# Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds display subtle tension at TIME100 Gala amid legal battles



Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds appeared together at the TIME100 Gala on Thursday night, where they were widely seen on the red carpet as a glamorous Hollywood couple. However, body language experts have suggested that the pair’s interaction during the event revealed subtle signs of tension and complex dynamics beneath their poised exterior.

The couple's public appearance comes amid a period of significant legal and media pressure. Blake Lively, aged 37, is currently involved in two highly publicised controversies. She is engaged in a legal dispute with Justin Baldoni, her co-star from the film It Ends With Us, after accusing him last December of sexual harassment on set. Baldoni denied the allegations and subsequently filed a $400 million defamation lawsuit against Lively, her publicist, and Ryan Reynolds, all of whom have denied the claims. Simultaneously, Lively is embroiled in a public feud with journalist Megyn Kelly.

Judi James, a body language expert who spoke exclusively to DailyMail.com, analysed the couple’s red carpet conduct at the gala and interpreted various physical cues as evidence of an intricate and somewhat strained interaction. James noted how Lively appeared to take on the role of "director and choreographer" during their photo session, actively guiding and repositioning Reynolds. At times, she was seen gripping his arm, gesturing emphatically, and even rolling her eyes when Reynolds seemed hesitant. “Blake quite happily lets us know via her pointing and shrugging that she’s openly keen to get her reluctant looking husband to pose solo,” James explained. “Her fingers are splayed over his chest while her chin is tilted up to signal proud possession and a trophy-like adoration.”

Ryan Reynolds, 47, appeared compliant but also showed signs of reluctance and discomfort, using a closed-lip smile described by James as conveying modesty or irony. There was an instance where Reynolds attempted to step away from the pose, but Lively held onto him, placing her hand on his waist to suggest she was not finished with the photo session. When called for a solo photo, Lively appeared to resist, persisting in guiding his positioning and indicating to the photographers her preference for his stance. James summarised their interaction as “a red carpet performance with flashes of friction beneath the surface,” where “Blake wants him to lean in. Ryan wants to keep it low-key. She’s choreographing the moment — and he’s quietly resisting.”

The atmosphere surrounding the couple during the gala was further intensified by public reactions to Lively’s speech at the event, which sparked debate and criticism. Named one of TIME magazine’s 100 most influential people, the actress spoke at Jazz at the Lincoln Center, where the gala was held, and shared personal details about her mother’s history as a survivor of assault by a coworker. Lively recounted how her mother credited another woman’s broadcast about surviving a similar trauma with saving her life. “The woman painfully and graphically shared how she escaped. And because of hearing that woman speak about her experience instead of shutting down in fear and unfair shame, my mum is alive today,” Lively said.

She also took the opportunity to acknowledge “every man, including my sweet husband [Ryan], who are kind and good when no one is watching” and expressed solidarity with various communities fighting for safety. Despite the heartfelt tone, some critics viewed her discussion of her mother’s trauma as a calculated publicity move, especially given her prior silence on domestic violence issues while promoting the film It Ends With Us, which portrays an abusive relationship. One social media commentator wrote, “Oh so now she is using her Mother’s SA to be likable??? But in August she didn’t mention DV when promoting a movie about DV. Interesting…”

Further controversy unfolded on the red carpet involving Megyn Kelly, who vocally criticised Lively’s inclusion in the TIME100 list and her ongoing lawsuit against Baldoni. The conservative journalist, 54, expressed her disapproval in an impassioned interview with DailyMail.com, stating that Blake Lively “shouldn’t be here.” Kelly’s remarks added another layer to the multifaceted public scrutiny facing the actress at this moment.

The TIME100 Gala thus proved to be a complex setting where Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds presented an image layered with both camaraderie and underlying tension, a reflection perhaps of the challenging legal and media environment surrounding them.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)