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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON HOW TO BE LOVELY: THE AUDREY HEPBURN WAY OF LIFE

What prompted you to write How to Be Lovely?

Well, who in the world does not want to be more lovely? Our Audrey was an expert. Cynthia Rowley once said, "I would look at some of the other stars like Sophia Loren and Marilyn Monroe, and I would think -- there's just no way, I could never be like them. That was a man's idea of beauty, and Audrey was more like a woman's idea of beauty. It was something that was attainable, that I could identify with." Frankly, I could not have said it better myself.

Audrey did not write an autobiography and so I wanted to explore just what she thought about her life - her philosophies, in her words - and see what we, the women who admire her, might learn about ourselves.

We know Audrey Hepburn as an actress, a fashion icon and an humanitarian, but what struck me was how genuinely kind she was in all aspects of her life. Here was this beautiful woman who encountered so much from Nazi occupation and childhood divorce to fame and Hollywood to failed love and public divorce. Yet, through it all, she stayed true to her convictions - kindness, grace and integrity. And, I believe, it is her character that was most remarkable. It will surely stand the test of time. Like all true beauty, Audrey's came from the inside out.

I see a lot of people refer to concepts of honor, integrity and truthfulness, but never live them. What can Audrey Hepburn teach us about living them?

With the immense pressures Audrey faced, she managed to maintain her sense of self and an impeccable sense of right and wrong. And if she could, I see no reason why the rest of us should strive for less.

Audrey taught her sons that when the time came to make a difficult choice, one must always take oneself out of it. Take out what you as a person have to win or lose, and then make your decision. And that this decision would inevitably be the right one. Not that she was perfect, mind you. We all make mistakes from time to time. But to try to do the right thing, this is what is most important.

Certainly, Audrey faced greater challenges than most women ever will. And yet, there were some - infidelity and divorce, balancing career and motherhood - that we may just share in common with her. Audrey Hepburn created her own path to become who she is. She didn't need media buzz or constant reinventions to do that.

Would she have made it in today's media obsessed world?

Today's media seems so focused on the negative, the scandal and Audrey was quite a private person. In her own day, she had two quite public marriages that both ultimately ended in divorce. Both marriages brought about quite a bit of gossip, which she always answered clearly and loudly in the press. In contrast, there were certainly times when Audrey was called "aloof" by the media. She was not in it for the publicity. Quite the opposite, I think.

What Audrey brought to the screen was just what she was - a kind, genuine, funny woman of great warmth. Often you saw these qualities in the characters she played. Yet, she also made

some very daring choices, for example Wait Until Dark or The Nun's Story. And so, I do think the breadth of her work and her character appeal to any generation.

I wrote the book for our young women - they need Audrey more than most! I have been so pleased to find so many young ladies who are fascinated by her. Perhaps, in almost a reactionary way, our young women are seeking out quality role models, looking to find women to admire. And Audrey certainly qualifies. Even fashion has returned to ladylike.

When it comes to your own life, how has your discovery of the "Audrey Way" changed you?

It is impossible when looking so closely into someone else's life not to have a few revelations about your own.

Audrey Hepburn represents someone who can teach us many things - not the least of which are integrity, caring and kindness to your fellow man. Her humanitarian efforts were unparalleled. Audrey showed us great hope. She believed that helping humanity began at home, and when your family is well, you reach out to your neighbor, and when they are well, you reach out even further. It is a powerful lesson that could certainly change the world in an incredibly powerful way. And I am inspired to do my part a little bit every day.

A lot of people know of Charade, My Fair Lady and Funny Face but there are many who do not. What are the risks of using a role model from another age and getting that message to the people who need it most and tell them that they, like Audrey, can be their true selves and live their highest potential?

What is wonderful about true role models is their ability to transcend their time. Whether you know Audrey as an actress or not, here was a woman who represented a sort of Everywoman. She experienced a very broad spectrum of life. She had her share of struggle, of heartache, as we all do. Yet somehow sharing her strength, compassion and real humanity were the end result.

The human experience is such that we must depend on each other for growth and guidance. It is very important to learn from someone who has had similar experiences and come out the other end. First and foremost, Audrey was a woman who struggled with many of the same issues that women do every day - marriage, infidelity, miscarriage, motherhood, career. And perhaps her experience will give them insight into one or two things that they had yet to figure out for themselves. Or maybe her story will inspire them to take a risk they otherwise would not have. What better tribute to her life than to empower others to make the most of their own?

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