TRANSCRIPT FOR PODCAST EPISODE 179-PARTNER UP

I'm Jill Baughan, and you're listening to the podcast called Find Joy...No Matter What.

This is Episode 179.

If you're in a tough place right now, your joy may seem like it's hiding--or gone.

I understand. But it's still there, I promise, just waiting to be resurrected. And this podcast is designed to help you do just that...no matter what else is going on in your life.

For just a few minutes each week, I'll tell you a story--one that just might inspire a way to uncover a piece of joy you might be looking for. Then, we'll consider how it might speak to your life, because even though you'll hear quite a few of my stories during our time together, I believe you'll find your own in every one of mine.

Finally, I'll offer a benediction to send you into your day--or into your night.

So. If you're up for doing joy shots with a friend today...have a listen.

You, like me, may not be a "gotta have somebody to do everything with" person. Some things I actually enjoy doing alone. But then, whether you're an introvert, extrovert or ambivert, there are times when we all need a little company, when we all need the benefit of teaming up with another human.

Think about it. Though each person (that includes you) is gifted standing alone, we can generate a unique chemistry with another person that just doesn't exist in the solitary.

Remember that 90's song by Rob Base and DJ EZ Rock? "It takes two to make a thing go right…It takes two to make it outta sight." Much truth there. (If you don't know the song, click the link in the show notes. I promise it will live in your head long after you wish it didn't.)

Ansel Pereira, writing for *Reel Rundown* says, *Famous duos have inspired and influenced people from all walks of life. Be it music, movies, television, history, literature, food, sports, business, anime, art, dance, video games or any other category, dynamic pairings have raised the benchmark to a whole new level.*

When two individually dynamic entities combine together, he says, *the result is an unforgettable pairing. In the realms of fiction and non-fiction, duos have captivated minds and hearts with their sheer presence.*

Why? Well, for one thing, duos provide contrast.Pereira says, *It's the uncharacteristic elements of two distinctively unique identities that make duos special. Duos complement each other in different ways bringing a sense of organic chemistry that is lovable and relatable.*

Think about Lucy and Desi. Andy Griffith and Barney Fife.

Some of the oddest pairs, writes Pereira, *make great character duos. When two people or two things come together and jointly develop a unique identity, they become exceptional pairs that grab attention.*

For instance, Shrek and Donkey. Woody and Buzz Lightyear. Thelma and Louise. Fred and Ethel. Sonny and Cher. Scooby Doo and Shaggy. Bert and Ernie. C-P30 and R2D2. Batman and Robin. Romeo and Juliet. Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner. The Captain and Tenille, for crying out loud.

So what makes a partnership actually work?

According to Pereira, *Diverse attributes of two people or two things combined in productive manner make a partnership work. The sizzling chemistry in many creative partnerships owes to mutual admiration. Communication and understanding is the key element in a partnership.*

Right. Like with my brother and me.

I adored my brother, Ted, when I was little, and thought he knew practically everything. (He was a great purveyor of valuable information, such as "Robbers live in your closet.") So when he decided to take his magic act on the road (he, starring as The Magician, the illusionist, the David Copperfield of the 60's), I begged to be his assistant.

This important job consisted of him getting all the glory and me being what pretty much amounted to a servant. When he would clap his hands twice and shout, "ASSISTANT!" I would instantly appear from offstage, bounding in to bring him whatever the next trick called for—usually from an expansive collection of scarves, magic wands, top hats, marked playing cards, fake rabbits, rubber chickens, and the like.

We played the usual places: old people's parties, family gatherings, old people's parties, church banquets, old people's parties, and—our most celebrated gig—the Bozo the Clown Show. Yes, we were actually on TV. (HOW DID THAT EVEN HAPPEN?) WKJG Channel 33 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was heaven!

After a while, though, Ted became restless. Tired of pouring fake milk into trick glasses, he was anxious to move into the bigger leagues (if you can actually get "bigger" than Bozo the Clown). He decided one day—after watching one too many illusionists on TV—that he was ready to try some serious levitation…and I was to be the levitee.

I was ecstatic. I could hardly wait to levitate, even though I didn't know what it meant.

When I found out that he was going to suspend me in midair, I backed off a little, but then decided it was better than being sawed in two, so I consented. He did explain to me then, that we

were just going to give the *illusion* of suspending me in midair. All we had to do was figure out how.

And after some thought, he came up with a plan.

First, I was to lie down on the piano bench. He then found two yardsticks for me to hold, one in each hand with my arms at my sides, and a big shoe to put on the end of each yardstick. Then he draped a blanket over me so all you could see was my head and these enormous clodhoppers sticking out the other end.

When he shouted, "ASSISTANT! RIIIISE!!!" that was my cue to crane my neck up toward the ceiling while simultaneously lifting the yardsticks with the shoes on the far ends, so it would appear I was suspended mysteriously in midair.

We thought it was a fine trick and quite convincing. But when you do a run-through for your parents, and you finish and turn around only to see them with their faces all contorted, which you know to be a sign of repressed laughter, it certainly knocks the wind out of your sails.

We always considered it one class act that never quite made it big. However, making it big is not a prerequisite for fun. And neither one of us could have done it alone. We were a "sizzlin'" duo, all right.

Some acts were never meant to be solo.

Consider my friend Sandy and me. I've told you in previous episodes about how we both agree that it's fine to dress up by yourself and pay a few folks a visit at Halloween, but the impact is significantly more celebratory when what should appear on your doorstep but TWO Wonder Womans, two flamingoes, two chickens, two Snow Whites?

My cousin Emily and I could have gone to do goat yoga separately, but it was so much more fun doing goat-topia together. And by the way, ask Emily's twins, Sam and Weezie, how much more mischief and fun you can get into as a twosome than a onesome.

The impact on you and those around you is magnified with the chemistry of "together."

So. Remember our season of isolation during the pandemic? We missed human contact so much. And how many times did we say and hear others say to each other, "When this is all over, we're going to do X together!"

Have we? Sometimes. But not all the time. Because, by and large, we got busy being busy in pretty short order.

Is there someone that you keep promising yourself, "I have got to call so and so and do X together"? Just one person? For fun or music or work or service or all those.

Because what would each be without the other? Whole, complete people for sure—but the chemistry of two can exponentially crank up the good times.

And so my friend,

May you know the wonder of teaming up;

May you invite someone to journey with you somewhere extraordinary;

And when you do, may you find, to your great joy, that sometimes, “It takes two to make a thing go right.”

Thanks so much for joining me.

If you know people who might delight in being part of a duo, please share this podcast with them, and subscribe yourself on iTunes, or wherever you listen to podcasts. Or you can go to my website at jillbaughan.com, click on a podcast episode and sign up to receive episodes in your inbox. Just don't miss a single one, because I so look forward to being with you again soon.

Partner up, my friend. And always, always remember, if you go looking for joy, you'll most likely find it.

Till next time...

NOTE:
Ansel Pereira.”The 500 Greatest Duos of All Time.” *Reel Rundown.* March 14, 2023.
https://reelrundown.com/misc/Greatest-Duos-of-All-Time