

## ► Working Together

At the 2022 AMAs, Swift thanked her “beautiful, brilliant friend” Lively for directing the video for her 2021 single, “I Bet You Think About Me.”



## ▼ So Supportive

Lively cheered on Kelce at the 2024 Super Bowl, six months before Swift promoted Reynolds' movie *Deadpool & Wolverine* on her Instagram.



Timberlake’s annual celebrity golf tournament.) Adds the first insider, “Taylor doesn’t want to be in the spotlight [right now].”

While the second insider notes that Swift “isn’t worried about the subpoenas,” she is trying to steer clear of the headline-making court case. (In addition to Swift, Reynolds’ good friend

and *Deadpool vs. Wolverine* costar Hugh Jackman may also reportedly be subpoenaed.) “Taylor’s biggest issue seems to be protecting herself emotionally and legally,” says the first insider. “She’s always been someone who values loyalty, and right now, she’s navigating how to preserve that while also setting boundaries in a complicated, high-stakes situation.”

It’s been hard for both women. “Blake was one of Taylor’s closest friends, and any shift in a tight bond like that is bound to hurt,” says the insider, noting that for Swift, it’s less about not trusting Lively and more about feeling uncertain in the wake of everything that’s happened. While the actress appeared to be in good spirits while recently promoting *Another Simple Favor*, the Lively source says she’s still “devastated by everything that’s happened in the last two years, including coming forward and the repercussions of filing the suit.”

## Making Amends

Lively has apologized to Swift for causing her unnecessary stress. “Taylor and Blake have spoken, and Blake [said she’s sorry],” says the first insider, noting that Swift isn’t holding a grudge. “Taylor is very forgiving, and in her eyes, she still considers Blake a friend. But the lawsuit is still ongoing, and until it’s resolved, [things are] difficult.” Lively is trying to stay positive. “Blake has considered Taylor a sister for many years,” says the Lively source. “They are on OK terms now, but the friendship is still wounded. She’s hopeful they’ll get back to how they were in due time.” **US**



## Blake Breaks Her Silence

Lively speaks out about her legal drama and her family’s painful past

While on the press tour for *Another Simple Favor*, Lively appeared on *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and seemed to address her legal battle with Baldoni for the first time. “Without going too into it, this year has been full of the highest highs and the lowest lows of my life,” she said, adding that she’s grateful she’s been given the opportunity to use her voice. “Many people don’t have the opportunity to speak... so I do feel fortunate that I’ve been able to.”

The sit-down came on the heels of her appearance at the Time100 Gala in late April, where she also acknowledged the lawsuit (“I have so much to say about the last two years of my life, but tonight is not the forum,” she said) and honored her mom, Willie Elain McAlpin, after revealing McAlpin had been viciously attacked by a “work acquaintance” before Lively was born. “I know the super-power of female triumph,” Lively said. “Never underestimate a woman’s ability to endure pain.”

## Rules of Disengagement

Do you need a friendship breather? Or is there a pal who needs space from you? Experts share their tips for navigating rocky ground

### Avoid Ghosting!

If you want a temporary friendship break, Dr. Karen Stewart says it’s best to “briefly discuss” your needs and boundaries (no calls or texts, for example), and, if possible, “offer a timeframe of when you feel you could reengage.”

### Respect Their Wishes

“If you’re on the receiving end of a friend who needs space, [give them what] they are asking for,” says Stewart. “Hear your friend out, and if an apology is warranted, I strongly suggest apologizing.”

### Make Good Use of Your Time Apart

Psychologist Dr. Monica Vermani advises people process their pain and focus on healing. “[Don’t] wallow in shame or self-pity... and resist the urge to discuss the details of your situation with others.”