



# He's charming—and single!

Carole Radziwill sat down with the surprisingly hilarious actor Billy Crudup for a chat about love, movies and mullets.

**CAROLE RADZIWILL:** Did Simon [Billy's publicist] show you one of my columns?

**BILLY CRUDUP:** No, but I'm not so fastidious about preparing for interviews.

**CR:** It's a flirty interview with pictures of us having lunch.

**BC:** Gotcha. So who pays?

**CR:** *Glamour*.

**BC:** Cool. I'll have the lobster then.

**CR:** [Laughs.] It's the perfect date. You don't have to pay and there's no awkward sex pressure at the end.

**BC:** No? Simon would we would definitely be having sex.

**CR:** [Laughs.] When did you decide to become an actor?

**BC:** Senior year of college. I have a video of a bad soap opera I did: I've got a *sweet* mullet, weigh about 250 and I'm terrible.

**CR:** Let's put it on YouTube!

**BC:** [Laughs.] I didn't mind making an ass of myself if it meant I got a little attention. Then I discovered I had respect for what actors did, and I wanted to be better.

**CR:** But speaking of being bad, this over-used device of coincidence in films makes me crazy. Why are people always bumping into each other, dropping things and later falling in love?

**BC:** Doesn't that happen in real life?

**CR:** No. And why do the love interests always hate each other when they first meet? Have you ever seriously dated someone whom you hated when you first met?

**BC:** I'm afraid I have, but we didn't bump into each other.

**CR:** Did you drop anything?

**BC:** I don't think so.

**CR:** Because it never happens. It's so corny.

**BC:** You're going to face a terrible conundrum when you bump into somebody, drop something and it's the man you dreamed of. You'll be like, "I can't date you, it's too cliché." And that's why a movie will never be made about you.

**CR:** Well, I wouldn't go see that movie anyway. OK, is it better to be famous or *Almost Famous*?

**BC:** [Laughs.] You'll have to ask somebody who's been both.

**CR:** OK. Is it better to be a *Big Fish* in a small pond or a small fish in a big pond?

**BC:** I like being a small fish in a big pond.

**CR:** Is it better to love or to be loved?

**BC:** Hey, that's not one of my movie titles.

**CR:** So? It's my question.

**BC:** [Laughs.] It's better to make yourself *available* to love and to be loved.

**CR:** Are you available?

**BC:** Hopefully en route. I'm going to eat my whole sandwich with chopsticks, I've decided.

**CR:** Then I'm going to eat my whole sandwich with chopsticks too. In your new movie, *Dedication*, Tom Wilkinson's character says the average guy meets 900 women during his mating years. So when is mating season?

**BC:** I think it starts in January.

**CR:** And it ends in September, right?

**BC:** I was going to say February. I'm older now. I have a six-week season, then I need to rest.

**CR:** [Laughs.] How long have you been single?

**BC:** About a year. Hey, listen, I'm throwing in a couple of bucks because this was an expensive lunch. [Opens his wallet.] Oh, I don't have any money.

**CR:** Are you joking?

**BC:** Seriously, I didn't bring any money.

**CR:** [Laughs.] This isn't a real date. But you're funny, maybe we'll go on a real one someday.

**BC:** I went on a date a few weeks ago, and at the end of dinner, the waiter came over and said the restaurant had picked up the check.

**CR:** You see? It's better to be famous!



Carole Radziwill is the author of *What Remains*, published by Scribner, now available in paperback.

## LUNCH DATA

**WHERE:** Asia de Cuba, The Mondrian Hotel, Los Angeles

**WHAT THEY ATE:** Sushi and chicken club sandwiches, along with iced tea (Billy) and Diet Coke (Carole)