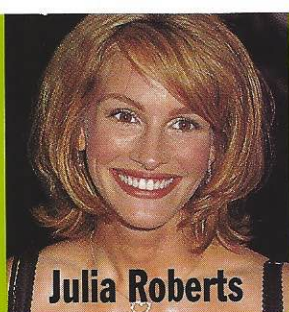


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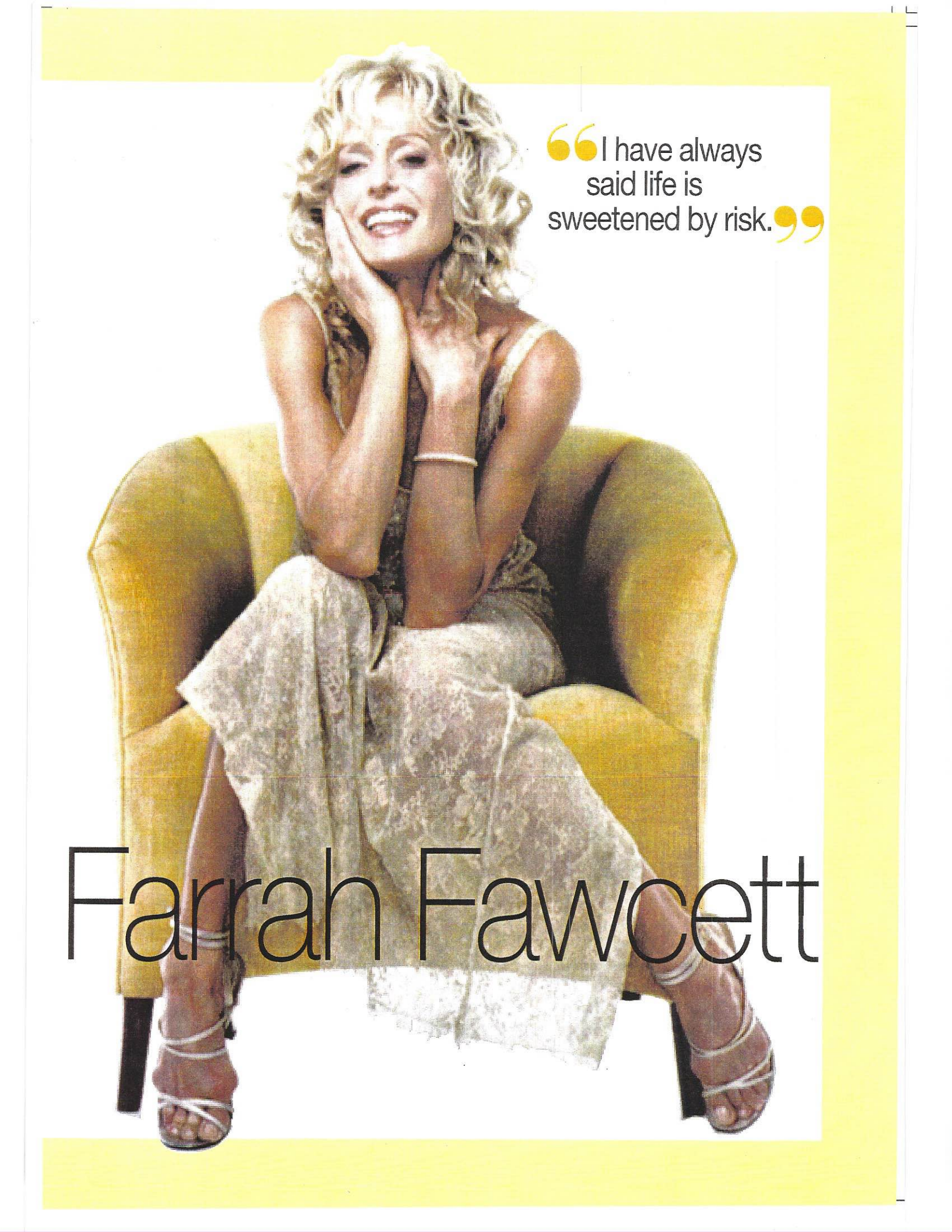
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EXCLUSIVE

FARRAH'S BACK

OK. The star's no angel.
The truth about breaking up
with Ryan and how
God gives her strength





“I have always
said life is
sweetened by risk.”

Farrah Fawcett

At 51 Farrah Fawcett can still stop traffic—and does, getting into a limo in front of the Four Seasons Hotel in New York City. It's been more than 20 years since she was one of *Charlie's Angels*, but two cabs nearly collide when their drivers try to catch a glimpse of her. Even dressed down in a slouchy black sweater, jeans and sneakers, the actress defines the word *star*. Her platinum-blond hair and breathy voice are reminiscent of Marilyn Monroe, as is the flirtatious little-girl giggle she uses to get her way—or, in this case, have someone open the door for her.

"I think it's her sex appeal, coupled with a certain degree of vulnerability, that has made her appeal so long-lasting," theorizes *Angels* costar and close friend Jaclyn Smith.

"Farrah is a charmer," says Robert Duvall, director and costar of her latest movie, *The Apostle*. In it she plays the willful wife of an evangelist. The role is small but meaty: Fawcett wears frumpy clothes and no makeup, and she gets to preach the Word of God while playing a church organ. She took the part at Duvall's personal request. "She's the most underrated actress in film today," Duvall says. "Forget the beautiful face. She has tremendous talent—and this ability to make you believe."

And you almost *do* believe her when she excuses herself for seeming a little "out of it" or preoccupied. She's been in New York City for five days, working round-the-clock on photo shoots and promotion for the

film, and she's come down with a high fever and a bronchial infection. It's plausible that the combination of her stressful, fast-paced life and her medication has left her exhausted.

But then there was her appearance last June on *Late Night With David Letterman*—the one in which it appeared that a spaced-out Fawcett could barely remember her own name, let alone the host's questions. There are those supermarket-tabloid



In the 1970s, Fawcett was almost as well-known for this poster as she was for her work in *Charlie's Angels*.

rumors that she has come undone. That she's drinking or doing drugs. That her split with Ryan O'Neal, after 17 years together, has driven her over the edge. That she shoplifts, and makes crazy demands (like asking for thousands of dollars' worth of hair conditioner) on movie sets.

She scoffs at this list of accusations. "Ridiculous," she says, unfazed. "As for *Letterman*, it was an act—I used to do it all the time with Johnny [Carson], and he loved it. When I came offstage, I thought I had done a great job—people in the greenroom were applauding. Then the papers came out the next day...." She sighs. "I was so shocked."

Smart woman, foolish choices

The lessons she's learned

"I've always said life is sweetened by risk," Fawcett says. "Sometimes I succeed, and sometimes I fail, and sometimes I get criticized for my actions. But I do things that challenge me, that let me stretch."

And if that means shocking her fans, so be it. Fawcett is the first to admit she's no angel. "I'm human," she says. "Nobody is perfect, and I have made mistakes. People come up to me on the street, and they say, 'But Farrah, you've changed!' Well, I hope so. *Change* is not a dirty word. I'd like to think it equals renaissance. There comes a time to take a step outside the path you're following."

Which is what she did last year with her *Playboy* video, *Farrah Fawcett: All of Me*. Part documentary, part performance art, it features the actress slathering her naked body in paint and rolling across a blank canvas. Some call it pornography, but she's quick to defend her work: "It goes back to my days of being an art student," she says. "I always focused on the female anatomy in my work. It's a beautiful thing." ▶

The return of

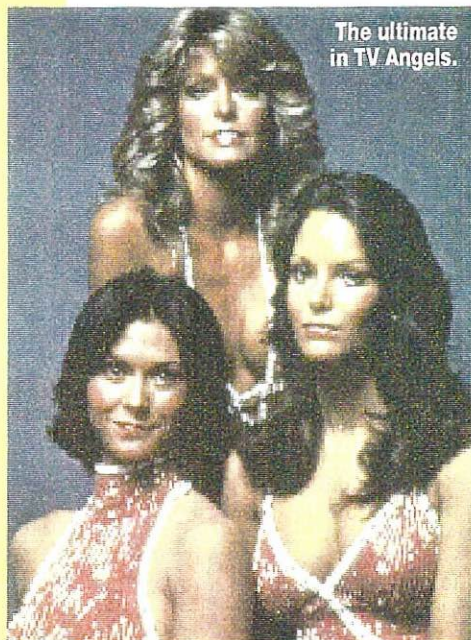
Heartbroken after her split with Ryan O'Neal and hurt by media criticism, the star's life is far from heavenly these days.

But her belief in God—and herself—is seeing her through it.

A McCALL'S exclusive.

BY SHERYL BERK PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL O'NEILL

■ CELEBRITY CLOSE-UP



The ultimate in TV Angels.

(continued from p. 26)

And she won't apologize for doing the video. "I had a vision," she says. "It wasn't like, 'Oh, I want to show my body.' I'm proud of my artistic ability. If it offended people, that wasn't my intention."

Try for a minute, she urges, to understand her motivation: She played Jill Munroe on *Charlie's Angels* for only one season, yet the image of her as a '70s icon—with that blond, feathered 'do—lingers.

"It follows me everywhere, even today," Fawcett says of the show's legacy. There are Web sites dedicated to the series, and episodes are rerun in syndication daily in dozens of countries. I tell her my husband had the classic poster of her on his wall—as did most teenage boys in the late '70s—when he was 13.

"I hope he still has it," she says with a laugh. "Early Farrah is worth a lot of money—she's a legend, you know."

Breaking out of her classic (and constricting) mold

How she proved she had talent

During the '80s Fawcett tried to take on projects that represented the opposite of her early image. In 1983 she appeared off-Broadway as a rape victim in *Extremities* (she later starred in the movie version). And she received an Emmy nomination for her role as an abused wife in the TV movie *The Burning Bed*.

"When I do a dramatic part, I simply become that character," she explains. "I can feel the pain, the passion. It's not acting; it's being."

She's fearless of criticism. "I only have to please one critic—myself," she insists. She loves coming up with surprises; the biggest one right now is her famous mane, cut short and shaggy, and hanging in her eyes.

"I know—different, huh?" she says, twirling a strand around her finger. "Did you see my *Playboy* video? I chopped my hair off with a pair of scissors. Very freeing."

For a former beauty queen and model, she's not terribly concerned with what people think of her appearance. "Look at these rings under my eyes," she says, laughing, as she catches a glimpse of herself in a mirror. "I'm a wreck. I look like Bette

Davis in *Baby Jane!*" Yet she won't touch up her makeup or even give herself a second glance.

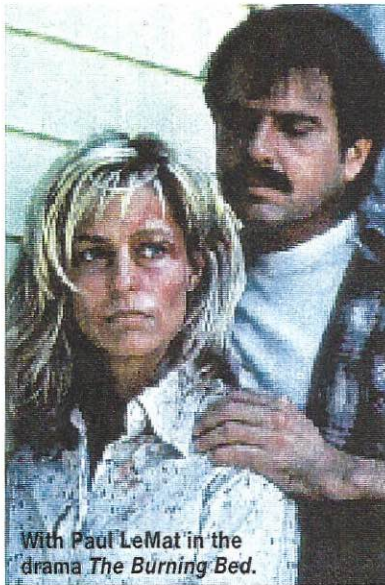
Her life after Ryan

The toughest decision she ever had to make

When Fawcett was a freshman at the University of Texas, the story goes, fraternity boys came from far and wide to date her. "I got a lot of attention," she says. "Maybe because I did my own thing—I wasn't one of those cookie-cutter sorority girls. I left that scene."

She has also left the Hollywood scene for years at a time: It has been three years since Fawcett's last major film and seven since she and O'Neal costarred in the TV sitcom *Good Sports* (which didn't last the season). Bring up O'Neal's name and her omnipresent smile suddenly fades.

"I don't really want to go there," she pleads, and her personal assistant and publicist both shake their heads with an emphatic no. But ten minutes later, she brings him up again. "You know, we made a statement to the press, which I thought would make everything perfectly clear: 'We're doing this, and we would love our privacy respected.' It's hard enough to have a relationship in any way, shape or form—and to go through it publicly makes it doubly hard and intensifies it. It's misinterpreted and misquoted, and you have to deal with all this sensationalism that surrounds it." She realizes she's sounding defensive. "Look," she says. "I had to make a decision about my relationship and the father of my child. That decision was tough." ▶



With Paul LeMat in the drama *The Burning Bed*.



As an adulterous wife in *The Apostle*, with Robert Duvall.

TOP TO BOTTOM: EVERETT COLLECTION; GLOBE PHOTOS INC.; COURTESY OF OCTOBER FILMS/VAN REDD

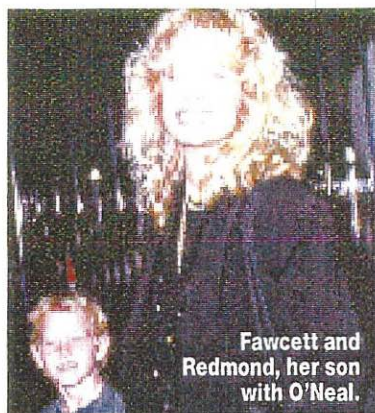
■ CELEBRITY CLOSE-UP



With then-hubby
Lee Majors.



Her mom, Pauline,
and dad, James.



Fawcett and
Redmond, her son
with O'Neal.



The love
that didn't
last: with
O'Neal.

(continued from p. 28)

Fawcett and O'Neal met in 1979, when Fawcett was still married to actor Lee Majors—the two men were actually friends. One can only speculate as to why she and O'Neal split; there were tabloid rumors of squabbles and tension over the years.

Fawcett won't dwell on the "why." Things started to fall apart, she reflects, in 1985, after their only child, Redmond, was born. "I didn't realize how different we were until we had a child," she says. "I was also feeling torn between Ryan and my son—always so guilty that I wasn't giving enough time to one or the other."

After the breakup, friends urged her to jump back into dating. "Everyone wanted to fix me up, but I wasn't really ready yet," she says quietly. "I think it's possible to love again—but what I know is that it won't be the same love. This is the man who is the father of my child, and that's a special bond."

She claims the only man in her life these days is Redmond, 13. He lives with his mother in the Hollywood Hills and "sees his dad." Talk of custody, however, is off-limits.

"Redmond is wonderful," Fawcett gushes. "I miss him so much

when I'm away—I can't bear it. He is my greatest accomplishment."

He takes after his mom in art ("You should see the Mortal Kombat guys he draws") and his dad in sports ("He's got a killer arm for pitching"). Fawcett never goes a day without saying good night to him (even if it's over the phone) and loves to help him with homework.

"We were learning about cells the other day," she says, "and we got into DNA, X and Y chromosomes." That, of course, led to the sensitive subject of the birds and the bees. "We were discussing it scientifically. I was amazed at what he knows. I think he's very mature."

Still, the thought of raising a teenager, with all the accompanying angst, scares her. "Girls are always calling him—like 15 a night," she says. "And they're so brazen! I look at my son today, and I can't believe it. Wasn't it yesterday when he was five and I was holding him? There are times when I want to treat him like a little boy, but I can't anymore. He wants to be treated like a man."

She tries to follow the example of her parents, Pauline and James. Her father owned a pipeline-construction company, while Pauline was a housewife; both are in their 80s now. "They are the most won- ▶

CELEBRITY CLOSE-UP

(continued from p. 30)

derful, loving, supportive mother and father," she says. "I call them all the time for advice. I remember how strict they were when I was a girl growing up. It's a little different for me as a parent because of who I am and who Ryan is; we're in the public eye. But I try my best to be mom and teacher and friend to my son, to make life normal for him. In my relationship with Ryan, we played good cop, bad cop—I was the disciplinarian, and he was the one Redmond turned to for fun. Now I think I've learned to balance those roles."

Keeping the faith

How she'll face the future

What only a few people know about Fawcett is that she is devoutly religious. And it is her strong belief that seems to be her support.

"I am a practicing Catholic," she says. "I don't go to Mass every Sunday, but it's very important to me. I do pray; I do turn to God when I'm feeling lost or unsure."

That feeling, she admits, tends to sneak up on her when she least expects it. "It's easy to give in and give up, to believe what people are saying about you: 'You're not good.' 'You're not liked.' 'Everything is wrong.' But who's to judge? I think only God has that right. I truly believe that every day of your life—if you're healthy and you're breathing—is a good day. Some are better than others, but they're all good days."

Fawcett has no definite plans for the future. A movie project is "in development," and a journal she's been keeping could "amount to something." She is constantly being asked to star in an *Angels* reunion. ("No way," she says.) Duvall is confident she'll be nominated for several awards for *The Apostle* and that more serious scripts will come pouring in as a result.

But Fawcett isn't concerned. "You know what I'd like to do?" she asks, leaning in close to whisper. "I'd like to sit at home with my son and draw dinosaur pictures. I'd like to just kick up my feet and watch anything on TV." She corrects herself, flashing her famous pearly whites. "Well, anything, that is, besides you-know-whose *Angels*." ■

do angels have an afterlife?

Kids, Kmart, motivational speaking.... Here's how the other Angels have been spreading their wings.

Cheryl Ladd

Age: 47

Character: Jill Munroe's little sis, Kris (1977-1981)

Career highlights: Two albums, *Cheryl Ladd* and *Dance*

Forever; a children's book, *The Adventures of Little Nellie Windship*. Will appear in the film *Permanent Midnight*. **Family ties:** Divorced in 1980; has a daughter, Jordan, 22. Married to Brian Russell since 1981.



Cheryl Ladd

Tanya Roberts

Age: 42

Character: Julie Rogers (1980-1981)

Career highlights: A Bond Girl in 1985's *A View to a Kill*.

Appears in *The Pandora Directive*, an interactive CD-ROM, and the Cinemax series *Hotline*.

Family ties: Married for the last 17 years to screenwriter Barry Roberts.



Tanya Roberts

Kate Jackson

Age: 49

Character: Sabrina Duncan (1976-1979)

Career highlights: Starred in *Scarecrow and Mrs. King* from 1983 to 1987. A

breast cancer survivor, she now makes motivational speeches for corporations. Has recently appeared on the Fox series *Ally McBeal*. **Family ties:** Divorced for the third time in 1993, Jackson lives with her adopted son, Charles Taylor, two.



Kate Jackson

Shelley Hack

Age: 45

Character: Tiffany Welles (1979-1980)

Career highlights: A former Revlon "Charlie Girl," Hack

has made a variety of TV movies and appeared in an infomercial for Theracel, a skin-care treatment.

Family ties: Married to director Harry Winger; has a daughter, Rose, seven.



Shelley Hack

Jaclyn Smith

Age: 51

Character: Kelly Garrett (1976-1981)

Career highlights: Has starred in more than 30 TV movies.

She also designs her own Kmart clothing lines, Jaclyn Sportswear and Jaclyn Smith Woman.

Family ties: Divorced three times. Married to surgeon Bradley Allen. Two children: Gaston Anthony, 16; Spencer Margaret, 12.



Jaclyn Smith

TOP TO BOTTOM: ROGER KARNBAD/CELEBRITY PHOTO AGENCY; TOM RODRIGUEZ/GLOBE PHOTOS INC.; MARK SENNET/GAMMA LIAISON; TOM RODRIGUEZ/GLOBE PHOTOS INC.; JANET GOUGH/CELEBRITY PHOTO AGENCY