

# Bombshell



# Nice Girl

# HEIDI KLUM

BY JILL JOHNSON

## Summing Up a Model Supermodel.

It was in the seediest corner of Hell's Kitchen, in a sheet of icy, makeup-smearing, hair-flattening rain, that I first met Heidi Klum. Of the gathering of grumpy casting-bound models, she is the only one I remember. What a coincidence that she is now flashing her smile and swishing her hair in commercials on my TV and showing off her drop-dead bod in Victoria's Secret catalogs in my mailbox...? No, no coincidence at all. Heidi is unforgettable.

Of the thousands of models I have met in the ... (I'm too afraid to count) years I have been at this casting game, she is the only one I would have put money on as a sure winner. With a backdrop of city scum and a face framed by drenched hair, Heidi positively glowed. I distinctly remember looking at her and thinking, "This girl is going to make it." We struck up a conversation; she had just come from Germany and was as green as

could be, except for a month of bronzing in the Miami market. We worked together the following week, and she was genuinely nice and good-spirited, even as we wrapped up the shoot in the middle of Times Square in the wee hours of the night. But then, she was a beginner; of course she was nice.

Four years later, and long after my prediction had come true, I ran into Heidi at Elite's 1997 "Look of the Year" finals, where she was judging. She hasn't changed. Same glow, same smile, same friendly, nice girl, and a good memory for the little people from way back when. We're proud to have Heidi gracing our cover and giving us the whole and--a rare treat--wholesome story.

**Where are you from and how were you discovered?** I am from Bergisch Gladbach, a town close to Cologne. The story of my discovery is not so different from other girls. A friend and I came

across an advertisement in a magazine for "The Face of the Year--Germany." She encouraged me to sign up for the contest. I was chosen as a finalist and guess who won? Me! **How did you build your book in the beginning?** In the beginning it was a lot of running around, meeting clients, testing, and spending money I didn't have! Editorial was a bit difficult at first, but after my first few editorials came out, the ball started to roll. **Then did you work pretty steadily right away or was it a struggle?** In every career there are struggles, but I was fortunate enough to have a look that people really liked. **In which markets are you most successful?** Since I have a natural, classic look, I do most of my work in America and Germany. I haven't really given other markets a chance, so I don't know how I would do. **Is the modeling world what you expected it to be?** When I started working I didn't have any big expectations because

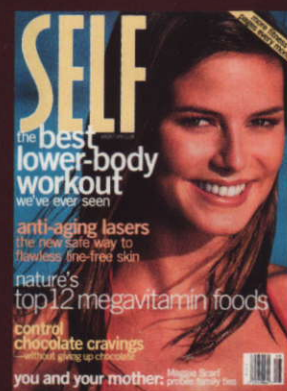
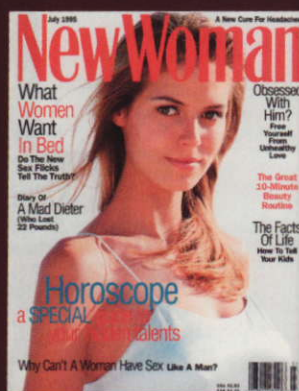
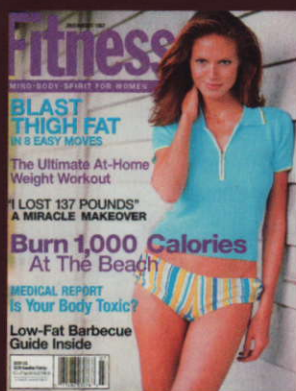






I didn't know any models. I just took it day by day and learned from my experiences. **Do you have any horror stories?** Everyone thinks modeling is so glamorous because the final picture always looks so great. But how you get there is a different story. A while back I was working in St. Barts, shooting swimwear in the ocean. The photographer and I were getting great pictures when all of a sudden a huge wave crashed down, throwing us into a sharp cliff. Needless to say, the bruises and blood all over my body weren't so glamorous! **What has been the highlight of your career so far?** The first highlight was meeting my husband of course. The second was to walk by a newsstand and see my face on the

rejection personally. This job is about being in the right place at the right time. **When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?** I wanted to be a dancer. I studied jazz for 15 years, which has really helped with movement and poise. **What are your long-term aspirations?** I look forward to having a long and fulfilling modeling career and then a family with a lot of kids! **Tell us about your wedding and new husband?** My wedding was just as I had imagined since I was a little girl, romantic and classic in white. My husband is the most beautiful, sexy, caring, loving man. He is my best friend (and he [a hair stylist] also does great hair!). **Did you ever date models and what's your advice on the subject?**



cover of a magazine. **I saw you on Letterman. Tell us about that experience.** I was sooooo nervous because he can be incredibly intimidating. C'mon, this is Dave we're talking about! For the three days before the show I was worrying about the questions he might ask me. Luckily, he liked me and made me feel really comfortable. I was just happy when it was over. **You are known for your fabulous body. What is your fitness and nutrition regimen?** Moderate exercise, a healthy diet, and happiness keep me in shape. **Do you have any beauty and travel tips?** When you travel as much as a model, your skin becomes dry like a desert, so lots of water and moisturizing cream are very important. Pack light! **What's your favorite place in the world to work?** Since I am scared to death of flying, my favorite place to work is New York City, where I live. Some of the exciting places I have been for work are Brazil, Australia, Paris. **Do you miss home?** Every day I am away from Germany I miss my family. We are very close which makes it hard to live so many miles apart. **What is your advice to aspiring models?** Don't take

Yes, I dated a male model for about three months. My advice: If a man spends more time in front of the mirror than you do, forget it! **What do you do on your time off?** I love to paint, cook (German delicacies), and shop at flea markets and auctions. **Your favorite designer?** Marc Bower. **Favorite food?** Sauerkraut soup. **Favorite drink?** Cranberry/club soda. **Favorite movie?** *Bridges of Madison County*. **Favorite TV show?** *Absolutely Fabulous*. **Favorite facial cream?** Erbe. **Favorite makeup line?** Vincent Lomar. **Favorite New York restaurant?** Picasso's. **Your sign?** Gemini. **Best trait?** My smile. **Worst trait?** My feet. **Worst habit?** Occasionally smoking. **If you could choose a role in a movie, who would you like to play?** A James Bond girl!

She certainly has the Bond girl bombshellbody, but isn't she a bit too nice?







Heidi Klum wears pants, shirt and jacket, all by Trussardi.