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Here Comes Kelly Rutherford! (9)

By Sarah

Would the Real Ms. Rutherford Please Stand Up?



Imagine a green spectrum with say Ed Begley Jr at one end and Donald Trump at the other. While preparing to interview actress Kelly Rutherford I became obsessed with a pre-conceived idea that the Prius-driving actress would firmly reside at the 'Living with Ed' end of this spectrum while the character she portrays on Gossip Girl, Lily Van de Woodsen, would be largin' it with The Donald. What a delicious juxtaposition I had conjured in my mind: organic LA Mommy versus materialistic upper Eastside snob. Well, it didn't quite turn out to be a case of granola versus Gucci.

I meet Rutherford at Le Pain Quotidien in Beverly Hills, a restaurant she frequents in every city she visits. Scribbling in her I powder blue Hermes day planner, Rutherford (41) was fresh-faced and preppy in a blue gingham button down. With her enviably slim physique, it was hard imagine her she gave birth to her second child a mere six months ago. It's all down to nursing, which apparently "Gets you back into your skinny jeans pretty quickly!"

Despite being knee deep in a difficult divorce, the mother of two (son Hermes 3 and daughter Helena 6 months) was philosophical, upbeat and refreshingly candid.



SB: When did the environmental bell toll for you?

KR: When Mrs Gooch's opened in Beverly Hills. My mother was into health and nutrition and used to buy us organic cakes and cookies when we were young. I moved to LA to act when I was 19 or 20 and I remember buying 7th generation products for my home. I'd recycle and read about nutrition and health. Then when I got pregnant it really changed, I started thinking more globally. I got a Prius.

SB: Why a Prius?

KR: I was at a point in my life where I wanted to simplify but didn't know how to. I love the design of the Prius, how quiet it is and love that I don't have to get gas every week. After I bought mine, my Mom got one too and Dad got a Lexus hybrid.

SB: How is your lifestyle green?

KR: I do lot of small things. I don't run the water when I brush my teeth; I'm teaching Hermes about that. I take short showers (mostly); I use reusable bags; I eat organic, and I use my position to speak out about the environment.



SB: Is your son Hermes named after the French fashion house?

KR: You know I've loved that name for 20 years. It means Messenger of the Gods. I had to find a name that would go with his middle name, Gustav — so it's Hermes Gustav. I did think, "Can I actually name my son Hermes?"

SB: What causes do you support?

KR: Healthy Child Healthy World.

SB: Who are you heroes?

KR: Alicia Silverstone, Richard Branson, Al Gore for An Inconvenient Truth. Anyone that's in the field of creating products that are healthy are my heroes — the more we have to choose from the more people will gravitate to that area. The economy is shifting and there's great opportunity in that. For example, to-go containers in restaurants — we know they can be biodegradable so why aren't they all like that?

SB: You sound entrepreneurial...

KR: I am. I have so many ideas! Ideally I'd like to open eco play centers for kids in low income areas, as well as high income areas, where people can drop off their gently used toys. I have enough toys in my home to open an entire play center on my own. You could have organic mac and cheese and hot dogs without nitrates for the kids. Moms could have organic lattes.

SB: Okay, let's talk Gossip Girl. The character that you play on Gossip Girl is wealthy socialite. How is your life different from hers?

KR: Well I'm not a wealthy socialite, I'm a working actor (ha, ha!). I drive a Prius, she has a driver. I'm much more Californian, spiritual and into the organic lifestyle. Lily doesn't compost and she wouldn't carry a reusable bag. It's not that its not happening on the Upper East Side, it's just that Lily is from a different era. If she were a Mother in Brooklyn, maybe she'd be carrying a reusable bag.

SB: Are you alike in any way?

KR: We're both mothers. We both love our children. I know people like Lily in the Upper East Side. I was in those circles but more as an observer. In many way we are very alike, it's just our worlds are very different.

SB: Describe Lily in five words

KR: Luxurious, witty, goofy, maternal, love's life.

SB: Describe Kelly in five words

KR: Simple, loving, nurturing, kind, materialistic (for beautiful things).



SB: Quick Fire Round....

Designer: J Crew, Amber Sakai, Beyond Yoga, Tom's shoes

Skin Care: La Mer, Jurlique

Car: Range Rover (but I'd buy a used one)

Bag: Hermes Birkin Bag, Hermes Kelly bag, FEED bag for groceries

Shoes: Todds, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Lanvin flats, Tom's shoes

Restaurants: Le Pain Quotidien, La Scala, Serafina

Products: 7th Generation, Method, Nature's Gate Toothpaste

SB: If you could change one thing in the world who would it be?

KR: Legislation.

SB: New Years resolution?

KR: To get back into yoga.



SB: What's next?

KR: I'm shifting my focus. I always like to visualize the next year with images. It helps me keep focus and manifest. I did it when I was 20 years old and just starting out as an actor. I wanted a Range Rover. I put a picture of one up on my wall and I manifested it that same year. I'd also like to start speaking more and sharing in whatever way I can. I just want to be useful.

Kelly Rutherford loves Range Rovers yet drives a Prius, is as enamored with 7th generation cleaners as she is the Hermes Birkin bag, and claims to be simple yet materialistic. Sure this might sound somewhat paradoxical. But unlike some celebrities, Kelly is honest about the temptations faced by an eco savvy, style conscious women in our modern society. As for Lily, I think the Gossip Girl writers need to get her carrying a reusable bag. Or composting.



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