

THE ILLEST MEN'S... ONE EVER!

KING

HOLY SHEET!

ANGEL

**DROPS
HER TOP
INSIDE**

SEE PG. 104

SHARON LEAL

**ALL WE WANT
FOR XMAS!!!**

MAN OF THE YEAR!

DON IMUS

NO, SERIOUSLY!

**LIL'
WAYNE
HIGH
ON
STYLE**



**WILL
SMITH'S
OTHER
WIFEY**

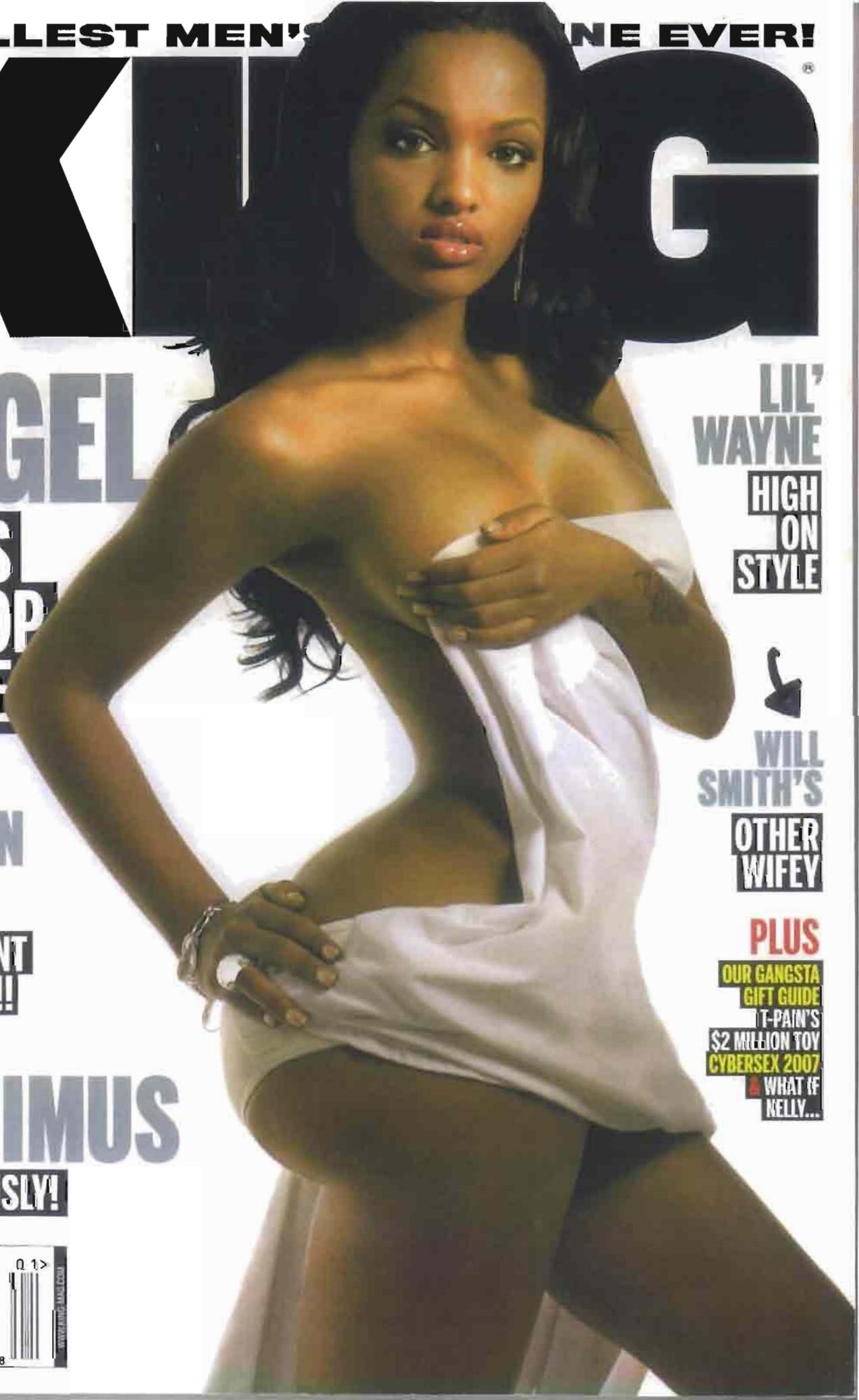
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70 KING Man of the Year: Don Imus

"PARTING SHOTS"

It took only three words from one mouth to ignite a firestorm of debate and a full-blown incursion into hip-hop. For having such impact, Mr. Don Imus—the original radio bad boy—is our Man of the Year. In other words, the jock's biggest shock yet.

80 Sharon Leal

"HOT DAMN!"

Tastier than an eggnog triple shot, actress Sharon Leal delivers glad tidings by our fireplace. Bring your own wood, er, yule log.

87 Nelly

"LONG HAUL WITH A SHORTSTOP"

For St. Louis' golden child, becoming an international hip-hop luminary was a clear-cut decision—one followed by many more. Here, in retro paperback fashion, you navigate the crucial path. Nelly has followed.

92 Salli Richardson

"BEAUTY BEFORE AGE"

Battling ravenous bloodsuckers in Will Smith's *I Am Legend*, Salli Richardson is no stranger to suspending disbelief. Makes sense—her breathtaking body is already otherworldly.

100 Cassidy

"ANALYZE THIS"

On the cusp of his new, soul-searching album, *B.A.R.S. (The Barry Adrian Reese Story)*, KING sent Cass to a couch doctor for a head, not microphone, check.

104 Angel

"WHO WANTS ANGEL CAKE?"

Bodily her video-vixen peers, Angel's derriere reigned supreme in '07. Since glory and gossip go hand in hand, the curvaceous pinup clears the rumor-filled air and even answers fan questions. (No date requests were fulfilled.)

115 TAG

"RELAXED FIT"

Blending dope-boy freshness with chic couture, Lil' Wayne gives new meaning to the term "cross-dressing."

124 Online Dating

"WEB OF LIES"

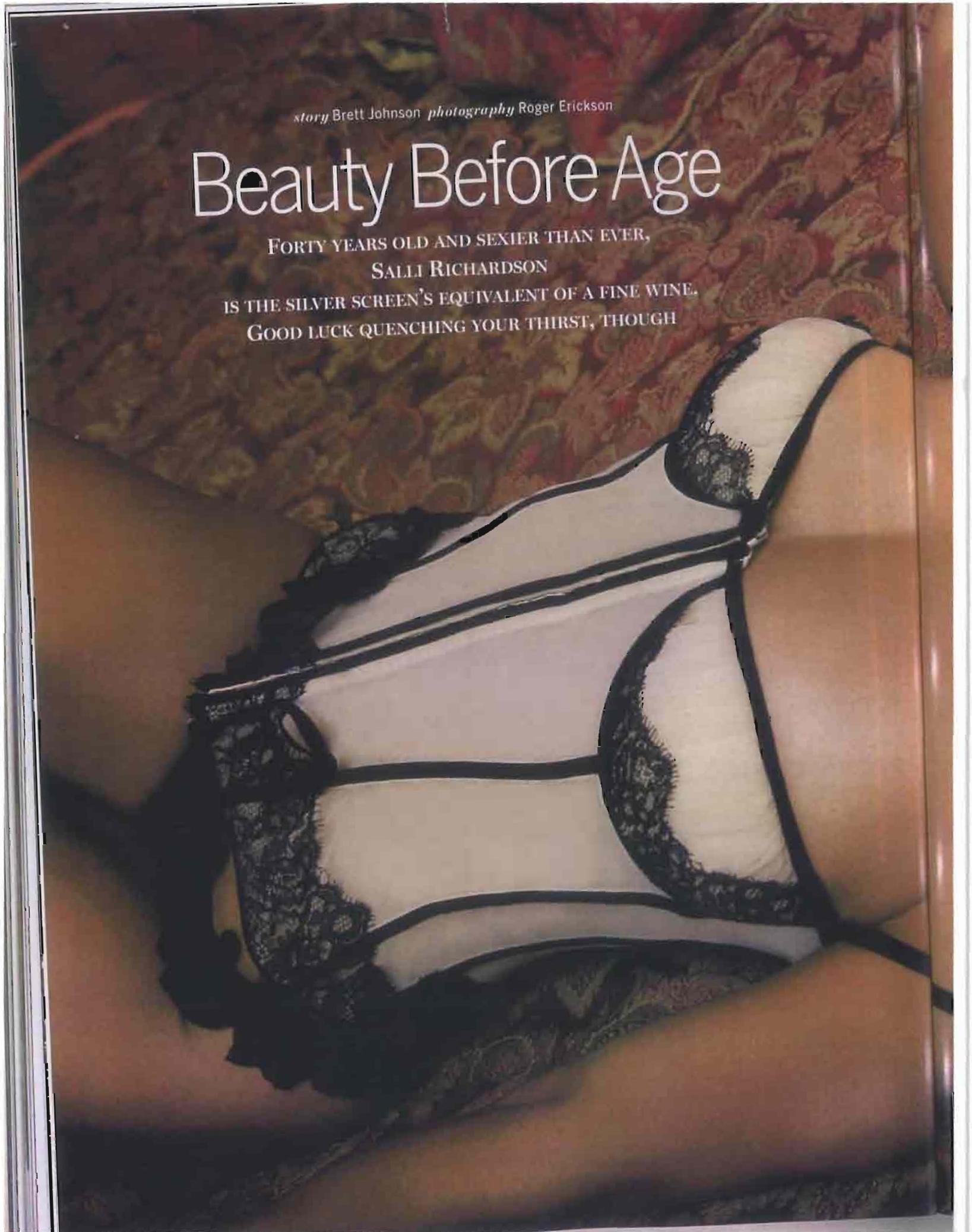
KING dispatches a reporter to the adult Internet-hookup scene. Luckily, he didn't acquire any viruses.

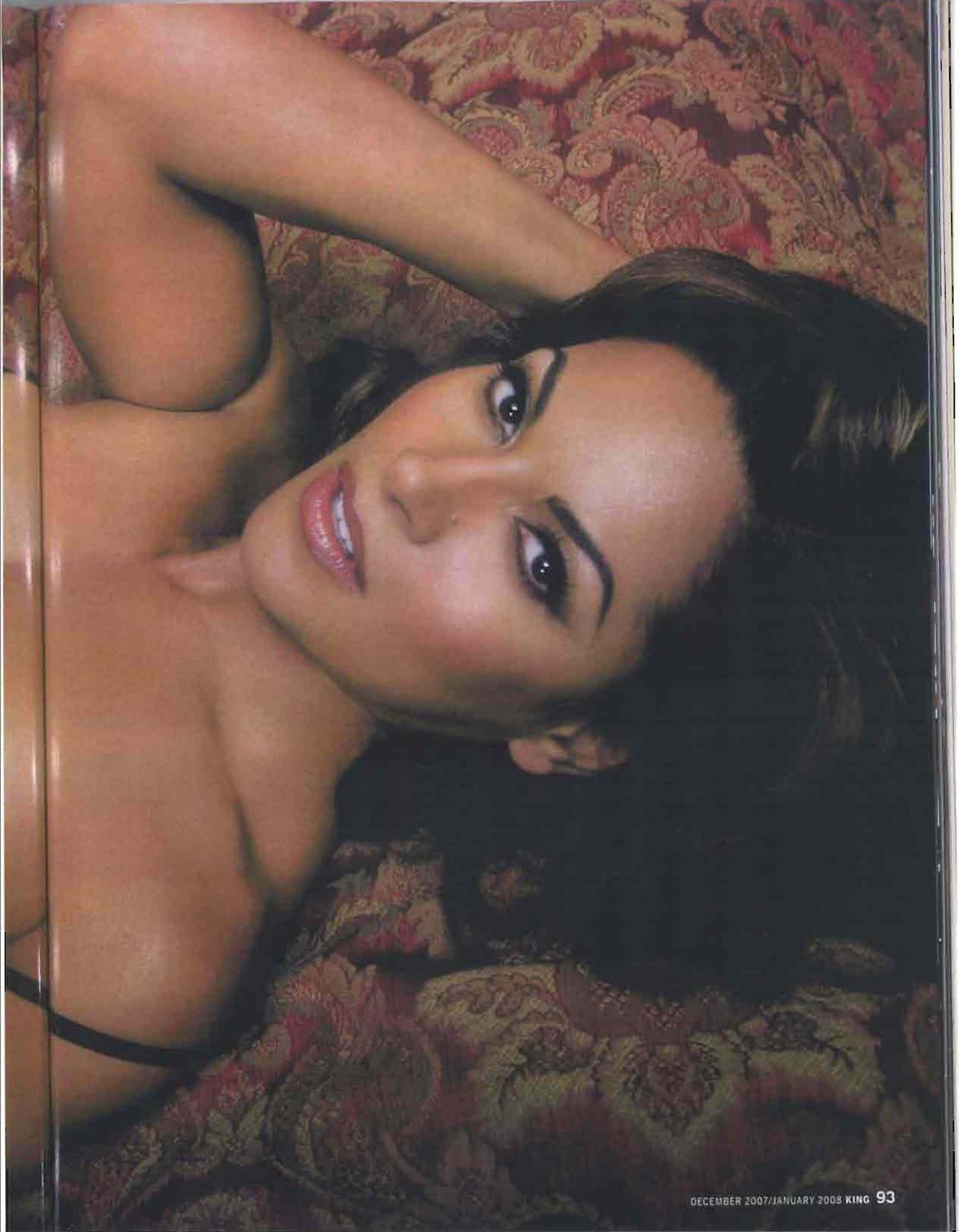
COVER AND THIS PAGE SHOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR KING BY *Rapon Richards*

story Brett Johnson *photography* Roger Erickson

Beauty Before Age

FORTY YEARS OLD AND SEXIER THAN EVER,
SALLI RICHARDSON
IS THE SILVER SCREEN'S EQUIVALENT OF A FINE WINE.
GOOD LUCK QUENCHING YOUR THIRST, THOUGH







Salli Richardson is the apple of every Adam's eye.

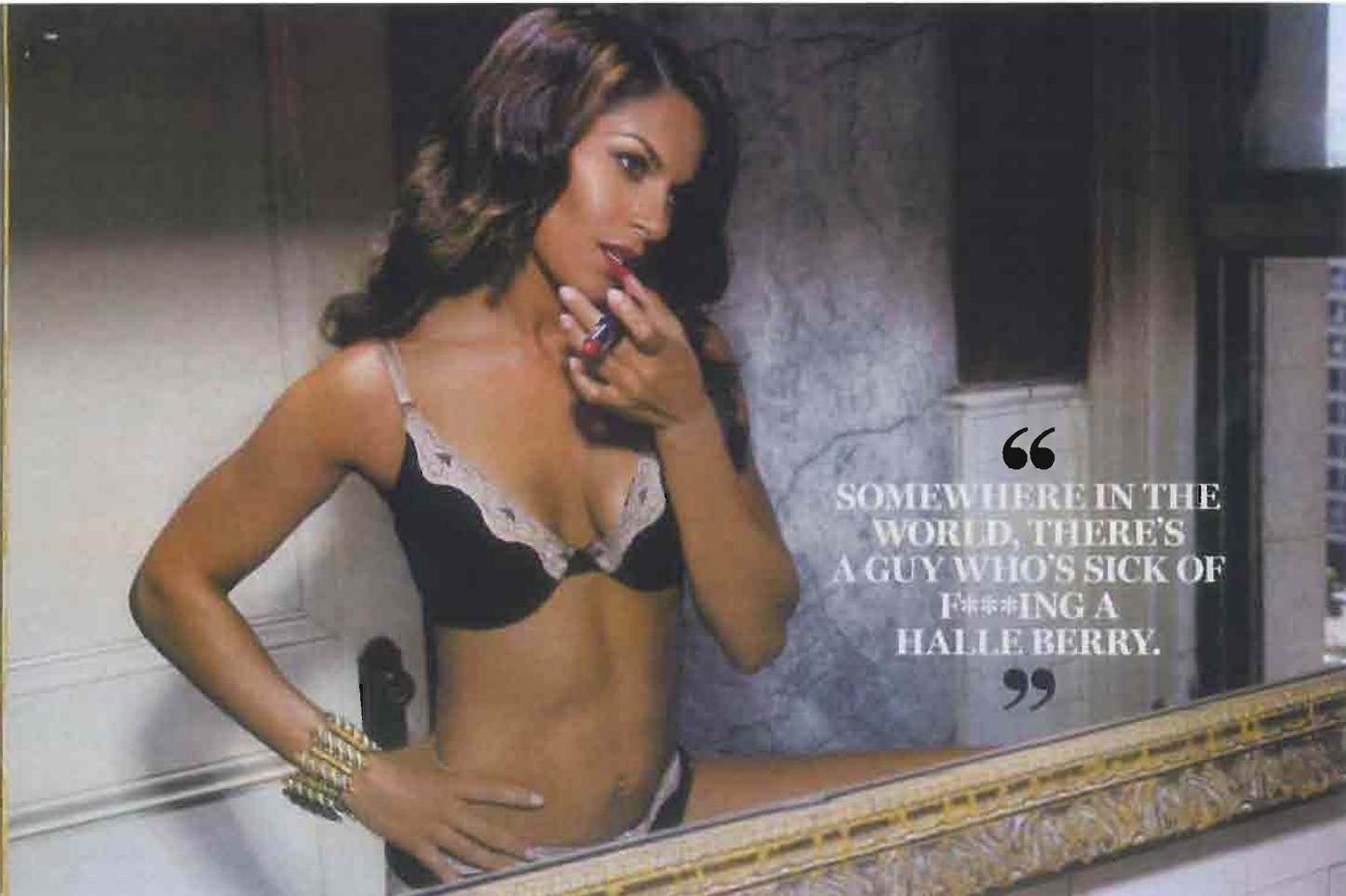
The veteran actress is, however, forbidden fruit. As Will Smith's spouse in his latest \$150 million blockbuster, *I Am Legend*, the Chicago native falls victim to ferocious, virus-infected mutants; in reality, though, even flesh-and-body-lusting

humanoids couldn't taste this caramel queen.

The biggest hurdle: the rock on her finger. Richardson—whose past rumored romances include Matthew McConaughey and Tupac Shakur—has been married for five years to actor Dondre Whitfield, the father of her 3-year-old daughter. Still, she loves acting out fantasies. In addition to *I Am Legend's* monster mash, she also headlines the Sci-Fi Network's extraterrestrial-meets-domestic dramedy *Eureka*. Clearly, her imagination is vast. Odds are the imaginations of MILF-loving men will run wild too.



“
THERE'S NO
GAME YOU
CAN TRY TO
PLAY THAT
I HAVEN'T
SEEN OR
MAYBE DONE
MYSELF.
”



“
SOMEWHERE IN THE
WORLD, THERE'S
A GUY WHO'S SICK OF
F***ING A
HALLE BERRY.
”

KING is having such an exotic look ever a drawback?

SALLI RICHARDSON It was hard in the beginning. Black people know I'm black. We all know that we all look different, that we come in different colors and with different hair. That's other people; that's white people thinking you don't look black enough. **It must be difficult to swallow during auditions.**

You start getting a gauge of what you're going to get and what you're not. I'll read [scripts] and go, "Hmm, I bet they're going to want somebody who they consider 'more black.'"

Call those "Hollywood Shuffle moments." Like, "Could you act a little more street, a little more urban?"

Yeah, I'm like, "Is that right?" I know that's where I came from, but you may not necessarily see that. Ask my friend Tasha Smith [actress in *Why Did I Get Married?*]. I'll say some ignorant shit, and she'll say, "You're the prettiest ghetto nigga I know."

So, should we assume you're a pretty, ghetto sci-fi nerd, given your roles in *Eureka* and *I Am Legend*?

This just happens to be one of those things. But I've always liked books

by Stephen King and Dean Koontz. When [*I Am Legend*] came about, the producers of my show were like, "Do you understand? This is a huge cult film." I didn't get it then, but now I'm entrenched in it.

In the film's trailer, Will Smith looks like he's on the Barry Bonds diet.

I had to joke with him that somehow he got that shot in the movie trailer. This is the best physique he's had yet.

You're far from flabby yourself.

What's your regimen?

I'm always working out. For a while I was weight training and sprinting. Now I do core [muscle] training with the yoga ball. I have an eight-pack; you'd never know I ever had a baby.

We don't know much about you at all, actually. You seem like the Halley's Comet of the industry.

People think I haven't been working because I'm doing different stuff and not necessarily urban projects. I've gotten into this thing where I'm always playing an attorney, some sort of agent or a wife. I'm looking for edgier stuff, something dirty.

What's your definition of "dirty"?

That might mean drug addict, prostitute...just something that's more of a character with real problems, something that really makes me sit at

home and think, *How am I going to do this?* A role that makes me think I gotta read a book, I gotta go talk to somebody, I gotta go hang out in the streets [to research the character]. **We'd prefer "dirty" in the flesh-baring sense.**

I don't have a problem with nudity per se, unless you have me naked for absolutely no reason. My dream would be to do a movie like *Unfaithful*. I haven't done anything that's really sexy in a while. That's why I've got to keep in shape till I get that part. Then I can fall apart after that.

We bet your husband loves that. Staying married in Tinseltown must be tougher than watching Jessica Alba act.

Marriage is a journey. But in Hollywood, I'd rather be married than single. It ain't no fun being out here.

Los Angeles dudes don't cut it?

Not L.A. dudes—all dudes. Most of what guys say is not serious. There's no game you can try to play that I haven't seen or maybe done myself. **You've played the game?**

Not game, but we've all lied before. When you're younger, you know niggas are lying to you, but you choose to believe it. You say, "I know this shit don't sound right,

but I believe him." When you're older, you go, "You know what? You're lying. And I choose not to believe your shit, no matter how much you say it wasn't you or your cell phone didn't work in this area of Hawaii or whatever."

You've never used T-Mobile.

No matter what—people always use Halle Berry as a reference—some-where in the world, there's a guy who's sick of fucking a Halle Berry. You can have the finest chick, and then one day, for some reason, you're sick of fucking her, and you get someone who isn't even as cute. People go, "He's got a Halle Berry—why is he messing with this girl with two babies?"

So how do you keep your man from downgrading?

I don't know if we're going there in this conversation. I just try to be the best wife that I can be. That's all I can say.

Are you blushing?

I am! I don't know how to answer that. You might have to ask my husband. We've been together 10 years [total]. He ain't sick of it yet. All I can tell women is that sometimes you have to be the initiator.

You like riding that pony, huh?

I'm not answering that. That's how you stay married: You don't say crazy shit in print. ♣

STYLING: JESSICA WATSON; HAIR: JEFFREY MATHIAS; MAKEUP: TAMARA GUTIERREZ