

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SHOPPING AND STYLE

Lucky

**WE'RE
GIVING
AWAY A
CAR!**
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**healthy,
sexy hair**
techniques,
tips & secrets

**\$10 AND
UNDER
SUPER-
AFFORDABLE
GLAMOUR**
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567
easy looks
and how to
get them

**JESSICA
SIMPSON**
On her wedding
plans and how
gaining weight
made her happier

**Look
your
prettiest!**

Hair that shines
Skin that glows
Dresses that sparkle

**LUCKY BREAKS
FREE!**
Sensational
giveaways &
deals inside
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“When you're really, really skinny, not everybody can relate to you.”

linked to musician John Mayer.) Simpson had recently finalized her divorce from Nick Lachey, her costar in the reality show *Newlyweds*—which had launched her fame, thanks largely to her verbal gaffes. The paparazzi were literally getting into fistfights over her. When she'd starred as Daisy Duke in *The Dukes of Hazzard* in 2005, Simpson was working out for two hours a day, eating next to nothing and getting smaller and smaller—and part of her, it seemed, wanted to disappear completely. “I just want peace,” she had told me.

Serenity did not come quickly. Or easily. When she started dating Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and gained some happiness weight, she was cruelly mocked by the press after she was shot in high-waisted jeans onstage at a country music concert. Simpson's size became a newsstand seller and the subject of running jokes in tabloids and blogs: “What happened to the hot chick from *Newlyweds*?”

But everything seemed to shift when Simpson did the unthinkable: Instead of spending six hours a day on the Exercycle and going on a juice cleanse, she ditched that celebrity ideal and said, “I like the way I look.”

And did women respond. Her fans rallied around her on Internet message boards (“No matter what size Jessica Simpson is she is gorgeous!”) and on the street: “All kinds of women started coming up to me and saying what an example I was setting by not constantly dieting,” she tells me as we sit at a conference table in her airy, high-ceilinged showroom. People stopped seeing her as the ditzy blonde with the hot body, and instead Simpson became a real person with real, familiar struggles. “Everybody fluctuates, but I'm open about my weight and I'm still confident,” Jessica says. “I didn't cry about it too much.”

Ironically, as her waist grew larger, both her life and her fashion business, which she

continued...

JESSICA'S FAVORITE THINGS

