



## ***“THROUGH THE EYES OF GISELLE”***

*- Multimillionaire elite model and business mogul Giselle Montgomery opens up for a candid interview from her exquisite Beverly Hills home with us to discuss how she’s just a regular girl despite naysayers, physical abuse as a child, her upcoming projects and the love of her life. In other words, life as she knows it.*

Upon first glance of Giselle you’d instantly think “typical model chic” or “all beauty but no brains.” But model/actress/businesswoman Giselle pulls off both beauty and brains both effortlessly and unapologetically. Upon my arrival at Giselle’s exclusive sprawling 6,490 acre living quarters, I instantly feel as if I’m visiting a close family member perhaps a sister that I’d tell my deepest secrets to. Her demeanor is warm and I instantly lose all notions of rumored ill behavior towards outsiders as reported in the past. Her stoic demeanor speaks authoritative yet soft while her angelic face speaks a story without inquiry. Her overhead sound system lightly pours out ballads of singer Robin Thicke in the far background. As Giselle tends to the kids with messy hair bangs occupying her face, she appears to have much to say but bothered that she has very little time to do so with me today. “I don’t have a maid or a butler or whatever u want to call it”, she laughs while reaching for her two year daughter Ky. “I figured they’d

just be in the way plus I'm really old fashioned. I'll clean my own darn toilets you know," she giggles. With so much on Giselle's plate, it's hard to see how she even has time to clean a dish let alone a toilet. Furthermore, this beauty is both educated and business savvy to the max unbeknownst to some. "Those that are in my immediate circle are fully aware that yes, I have a Master's Degree in Sociology and yes, I've created and grown a successful business consulting firm and most importantly, that I am full time mother to two beautiful children, Zuri 5 y.o and Ky 2 y.o." She flashes a smile revealing hidden dimples deep as lagoons but quite prettier indeed. She continues, "But by no means do I expect outsiders to know this about me", she mutters while sipping on a tall glass of mimosa. "Besides, I'd like to think of myself as a humble being. I'm low key about all that I've accomplished in this crazy thing we call life so you wouldn't know unless you've asked." As we head towards the pool to sit and continue our interview, the sun hits her slender frame and brightens up her entire face, she smiles gently.

The air is crisp and somehow Giselle seems to blend in with the serene atmosphere that surrounds us. Her simple white tank and cutoff jean shorts scream, SIMPLICITY! Her face is without a trace of makeup and her dirty blonde locks are neatly pulled back into a careless ponytail that screams absolutely FLAWLESS! "You know..people truly believe that this is an effortless life, some sort of glamorous life but I beg to differ. I began modeling at age sixteen and had no idea that I'd put this much work in," she quietly laughs. "But I was raised in Brooklyn by a single mother who barely spoke English with six other siblings and some nights we didn't know if there would be food on the table. So I figured if I survived that then this ought to be a piece of cake. You definitely have to be built for this industry." I notice subtlety about Giselle, a calmness that fails to go unnoticed even on your busiest day. "There was a lot of physical and mental abuse by both my parents day in and day out but I've forgiven although it hasn't been easy."

Born to a Jamaican estranged father who was a struggling artist and a Honduran homemaker mother in Brooklyn NY, Giselle insists that she has always had a knack for almost anything fashion. "Honestly, I never imagined being a

model though. I was thinking somewhere along the lines of designer or boutique owner...something like that.” But when asked how modeling came about she shifts herself back up into the chair comfortably, crosses her legs and says, “I guess GOD placed me where he saw fit.”

For someone who has graced prominent magazine covers including “*Elle*”, “*Vogue*”, “*Cosmo*” and “*Essence*”, has made several starring roles on television shows from “*Girlfriends*” to “*Law and Order*” and has traveled around the globe to places only one could dream of, you’d never credit the stillness that exudes from her being. “I think that for me it was my relationship with my higher being because HE is totally responsible and for that I am more than thankful.” When asked what advice she’d give to aspiring and upcoming models she says, “This industry will eat you alive if you let it so have goals and standards and live for them each and every day. It’s also important that you acquire a mentor or someone who has already experienced what you will go through because you will definitely need the support.”

So what’s next for this ultra-beauty and brains? “My team and I are in the process of creating a modeling agency/consulting firm. I found that there are talented and beautiful potentials out there who just don’t know where to begin or who to trust; so my goal is to reach out to those individuals. We are also in the works for a dance school smack dab in the middle of Brooklyn soon. I grew up performing ballet, tap and jazz; you name it so it seems quite natural to pursue this project. Also you can expect a new clothing line in Fall 2011 geared toward the couture loving fashionista called “*Fashion Is I*”. It’s fun, it’s quirky and it gives women an opportunity to express themselves. I’m really excited about it!”

When asked about her longtime boyfriend Mark Glover, she smiles and then looks away like a shy teen being approached by her crush. “He’s my rock and my friend.” An instant glow overcomes Giselle’s olive skin when she speaks of Mark her live in boyfriend of six years and father of her children. She reveals that he is not in the fashion industry or any other industry for that matter, “That’s just the way I like it, he’s a regular guy but most importantly he supports me.”

While watching her interact with her children, I realize that Giselle leads her life with such normalcy that it is almost surreal. Her ability to balance modeling, acting, her business ventures and motherhood speaks in volumes about who she is not how she is perceived by the media. I asked Giselle what she hopes people capture from this interview she simply states, “Just that I am human..nothing more, nothing less.”

**Interview Conducted By: Sabreen Harris**

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