

## AN ANALYSIS OF JOCELYN SMITHERS\*

Unlike the analysis of Sylvester Stallone and Joan Rivers, this paper will *not* analyze a psychological factor which is "responsible" for any aspect of Jocelyn Smithers' *professional* life. On the contrary, this paper will pertain to psychological factors which have induced a particular type of behaviour in her *personal* life. The particular aspect of her personal life pertains to the *truly phenomenal* level of dedication and joy that she exhibits in motherhood. The reader may be somewhat taken aback by this claim. This is for the simple reason that with the majority of mothers, their single greatest joy is their children. Although this is true, Jocelyn Smithers shows a level of zeal which is, to say the least, unique. Some tangible examples will be presented in order to establish this. (Her son's name is Gaston.)

In one article about her, we find the following. "Gaston's life may be more documented than World War II: Pictures of her blue-eyed only child (they want more) dot her bedroom; 'major events' (such as when he started nursery school) are noted by her secretary on a special calendar; two of his three birthday parties are on videotape, and in a sweetly sentimental gesture, (Smithers) writes What-a-Year-You've-Had letters to him on each birthday, which she'll keep stored in a safe until he is 21."<sup>1</sup> When her son did commence nursery school, the separation was more difficult on Jocelyn than it was on him.<sup>2</sup> A series of different quotes directly from Jocelyn Smithers to substantiate the magnitude of gratification she derives from motherhood are as follows.

"If I find myself complaining or saying I don't want to do something, he walks into the room and I think, 'Wait a minute. This is what it's all about. Let's keep the priorities straight.'"<sup>3</sup> As the reader can see, his *mere presence* induces an effect upon her.

"You don't want to be away, you don't want to miss a moment."<sup>4</sup>

In discussing the nature of her life subsequent to the birth of her son we have the following (her husband at the time was Tony Richmond). "After Gaston's birth, Richmond was inadvertently a victim of postpartum neglect. 'Everything else in my life took a back seat,' she says. 'Tony was wise enough to see this. He said, 'There's another person in this house. I need attention. I'm jealous.' I realized I was being unfair.'"<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, "My work is better, my life is better, and my feelings about myself are better,"<sup>6</sup>.

This next quote is especially significant. "When I'm not with him, it's almost like withdrawl."<sup>7</sup>

"I couldn't work without him. I waited a long time to have him. Because of that and how lucky I am, you don't want to be away, you don't want to miss anything."<sup>8</sup>

During one particular interview, her son came to her lap. She immediately exclaimed, "God, Gaston, you're a breath of fresh air."<sup>9</sup>

At one stage in his life, instead of taking towels out of the hotel like others, she brought her own towels in. This was because she couldn't tolerate the idea of hotel towels touching his sensitive skin.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, for one of his birthdays, her parents flew to Los Angeles from Houston and no fewer than ninety guests were in attendance. These ninety guests appeared despite the fact that he was only turning two years old.<sup>11</sup>

Via these examples, the reader should be capable of assessing that Jocelyn Smithers is indeed phenomenally dedicated to motherhood. This now raises the question, from where is such a phenomenal level of dedication to motherhood derived? In order to find the answer to

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\* This is the same woman outlined in the paper The Cause of Love/Marriage and Divorce.

this question, we must begin with an examination of her childhood. A cursory examination of certain specific details will suffice.

Both of Jocelyn's parents were unique people. The love they felt for their children exceeded to an inordinate degree how the majority of parents feel about their children. Although the evidence I have *actually procured* in order to substantiate this is not inordinate, it will suffice.

"I come from a comfortable background. Daddy's a dentist, and I never really wanted for anything. I wasn't all that spoiled, but my parents provided for me very well." The critical aspect is the continuation of this statement. "The important thing was that they gave me a hundred times more love and caring and friendship than they did *things*. So I grew up without many troubles."<sup>12</sup> Even with minor and inconsequential incidents which would have no real bearing on actually loving a child, her parents would make an effort to make her happy. On Valentine's day her mother would pack heart shaped sandwiches and dye the bread pink.<sup>13</sup> A logical analysis would dictate that since her parents were prepared to go to this extent to love their children, there's virtually no limit to how far they would go to adorn their children with love and affection. The fact that she does care for her parents deeply is substantiated by a particular fact. According to a 1979 interview, she calls her parents daily.<sup>14</sup> The primary way an adult would feel this way about her parents, is if she experienced a wonderful and idyllic childhood. Furthermore, a *truly* happy childhood is not derived from being spoiled with materialism, but being *intensely* loved. She also states the following. "I'm not a *driven* actress. I think it's because I had so much love and attention at home."<sup>15</sup>

The reason the words "actually procured" are italicized is as follows. There is one thing which would substantiate beyond any reasonable doubt that Jocelyn's parents are indeed unique from other parents. Unfortunately, I only have a recollection of Jocelyn once stating this. However, if it's truly important to verify this, she would be able to verify it herself (at this stage in my life, I'm in no position to actually meet her). She stated that even if she were not a rich and successful actress, her parents would be just as proud of her even if she was a ballerina or an interior decorator. If Jocelyn were to verify this, it would *truly* distinguish her parents from other parents.

Jocelyn experienced a wonderful and idyllic childhood *as a direct result of her parents' intensive love*. This is the factor which had bearing on her own dedication to motherhood. In order to elucidate upon why this situation prevailed, it will be necessary to briefly delve into what appears to be an extraneous phenomenon, but one which is in fact relevant to this analysis.

If one interviews rock stars of the contemporary era (Sting, Geddy Lee, Bruce Springsteen, David Lee Roth), one will find that there is a common denominator which influenced them to take up to rock and roll. Namely, the effect that the Beatles induced upon them. It was not so much their stardom or affluence which influenced them. *It was the feelings that were induced in them* by the Beatles when they listened to their music. The feelings and emotions that their music evoked were so powerful, they simply yearned to possess the same ability to evoke those same powerful feelings in others.

The analysis of Jocelyn Smithers now becomes straightforward and simple. During her childhood, the feelings she experienced as a direct result of her parents' *phenomenal* love were so intense and joyful that she simply wanted to induce those same powerful feelings in children of her own one day.

## REFERENCES

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