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## Gayle King Grills 'It Ends With Us' Star: Team Blake or Team Justin?

### Description

Gayle King ignited further intrigue surrounding "It Ends With Us" when she posed a somewhat uncomfortable question to Brandon Sklenar regarding his loyalty amid the ongoing legal turmoil involving Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni.

When Sklenar, who portrays Atlas, Lively's other love interest in the film, appeared on "CBS Mornings" on Monday, February 17, King placed him in an awkward position by directly inquiring, "Are you Team Blake or Team Justin?"

Demonstrating his professionalism, Sklenar tactfully replied, "I'm Team It Ends With Us."

Brandon Sklenar on "CBS Mornings." CBS Mornings

Gayle King questioning Brandon Sklenar on "CBS Mornings."

Undeterred by his ambiguous response, King pressed on, asking how he was coping with the lawsuits involving the 37-year-old Lively and the 41-year-old Baldoni, who directed and co-starred as Ryle, the other romantic lead.

Rather than engage with the controversy, Sklenar adeptly redirected the discourse, emphasizing the film's core message. "I want people to remember why we made the movie and what it represents, keeping the focus on its significance," he remarked.

He elaborated on the film's thematic weight, rooted in the harrowing subject of domestic violence. "Someone very dear to me has endured a similar experience to what [Lively's character Lily] faces, and I have supported her throughout that challenging journey. Therefore, this movie holds profound meaning for both of us," he asserted.

"It was one motivating factor for me to take on this role, as it empowered her to transform her life," Sklenar continued, lamenting the diversion of attention from the film's ethos to the surrounding legal disputes.

Last year, Lively filed a lawsuit against Baldoni, alleging sexual harassment and asserting he had orchestrated a public smear campaign against her, to which Baldoni responded with a countersuit for \$400 million, accusing the couple of defamation and extortion—claims that both Lively and Reynolds have vehemently denied.

Brandon Sklenar alongside Jenny Slate and Colleen Hoover, showing solidarity with Lively amidst her allegations.

Sklenar, along with co-star Jenny Slate and author Colleen Hoover, voiced their support for Lively following the initial claims. Meanwhile, the upcoming trial between Lively and Baldoni is scheduled for March 9, 2026, yet Lively continues to maintain a public presence.

She recently attended the "SNL 50" anniversary special to support her husband, Ryan Reynolds, who made



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light of the legal situation during a comedic skit.

Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively at the "SNL 50" anniversary special.

Insiders have indicated that this public appearance could potentially be leveraged by Baldoni's legal team. Interestingly, while Lively expressed initial reservations about attending, she ultimately relished the opportunity, reflecting that she and Reynolds have no regrets regarding their participation.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Turmoil** /'tɜːr.mɔɪl/ (noun): A state of great disturbance confusion or uncertainty.
2. **Coping** /'kɒp.ɪŋ/ (verb): Dealing effectively with something difficult.
3. **Significance** /sɪg'nɪf.ɪ.kəns/ (noun): The quality of being worthy of attention; importance.
4. **Lamenting** /lə'men.tɪŋ/ (verb): Expressing sorrow or regret for something.
5. **Allegations** /,æ.l.ɪ'geɪ.ʃənz/ (noun): Claims or assertions that someone has done something illegal or wrong.
6. **Empowered** /ɪm'pəʊərd/ (verb): Given the authority or power to do something.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Who directed and co-starred in the film "It Ends With Us"?  
Option: Blake Lively  
Option: Justin Baldoni  
Option: Brandon Sklenar  
Option: None of the above
2. What is the core message of the movie "It Ends With Us" according to Brandon Sklenar?  
Option: Focus on legal disputes  
Option: Support domestic violence victims  
Option: Defend defamation claims  
Option: None of the above
3. When is the trial between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni scheduled?  
Option: March 9, 2026  
Option: April 17, 2022



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Option: February 29, 2024

Option: June 5, 2023

4. Who did Brandon Sklenar show solidarity with amidst the allegations?

Option: Ryan Reynolds

Option: Jenny Slate

Option: Colleen Hoover

Option: Blake Lively

5. What was one motivating factor for Brandon Sklenar to take on his role in the movie?

Option: Personal experience with domestic violence

Option: Financial gain

Option: Celebrity endorsements

Option: Legal disputes

6. What is the topic of the film "It Ends With Us" rooted in?

Option: Romantic comedy

Option: Domestic violence

Option: Legal drama

Option: Science fiction

### True-False

7. Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds have no regrets regarding their participation in the legal disputes.

8. Justin Baldoni was accused of orchestrating a public smear campaign against Blake Lively.

9. The film "It Ends With Us" was released in 2026.

10. Brandon Sklenar voiced his support for Justin Baldoni.

11. Blake Lively attended the "SNL 50" anniversary special without any reservations.

12. Jenny Slate is one of the co-stars of the movie "It Ends With Us."

### Gap-Fill

13. Justin Baldoni responded with a countersuit for \$400 million, accusing the couple of defamation and



extortion, to which both Lively and Reynolds have vehemently \_\_\_\_\_.

14. The trial between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni is scheduled for March 9, \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Blake Lively recently attended the "SNL 50" anniversary special to support her husband, Ryan \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Insiders have indicated that Blake Lively's public appearance could potentially be leveraged by Justin Baldoni's legal \_\_\_\_\_.

17. Brandon Sklenar's motivation to take on his role in the movie was rooted in empowering a dear one to transform their \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Brandon Sklenar redirected the discourse to emphasize the movie's significance instead of engaging with the legal \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Justin Baldoni 2. Support domestic violence victims 3. March 9, 2026 4. Blake Lively 5. Personal experience with domestic violence 6. Domestic violence

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. denied 14. 2026 15. Reynolds 16. team 17. life 18. disputes

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What is the process of breathing new life into something called?

Option: Revitalizing

Option: Established

Option: Emphasize

Option: Tribute

2. What are assertions made without proof called?

Option: Empowered



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- Option: Lamenting  
Option: Allegations  
Option: Posthumously
3. What is another word for skillfully made or constructed?  
Option: Crafted  
Option: Contenders  
Option: Cerebral  
Option: Antagonists
4. What type of film presents facts and information about a subject?  
Option: Struggles  
Option: Documentary  
Option: Intervene  
Option: Deterioration
5. What is the act of giving special importance or attention to something?  
Option: Revitalizing  
Option: Tribute  
Option: Emphasize  
Option: Turmoil
6. What is an award given to someone after their death called?  
Option: Empowered  
Option: Accolades  
Option: Posthumously  
Option: Eligibility
7. What is a warning or indication of a future event called?  
Option: Empowered  
Option: Foreshadow  
Option: Artistry  
Option: Sabotage
8. What describes things that are connected or related to each other?  
Option: Reflecting  
Option: Interconnected  
Option: Antagonists  
Option: Incarcerated
9. What is expressing sorrow or grief about something called?  
Option: Empowered  
Option: Lamenting



- Option: Allegations
- Option: Contenders

10. What is the act of deliberately destroying or damaging something?

- Option: Tribute
- Option: Crafted
- Option: Cerebral
- Option: Sabotage

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

- 11. The company was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1995 and quickly became a market leader.
- 12. During difficult times individuals use different strategies for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ of historical events helps in analyzing their impact.
- 14. Her new role \_\_\_\_\_ her to make important decisions on behalf of the team.
- 15. The concert was a fitting \_\_\_\_\_ to the legendary musician.
- 16. His actions were a way of \_\_\_\_\_ his innermost thoughts and feelings.
- 17. The lack of maintenance led to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the old building.
- 18. In the upcoming tournament there are several strong \_\_\_\_\_ for the championship title.
- 19. To participate in the competition athletes must meet the \_\_\_\_\_ criteria.
- 20. The novel's plot revolves around the conflict between the protagonist and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. A leader who held the position before the current one.
22. To confirm or give support to a statement or finding.
23. A state of great disturbance confusion or uncertainty.



24. To give someone the authority or power to do something.
25. Expressions of praise or admiration.
26. Occurring awarded or appearing after the death of the person concerned.
27. Carefully created or constructed.
28. Involving intelligence rather than emotions or instinct.
29. To be confined in prison; imprisoned.
30. To be a warning or indication of a future event.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Revitalizing 2. Allegations 3. Crafted 4. Documentary 5. Emphasize 6. Posthumously 7. Foreshadow 8. Interconnected 9. Lamenting 10. Sabotage

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Established 12. Coping 13. Significance 14. Empowered 15. Tribute 16. Reflecting 17. Deterioration 18. Contenders 19. Eligibility 20. Antagonists

**Matching sentence:** 1. Predecessor 2. Corroborate 3. Turmoil 4. Empowered 5. Accolades 6. Posthumously 7. Crafted 8. Cerebral 9. Incarcerated 10. Foreshadow

## CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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