

# “the real NICOLE”

By *Bewitched* director Nora Ephron

➔ So what is Nicole Kidman really like? people ask me now that I've made the movie *Bewitched* with her. Sometimes I say: She's not at all what you think. ➔ And people say, *but she's very tall, right? And she always looks perfect.* And I say, yes, she is very tall and she does always look perfect, but she's goofy and likes to eat cake and stay out late, and she has a great giggly laugh. ➔ And people say, *what happened between her and Tom?* I say, I don't have a clue. Although I do know what happened between Brad and Jen. ➔ And people say, *what is her life like?* And I say: I don't know how she does it, because half the time



WHEN NORA MET NICOLE From left: Michael Caine, Kidman and Ephron on the set of *Bewitched*

she's being stalked by paparazzi, but she actually seems to be having a huge amount of fun. It's as if she's finally smelling the roses after all those years in the bubble of Tom Cruise's stardom. ➔ *How is she to work with?* A joy. A breeze. A delight. ➔ *But what is Nicole Kidman really like?* they say. I have no idea. But I love her. And, I always say, you would too.



*“Instead  
of thinking,  
will people  
want to  
cast me when  
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I think, am  
I still going  
to be  
interested  
in doing  
this?”*

Top, Chanel; jeans, Sacred Blue; earrings, choker, Neil Lane Collection; belt, Amici Accessories. See Go Shopping for more information.

Editor: Maggie Mann; Hair: Kerry Warn for John Frieda at the Milton Agency; Makeup: Carol Shaw for Lorac Cosmetics; Manicure: Julie Ross.

Photograph by Mark Abrahams

**NORA EPHRON:** One of the things I want to talk about is this label you have of being perfect. And I know you're not.

**NICOLE KIDMAN:** So not. I don't know how I got labeled with that, to be honest.

**NE:** Are you being honest? Because you do look sort of perfect most of the time—even right now, in jeans.

**NK:** No, really, I'm not. Deep down inside, I'm so ridiculously normal. I like to go to dinner parties and play games—I much prefer that to a nightclub. The other night I went to this nightclub in New York City called Bungalow 8, thinking this is the kind of thing I'm supposed to enjoy. I was stuck in a booth and couldn't get out. Someone was trying to talk to me and I was yelling, "Don't bother—I can't hear a word you're saying." I sat there and drank lots of cosmopolitans, then went home and thought, what happened?

**NE:** Sounds like my kind of place—I'd love it.

**NK:** I'll take you there.

**NE:** So how often do you say to yourself, if *only* I weren't Nicole Kidman? You are very famous at this moment.

**NK:** There are times when you feel it more than others—for me, it's when I'm in Europe. I remember being an anonymous backpacker, discovering cities and walking along. I still get to travel, but now it's darting in and out of cars. So when I think about that, I do feel a sense of loss. But hey, I can get into Bungalow 8.

**NE:** You certainly can. I saw Shirley MacLaine yesterday and she said when the two of you went out to dinner during *Bewitched*, people would fall all over her in the restaurant—until they saw you. Then that was the end of her.

**NK:** Oh, stop.

**NE:** I don't mean to make a big deal; I'm just telling you what she said.

**NK:** Well, I don't notice, partly because I need glasses and I've never been able to get a contact lens into my eye. People probably think, why is she ignoring me? It's because I can't see! Without my glasses, I'm like that character who walks into walls in *How to Marry a Millionaire*.

**NE:** Without tooting anyone's horn, there are lots of great comic moments like that in *Bewitched*. People are going to be stunned when they see how funny you



**YUP, SHE DOES FUNNY, TOO** Kidman's T-shirt says it all in *Bewitched*.

“When you hit your thirties, you need your girlfriends.”

are. You are a revelation in this movie!

**NK:** I thought, oh my God, how am I going to be funny opposite Will Ferrell? *You* created this enormous environment of safety.

**NE:** But anyway...

**NK:** Oh, Nora, you're hopeless with compliments—you're worse than me!

**NE:** Moving right along...the person you play in *Bewitched* is very much like you—accessible yet very mysterious.

**NK:** I'll share anything in my work, but in real life I get asked a lot of questions I can't believe people are asking; just the most personal things about my life, which I find slightly distasteful. So I've had to learn not to answer them. Now I prickle when people invade.

**NE:** Actually, the first time we ever met about *Bewitched*, we were at dinner at Nobu in New York City and this woman walked over to our table and said to you, "I so admire you for the way you conducted yourself during your divorce." Does that still happen a lot?

**NK:** It does—so many women have gone through it. We're all linked and that's very comforting. I was in a very bad way for quite a while after my divorce: I was deeply, deeply unhappy, humiliated and upset, and one of the hardest things about the experience was knowing no amount of love I gave Bella and Connor could change it.

**NE:** I know. I was so naive when I had my first child. I thought, life is going to be so swell for the children I have—what will they ever have to write about? Then, of course, I got divorced and my kid was packing a suitcase at three years old.

**NK:** My kids were young too. I think divorce is very tough on children under the age of seven or eight.

**NE:** I don't know if there's a good age for it.

**NK:** Really?

**NE:** I don't. So how do you balance being a parent and a working woman?

**NK:** Nora.

**NE:** I'm sorry to ask you this. But it happens to be one of the things *Bewitched* is about—how women can be powerful and nurturing at the same time.

**NK:** You do it with difficulty. I'm fortunate enough to have a 12-year-old and a 10-year-old who cut me a lot of slack—they are extremely forgiving

and understand the lifestyle that comes along with acting—but it's still really hard. My kids spent a lot of years getting schooled in trailers and hate coming to the set now, because they find it boring. So I try to find other ways to keep them occupied. On Friday nights when I was busy filming *Bewitched*, I'd organize cooking classes for them. When I'd come home we'd eat homemade gnocchi. As a single mom, you're always juggling.

**NE:** Who helps you out with the kids?

**NK:** Tom and I have joint custody, so we switch on and off. And I lean on my family enormously. In the world in which I exist, you look for people who completely understand you—for me, that's my parents, sister and brother-in-law. With them, I can say, feel, do anything. Thank *God* I have a sister—I fly back to Australia just to be with her. When I'm there, we'll get up at 7 A.M., drive to her house and spend the entire day and night there. I'm always saying to her husband, "You've got two wives—just not the benefits!"

**NE:** It's interesting: So many actors are unusually close to their families. I suppose it's because you really need people you can trust when anything you say can end up in the papers. It's such a short hop from your life to Page Six [*New York Post's* gossip column]. How old were you when you met Tom?

**NK:** I was 21.

**NE:** God. Did you ever think you would get married so young?

**NK:** I *wanted* to. Maybe it was a bit of retaliation against my mother, who was a strong feminist and encouraged her children to be smart and independent and not to need anyone. From the age of 17, I desperately wanted to have a baby, to be a mother, to be married. But because I was just so young—

**NE:** And because you married someone who was—

**NK:** Very, very famous and very private, I didn't know how to cope. Part of me shut down, put up barriers and became very insular. It was very hard to keep friendships alive during that period.

**NE:** How has that changed since then?

**NK:** I've been able to keep my female friendships ongoing, which is so important. In your teens, you're trying to find your girlfriends, in your twenties you're filtering through them, and when you hit your thirties you *need* them. Recently I went on a publicity tour and asked one of my oldest girlfriends to come along. Being together was like going back to when we were teenagers—except now we're traveling the world together!

**NE:** You've said that your mother thinks you should stop acting at some point and settle down to a normal life.

**NK:** She'll say things like, "You can't always drive through Paris in a sports car," which is something she heard in a song somewhere: "And I realize I'll never drive through Paris in a sports car..." My mother hears it in my voice when I'm lonely or unhappy. Honestly, I *still* think she wishes I had a different career. She's always telling me to quit.

**NE:** You mean, stop working?

**NK:** *Mmm*, and do something else.

**NE:** Like what?

**NK:** Oh, get my degree in philosophy. She thinks I'm too sensitive and my emotions are too raw for this industry.

**NE:** But that's what makes you an amazing actor, I think.

**NK:** But at the same time it's not so conducive to having a good life—the white picket fence, you know?

**NE:** Well, what have you learned from your own mother that you'd like to pass on to your daughter?

**NK:** To have an opinion and strength of conviction. Well, she has that already in direct reaction to me. I like feminine things, and she won't go *near* a dress. She thinks I'm too girly. The other day we went to a basketball game and I said, "Bella, can you please put

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# 5 myths about Nicole (shattered by Nora!)

## 1. She's standoffish. ▶

"People think of her as, oh, *Nicole Kidman*," says Ephron. "But she's this great girlfriend person."



## 2. Her life is easy. ▲

"I tease her that she doesn't really *live* anywhere!" says Ephron. "She has to travel with the kids all the time."



## 3. She's "fancy." ▶

Not so, insists Ephron. "She's very accessible and has no idea how she became this fashion icon."



## 4. She can't do comedy. ▲

"People are going to be stunned when they see that she is funny—genuinely funny," Ephron reveals.



## ◀ 5. She's always been perfect.

"She told me that as a teen she was tall and gawky and covered in freckles," says Ephron. "She would think, *why* does this body have to represent me?"

Roberta Chiarella bangle, \$86, Robertchiarella.com; 877-725-3935. Pages 162–163: Marni top, \$567, Saks Fifth Avenue; Marni, NYC, L.A. Ex by Claudia Agudelo necklace, \$148, exexjewelry.com. Frédéric Fekkai wide headband, \$58, Frédéric Fekkai, NYC, Beverly Hills, Palm Beach, FL. Cara Couture beaded headwrap, \$68, Henri Bendel, NYC, 800-423-6335. Robert Lee Morris earrings, \$195, Robert Lee Morris, NYC, 212-431-9405; robertleemorris.com.

**Big Night!** Page 164: Chloé dress, \$3,700, Saks Fifth Avenue. Page 165: Giambattista Valli dress, \$4,598, Barneys New York; Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC. Lanvin necklace, \$850, Saks Fifth Avenue; select Neiman Marcus; Max, Denver. Page 166: Alberta Ferretti dress, \$5,200, The Bridal Atelier by Mark Ingram, NYC. Jimmy Choo boots, \$1,700, 866-524-6687; jimmychoo.com. Page 167: Rochas jacket, \$3,374, skirt, \$1,751, Barneys New York; Neiman Marcus, San Francisco. Monique Lhuillier top, \$1,355, Monique Lhuillier, Beverly Hills; Edina, MN; moniquelhuillier.com. JLO by Jennifer Lopez hat, \$44, Macy's; Marshall Field's; Belk stores. Page 168: Jean Paul Gaultier top, \$955, skirt, \$540, select Saks Fifth Avenue. JLO by Jennifer Lopez hat, \$44, Macy's; Marshall Field's; Belk stores. Christian Louboutin shoes, \$540, Christian Louboutin, NYC, 212-255-1910. Page 169: Nina Ricci coat, \$3,290, Maxfield, L.A. Nina Ricci dress, \$2,591, Stanley Korshak, Dallas, 214-871-3626. Mokuba ribbon, Mokuba, NYC.

**Nice Breasts!** Pages 170 and 171: GapBody bra, \$38, GapBody stores; gapbody.com. Page 172: Donna Karan Intimates bra, Saks Fifth Avenue; Nordstrom. All other bras, Town Shop, NYC; townshop.com.

**The 10 Pieces You Need This Fall** Page 174: Hermès cardigan, \$1,725, pants, \$1,550, hat, \$385, belt, \$730, gloves, \$155, Hermès stores; 800-441-4488. Tanner Krolle bag, \$780, to special order at Neiman Marcus. Dior by John Galliano shoes, \$745, Dior boutiques; 800-929-3467. Page 175: Burberry Prorsum dress, \$1,920, select Burberry stores. JLO by Jennifer Lopez hat, \$44, Macy's; Marshall Field's; Belk stores. Michael Michael Kors tights, \$14, select Nordstrom; select Bloomingdale's. Burberry Prorsum boots, \$960, Barneys New York, NYC, San Francisco, Beverly Hills. Page 176: Marc Jacobs blouse, \$555, skirt, \$1,800, shoes, \$695, Marc Jacobs, NYC, 212-343-1490. Louis Vuitton comb, \$210, 866-884-8866. Marc Jacobs bag, \$795, Marc Jacobs stores, 212-924-6126. Michael Michael Kors tights, \$14, select Nordstrom; select Bloomingdale's. Page 177: Alberta Ferretti dress, \$4,125, Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Alessandro Dell'Acqua belt, \$575, Alessandro Dell'Acqua, NYC, 212-253-6861. Wolford tights, \$52, 800-965-3673; wolford.com. Casadei pumps, \$410, Casadei, NYC, 212-765-6846. Page 178: Ralph Lauren Collection coat, \$2,198, jacket, \$2,198, pants, \$1,798, sweater with scarf, \$1,098, runway.polo.com; Saks Fifth Avenue. Coat also at Neiman Marcus. Jacket, sweater and pants also at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Dior by John Galliano shoes, \$745, Dior boutiques. Page 179: Lanvin jacket, \$3,020, blouse, \$1,390, skirt, \$1,790, Saks Fifth Avenue, Chicago, Philadelphia, Chevy Chase, MD; Max, Denver; Neiman Marcus, Houston, Boca Raton, Coral Gables, FL; Ikram, Chicago. Boyd's headband, Boyd's, NYC; boydsny.com. Christian Louboutin shoes, \$795, Christian Louboutin, NYC, 212-396-1884. Page 180: Rochas jacket, \$3,220, top, \$4,742, skirt, \$2,109, Barneys New York stores; Neiman Marcus, San Francisco. Boyd's hairclips, Boyd's, NYC; boydsny.com. Christian Louboutin shoes, \$795, Christian Louboutin, NYC, 212-396-1884. Page 181: Chloé jacket, \$2,800, skirt, \$2,955, Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. Chloé top, \$1,120, Neiman Marcus. Louis Vuitton comb, \$210, 866-884-8866. Michael Michael Kors tights, \$14, select Nordstrom; select Bloomingdale's. Chloé boots, \$1,100, Intermix, NYC. Page 182: Rossella Tarabini for Anna Molinari top, \$975, Fred Couture, Santa Monica, CA, 310-458-8100. Louis Vuitton comb, \$210, 866-884-8866. Lanvin necklace, \$848, Saks Fifth Avenue; Max, Denver; Neiman Marcus. Page 183: Louis Vuitton coat, \$3,775, skirt, \$1,398, shoes, 866-884-8866. Wolford tights, \$52, 800-965-3673; wolford.com.

**Blush With Greatness** Page 185: Mokuba ribbon, Mokuba, NYC. Page 186: Frédéric Fekkai headband, \$45, Frédéric Fekkai, NYC, Beverly Hills, Palm Beach, FL. Page 187: Vanessa Bruno blouse, \$345, Cielo Blue, Palo Alto; Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC.

**She's Doing Everything Wrong!** Pages 194–195: Helen Ficalora earrings, \$360, 877-754-2676.

#### BEAUTY CREDITS

**Beauty Star** Page 40: American Beauty and Good Skin products, Kohl's; kohls.com.

#### Nicole *continued from page 157*

was no moving her off of it. I remember my own mother saying, "Don't wear that, please!" It's just mothers and daughters, isn't it? You retaliate against your mother and then you become her.

**NE:** It's true—my own mother was a screenwriter, and if there was *one* thing I didn't want to become, it was a screenwriter. I pedaled and pedaled as far as I could in the opposite direction, and here I am. Did you always plan to become an actor?

**NK:** No, because there's very little work in Australia. When I was growing up, my parents were always telling me to get my degree. So just to please them I would say, "I want to be a lawyer." They'd pat me on the back and say, "Good, good, good." But in high school, I loved to act because you'd get to kiss the boys you had crushes on. [Director] Jane Campion came to my school and wanted to cast me in her student film, but she wanted me to wear a shower cap on my head and kiss another girl. And I did *not* want to kiss another girl. So I told her I had my school exams and couldn't.

**NE:** What was your first real break?

**NK:** My first movie was called *Bush Christmas*. I got to leave school for six weeks and was paid a thousand dollars. I remember my mother visited and got really angry because all I was eating was junk food. I was *so* embarrassed to have my mother come up.

**NE:** You're 38 now—ever worry about the "40 of it," as in, turning 40 and having to give up the parts that you play?

**NK:** The "40 of it" doesn't bother me—maybe the 50 of it will. Pretty early on, I chose not to fear getting older. My grandmother is 90 and still alive. I think leaning toward old age is exciting, and I really hope I get there. Maybe this is a defense mechanism, but I try to turn it around: Instead of thinking, are people still going to want to cast me when I'm 40? I think, am I still going to be interested in doing this?

**NE:** So *do* you think you'll retire from acting at some point?

**NK:** Yes. Given the way this industry works, there will come a time when you have to move on to something else. And as long as you're not too attached to the things that surround it—the pats on the back, the stroking, the getting into restaurants, all of the things that ultimately corrupt you artistically—you can manage to stay sane in a crazy, crazy world. ©

*Screenwriter and director Nora Ephron's work includes You've Got Mail, Sleepless in Seattle and When Harry Met Sally.*

#### Abortion *continued from page 203*

Sunday morning, one or two generously skipping church to honor a girlfriend's request that they meet up to talk about abortion. They're mostly old childhood friends who get together to drink appetinis and compare notes on everything from their entrepreneurial ideas—a few of them design and sell earrings together—to their favorite Juicy Tubes lip gloss colors. The well-worn fondness between them seems to make it safe to discuss their disagreement on controversial subjects. When one young woman—we'll call her Emma—talks about her pro-choice status, she mentions that she's taken the morning-after pill, and looks sharply at her friend Mary Kathryn the way one looks at a sister who might take the opportunity to lecture. Mary Kathryn may have reservations about emergency contraception, but the moment passes peacefully, and in general, it's refreshing to see these women with different, passionate views on abortion discussing it amicably, even affectionately.

Dressed in low-rider jeans and a sleek black V-neck, Tiffany, 25, characterizes herself as "pro-life *and* pro-woman," before going on to say she has one desire for people on both sides of the issue: "I just wish both sides could talk to each other with a lot more compassion." Tiffany volunteers at what she calls a pregnancy support clinic in Raleigh, the kind of service that encourages young women considering abortion to continue their pregnancy instead. Many such agencies have been criticized for manipulating vulnerable clients; Tiffany says that her organization, at least, is careful not to mislead women about its agenda or pressure them one way or the other. "Sometimes they just need someone to tell them they can handle having that child, to believe in them," she says. What else sways a pregnant woman? Taking a high-tech look at her growing fetus. Tiffany says she frequently refers her clients to another clinic nearby that's equipped with ultrasound machines. "I'll just remind them that all of our services are free—'Are you sure you don't want a free ultrasound?' And often they'll say, 'Well sure, I'll have one, if it's free.' Once they see the baby's heart beating and realize this is really a living creature, it changes their mind." Practitioners at these clinics have estimated that at least 50 percent of women who see that image decide against abortion, and several states are considering legislation that would require abortion providers to offer patients an ultrasound or show images from someone else's.

Pregnant women aren't the only ones