means we're married."

"When I hear the word
culture," she said, "I reach for my gun."

It Was A Dark & Stormy Day

"I'm a poet suffering from overinflated pride."
as the knit tatters on my bedspread
I became hungry, I think: "I'm so empty"

The first caller has married an organizer
"It was already written all over me
I have the same dumbass problems
as everyone else, I'm a sleepwalking transvestite
who also enjoys sleeping in the stairwells of parking
garages."

the overindulgent mentality staining the airwaves
pretty decent aristocracy high-class transatlantic
gentlemen, high-strung, giving the polite brush off

In the business of always
having something preceding
their histrionic floorshow

Madrigal Inconsequence

The primary chord shape
that starts almost
Picasso-like as in blue portraits
of starving guitar players
 in alcoves
I'm living inside that kind of painting
on Niles Crane's office wall

When I have to curl up
the index and the middle
left handed

When I have to make a staircase
like a G note but without the twang

Then switch

Antique Scout

It's breathtaking
Niles is breathless
he needs to take a breath
& all the clothes that
came out of catalogues are dull

The Brothers wear Brooks Brothers
The father in L.L. Bean
Daphne represents The Gap

Frame the pictures again
if he didn't look as bad to me
during the Fall Season—it's okay

the old sensations took over again
is that a crime?

A tactile awareness
must be sympathy
loss of past
successful indifference

What you've already learned
is to live without icons

The dimmer broke on my light
the one that came with the room
I live in now—it's not like their apt.

Niles is an anachronism
I am communicating through walls
to a book full of names for a foreign god
that doesn't exist
because people put too many words in its mouth













