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InStyle

ABORN ROMANTIC

BEAUTIFUL, SMART AND
DRIVEN? GIVEN. BUT WHAT
MATTERS MOST TO HEIDI KLUM
IS FAR MORE PERSONAL:
A LOVE AFFAIR THAT RIVALS
ANYTHING HOLLYWOOD
COULD DREAM UP

BY JENNIFER WEINER PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNY GAGE & TOM BETTERTON STYLED BY SARAH GORE REEVES

Unlikely as it might sound, there's probably a woman like Heidi Klum on every playground in America. You know the one: the woman who glows throughout her pregnancy, who says that giving birth was "blissful," who struts out of the hospital in skinny jeans. You might also know her as the Mom Most Likely to Get Tossed Off the Climbing Structure. • It would be easy to assume that Klum embodied the supermom mold. Consider the evidence as she strolls through a Beverly Hills park wrapped in a black Thomas Wylde cashmere cardigan. Skin: smooth. Hair: shiny. Undereye circles behind those Marc by Marc Jacobs sunglasses: absent. New baby, Lou Sulola, in photos on mom's Blackberry: adorable. Push prize: impressive. (After Lou's birth,

Klum's husband of four years, the singer Seal, surprised her with a sapphire ring. "Blue for Lou," Heidi says with a dreamy smile.) But resist the urge to shove her down the slide because Klum has no qualms about blasting that seemingly perfect picture: She pulls up her shirt to reveal that her skinny black Seven jeans are (ah ha!) actually maternity pants, complete with stretchy panel, and that her belly still has a bit of jiggle. "You don't walk out of the hospital and get right back into your 27s," she says sternly.

At this park where she often takes her four kids (and her bodyguards) to feed the ducks, Klum sits down to share a picnic, munching on almonds, figs, apricots, and stinky cheese, and hacking away at the salami with a plastic knife. ("Hard," she judges in a sound bite that could crash YouTube, "but not as hard as I like it.") She casts a wistful look at the loaf of bread but forgoes a single bite. She gained 45 pounds during each of her pregnancies; to drop the weight this time she's cutting carbs, regularly hitting the treadmill, and walking with the baby up and down her steep driveway.

Klum, 36, chats about balancing work and family, with the help of her parents and a rotating staff of nannies, and about how she'll soon be flying to New York and back to L.A. within a matter of days because she's breast-feeding. "My boobs are on a schedule!" she says. It's a juggling act that's familiar to any working mom, although in Klum's case it's more work (and

more family) than most of us have. Besides her hosting duties on Lifetime's *Project Runway*, now back in New York and in its seventh season, Klum is launching two maternity fashion lines this month: one for A Pea in the Pod called Lavish and the other for Motherhood Maternity called Loved. "I've been pregnant four times, and I always have the desire to dress stylish and sexy," she says. "I got the idea to design clothes for women like me who want to be fashion forward even with a baby on board."

"Everything is about love when you're pregnant," she explains. (Which is welcome news to those of us who thought that everything was about morning sickness, swollen ankles, insomnia, and exhaustion.) "The baby's being loved by you; the baby's being loved by your husband, by the grandparents, by your children. And you're being loved by everyone: 'Can I do this for you? What can I get you? Do you want some M&Ms?' Not that I get that kind of attention," she adds with a laugh, but in a tone indicating that she *could* get it, that her doting husband would happily give her anything she wanted.

Maybe that, in the end, is what separates Heidi Klum from all of the other supermodels turned TV moguls with four kids under 6: her amazing love story. The thing you can't help but notice with Klum is how many times she refers to "my husband," and with what genuine affection.

Klum was a teenager in Germany when she beat out 25,000 other contestants to win a modeling contest that eventually brought her to America. After her five-year marriage to hair-

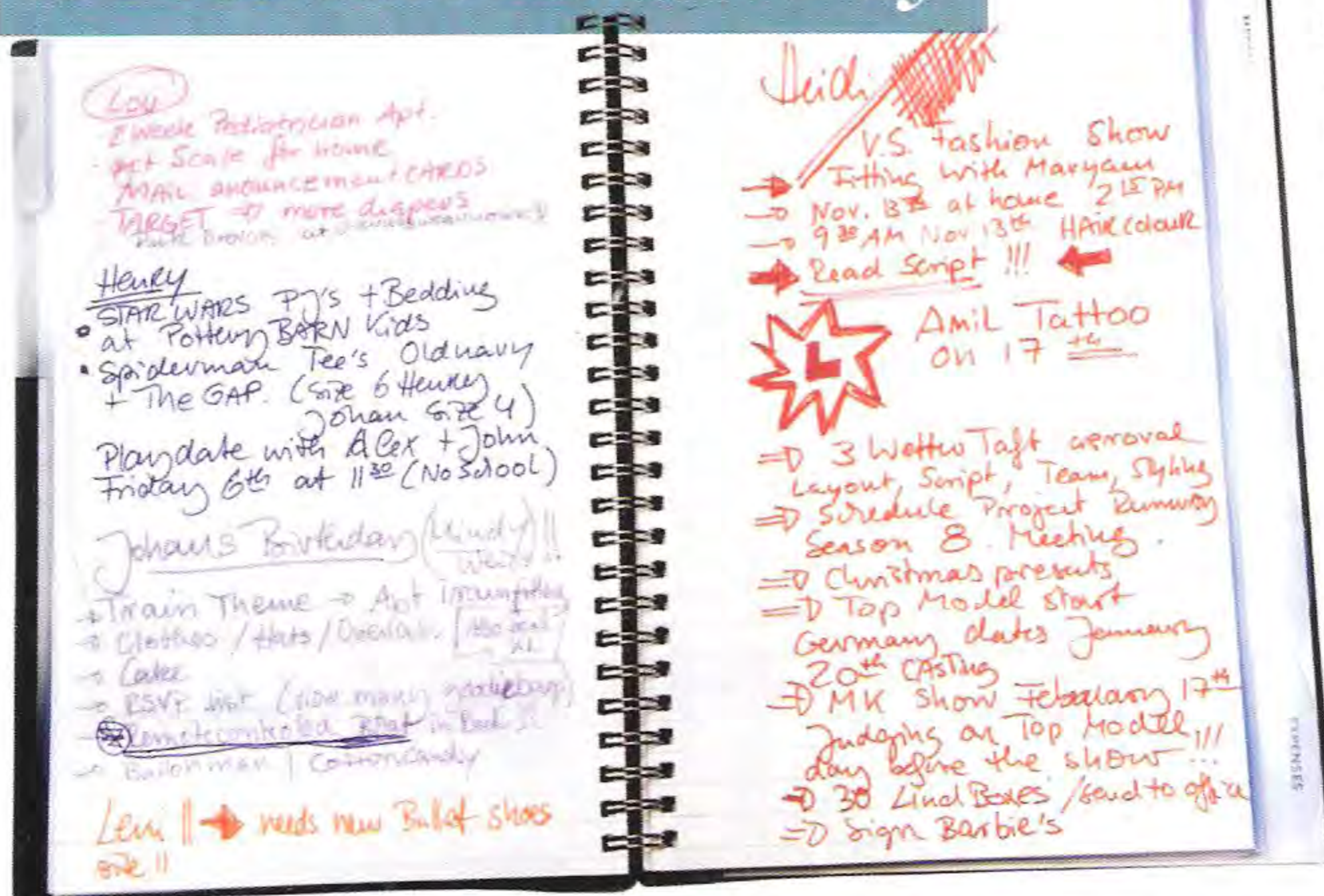
stylist Ric Pipino ended, she dated Italian businessman Flavio Briatore. But after they split in 2003, fate intervened: She met Seal in the lobby of New York's Mercer hotel as he was coming out of the gym in tight bicycle shorts ("And I pretty much saw everything," Klum famously told Oprah).

He was a British pop superstar, the child of Nigerian immigrants, who bounced from foster care to various homes before striking out on his own at 15. She was a successful model who had posed for fashion magazines as well as the cover of *Sports Illustrated's* swimsuit issue and made her mark as a Victoria's Secret angel—and she was pregnant with Briatore's child.

"I told Seal pretty early," she says. Seal didn't balk. "He was there from the very beginning. He's always been Dad." But his meet-the-parents moment went a little less smoothly. "They were quite

EXCLUSIVE

A Peek into Heidi's Day



"SURE, I KEEP A SCHEDULE ON MY COMPUTER," says Klum, who let us peek into her handwritten agenda, "but I love crossing things off a list once I've done them. It's old-fashioned but it works! Using different inks for different subjects and people in my life makes it easier."

HEY, HEIDI!

What's the Most Romantic...



Klum and her husband, Seal

City If you have romance within you, any place is romantic. It's up to you as a couple. We do love the cliché places, though, like Venice and Paris—drinking wine, eating crêpes, strolling around the Seine, eating on top of the Eiffel Tower. They do earn their reputations for being romantic cities!

Country Italy. It's such a beautiful place. Italians are such passionate people about everything: food, wine, love, architecture, language.

Song "Wedding Day" is a song my husband wrote on the day we got married. I mean, how romantic is that!

Movie I love the simplicity and sweetness of the romance in kids movies, like *Shrek* or the spaghetti-eating scene in *Lady and the Tramp*.

Room in the house Whichever one Seal is in.

Time of the day Once the children are all happily tucked into bed and Seal and I have a chance to spend time talking about our day.

Writer The poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

Scent The smell of roses in the garden.

Drink Champagne—classic!

Gift you've given I sent my husband on a surprise snowboarding trip to Aspen with his four best friends. It was a real boys' trip without the wife and kids.

Gift you've received My husband always gives really heartfelt presents—beautiful letters, even songs. I do love diamonds too. But it's the way he surprises me with them that makes it romantic and memorable.

Sentence in English "Will you marry me?" Asking someone to share your future is about as romantic as it gets.

Sentence in German *Ich liebe dich*. Translated, that means: I love you.

Most romantic sensation When everything is

chaos and noise and craziness around us and I lock eyes with Seal! Then there is just us.

Gesture from a woman to a man I had to ask my husband about this. He said it was when I sent him on that snowboarding trip—so romantic because it was an unselfish thing to do.

Gesture from a man to a woman When a man lets all his "macho" guard down and feels comfortable enough around a woman to express his emotions honestly.

Letter or phone call Seal is a poet and writes beautiful letters and e-mails, but nothing is better than hearing him say "I love you."

How would you finish this poem: "Roses are red, Violets are blue..."
I will forever love you.

like, wow," Klum says, grinning. "They were taken by his stature. He's like a tree. And he can be quite intimidating when he's not smiling." But after spending time with him, her parents were soon smiling as well. "Seal's very English," she says. "He likes his cup of tea and to sit and chat. He's warm and thoughtful. He's probably softer than I am about certain things."

Klum's parents are very much a part of her life. They've been in the delivery room for the births of all her children—Leni, 5, Henry, 4, Johan, 3, and Lou, 4 months—and her mother, Erna, is at her house while we picnic, helping out with Lou. Heidi knows her blissful bond with her mother is a little uncommon, but she can't imagine it differently. Klum is grateful to her parents for teaching her to be open-minded in so many ways—like having a refreshingly relaxed attitude toward nudity. Yes, the rumors are true: There are nude pictures of her and Seal in the bedroom. "They're photographs by Adam Fuss," she says a little impatiently. "He's an artist. And they are beautiful, artistic photos—more silhouettes than anything else."

The kids have seen the pictures—no big deal, Heidi says with a shrug. "It's not like, 'Hey, Mom and Dad are naked, come check it out!' But if I go to the bathroom and my kid walks in, I'm not going to be like, 'Oh my god! Close the door!' They see their parents naked all the time. We are not ashamed."

But Klum is a believer in a certain kind of propriety: kids who keep their elbows off the table and greet visitors with a

handshake, family dinner at 6 o'clock. Klum says most nights end with the kids falling asleep in bed with Mom and Dad. Of course, that routine gets spiced up with plenty of adventure—a two-week tour of India, where the couple compete to see who can take the best photographs, or a jaunt to Vegas, where they cram in two shows every night. "My husband is more the hermit, and I'm more the Jack Russell that runs around him and is like..." Here she pants like an adorable terrier: "'Let's go! Come on! Let's go to Disneyland! Let's go to Seaworld! Let's fly to Paris!' And he's, like, 'Really? Let's just stay home. It's comfortable and, you know, football's on!'"

But he's easily coaxed off the couch for the pair's annual wedding ceremony. Around May 10 each year they renew their vows (often in costume!) and celebrate afterward with friends and family. There's real heart inside the spectacle. "We're still for a minute and stare into each other's eyes," says Klum. "Because if we don't take that time, then it's karate, then it's ballet, and then there's Christmas, and my husband's flying off to tour around the world."

As much as she loves her very full life, she does fantasize about a future that's a little less hectic. "At 65 I'd love to be on a boat with my husband, floating around, our kids visiting us with their friends, dropping anchor whenever we want." On a boat "you feel so free: If you don't like it somewhere, or you're over it, you just pick up the anchor and go to the next place." ■