

People



1936-2017 **GLEN CAMPBELL**
His Sad Goodbye

People PERKS
SAVE \$300
on **FALL FINDS**
for **KIDS!**

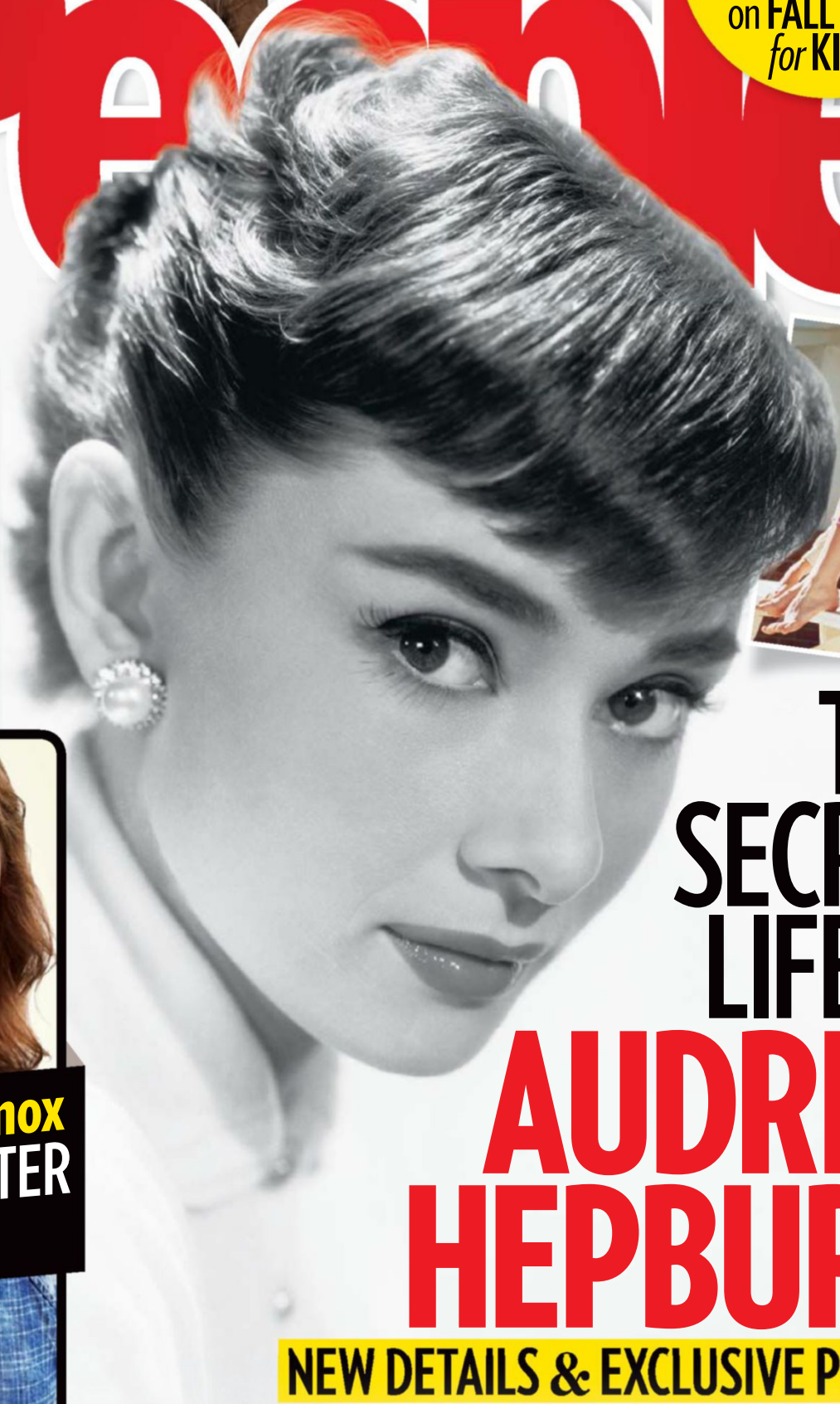


Taylor's Sexual
Assault Trial
WHY SHE
FOUGHT BACK



ONLY IN
People
Amanda Knox
MY LIFE AFTER
PRISON

August 28, 2017



THE SECRET LIFE of **AUDREY HEPBURN**

NEW DETAILS & EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS

Inside her tragic childhood, troubled marriages and how she finally found love. **Plus:** The real reasons she stayed so thin



Grit and Grace
Hepburn rehearsing
ballet ca. 1950 and
(bottom) in 1938
with her mother,
Baroness Ella van
Heemstra, who
scrubbed floors
after the war to put
Audrey through
ballet school.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; BETTMANN
ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY AUDREY HEPBURN ESTATE COLLECTION

The Real

HER LUMINOUS
LOOKS WERE
MOVIE MAGIC. BUT
NEARLY 25 YEARS
AFTER HER DEATH,
HER LOVED
ONES SAY IT WAS
THE WAY SHE
LIVED THAT DEFINED
TRUE BEAUTY

By **LIZ McNEIL**



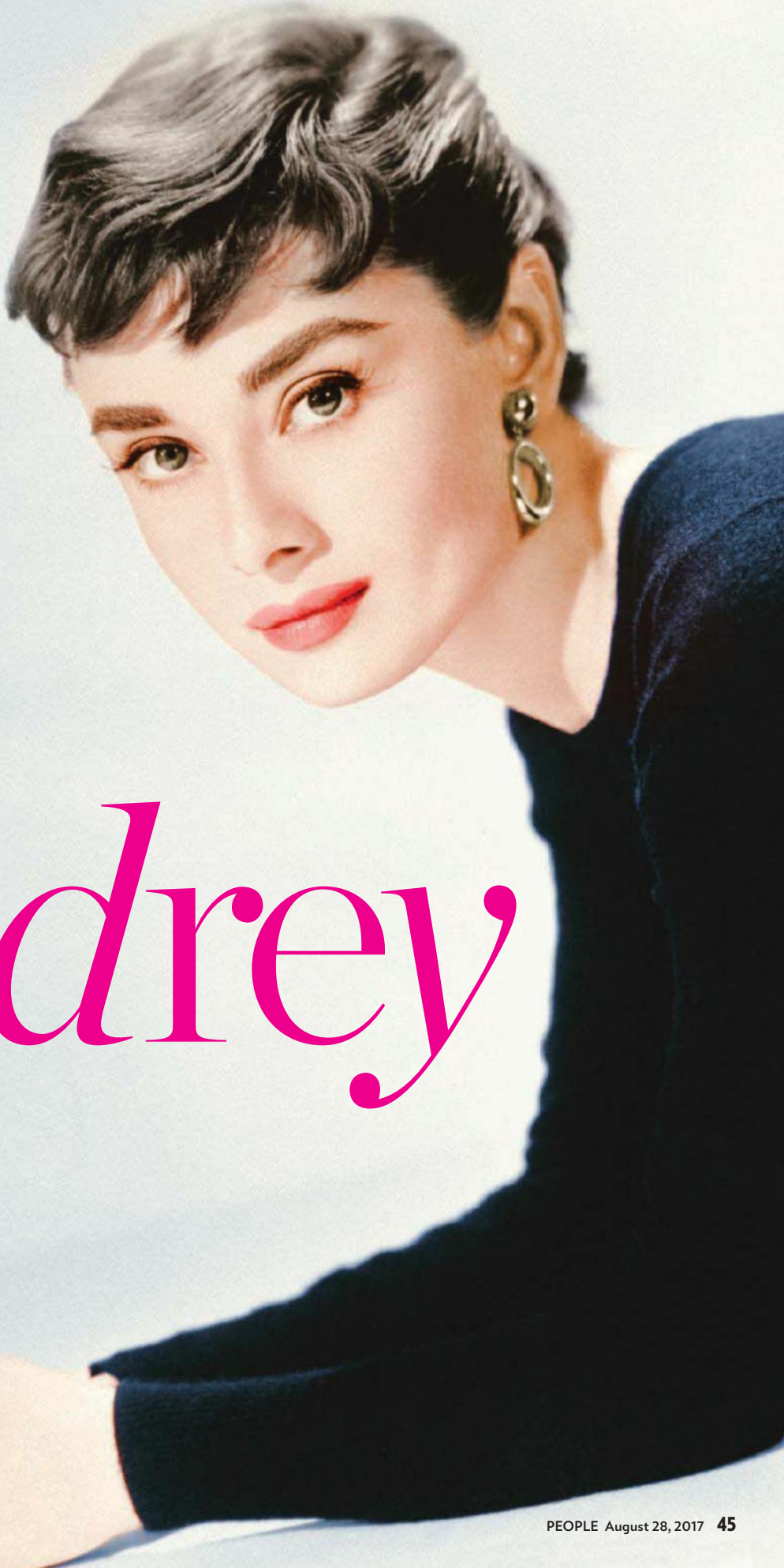
She was one of the most stylish women of all time, but Audrey Hepburn wasn't much of a shopper. She favored flats over heels and didn't pluck her eyebrows. As for plastic surgery, "she never considered it," says her son Sean Ferrer, 57. She smoked too much, enjoyed Scotch and snacked on one piece (or more) of dark chocolate after dinner. "She did not live life as an icon," says her other son, Luca Dotti, 47. "She was always herself."

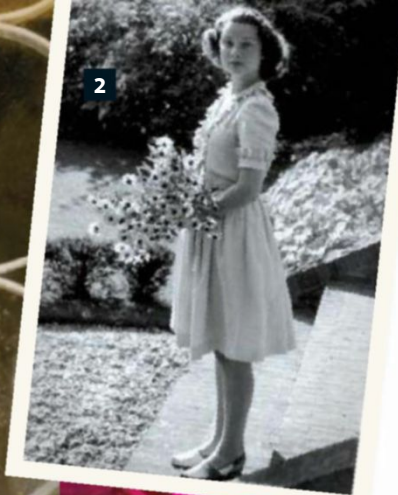
While her doe-eyed beauty and gamine glamour (at 5'7" she weighed a consistent 110 lbs. as an adult) beguiled the world, privately the star of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Sabrina* led a complicated, often difficult life. She was insecure about her looks as a girl in Holland and never forgot the trauma of World War II, during which she nearly died of starvation. She struggled in her two marriages but was a dotting mother who found joy helping the world's children with UNICEF. "She was never someone who wanted more, more,

Audrey

more," says Dotti. "She was not a collector. She cared more about living beings."

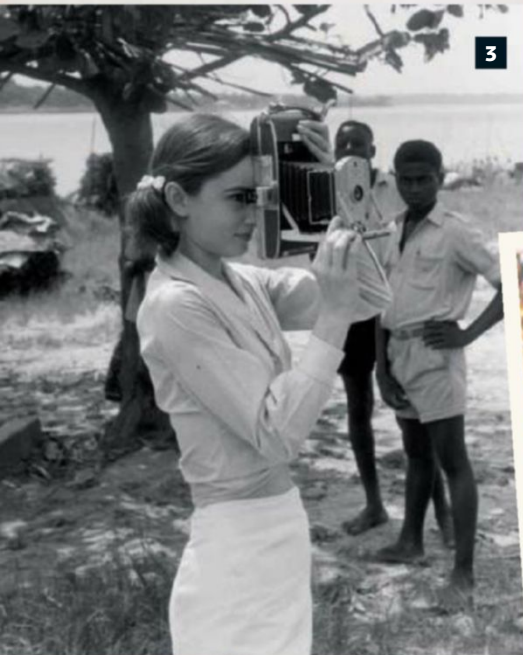
Nearly 25 years after her death from cancer of the appendix at age 63 on Jan. 20, 1993, her sons are offering some of her most personal belongings in a Christie's auction on Sept. 27. Here, they and other loved ones share memories of the private Hepburn. "She was not part of the Hollywood glitterati, someone who was unattainable," says Ferrer. "She was the girl in the little black dress who goes out in the world and makes it on her own charm."





Ethereal and Enigmatic

1. Hepburn ca. 1958.
 2. September 1945, two days after Holland's liberation. The war, says son Luca, "impacted her more than anything." 3. Filming 1959's *The Nun's Story* in the Congo. 4. With her pet deer Pippen in 1958.
 5. On the set of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1960. "When people would compliment her on her beauty, she'd say, 'But the beautiful ones are Ava Gardner and Elizabeth Taylor. I don't have that look,'" says Wolders.



'She thought her nose and her feet were too big and her neck was too long'

—ROBERT WOLDERS

Her War-Torn Childhood

The daughter of a Dutch baroness and a British father who left the family when Audrey was 6, the ballet student barely survived the German occupation of Holland, which began when she was 11.

She had to hide in the basement for days without food. It was the winter of hunger [1944-45], when the Nazis starved hundreds of thousands of people in Holland in retaliation for their support of the Allies. For someone as delicate and fragile as Audrey, it had a big effect. She had a number of illnesses that she later recognized in the children she met in Ethiopia and Sudan while working with UNICEF. She often quoted a humanitarian worker who asked a child, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and the child said, "Alive."

—Robert Wolders, her partner from 1980 to her death


By the end of the war, she was very close to death. She survived by eating nettles and tulip bulbs and drinking water to fill her stomach. She was almost 5'6" and weighed 88 lbs. She had jaundice and edema. She suffered from anemia the rest of her life, possibly as a consequence. She had a form of thrombosis that comes from lack of nourishment. It starts with the feet, goes up the legs, and when it goes to your heart and lungs, you're done, and she was halfway there. She had nightmares about the war. She lived close to the train station, so she'd see the trains with the Jews leaving. She was the same age as Anne Frank and [later] said: "That was the girl who didn't make it and I did." Her voice would crack, and her eyes would fill with tears. —Luca Dotti

Why She Stayed Thin

While her family believes it's possible the malnourishment during her teens contributed to her slim physique, the main factor was her lifelong discipline.

People think because she was skinny that she had an eating disorder, but it's not true. She loved Italian food and pasta. She ate a lot of grains, not a lot of meat, and a little bit of everything. —Luca Dotti

We'd walk for miles. She could outwalk me. She had a healthy metabolism, but she was not excessive. She never said, "I have to do five miles today." She didn't diet. We had brown bread with jam for breakfast, lunch would be chicken or veal or pasta, often with vegetables from the garden, and for dinner we often had soup with chicken and vegetables. She had chocolate after dinner, baking chocolate. She had a finger or two of Scotch at night. She didn't drink wine. She'd mainly smoke when the phone rang. That made her nervous. She was afraid of bad news. —Robert Wolders



**‘Her memory
lives on in
the little details,
especially
in her love’**

—SON LUCA DOTTI

Her Innate Style

Even Jackie Kennedy copied her, but Audrey was not like Jackie, who’d buy 30 cashmere sweaters in different colors. She wasn’t a shopaholic. Audrey made her own rulebook with ballet slippers, cropped pants, boat-neck sweaters. She definitely did not have a stylist. That’s why she was Audrey Hepburn. She was one of the first to wear minis. Once on a yacht trip the maid unpacked her dresses and thought there was a mistake and said, “Madame has forgotten the bottoms.”

—Pamela Keogh, author of *Audrey Style*

Lasting Legacy

“The fact that she inspired both her sons to continue her work for children would have been her greatest reward,” says Wolders. (Luca chairs the Audrey Hepburn Children’s Fund, and Sean heads the Audrey Hepburn Society at UNICEF.)

It might be an exaggeration to say she thought of herself as an ugly duckling, but I think as a child she felt that. She was a tomboy and didn’t feel girlish until people found that magic quality in her. She believed in simplicity. In both the houses in Rome and Switzerland, if she needed a side table, until she found the right object, she’d use an upside-down basket. She didn’t mind splurging on things to keep her warm, cashmere shawls and sweaters, and she loved to buy beautiful presents, but she never went on shopping sprees. Before an important event she’d choose from a Givenchy



1



2

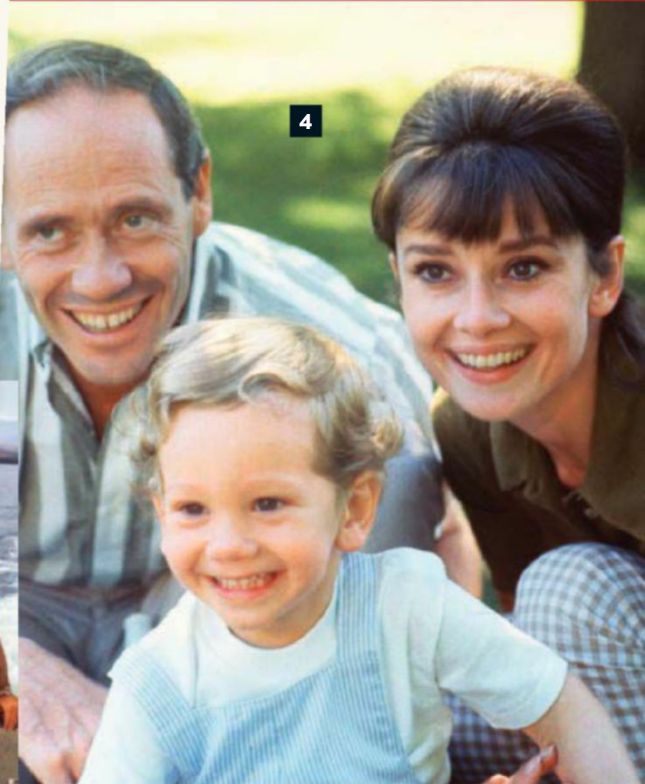
Her Men
1. Hepburn and *Two for the Road* costar Albert Finney “were infatuated,” says her biographer Barry Paris. **2.** She had a fling with married *Sabrina* costar William Holden, Paris says: “He was a notorious womanizer, and she was hugely attracted to him.” **3.** Hepburn (at her 1969 wedding to Dotti) “always said she gave it her best shot,” says son Luca. **4.** With first husband Mel Ferrer and son Sean in the early 1960s. **5.** In Hawaii with Wolders in 1981.



3



5



4

fashion show, then they would modify it. Audrey might eliminate a flower arrangement or a bow. She didn’t mind wearing the same gown to different events. Her closet was very sparse, one-tenth of what you’d expect. —*Robert Wolders*

Love and Marriage

After her marriages to actor Mel Ferrer and Italian psychiatrist Andrea Dotti ended in divorce, she found love at age 50 with Wolders, a Dutch-born businessman, now 80.

My dad was a wonderful producer and had the reputation of being the Pygmalion of her life. They lived so intensely during their 17-year relationship, it was equal to 35 years. I think he was a very tortured man, and self-centered. I think the intensity of their relationship sort of burned the candle before its time. She was very in love with [Andrea Dotti], and she was hoping it would be a counterpoint to what she had been through with my dad, but it came apart, and that was a major heartbreak. —*Sean Ferrer*

My father was nine years younger, and I think being with someone who is an icon, a goddess, it can be overwhelming, always being referred to as “the husband of...” I later had a conversation with him, and he was honest about his mistakes. —*Luca Dotti*

After I’d met her, a mutual friend prompted me to ask her out for dinner, but she said she had a night shoot. I thought it was her gentle way of rejecting me. The next day she invited me for a drink at the Pierre hotel, which turned into a three-hour talk. At one point she said, “Do you

‘I never proposed. She had 2 unhappy marriages. Audrey would say, “Why mess with a good thing?”’

—WOLDERS

mind if I order some pasta?” After many long phone conversations, we realized we were meant to be together. She asked me if she could take time to prepare Luca and Andrea, her soon-to-be-ex-husband. When she saw him, Andrea came over and said, “You look very beautiful, you must be in love,” and she said, “I am.” —*Robert Wolders*

Audrey Behind the Scenes

At the house she wore very little makeup, a touch of lipstick. We’d visit and come downstairs for breakfast, and she’d be energized and bouncing around, coming down in her negligee: “Here



A Magical Mom

“She wasn’t materialistic,” says son Luca (in 1972 in Tuscany). “She kept her Oscar in the playroom and her ASPCA honor in the living room.”

Audrey's Chic Closet

SOME OF HER MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS WILL GO UP FOR AN AUCTION ONLINE AT CHRISTIE'S, BEGINNING SEPT. 19



1. A Givenchy little black dress in satin. Christie's, which will hold a preview in Los Angeles Sept. 12 to 14, had mannequins ordered from Milan to match her 22-in. waist. 2. A favorite ice-blue Givenchy from 1966. 3. Her trademark Burberry trench. 4. Her monogrammed compact. 5. Ballet slippers. 6. A 1961 premiere ticket. Estimates for starting bids range from \$130 to \$104,000.

I am." She wasn't trying to be proper and correct. She was loose and relaxed.

—Michael Tilson Thomas, friend and San Francisco Symphony conductor

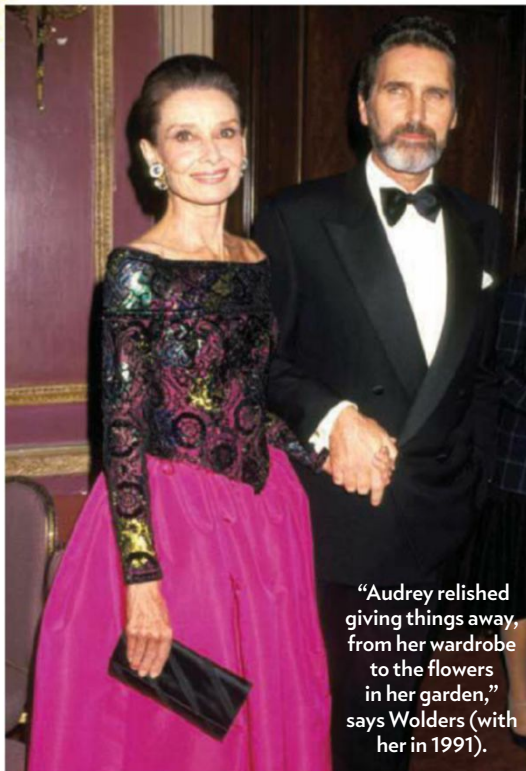
The first time I met her, she cooked cheese risotto. She was very sensitive and seemingly very fragile. I thought, "How is she going to act?" But in front of the camera, she could marshal all that into a great strength. She didn't seem to be acting. She was just behaving in a certain way. She'd sit on my lap on the set. She smoked too much. It made me sad because her hand would shake a bit.

—Peter Bogdanovich, who directed Hepburn in her final starring role in *They All Laughed* in 1981

Her Final Days

In 1992 she was diagnosed with appendix cancer.

The doctors gave her three months to live. She acknowledged being afraid of the pain but not being afraid of dying. She was desperate to get back to Switzerland. She would probably have succumbed during the flight from L.A., so we went by private jet made possible by Hubert de Givenchy and her friend Bunny Mellon, and the pilots descended carefully to reduce the pressure slowly. She was basically on life support. On the last Christmas, she asked a friend to buy three special winter coats: for Givenchy, Sean and me. She said, "Please think of me when you wear them." Later on, when we went to bed, she said, "It was the most beautiful Christmas I ever had." —Robert Wolders



"Audrey relished giving things away, from her wardrobe to the flowers in her garden," says Wolders (with her in 1991).



Why My Grandmother's Style Will Last Forever

I wish I had met her, because everyone says she was even lovelier and more radiant than she was in the movies. She wore clothes that were simple and fit her body type: the cigarette pants, the pea coat, high collars. She never wore a plunging neckline or anything too risqué. Her style flew in the face of all of the trends.

I have a few of her cashmere sweaters from Ralph Lauren, navy and black. They're more intact than most of the sweaters I bought last year! My prized possession is her white linen teddy bear, and I have a gold necklace [of hers] with 17 hearts that my dad gave me on my 17th birthday.

She understood what it meant to have your own sense of style. She was once asked to pick a favorite photo; it was one taken by a friend, John Isaac, who accompanied her on her UNICEF mission trips. She chose one where she was laughing and you could see her wrinkles. John asked if she wanted to do some Photoshop, and she said, "Don't you dare touch those. I've earned every single one of them."

—GRANDDAUGHTER EMMA FERRER, 23, actress, painter and refugee-rights activist