

DARLING DREW

THE UNEXPECTED SUPERMOGUL



Drew On Her Work-Life Balance:

"I love the beauty industry because even on a workday I can wake up with my kids, go to work, come home, bedtime — there's a normal life there. And, it's exciting when you have to go on a business trip, as opposed to a film where you are gone for months. I can't do that right now. As you add more onto your plate, particularly family, things have to fall off, or you won't be a good parent."

On why she stepped back from her acting career:

"Because the hours are too crazy [and] my phone isn't ringing off the hook with great parts." (*She filmed the drama, Miss You Already, with Toni Collette because...*)
"Toni is one of the greatest actresses."

On her childhood:

"I was a happy, blithering idiot. I don't know how to feel differently about it because I don't know what another life would be like, so it's hard to pretend, imagine or wish that it was different because it isn't. Even if I was a bad girl at moments here and there, I was never a bad person."

On being a good mother:

"I didn't really have parents, you know? And, therefore, the kind of parent I will be is a good, present parent. In a way, maybe that was a detriment to my youth, but it'll be the biggest asset to my adulthood."

By Taffy Brodesser-Akner

"I shouldn't say this, because, I'll get in trouble for it, but I'll say it anyway," Drew Barrymore says, leaning in, all intimate eyes and a half smile, because that's the way she talks and it takes her zero minutes to warm up to someone new. Here it comes: "Women can't do it all. Quantum physics actually says you can't do it all. Like, you can't do everything at every minute of every day; it's actually not mathematically, molecularly plausible. [However,] I do think that women can do everything they want to do, especially if they work hard enough at it. I don't believe that anything comes easy. You have to earn everything in life."

She's tiptoeing, because about two years ago she caught flak for making the same statement, the way anyone catches flak after suggesting anything about women's capacity for getting things done. We have all lived long enough to see women get into trouble for saying they can have it all, or they can't, or they should want it all, or they should opt out, and then the resulting think pieces about whoever said it and why it shouldn't have been said. But the thing that strikes me as most ironic about Barrymore saying it is that it seems as if she has, in fact, at some point in her life, done it all. And from where I'm sitting, which is across from her as she introduces me to three new fragrances for her cosmetics line, Flower Beauty, it seems that she continues to do it all. The first lesson we could learn from Drew Barrymore is that if she thinks she's not doing it all when she actually is, per-

haps we who think we're not doing it all are, too.

Barrymore is someone who has invented herself into more incarnations than her petite, just-turned-40-year-old body should be able to account for. She is someone who published a memoir at age 15, a bulky volume that merited its length: hard drugs before she had pubic hair, rehab, an absentee mother, and an abusive father who probably should have been rounded up in a social services van by the end of chapter 1. Drew has come a long way since her breakout role in *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. In addition to having been an actual, not-just-listed-on-the-credit-sheet producer of movies like *Charlie's Angels* and *Donnie Darko*, she has spent time as a winemaker, an author (last year she published a best seller about hearts — yes, hearts; yes, a best seller) and, of course, an actress. Today, she emerges in her latest form: as a cosmetics mogul who is intensely involved in every aspect of her company. She is confident in her ability to pivot, which she does by rising above the emotions we are all susceptible to: self-doubt, feelings of being overwhelmed and excessive concerns about what other people think of us.

She's wearing a pair of grade-A, die-of-envy vintage pearl earrings, shaped into the opposing C's of the Chanel insignia, a gift from her father-in-law, Arie Kopelman, who not so incidentally is a former CEO of Chanel. The elder Kopelman came along just in time to offer her advice on Flower Beauty, and

drop pearls of wisdom as generously as the real ones. "He tells me to look around and see what I see, but more importantly to see what I don't see." He came into her life via her happy marriage to art consultant Will Kopelman. Referring to her pearl earrings she says, "It's Chanel. What's not to love?" But the oversize pearls in the bracelet she is wearing are fake. "I've never been a big designer-label person," she confesses. And that's pretty much in any regard. Recently someone got her some fancy Cheddar cheese, and she hated it. "I was like, this is too jazzy for my taste buds. I could tell it was from the fromagerie, and I was like, no, I just want some good old supermarket Cheddar. I've never been a big designer-label person."

She's taking her foot off the gas on her acting career, averaging about a movie a year, "because the hours are too crazy" and "my phone isn't ringing off the hook with great parts." She filmed the drama, *Miss You Already*, with Toni Collette because, she says, "Toni is one of the greatest actresses." But she knows these projects have to be few and far between, because she can't figure out how to make movies without being all about making movies. "That's why I love the beauty business, because even on a workday I can wake up with my kids, go to work, come home, bedtime — there's a normal life there. And it's exciting when you go on a business trip, as opposed to a film where you are gone for months.