

# EMILY IN PARIS

# **Netflix discussions**

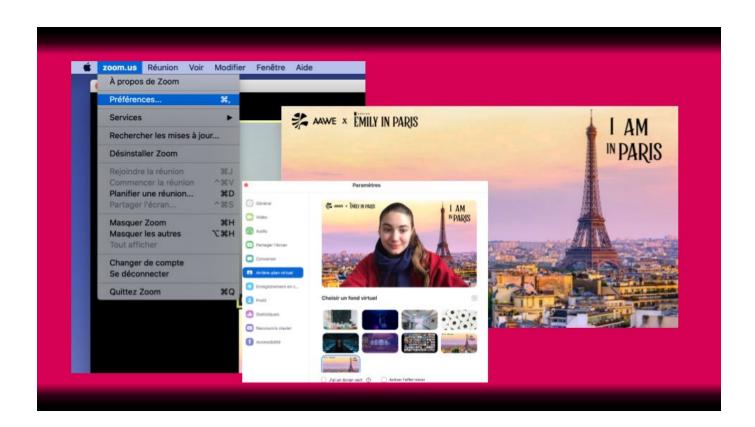
Have you watched Emily in Paris? Come chat about what you loved or hated, the stereotypes that are true...or not!

Hosts: Angela Hin & Karen Kyker

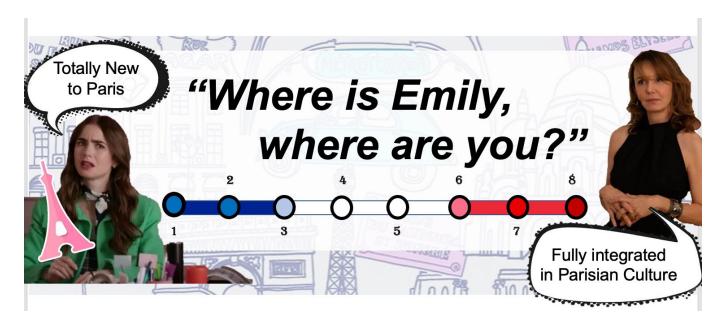
Topic: Emily in Paris Zoom

Time: Nov 7, 2020 05:00 PM Paris



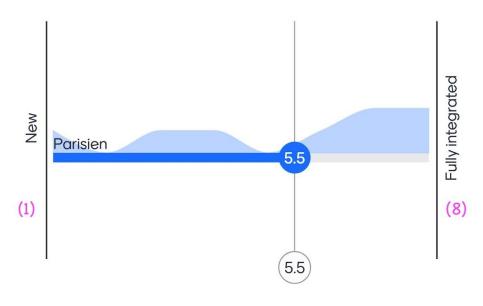


Paris Zoom Background with the quote "I'm in Paris" for hosts and participants available

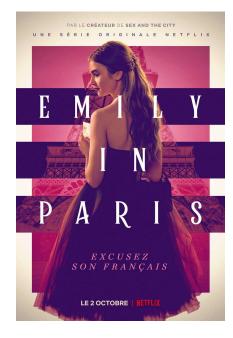


# Where are you on the Spectrum?

Mentimeter



On a spectrum of: totally new (1) to fully integrated in Parisian culture (8) the participants felt overall 5.5, so mostly integrated than really new to the city.



# The Story

"Emily in Paris" came out on October the 2nd on Netflix. It is the binge-watchable, rom-com set in City of Lights, Paris! The Netflix series was created by Darren Star — a.k.a. the television genius behind such hits as Beverly Hills, 90210, Melrose Place, Sex and the City, and Younger.

"Emily in Paris" follows the exploits of a young **American** woman who's recently relocated to the French capital from the USA. According to the Netflix synopsis, Lily Collins stars as the titular Emily, "an ambitious 20-something marketing executive from Chicago" who "unexpectedly lands her dream job in Paris when her company acquires a French luxury marketing company — and she is tasked with revamping their social media strategy." Viewers get to share Emily's

experiences vicariously, as well as all of the adventures and challenges she juggles, on top of the demands of her new job, and making friends, all while convincing her skeptical colleagues she actually knows what she's doing. Naturally, she'll also be "navigating new romances" along the way.





# **Discussion Topics**



## <u> Language</u>

Season one and 10 episodes after, Emily still doesn't know french... No effort to speak french... She needs to Google translate...

Learning French, or at least the very basics, is highly important if you plan on visiting a francophone country! Unlike Emily, you can easily get your French up to par before traveling to Paris! Emily complains about **how "difficult" French is** to her boss Sylvie in episode 1. We would have less trouble accepting this critique if she'd been able to say it in French... Although Emily is enrolled in a French learning program, we only see her in it briefly during early episodes. And, to be honest, we didn't notice an improvement toward the end of the season.

Throughout the whole show, French characters speak to each other in English on a regular basis, just because Emily is around. But this would never happen in real life if they're not specifically addressing an English speaker.

In episode 3, Emily says to her client Antoine, "Bonjour. I am très excitée to be here." But Julien corrects her, saying that excited actually means "horny". Emily uses the phrase "C'est la vie" multiple times in the show, but in real life, French people use this expression way less than you might think but they DO use it!

In the first episode of the show, Emily's boss and her coworker make fun of her by calling her "la plouc." Emily is confused and later finds out that the English translation is "the hick". Plouc is a



harsh way of describing someone whose style and lifestyle you consider boorish, and/or lacking in taste. It has strong classist connotations. A plouc would be more or less the equivalent of a hick in english, and it's a common stereotype applied both to Americans by the French, as well as to French people from smaller towns and the countryside by Parisians.

In Episode 6, fashion designer Pierre Cadault yells at Emily "ringarde!" because she's wearing an Eiffel Tower bag charm. The rest of the team is mortified and Emily is confused. Like plouc, ringard(e) has the same intensity of negative judgment and sounds more strident, like a slap in the face. It can also indicate that someone or something is out-dated, old school, or out of fashion.

The show has lots of fun on the play on words expecilly with sexual expressions: "petite mort" (orgasme) or the "Eiffel Tower" position demonstrated by Julien and Luc in the office.

## • **a** Housing

Emily is put up in a furnished apartment by her company at 1, Place de l'Estrapade, located just next to the Panthéon in the 5th arrondissement. The heroine leaves her luggage in a room next to the Pantheon, in a maid's room ... of 50 m2, a 3-room "maid's room" with a view they call à "chambre de bonne"...

Emily lives on the top floor in **apartment 501**, in rooms known as the chambres de bonne because they were once the servants quarters. Many chambres de bonne have since been converted into apartments or home offices. Yet an apartment number for Emily in 501 that is "pas possible" because the chambres de bonne must be on the 6th or 7th French floor. The building at 1, Place de l'Estrapade has 7 floors so Emily's apartment would be on the 7th floor.

**RDC** vs 1e floor / "C'est normal". As Emily struggles to adapt to even the most mundane of differences, like how the first floor is really the second floor in France. As viewers, Gabriel also lives in the same building on the fourth floor. Emily repeatedly gets confused and tries to enter Gabriel's apartment which would be the American fifth floor. "How is it possible to not know what floor you're on ?! The chambre de bonne are on the top floor... why does she get it wrong?" Hence, the cultural difference that spurs a romance.

## • Workspace

Showing up at Work 10-10h30? No that is an exaggeration! The french in general don't work as early in the morning as Americans may say but they do finish work very late.



The new PR girl, who they basically treat like an intern, would be put on a shared desk next to everyone else, and probably tucked away in the corner. Yet here Emily is, with her own separate area in an office space on her own, with a huge desk living life.

"In France, you don't arrive in a new place with your confidence to criticize everything without even analyzing how things work here"

Smoking in the office? We don't see that any more!

## • → Social Media

When we meet Emily, her Instagram handle is her own name, and she has 48 followers; the literal moment she gets to Paris, she swaps her handle to @emilyinparis, begins taking touristy photographs of bouquets of flowers and cheese and cafés and croissants, and, over the course of a few weeks, she becomes enough of an "influencer" to attract the attention of 25,000 strangers and several major brands. It's that Emily's Instagram feels almost bot-like.

Outside a French workout class, Emily spies a series of French Women smoking. "#Frenchworkout. #Smokin' bodies," she writes. She # on instagram with an (') that will not work.

Posts on the instagram of Pierre Cadault without going through the PR of the star...

## Relationships

Sexually Open when in Paris (?) **vs** Too hard to do Long Distance with stable boyfriend Doug from Chicago...

Quote by Garbielle: "We don't come to PAris to be Good"

Are All the Men on Emily in Paris Toxic? French men cheaters?

## • 🕴 🗀 Food & 👆 Culture

Idea: You can have fun (after confinement lockdown) and go to all the filmed locations

In Episode 1, Emily feels "so" Parisian by ordering a pain au chocolat.

The refuge of Emily Cooper, and cherished workplace of Gabriel, the restaurant "Les deux compères" appears very frequently in the series Emily in Paris. Although it is well located in the 5th district, the establishment is actually called **Terra Nera** and offers Italian cuisine.

Fun Fact:



The restaurant which lends its decor to the series has decided to offer a special menu for fans. A novelty that is sure to attract greedy spectators called Menu Emily in Paris for 39€. It is also right next to the bakery of the series.

Lots of **Chef** Cuisine and **Wine** references.

#### Kashion

The legendary costume designer **Patricia Field**, who was the brains behind the iconic wardrobe on Sex and the City, was also responsible for the gorgeous looks on this show too and she didn't disappoint. From tweed jackets to extremely pink ensembles and so many accessories, Emily became more of a style icon with every single episode. The wardrobe on the show was made up of contemporary French French favourites like Sandro and The Kooples to luxury iconic fashion houses like Chanel and Dior.

One of the most beautiful fashion looks in Emily in Paris was the black off-the-shoulder Alexandre Vauthier top with a black tulle skirt that Emily wore to one of the glamorous events in episode two. The black tulle ballgown must be a reference to SJP's tulle skirt in the credits for the show or the beautiful mint green dress Carrie wore in Paris.

A focus on **Fashion Week**: the **Pierre Cadeau** scene at Fashion Week is iconic. One of the wildest moments in Emily In Paris is the scene where Pierre Cadeau absolutely loses it and goes wild at Fashion Week. A respectable designer who has spent years in the industry being known as a bit shady and mysterious just wouldn't act this way. Lots of fantasy colors vs the dark blues and blacks that we notice in our day to day in the capital.

"We do see the famous beret pop up a lot!"

"I've noticed a lot of geometry in the outfits"

#### Music

The original soundtrack composed **90% of French Titles.** Of course, there is a cover of Edith Piaf, but the majority of the score is full of finds from young French electro-pop artists such as Kumisolo, Kid Francescoli or French 79. A number of them come from the catalog from Alter K, an independent publishing house. This label has acquired a real reputation in synchronization. They worked on 13 reasons Why, The Romanoffs, Riverdale, Homeland, The Handmaid's Tale, Gray's Anatomy...



We also have strong moments in homage to music. The episod at the Opera Garnier and the character of Mindy that is a performer. She sings Sia's "Chandelier" for an audition. Meanwhile, in another scene, Mindy sings Piaf's "La Vie en Rose." Surprisingly we didn't notice a scene or zoom on an "accordéon" in these 10 first episodes.

Other topics you can think of like transportation, #metoo ...

From Emily's baseball-loving (soon-to-be-ex) boyfriend to her boss Madeline Wheeler,, everyone in her orbit is white—there's no way to sugar coat it. And this doesn't end once she leaves Chicago. Throughout the season, Emily is surrounded by primarily white co-workers. The series Emily in Paris does boast a very **limited cast of non-white characters and actors**, including Emily's BFF, zipper heiress/nanny/aspiring singer Mindy Chen, as well as her co-worker Julien.



#### Fun Fact:

Emily's boss, *Madeline*, was the one that was supposed to go to Paris.

#### What you would have wanted to see in Emily in Paris?

- Rue Crémieux, one of the most beautiful streets in Paris, in the Gare de Lyon district. It
  is undoubtedly the most beautiful and popular street in Paris. Because it undoubtedly
  has a little air of Notting Hill, but it is especially its cheerful and colorful facades that
  make this street so popular.
- More of the Marais and outskirts of Paris (Ile-de-France): the series is too censored
  on the left bank of Paris (Rive Gauche). We do see Les Atelier Lumères but not much
  else on the Rive Droite.
- Emily doing paperwork/administrative...



## **PRESS**

World spectators respond to the series: Good Buzz and Bad Buzz ... From dressing up as Emily for Halloween to communities making fun of the series. With Memes, Facebook Groups, Emily in other cities, Emily during 2020... "Emily in Paris" was definitely <u>trending</u> during the month of October 2020!





# EMILY IN PARIS REAL



8 Emily In Paris Cliches Confirmed And Debunked By A Singaporean Who Lived In Paris

Pas si faux que ça?!

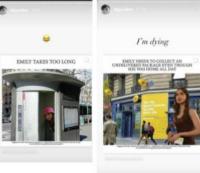
Emily in Paris : des clichés qui clashent ? Telerama





















We've showed you with the tweets, facebook posts, articles.. on Emily in Paris, that this series accumulates far too many clichés on the capital of France. Yet it has often been pointed out that "France is not just Paris", so to do justice to the rest of France, and even to the rest of the world, Topito asked Twitter to send American Emily to other places. The fanart that responded to this was fantastic!









- What have you seen going around?
- If "Emily in Paris" is seen broadly as a 'creative work', and then people respond to it in a variety of ways. How do these responses enrich our culture?
- Have any of your own responses to 'Emily in Paris' made you aware of anything new about yourself?

# Key P Takeaways

"You can play with the clichés and create a phenomenal bing watchable buzz."

Emily in Paris is obviously looking at a specific side of Paris, one of romanticism, adventure and honestly unbelievable wealth (how does a marketing exec own that much Chanel?!).

"I love to hate it"

"Escapism from election and covid"





# Other Series Recommended by Members of AAWE



## **Credits**

Hosts : Angela Hin and Karen Kyker

Communication : AAWE team

Slides & Summary Presentation : Angela Hin

Nank you to all the members for their participation or for reading