

terview

people have tried to ruin my youth, destroy my marriage. . . . I don't want to have to put up with the harassment anymore. Not the moralizing harassment from the people who try to teach me a lesson, not the physical harassment from those who make a living off my life.

Q: Is it your presence, Dodi, that has reinforced this independence?

Dodi: Love gives a person the strength to face certain unpleasantnesses of life . . .

Q: In any case, you seem ready, for the first time since your divorce, to publicly admit to a loving relationship. Does this mean that you feel it is important enough to be made official, so to speak?

Diana: I have very deep feelings for Dodi, and I believe in the sincerity of his feelings for me. Also, the al-Fayed family are far from being strangers; Mohamed al-Fayed was very close to my father, they were friends. Mohamed al-Fayed always felt that he should watch over me. Is it because my father asked him to do so? Is it a sign of his generosity? Whatever the case may be, he behaves the way a great uncle would. All of these things. . . . That's why it's natural that my sons should be here. Dodi and William have a wonderful time together. I am rediscovering a truly warm family atmosphere here, so why should I hide my happiness?

Q: [To Dodi] Some of your friends say that they can't recognize you anymore. You have often been described as being a man of easy successes and fickle humor. All that seems to have changed.

Dodi: People have often exaggerated about me; it's an easy way to criticize me. In any case, when I met Diana, it was very clear to me that I had met the perfect person. Turning forty gave me a maturity, an ability to consider having a deep relationship. Also, the hell of Diana's life, being harassed on a daily basis, has reinforced our bond. And our fathers were friends in the past, and the friendship with her sons: All of this brings us closer together.

Q: You have everything: youth, fortune, and love. What would you like the future to bring?

Dodi: I would like to continue to be this happy, to do everything possible to make it stronger. I have never felt this kind of harmony before. [He smiles.] My dream . . . why not finally get married for love? [Diana lowers her gaze, smiling.]

Q: You have just been through some very painful years. How do you see the future?

Diana: I was madly in love. I think that I learned very soon after my marriage that my desire to share everything with the one I loved was only an illusion. Some people call that my tragedy. I was devastated. There is nothing worse than being betrayed in love when you are young, very naive, and very in love. I fought to save my marriage, I went through terrible times, lots of hopes, and lots of disappointments. The only moments of true happiness came when William and Harry were born. My marriage was a disaster, caused me a great deal of anxiety and desperation, I'm afraid to say. So, marriage . . . now I dream of sincerity and love. Passion seems less important to me than harmony. It's hard to explain . . . I'm like a boat that has just come through a very rough storm, and now all I want is perfect, beautiful weather.

Q: After such a painful past, do you want some kind of revenge?

Diana: Revenge? No. There are moments, there are feelings that I wanted to experience, and that, unfortunately, I didn't experience, or too little. I think, for example, that becoming a mother in a warm, generous atmosphere is not something I have experienced.

Q: Do you mean to say that you regret that it was that way, or that William and Harry should expect to have a little brother or sister one day?

Diana: You're asking two questions there. First of all, of course I regret the lack of warmth. As for the second, do you think I'm too old? [Outright laughter] I would imagine that to be fulfilled as a mother and as a woman would be real happiness, don't you think? □

Happily ever after? A young Dodi charms his aunt, an older Dodi romances a princess, and Diana finds peace in good works.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DODI FAYED WITH AUNT; DIANA FAYED; A MAN IN A MILITARY UNIFORM; AMERICAN RED CROSS