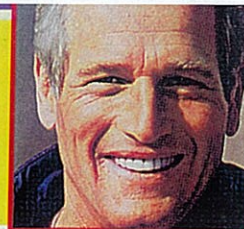


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pital. Doctors told the couple that William had a depressed fracture of the skull and required an immediate operation. They made it clear that there were potentially serious, albeit relatively small, risks.

Satisfied in his mind that his son was in safe hands, Prince Charles left to go to Covent Garden opera house, where he was host to a party of European Community officials. Diana waited anxiously at the hospital until she was told that her son was fine.

The dramatically different manner in which the couple responded to William's injury publicly underlined what those within their immediate circle have known for some time—the fairy-tale marriage is over in all but name. The Princess has told friends that spiritually their marriage ended the day Prince Harry was born in 1984. When a newspaper reported how the Prince had ignored her at a concert at Buckingham Palace, she remarked, "He ignores me everywhere and has done so for a long time. . . ."

When the Princess of Wales was told about her father's death on March 29, 1992, while she was on a skiing holiday in Austria, she was prepared to fly home on her own, leaving Prince Charles with their children. When he insisted on returning with her, she made the point that it was a bit late for him to start acting the caring husband. In her grief, she did not wish to be part of a Palace public-relations scheme. She dug her heels in. Finally, the Queen was telephoned to arbitrate on this increasingly bitter matter. The Princess bowed to her ruling that they should fly home together. At the air-

port, they were met by the media, who reported the fact that the Prince was lending his support in Diana's hour of need. The reality was that as soon as the royal couple arrived at Kensington Palace, Prince Charles immediately went to Highgrove, leaving Diana to grieve alone. Two days later Diana drove to the funeral while Charles flew in by helicopter.

As a close friend commented, "She seems to dread Charles's appearance." As far as is practicable they lead separate lives, joining forces only to maintain a facade of unity. Even their newspaper which used to have a distinctive, intertwined "C" and "D," has been discarded in favor of individual letterheads.

Diana lavishes William and Harry with love, cuddles, and affection. "Who loves you most?" is a favorite phrase as she tucks them into bed or tousles their hair. She negotiates her public duties around their timetables. They come first and foremost in her life.

On the other hand, she loathes Highgrove and refers to her trips there as "a return to prison." She sees it as the place where Camilla Parker-Bowles acts as hostess at dinners for Charles's close friends. Diana's friend, James Gilbey, says, "I can't understand it. I mean what the hell is that woman doing in Diana's house?"

Diana and Camilla still meet socially on occasion. Diana calls her rival "the rottweiler," while Camilla refers to the Princess as that "ridiculous creature."

Within the royal family, Diana keeps a distrustful distance from the Queen Mother, but her relationship with the Queen is much friendlier. In the early

days Diana was terrified of her mother-in-law. During their infrequent tête-à-têtes the Queen indicated that the instability of the royal marriage is an overriding consideration in any musings she may have about abdication. Naturally this does not please Prince Charles.

But the last 12 months have seen the Queen and her daughter-in-law develop a more cordial relationship. Indeed, Diana has emphasized to the Queen, "I will never let you down."

In March 1992 the Duchess of York formally separated from her husband. The Princess watched the acrimonious collapse of her friend's marriage with sadness and alarm. Diana admitted to a close friend that the week that Buckingham Palace announced the separation was a trying time for her. Yet Charles airily dismissed the departure of the Duchess and launched, as usual, into a disapproving appraisal of Diana's public works, especially in her visit to see Mother Teresa in Rome.

Diana told her husband that unless he changed his attitude toward her and the job she is doing, she would have to reconsider her position. In tears, she went upstairs for a bath. While she was regaining her composure, Prince William pushed a wad of tissues underneath the bathroom door. "I hate to see you sad," he said.

Diana's achievement has been to find her true self in the face of overwhelming odds. She will continue to tread a different path from her husband, the royal family, and their system and yet will still conform to their traditions. As she says, "When I go home and turn off my light at night, I know I did my best." ★

## GUESS WHO? HELOISE

(see pages 112-115)

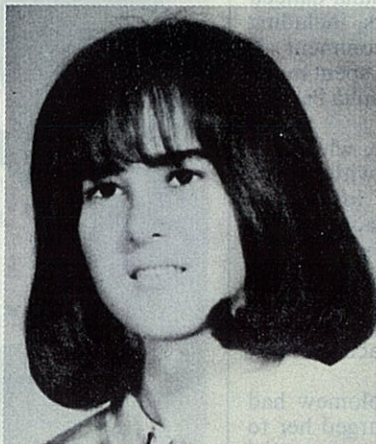
Over the years so many readers have written to our editors and to Heloise herself to say both how much they like Heloise's gray hair or to ask why she doesn't color it or cut it shorter.

Although Heloise is always ready to try something new, she wasn't prepared to change her hair color—yet she was curious to see how she would look in a new hair color and style. The solution: WIGS!

Because of Heloise's very hectic schedule (on a tour to promote her new book, *Heloise from A to Z*, she would be in New York for only two days), fittings were impossible. Instead, Raffaele Mollica, the best wigmaker we know, showed up at

Palma Kolansky's studio the day of the shoot with some 40 wigs in every possible style and color.

With each try-on, Heloise seemed to develop a new persona that ran the gamut from a high schooler to



At 14, Heloise had dark-brown hair and bangs—and had already started to go gray.

the woman we know today. She had a wonderful time helping us select the four different looks we would photograph.

Ironically, several days after she returned home to San Antonio, Texas, Heloise called to say that she had found a photograph of herself as a teenager (see left) and she was sending it along so we could see how similar the style and color were to those in the new photograph of her in the dark-brown wig.

Is that the end of our story? Not quite. Even though Heloise had a fun time experimenting with different hairstyles, and as tempting as the many hair colors were, she is happiest, she says, "The way I am."

So in Heloise's case (and maybe in yours), what's best may be right under your nose or . . . right under your wig. ★

Fashion: page 115, Ann Leslie; all other fashion, Louis Feraud. All jewelry: Erwin Pearl.