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**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
KNOTS LANDING'S
SEDUCTRESS**

DONNA MILLS

**TEXAS STAR
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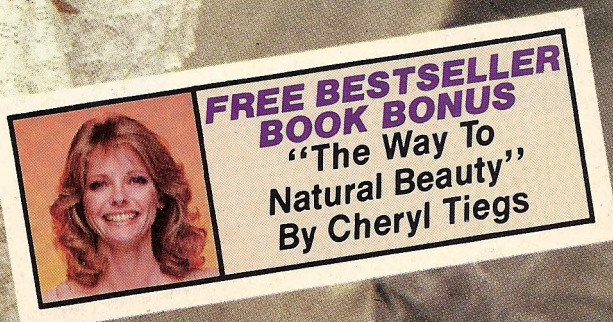
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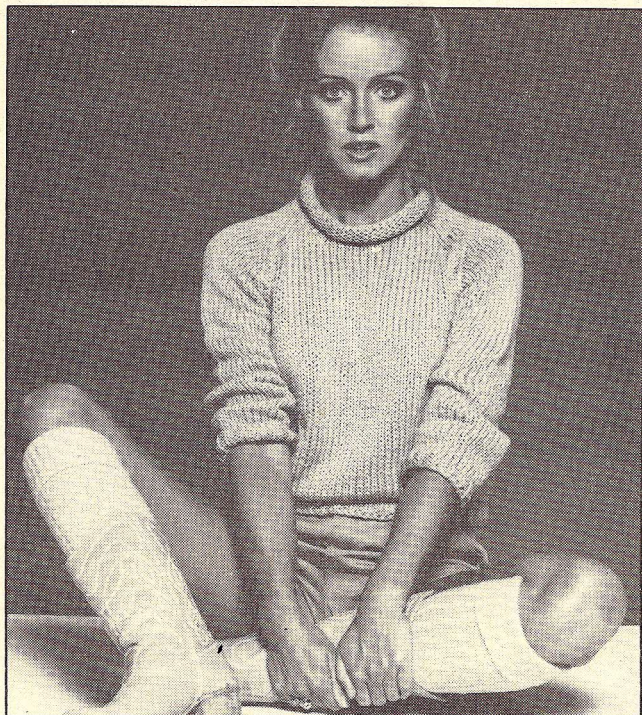


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KNOTS LANDING'S SEXY SEDUCTRESS DONNA MILLS

Donna Mills, who plays Abby Cunningham on CBS Television Network's *Knots Landing*, has come a long way from her northwest side of Chicago childhood. Ms. Mills who is J.R.'s counterpart on *Knots Landing*, reveals her beauty secrets and thoughts on men, Hollywood & life in our exclusive interview.

By Bonnie L. Krueger



Sophisticate's: How has your success on *Knots Landing* changed your personal life... or has it?

Donna: It has changed it to some extent, in that my life is less private now than it was before. When you do a series, you sort of open up to the public. My personal life has also changed in the tremendous work load that doing a series is, I have a lot less time for myself. Before, if I did a movie for television the work would last from three-five weeks and then I would have time off. Now I go for eight months at a crack with pretty steady, hard work. It's difficult on relationships; both romantic relationships and relationships with friends.

Sophisticate's: Are you into the 'Hollywood' way of life as it is classified?

Donna: No, I'm really not. It's something I avoided ever since I came out here. I did go to a couple of 'Hollywood' parties when I first arrived and said, 'Oh, boy, this is not terrific.' I maintained friendships that I had for a long time. Most of the people that I'm friendly with I was friends with when I was in New York before I came here. Eventually everybody sort of migrated here. These are longstanding friendships to me. There's a certain amount of functions and things that you have to go to, but I do treasure my private time and to me a more stable way of life is much more important than have your name in the columns everyday.

Sophisticate's: What do you do in your spare hours?

Donna: I play a great deal of tennis. As a matter of fact, I've been playing it for the last few years in what they call The Celebrity Tennis Tournament Circuit. I also play a lot of charities, and things like that. When I'm on the series of course, it's hard, but I play them as often as possible.

I'm also very involved in interior decorating. I put an addition on my house and designed it, decorated it and basically redid the whole house.

Sophisticate's: How did you get interested in interior decorating?

Donna: I don't know. I've just always been kind of a nest builder. I'm the type of person who walks into hotel rooms and rearranges the furniture. It has to be right for me. I'll put the lamp somewhere else, move the chairs, etc. I always do that. So I think I just sort of naturally lean toward interior decorating. I bought this house about four or five years ago, it's the first time I owned. Once I had my own place I really started going, because I could do what I wanted and it's fun. I've been approached by a

lot of people to help them with their homes and if I wasn't so busy with doing the series I would get into it more. But then again, if the acting business gets slow...

Sophisticate's: Getting back to personal relationships, what do you think makes a man sexy Donna?

Donna: If I'm just walking down the street, what attracts my attention usually is dark-haired men and I adore beards. Getting a little bit deeper, I'm also attracted to a man who has warm and caring eyes — and if he looks at you. So many men don't. They'll look at you when you're not looking, but when you're looking at them they look away and I hate that.

Sophisticate's: As far as personality is concerned, what traits do you look for in a man?

Donna: One of the most important things is a sense of humor and compassion. That combination is sometimes hard to find. If they have compassion they're too serious or if they have a sense of humor they don't have any depth. So the combination is not an easy one.

Sophisticate's: Do you find yourself attracted to men in your line of work or outside your line of work?

Donna: I never meet anyone outside my line of work! Men I've gone with and dated are in the business in some way, shape or form; mainly because that is the people I meet. I like people in the business usually — particularly in the creative end. Also I find that men who aren't in this business can't understand the kind of dedication you need, particularly for a woman.

Sophisticate's: If you could describe your personality, what would you say you are like?

Donna: Enthusiastic and always looking for more. More fun, more work, more of anything!

Sophisticate's: Are you a workaholic?

Donna: Yes, I have to admit it. I love to work. I love what I do and if they'd let me do it 24-hours-a-day... I probably would!

Sophisticate's: If you could change your life, would you change anything or are you pretty content the way it is?

Donna: I really am pretty happy with it. Probably if I could change anything I would try to be a little more committed to a relationship than I am right now. Maybe that's just all in good time — I don't know. Most everything else, knock wood, is pretty o.k. now.

Sophisticate's: Where do you see yourself ten years from now; what would you like to be doing?

Donna: Hopefully, which is something I'm working toward now, I want to be producing. I have a production company and I'm developing a number of projects right now that I hope to do next hiatus. I have some good ideas I think, about things that will be good for me to do, more valuable projects. I always want to act, but I think someday I want to produce things that I'm not in.

Sophisticate's: Is Donna Mills anything like the role she plays on *Knots Landing* of Abby Cunningham?

Donna: Actually yes. I know Abby's a bad guy and all that, but the way I feel about her is that she has what everybody has... some bad instincts. She just happens to follow through on them! She really doesn't have any conscience or morality. I have a conscience and I was brought up with a certain morality so I don't always follow through, but I sometimes have the same instincts that she has.

Sophisticate's: Have you always wanted to be an actress ever since you were a little girl?

Donna: No, as a matter of fact when I was five-years-old I wanted to be a dancer. I wanted to be a prima-ballerina... that's all I wanted. I worked very hard toward that as a matter of fact; became fairly good and that's how I started out in the business. Then one day I went and auditioned for a play (I don't know why exactly, except there was nothing else to do) when I was just out of high school. I got the part, did it and liked it. So then I started splitting my time, the more acting I did, the more that took over.

Sophisticate's: If you were going to be immortalized, what would you like to be remembered as?

Donna: I'd like to be remembered as a great actress, or at least a very good one.





DONNA MILLS' BEAUTY SECRETS

Overprocessed Hair Gets A New Treatment

To keep her luscious mane in top shape the star of *Knots Landing*, Donna Mills, finds it necessary to shampoo and condition her hair once a day. "Right now, it's dry," she explained, "because it's been over-processed (bleached with streaks.) So I really have to condition it every single day. What I do is switch between shampoos and conditioners, back and forth between three different ones. I also do a lot of hot pak treatments as often as I can, every three or four days."

As far as her favorite styles are concerned, the ash-blonde Ms. Mills likes to keep her looks uncontrived. "I like wearing it down and fairly straight with maybe just a little bit of wave in it," she said "that's the way I'm going to be wearing it this year. I also love the very curly look, like I wore it last year on the show, with ringlets all over."

Skin Care & Makeup: Keeping It Simple

Donna's skin type is oily, which as she says, "is unusual for a blonde." Ms. Mills also has very large pores and needs to wash her face as often as possible, with soap and water. She does prefer a mild soap, like Ivory, and uses pads to blot the oil. "The oil is good in some ways," Donna explains, "it's really a blessing... but it's also a pain in the neck!"

As far as makeup is concerned, during her off-hours, Donna prefers to keep it to a bare minimum. "To tell you the truth, I get so tired of being 'made-up' all the time and having foundation makeup on my skin; that when I'm not working, I'll just wear powder and blush and eye makeup...but not foundation."

"I usually wear a chestnut color blush, unless I'm doing something special where I need a special color," Ms. Mills continued. Eye makeup is usually shades of brown or "sometimes I'll use something new in shadows." But, Donna pointed out, "I don't use them as shadows, I use them as highlights on the top of the lid. I also like purples and bronzes, and never use blue shades."

"I usually use a pencil eyeliner quite heavily on the bottom of my eyes and on the inside rim just below the lashes. Then I feather it with a brush for a kind of 'smudgy' look. I use to wear not much lipstick, but now I like it. I prefer the bronzy, coppery tones for everyday wear and line my lips with a pencil or brush. I also love to use gloss."

Keeping In Shape Has Always Been Part Of Her Routine

"I use to be a dancer," the 5'4" beauty told *Sophisticate's*, "and sort of know my body." "Since I was five-years-old, I took ballet class and jazz. Now with the series I can't really get to class, and have an instructor come to my house who exercises with me. He puts you on a nutritional supplement program — vitamins and diet — and exercises with you. I don't like to run, I hate it, but he will walk with me. I live in the hills so we walk very fast uphill which you can do about a half-mile or a mile of that a day and it's worth ten miles of flatland. When you walk uphill you're really using your whole self...your heart and everything else, so it's real good for you."

As far as nutrition is concerned, Donna has hypoglycemia and must

"I eat a lot of protein — no sugar or starches. Then I binge... but I find I pay for it!"

stay on a healthy diet. "I eat a lot of protein — no sugar, starches or very little. Then I binge, but I find I pay for it, so I can't do it too often!" Ms. Mills confessed that her favorite binge food is Taco Chips; which she is "hooked" on. "I think there for a while, I had a two-bag-a-day habit," she said.

"I do try to eat natural cereals and brans and of course here in California it's very easy to get fresh fruits and vegetables, which I always had. My grandfather was in the fruits and vegetable business when I was a kid, so we always had fresh stuff. Whenever I cook vegetables, I just steam them ever so slightly and really like them a lot. I also eat cheese and eggs...not a lot of red meat."

"I Don't Get To Dress Up As Much As I'd Like To Here In California."

The transplanted mid-westerner, Donna Mills, "loves to dress up" but finds it difficult to do on the west coast. "The weather is so hot all



J.R. (Larry Hagman) comes to (*Knots Landing* and strikes up ▲ a business deal with Abby (Donna Mills).

the time, you can't really dress up. I was thinking that today when I was in the stores looking at all of this season's newest fashions, and then I went outside and it was 90°! I love the fashions they're showing this year, because they're interesting. Knickers and metallics... sort of dramatic stuff. I'm also into fuzzy sweaters, but basically I like dressing to be fun.

"There are days when all I want to wear are my gabardine pleated pants, sort of a classic look, and a silk blouse. There are days when that feels right to me. Yet, there are other days when I'm more into the knee socks and flat shoes... sort of more fun stuff. It just depends. I don't think I have anything that's too terribly crazy or far out, because I'm not tall enough to wear too crazy stuff. I do wish I was taller than 5'4" I ran into a lady in the supermarket the other day and she came up to me and said, 'Oh, aren't you Donna Mills?' I said 'Yes, I am.' She said, 'No you can't be, you're not tall enough!' People usually do think I'm taller from seeing me on television!"

As far as her wardrobe for *Knots Landing* is concerned, Donna tries to maintain some control over what she will be wearing. "They don't have a big enough budget to accommodate me. I mean the budget barely accommodates me, let alone the other six girls on the show! A lot of the other girls say to the wardrobe woman, 'Go out and pick up some stuff for me and I'll wear it.' I go with her shopping every time for every show. It takes an enormous amount of time and it's very hard, but I find that if I'm not comfortable in what I'm wearing or feel right or feel it's right for the feel of the role I'm playing, I won't play the scene as well. Costume is an intricate part of you. It's very important to me, so I spend a lot of time on it."

Ms. Mills' favorite fashion colors are purples, reds and light cream shades. She really doesn't care for blue (or aqua) that much and prefers the vibrant colors over the duller ones. □