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Writer Amy Fine Collins, designer Thom Browne and curator Andrew Bolton have champagne together at tea time at Collins' Upper East Side apartment and discuss the chicness of dachshunds, the prowess of cats, the prevalence of gay bears, and the sartorial splendor of Proust's Duchesse de Guermantes.



ON THE COVER: SARAH JESSICA PARKER AND ANDY COHEN
PHOTOGRAPHY: STEWART SHINING

ON SJP: BLACK WOOL ONE-SHOULDER DRESS, **ROLAND MOURET**. RED LACE BRA, **ERES**. STERLING SILVER BOX CHAIN NECKLACE, **DAVID YURMAN**. BLACK LEATHER CUFFS WITH PEARL DETAILS, **CHANEL**. SILVER ARROW CUFF, **PAMELA LOVE**. BLACK AND GOLD CUFFS, DIAMOND BRACELET, AND DIAMOND BROACH, **FRED LEIGHTON**. BLACK PAVÉ DIAMOND PYRAMID BRACELET, **VHERNIER**. BLACK LEATHER BELT WITH CRYSTAL CLOSURE, **JUDITH LEIBER** COURTESY OF NEW YORK VINTAGE. HOUNDS TOOTH TIGHTS, **FALKE**.

ON ANDY: BLACK WOOL PIQUE TIE WITH BLACK DIAMONDS, **TITLE OF WORK**. WHITE COTTON TUXEDO SHIRT AND BLACK WOOL/SILK 3-PIECE TUXEDO, **BOSS**. BURGUNDY COWSKIN BELT, **HUGO**.

CREDITS FOR THIS IMAGE ON PAGE 76.





ON SJP: BLACK WOOL V-NECK SHIRT DRESS, **AZZARO**. BLUE LACE BRA, **CLAVIN KLEIN**. 19K LARGE LANTANA WHITE GOLD-PAVE DIAMOND NECKLACE AND STERLING SILVER BOX CHAIN NECKLACE, **DAVID YURMAN**. CRYSTAL BROACH, SILVER PIN, AND DIAMOND BRACELETS, **FRED LEIGHTON**. SILVER LEAF BRACELET AND GOLD RINGS WITH CRYSTAL INSETS, **PAMELA LOVE**. SILVER CHAIN WATCH, **CHANEL**. PURSE, **VINTAGE CHANEL**. RED ART DECO BRACELET, **HOUSE OF LAVANDE**. BLACK DOTTED SHEER TIGHTS, **FALKE**.

ON ANDY: BLACK COTTON TUXEDO PLEATED SHIRT AND COBALT-BLACK MOHAIR DOUBLE BREAST TUXEDO, **DEVON SCOTT**. WHITE SOLID TWILL POCKET SQUARE, **THE TIE BAR**.

introduced a female audience to what had been, up to that point, a male-dominated network. And in truth, the show was a great success. But typically, female-oriented shows don't get that kind of credit. I have read almost nothing about the show over the years. So it was interesting to me that she wrote about having to defend it to all the people who didn't like it. That kind of shocked me. I was like, "People didn't like the show? People had strong reactions? There was negativity? What?" So for a minute my head was swimming around. But I thought it was really well written, and I was glad somebody else was saying it so I never have to. If it comes up in conversation, I can just pull out the article and say, "You can read this and get back to me with any further questions."

AC Do you have a favorite outfit you wore as Carrie Bradshaw?

SJP There was one in the second movie that was one of my favorites. It was a skirt that was actually meant to be a foundation from a Zac Posen dress. I wore a vintage "JADORE DIOR" T-shirt with it. But I have a bunch that I loved.

AC Where are they all? Do you still have them?

SJP I have everything that wasn't on loan. I have it all archived in a space in lower Manhattan. And photographed and documented. So it's hats, shoes, bras, underwear, skirts, dresses...

AC Is it hundreds or thousands?

SJP Oh, it's thousands.

AC You should do an exhibit. Would you ever if the time were right?

SJP I've been asked to. A couple of universities have asked. Some New York museums have asked to do it. I've just not wanted to do it yet. But let's talk about Andy. I want to talk about your mother. She plays such a huge role in your life—almost daily. And you write a lot about her in your memoir, *Most Talkative*.

AC Here's something you don't know. I'm trying to turn her into a YouTube star. We just launched a *Watch What Happens Live* YouTube channel, and she's doing segments which we tape on Skype, and then we edit. I think we're calling it "How's It Goin', Evelyn Cohen?"

SJP Does your dad Lou make an appearance?

AC Oh, by God. Lou! My mom is full-blast. Her whole face is in the Skype screen, and Lou's in the background. They're in their apartment "up there." They live in a high-rise, and they call it "up there." "It's raining up here. You have no idea what the clouds are doing!" One of the pieces is her disdain for me asking everyone if they're "down with the swirl." It took four years for Lou to turn to her and say, "What does 'the swirl' mean?"

SJP What does "down with the swirl" mean?

AC It means, would you date or do you date a black person?

SJP Ooooooh...swirl. And you ask guests on your show that?

AC I've asked many guests. Yes.

SJP How have I missed that?

AC It's my favorite viewer question. Viewers like to know. But I mean, what person is going to say, "No, I don't date black people." Can you imagine someone actually saying "Nooooooo!"

SJP Well, I mean, couldn't someone just say, "I haven't up to this point, but I would"?

AC Evelyn also has a whole section about crotches, too, and how I talk too much about crotches on my show. And we play far too many games about crotches. You know, "Andy Loves Crotch."

SJP I love that game, though.

AC Or "The Deadliest Crotch."

SJP I haven't seen that one.

AC I played that one with Sarah Silverman. It was very funny. We smashed things into her crotch. You know, you were on my first show. You called in. Talk about a good friend.

SJP You just celebrated how many shows?

AC It's been four years. Four-hundred-and-something episodes.

SJP I remember so well when you first started. You

AC It was celebratory, too, about what each person had going in his or her life.

SJP Little achievements and big ones.

AC I called you "The Charles Street Chatty Lady."

SJP We would meet at different people's houses.

AC And we would eat and drink lots of red wine and smoke a lot of cigarettes—which kind of brings me to *Housewives*. Do you want to talk about *Housewives*? Because I know that you do think about it. You watch almost all of them. I want to know—philosophically—what the show gives you.

SJP I feel conflicted even talking about it publicly.

AC I know. But we've talked about it before, so it's fine. We've broken that hymen, though I've never really actually broken one.

SJP Never? What do you mean, exactly?

AC I've never had penetration with a woman.

SJP Didn't you once tell me that in college you dated one and kind of kissed her or something?

AC Yeah, I dated a few girls. I did oral on a girl once. But that's not penetration. I'm a virgin with women. I'm a pureblood.

I'M NOT CHEAP. I'M THRIFTY. EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT FOR ANYTHING GROWING UP, MY FAMILY RAISED ME WITH THOSE VALUES. "DON'T EAT TOO MANY LOX. SAVE SOME FOR TOMORROW."

told me that Bravo wanted you to write this blog. And you would read your blog to me.

AC I would? How embarrassing. But even before my blogging we had our little club. That was amazing.

SJP AND AC (TOGETHER) The Nitwits!

AC We will never be able to go back to that time again.

SJP No. We never can.

AC It was when you were doing *Sex and the City*. It was me, you, John Benjamin Hickey, Joe Mantello...

SJP Matthew Broderick, Amy Sedaris...

AC Was K-Jo [Kristen Johnston] in it? Had she moved back to New York yet?

SJP She was in it.

AC I had a newsletter that was kind of like having a blog before there were really blogs.

SJP You were the secretary. No, the president!

AC I was the president, and Matthew was my deputy—or, as we called him, my "dep-booty." I used to write our newsletter. I still have them all somewhere. I would write my news about everybody and send it to the group. It was full of gossip about us.

SJP It was a circular.

SJP A pureblood?

AC Yes. That's called a pureblood. You will find that there are many gay men who are purebloods. And you know what that says to me? We always knew, sweetie. We always knew. We didn't want to be up in that business.

SJP You didn't choose. You knew. There's a difference. It's worth distinguishing that for people who think you can make a choice.

AC Yes. But back to *Housewives*. I think you're alternately completely horrified by it and disgusted by it, which I think is a lot of people's reactions to it. *The Real Housewives of Orange County* is something that has always specifically attracted you, even though I know that maybe everybody on it aren't people that you would want to be friends with or ever want to meet.

SJP Right.

AC So why do you watch it?

SJP The simple answer is that it's not unlike why I love watching *House Hunters International*. At the end of a long day—with work and kids—it is an escape to something so different and so foreign to me. I am