

EMILY RICHARD: “ I LOST MY FIRST BABY ...”

As Anne Tierney in the TV series “The Dark Side of the Sun” Emily Richard plays the part of a woman who has a strong telepathic connection with her deceased husband. In reality Emily has the same kind of connection with her husband Edward. After losing her first child, the actress’s greatest wish came true during her stay in Rhodes.

Actress Emily Richard who, as Anne Tierney in the TV series “The Dark Side of the Sun” loses her husband, photographer Don and investigates his mysterious death on the Greek island of Rhodes, was also suffering her own bereavement. Not long ago the young actress had tragically lost her child and was still mourning her dramatic loss. She says, “losing a child is the worst thing that can happen to a woman. Sometimes people can be unintentionally cruel by making remarks like “why don’t you have children yet?” When you have just lost a child you are immediately transported to and confronted with all the painful memories and suffering you are trying to forget.”

However, while playing in “the Dark Side of the sun” Emily eventually found herself on the sunny side. Two weeks after her arrival in Rhodes, she was told by the doctor that she was pregnant. “At first I thought I was putting on weight” Emily says as she reminisces about that period of her life, “when I heard I was pregnant I felt so happy. The knowledge that a new baby was on the way gave such an incredible feeling, I saw it as a wonderful second chance.”

Supernatural ties

In the TV series Emily plays the part of a woman who communicates telepathically with her deceased husband Don, but in reality she has the same kind of supernatural connection with her husband, actor [Edward Petherbridge](#).

“I wanted to surprise him with my wonderful news when we were back together,” she says. “Although we always had long talks on the phone I said nothing about it. When I returned to England after all those weeks in Rhodes and wanted to tell him it turned out the he had known about it all along. Around the same time when I received the news from the doctor he had an indeterminate feeling that I was pregnant.”

During her pregnancy the doctors kept a close eye on her. “You keep on listening to the heartbeats to assure yourself that your baby is still alive. Because I was pregnant I overreacted to things far more than normal. During the seven weeks that we were shooting in Rhodes we were not allowed to leave the island in case we should not return in time and therefore endanger the filming. For me this was a real problem. From my hotel room I could see the magnificent Turkish coast and nearly went crazy at the thought that I could not go there. A boat trip was organized for the cast to the nearby island Simi. But it was cancelled at the last moment. I was so upset that I burst into tears in the hotel lobby. When they realised how upset I was they felt sorry for me and I was allowed to go after all. For me it was the best day of all those weeks.”

A new impulse

Emily had great expectations of sunny Rhodes but unfortunately filming took place in February during one of the coldest periods known to the island.

“Everything was closed for the winter and the hotel we stayed in was situated in an isolated spot, four kilometres from civilization. Due to a strike there were no taxis and if you wanted to go somewhere you had to walk.”

Several months after completion of the TV series her daughter Dora was born. “Her birth has changes our lives drastically” Emily says proudly about her now 14 month old daughter. “My husband Edward adores her even though she keeps us up half the night at times. He always wanted a daughter and says her existence has given his life a new impulse.”

The couple live in London in the suburb of West Hampstead. Together with her husband Emily is working for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon until October. Daughter Dora is there with them. “ The only thing I miss is our garden at home”, Emily continues. “ I love my work but sometimes one misses all the simple things at home”.

Edward and Emily, who both had parts in Nicholas Nickleby – her husband was given the Tony Award nomination in America for his role in this TV series- met when Emily joined the theatrical “Actors Company”, founded by Edward Petherbridge himself.

“ I admire his talent as an actor so much that it is always a treat for me to be at his side. Seeing Edward play stimulates me tremendously,” Emily says proudly of her husband.

**Translated from Dutch to English by Anna Pereboom
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