

TURNING POINT

I, Claudia: Model behavior

IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE FAIRY tale, the Prince of Fortune kisses a German Sleeping Beauty, and, within a blink, the attractive blond awakens and becomes the grandest model of them all — amazon-tall, rich and famous.

"And now my passport is a wreck," smiles super-Fräulein Claudia Schiffer, the 20-year-old cover girl just back from Africa, the French Antilles, Australia, Thailand and Morocco. She'll go anywhere for a \$50,000-per-photo shoot.

Not bad for the daughter of a small-town lawyer in Rheinberg, Germany — the oldest of four — who dreamed of becoming a lawyer, just like Dad.

"I was a very shy, very good German girl," she says demurely, "the tallest in my class," a German giraffe sprouting to 6 feet in her midteens, and bearing a startling resemblance to the young Brigitte Bardot.



GLENN PLASKIN

"Some boys," she giggles, "went crazy over me, but I wasn't a vain girl and my mother never told me I was beautiful."

That all changed the fateful night 16-year-old Claudia drove with friends from Rheinberg to Dusseldorf for a night of discoing at the popular "Checkers" nightclub. "We were dancing and having a lot of fun when," she pauses, smiling, "it happened," the appearance of Michel Levatton, owner of a French modeling agency named Metropolitan.

"This stranger came up to me and said: 'I'm going to make you a model.' I thought: 'Oh, sure, maybe modeling underwear in your apartment.' I just laughed him off. But he was persistent and kept following me around. Finally, I told him he could call my parents."

The Schiffers soon sent Claudia off to Paris to do test shots. "I was sure I'd be sent back to Germany fast once Michel saw the photos, but I was very, very surprised by what I saw. With makeup, I looked older — really good."

To say the least, Little Miss Schiffer debuted at the top, on the cover of French Elle — "I was smiling on ev-



COVER STORY: Claudia Schiffer

ery newspaper kiosk in Paris," she beams — and since then she has done roughly 100 magazine covers a year, earning her more than \$1 million.

Schiffer, who in a recent, widely seen gig as the model for Guess Jeans appeared barely dressed in scooped-out necklines, wearing mostly facial expressions of sexual ecstasy, is asked what happened to that nice young girl who wanted to become a lawyer? Who is that woman in those pictures? "That's not me, definitely not," she insists. "When I put on the makeup, the bikini, the false eyelashes, I get into the mood and become a different person. I'm acting; I enjoy being 'the other woman' — but it's not me."

But Schiffer has been changed by her experience. "Sure. I'm much more secure and confident, more mature. And I've become more suspicious about men. I have one boyfriend," she confides, a 6-foot-4-inch model, "and one is enough."

The biggest lesson of all for the world's most sought-after body and face? "The look on your face doesn't mean anything. When you open your mouth, that's what's real."

ASK DR. BROTHERS

Caging the green-eyed monster

DEAR DR. BROTHERS: I'VE noticed that my 8-year-old son and his 10-year-old sister are often jealous of each other despite the fact that my wife and I have tried to do everything we could to avoid this. Is there anything parents can do to help their kids overcome such destructive feelings? — R.K.

Dear R.K.: Teach children early in life that you and your wife's attention is to be shared with each other, with other people and with other demands and activities. It's harmful to teach youngsters that they're the center of the world, and those who are spoiled in this manner are more likely to be jealous both as children and as adults.

Build your children's self-esteem because jealousy is often rooted in

low self-esteem.

Dear Dr. Brothers: I see addictive patterns in my 15-year-old, although she's a wonderful student, a darling girl and has no really terrible habits — so far. Is there such a thing as an addictive personality and, if so, what are the clues? — G.C.

Dear G.C.: While there's probably no single set of psychological characteristics that embraces all addictions, there seem to be common elements. A recent report prepared for the National Academy of Sciences found there are "significant personality factors" that contribute to addiction: impulsive behavior, difficulty in delaying gratification, an antisocial personality and a disposition toward sensation seeking.

Her next move is chuck-mate

DEAR ANN: THE WOMAN FROM Louisiana who offered her husband to anyone who would take him, described his virtues: a good family man, churchgoing, in excellent physical condition, who doesn't drink, smoke or gamble. Then she listed his flaws: mean, selfish, critical, deceitful, miserly, demanding, rude, vain, inflexible, unforgiving and, she added, "He sucks the joy out of life on a daily basis." She has stayed with him 40 years.

Anyone who wants that man's twin brother can find him in Cleveland. I married him. As an added incentive, he plays the piano. No notice necessary. I can have him packed and ready immediately. One caveat: no deposit and no return.

— Also Fed Up

Dear Fed: I think you're stuck with your husband, dearie. I have at least 12,000 letters on my desk from readers who would like to unload their spouses. Read on:

From Dallas: My mate of 30 years presents herself as a dedicated wife but her real dedication is to her father. He is a tyrant and a hypocrite who has interfered in our marriage from day one. Sometimes, Ann, it's the husband who needs to be rescued.

St. Petersburg: "Louisiana" has a good many soul sisters. My husband had every fault she mentioned plus a few more. He died last June, and God forgive me, I sang to myself all the way home from the cemetery.

Chicago: "Louisiana" lists her husband's shortcomings but doesn't say a word about her own. I'll bet her husband has been working his buns off for 40

years to provide for her. I've met women like that. The best thing they do is complain.

Waco, Tex.: I saw myself in Louisiana's letter, only I did something about my lousy life. After 35 years of hell, I enrolled in nursing school and am making a wonderful life for myself. My big mistake was not doing it years ago.

Richmond, Va.: This is a letter of gratitude to "Louisiana." Her letter reminded me that I never thanked you, Ann, for giving me the courage nine years ago to leave my cheating, lying husband. I never thought I could make it alone, but you said, "Go for it" — and I did.

Columbus, Ga.: Back in the mid-'70s when so many men were dumping their wives, I kept praying someone would run off with my husband. I tried dressing him up and sending him to places where lonely women gathered. An hour later he'd be back. Too many women settle for a warm body without realizing that with it comes his laundry, the dishes and a lifetime of boredom.

Oakland: "Louisiana" was singing my song. I showed that column to my ex-husband when he dropped by and as usual, he went into a state of total denial. Nothing is ever his fault. Praise God, I left him a year ago. Single parenting is hard but it beats living with a man who is never wrong and makes you feel like nothing.



ANN LANDERS

Feeling pressured to have sex? How well-informed are you? Write for Ann Landers' booklet "Sex and the Teenager." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$2.65 (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.

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