



Meet “the smart one”

Carole Radziwill and actress Rachel Weisz had lunch in New York City, where they were snapped by *Glamour* and paparazzi. Funny how winning an Oscar can make that happen! Listen in as they dish about doing love scenes in front of your fiancé and being a first-time mom.

CAROLE RADZIWILL: So how glamorous has your life been since you won an Oscar [for *The Constant Gardener*, last spring]?

RACHEL WEISZ: Well, I was seven months pregnant at the time, so after that I went right into babyland. I think [son] Henry's blue eyes are glamorous, but that's about as glamorous as my life is!

CR: Where did you end up putting the Oscar?

RW: It doesn't have a special place yet.

CR: Can I have it?

RW: [*Laughs*] No.

CR: You are often cast in movies as “the smart one.” Don't you get tired of being wanted for your brains but not your beauty and dynamite body?

RW: [*Laughs*] I'd like to be wanted for my body, too! As an actor I want to play all different kinds of women—independent women but also very vulnerable women.

CR: What are you interested in doing next?

RW: I got the word out, “The Oscar winner wants to do comedy!” So I'm actually shooting a romantic comedy now. I play a journalism grad student who leaves her thesis adviser [Kevin Kline] for a young politician.

CR: So you aren't really “the smart one,” you're “the funny one”?

RW: *The Mummy* is sort of funny, right?

CR: I think I'm the only one in the world who hasn't seen *The Mummy*. But it's my brother's

all-time favorite movie. Now, you've worked with some very talented directors. Who was your favorite?

RW: Well, of course...Darren Aronofsky!

CR: Good answer! You just starred in a movie he wrote and directed, *The Fountain*. Were you nervous about working with your fiancé?

RW: A little. We'd heard stories about couples working together and splitting up and other couples working together

and it being OK. But it was really exciting to get to watch him work. I'd never met “the director.” It was like meeting a whole new person.

CR: In a good way?

RW: Yes, completely. It was like walking around in a map of his mind and soul, since all the dialogue and sets came from his imagination. The movie is fantastical, like an adult fairy tale.

CR: A bit of a *dark* fairy tale. Is he that way in real life?

RW: No, he's the most down-to-earth, happy guy I know!

CR: Was it awkward to do sex scenes in front of him?

RW: Actually, in the moment between “Action!” and “Cut!” my real life doesn't exist. There *was* one situation in which Darren got annoyed because Hugh [Jackman]—who plays my husband in the movie—and I weren't doing a sex scene the way he wanted. We were kissing, and Darren hadn't shouted “Cut!” so we just carried on kissing. Finally, Darren screams, “Take his pants off already!” That pretty much broke the ice. We all laughed!

CR: In the past you've also shared screen time with Hugh Grant and Ralph Fiennes. That must not be any fun at all. Is it as hard as it looks?

RW: [*Laughs*] It's a hard job, but somebody's got to do it!

CR: What is the most interesting thing you've learned from becoming a mother?

RW: I wasn't a person who was longing forever to have a baby; the desire came up suddenly. But that bond between mother and baby is so interesting. Women have been giving birth since the beginning of time, but when it happens to you it feels like a miracle. Henry's truly the most fascinating person I know. Even though he's only seven months old, I have long, long dialogues with him. We commune. It's pure instinct and it's very powerful. ©

Carole Radziwill is the author of What Remains: A Memoir of Fate, Friendship and Love.

LUNCH DATA

WHERE: 12 Chairs Café, New York City

WHAT THEY ATE: Rachel had a mushroom omelette and an orange juice. Carole ordered a chicken sandwich and a Diet Coke.