

Starting Over

The end of Kim Kardashian's marriage threw her into a tailspin. She explains why she still believes in true love—and why the future looks bright. By Brooke Hauser

Kim Kardashian has made her share of vows, some more publicized than others. In the summer of 2011, she married basketball player Kris Humphries. (Roughly 4.4 million viewers tuned in to watch the wedding on E!.) Seventy-two days later, Kardashian filed for divorce; soon after that, she made another vow—one that, considering the source, seems about as unlikely as Donald Trump taking a vow of silence.

"I made a vow I'm not going to wear makeup...for two months," Kardashian says solemnly, over lunch at the Beverly Hills Hotel. "No lashes, no glam, no heels. I said, 'I just want to be me.'" For the past few weeks, Kardashian has been holed up at the home of her mother, Kris Jenner, indulging a side of herself that the public doesn't often get to see: the homebody. Around the time the split was announced, she canceled all of her work commitments, with a couple of exceptions, including the photo shoot for this magazine. Instead, she committed to wearing Uggs and sweatpants, taking cooking lessons from her mother's personal chef, bonding with her younger half sisters, Kendall and Kylie Jenner, and going on long walks with her pastor. Often, she didn't even run a brush through her hair. Those days are gone.

Today is one of the first times the 31-year-old has put on makeup since her vow nearly a month and a half ago (OK, she lasted almost two months), and she seems to relish the promise of a reinvented self. "I truly feel my best when I'm all glammed up," says Kardashian, who swanned into the room wearing a tight, curve-cupping Pucci dress, nude Versace heels, and a long clip-on ponytail. She smiles. "Today's a good day for me. I'm on my feet, I'm dressed up, I'm out."

By the time you read this article, Kardashian surely will have gotten back into the swing of her normal schedule, but this afternoon, the self-proclaimed workaholic is





Denim shirt by DL1961.
Bracelet (worn as
necklace) by Salvatore
Ferragamo. Makeup colors:
Eye Pencil in Brown,
Instant Light Blush in Coral
Tonic, and Gloss Prodiges
in Rose by Clarins. These
pages: Hair, Serge Normant
of the Serge Normant
at John Frieda Salon;
makeup, Fulvia Farolfi;
manicure, Bernadette
Thompson. Prop stylist: Bill
Doig. Fashion editor:
Paul Cavaco. Details, see
Shopping Guide.





Nude silk top by Calvin Klein Collection. Multicolored nylon Lycra bikini bottom by Zimmerman. Details, see Shopping Guide.

taking it relatively slow. Earlier in the day, before a nap, she had a meeting with Sears about Kardashian Kollection, her women's clothing and accessories line with her sisters Kourtney and Khloé. The collection makes up just a fraction of the family's multimillion-dollar empire, which includes several reality-TV shows on E! (the original, *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, is the most-watched show in the network's history), clothing boutiques, a shoe company, a nail-polish line, and fragrances (True Reflection by Kim Kardashian hits stores this month).

It may have seemed that there is little the Kardashians wouldn't sell—an image that hasn't helped Kim. After news broke of her impending divorce, people got vicious. Headlines accused her of marrying as a moneymaking ploy. (The couple reportedly earned almost \$18 million selling rights to photos and video of their wedding.) The week before our interview, Humphries filed for an annulment of the marriage, citing fraud. Kardashian declines to comment on Humphries's claim. (She still refers to him as “my husband,” explaining, “The reality is that we're still married right now.”)

The new Kim is sweet but shrewd, especially when it comes to protecting her image. Throughout our interview, she prompts herself: “Do I want kids of my own? Absolutely. But I don't know if that's what's meant for me. Maybe I'll just work, work, work, and not think about it.” “Is it tough to watch [the show]? Yeah. Tough to see an unhappy time in your life.” “Do I think there are more haters than before? Not really. But I think this has given them a platform to have a louder voice.” “Will I be more private of a person? Am I more guarded? Absolutely,” she says. “But, also, I'm a firm believer that my show is who I am.

“People [think] because you film your life on a reality show, you live everything for the cameras. But we all have limits,” Kardashian continues. Her younger sister Khloé, whose spin-off show, *Khloé & Lamar*, chronicles her life with her basketball-player husband, Lamar Odom, won't film past 6 P.M. on game nights. Oldest sister Kourtney is protective of her two-year-old son, Mason, and assesses before every season whether he should be filmed at all, and if so, how much. “My mom has no limits,” Kim says, and laughs. “We need someone, right, to have no limits? That's my mom.”

As for Kardashian's limits, they are evolving. There was a time when she thought she wanted an ongoing record of her marriage for posterity. “When I saw Khloé and Lamar get married—and they had their wedding on TV—I thought, Oh, my gosh, that's so exciting! That's what I want!” says the star, who eloped to Las Vegas with her first husband, music producer Damon Thomas, in 2000. “If you were to ask me now, that's not what I want.”

If Kardashian has regrets about sharing so much of her personal life on camera, she doesn't dwell on them. Still, she says, the experience “definitely made me want to be more private with my relationship, whenever I choose to get into one again. I'm not ready, but when that time comes, I'll be more cautious about who I let my world open up to.”

When it comes to her success, people tend to be either fascinated or flabbergasted. More than 12 million followers hang on her every tweet, and mobs of fans are willing to wait hours for a glimpse of their idol. The star has been known to ask her Twitter followers (she calls them “dolls”) what color lip-

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stick she should wear. When they respond, she actually takes their advice. She has a constant dialogue with her fans, and it's precisely this mix of fantasy and accessibility that makes audiences tune in to her family's shows, Kardashian says: “It's the glitz and the glam, but then we have the normal fights. I get a lot [of comments] like ‘I have no sisters and I wish I did’ or ‘I have tons of sisters, and we're just like you!’ There are so many of us, someone can relate to one of us in the family.”

Kardashian is the second child of Kris Jenner and Robert Kardashian, a defense attorney who was part of O.J. Simpson's legal team. They eventually divorced, and each remarried—Kris to Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner, who already had four children. Then, in 2003, Robert died, just eight weeks after learning he had esophageal cancer. His absence is often felt in his family's lives. Among Kim's most valued possessions are typed contracts that her father drew up for his children when they were young. “There were contracts for everything. I mean, our stocking stuffers would be a contract. We would open it, and it would be like, ‘This is for a one-hour conversation about life with your dad.’ He made Khloé sign a contract that she would never grow up,” Kardashian recalls. As a kid, Kim played soccer; she also played a make-believe game called Donna Karan with Kourtney, who got to be the famous designer. “I was the assistant,” Kim says flatly.

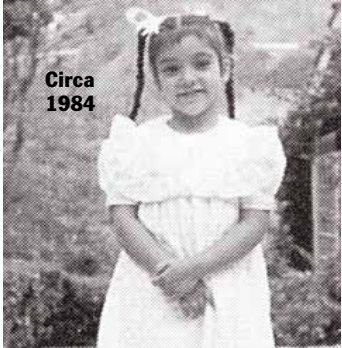
One thing that hasn't changed: The Kardashians are in the news—all of them. Not long after Kim filed for divorce, her brother, Rob, emerged as a front-runner on *Dancing With the Stars*, Kourtney announced she was pregnant with her second child, and *Us Weekly* put Khloé on the cover next to the quote “I'll Do Anything for a Baby.”

“Khloé joked with me and said, ‘Will you be my surrogate?’” Kim says, and laughs. “I said, ‘I think I have a couple more years when I just want my body to myself. At 35, I promise I'll consider it.’” As for any future plans, “I think I will always believe in love, no matter what,” Kardashian says, allowing herself to daydream about her next wedding, should there be one, for a fleeting moment.

“I would just want it to be so special, with our family and close friends, and that's it. Somewhere on a deserted island, very private,” she says, lowering her gaze. “No cameras.” ♦



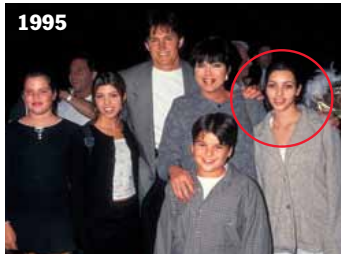
Tablet Extra:
To watch an exclusive interview with **Kim Kardashian**, download **Allure** to your tablet.



Circa 1984

Childhood photograph "I was getting ready for school, and my dad would videotape us every morning before we'd go, so we have tons of tape of us talking about what we thought our day was like."

With Khloé and Kourtney Kardashian, Bruce Jenner, and Kris and Robert Kardashian "What a fab, gorgeous family photo. Khloé will kill you. Khloé has definitely grown up. I remember I had waxed my forehead for the first time, because it was so hairy, and then I stopped, and I let it grow out."



1995



1996

With Robert Sr. and Kourtney Kardashian "I think that was the father-daughter dinner dance. I thought it was so cool that I was going to wear a nude-colored satin tux. Look at my eyebrows. That's when I was tweezing them."



2006

With Paris Hilton at a party for Entourage in Hollywood "I don't really talk to her. I mean, if I saw her, I'd say hi, but we don't really talk."



2007

In a 2B Free fashion show in Hollywood "Oh, that's funny. Huge hair. I look so Armo—so Armenian—there. It's my Armo look, with thicker eyebrows, hairier forehead. It changes the shape of your face when you get good eyebrows."

With Carmen Electra at a Disaster Movie cast party in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico "She has got to be one of the prettiest and sweetest people I know. My teeth look weird, like buck teeth. Not a flattering photo."



2008



2009

In a boxing match for the Dream Foundation in Commerce, California "The girl punched me, bruised my rib, I got a black eye. I wanted to be out of there, but in front of me was a girl who had cancer who was fighting for her life, and I felt like, I can't go in there and just fight one fight when she came to see me."



2010

In a Carl's Jr. commercial "It's, like, feta cheese, walnuts, apples. It's actually really good. When you do a commercial, they usually have a spit bucket, but I was eating it."

At an event for Charmin Restrooms in New York City "They were launching this holiday-shopping restroom center, which I thought was a really cool idea. So I was like, 'Sure, why not? I'll go.'"



2010



2011

With Kourtney Kardashian and John Mackey at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles "I have no idea what that guy is saying to us. [Pause.] Or not saying. I love belts. If you have big boobs and a big butt, it can make you look bigger if you don't [wear one]."

At her wedding in Montecito, California *ALLURE*: "Anything you'd like to say?" *KK*: "No." *ALLURE*: "Well, how about the dress?" *KK*: "Vera Wang is a genius, and she's just so amazing."



2011



2011

With Kris Humphries at their wedding "[Jewelry designer] Lorraine Schwartz is amazing. That's how I'll comment on that."



2011

In a leaked video for an unreleased song "I did a little song called 'Jam.' We shot a video. We never released it, but Hype Williams shot it, and The-Dream did the song. I was so nervous, but it was so fun, and it was a good experience. The red lips. Hoop earrings. I love it."

With Kourtney Kardashian in New York City "Kourtney decided that she was going to start couponing. She made me go with her to a healthy supermarket, and said she had to change the way we eat, and [we] only can use coupons."



2011



2011

In Dubai "That was probably one of my favorite places to ever go. Dubai is so amazing. That was a fun camel ride. My mom and I were scared a little bit. He started to go up, so I just like, 'Ahhh!' I had this look on my face."



2011

At the Midori Green Halloween costume party in New York City "I was Poison Ivy. It's the first time I wore a lace-front wig, and I loved it. It was a Midori party, so I knew I wanted something green. And I was like, 'What is green? Gumby or Poison Ivy.'"