

ACCESS HEIDIWOOD

by Noelle Hancock

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Great reality villains come in many shapes and sizes. There was Puck, the grimy Real World-er prone to sticking his nicotine-stained digits in other people's peanut butter. There was Omarosa, Trump's would-be apprentice, who pissed off everyone in the boardroom – including the combed over mogul – with her confrontationally bitchy demeanor. And now there's a 21-year-old Heidi Montag, who looks like a St. Pauli girl but has somehow become one of the most talked-about and controversial stars on television. On *The Hills*, MTV's reality show turned cultural phenomenon – which reaches more than three million viewers a week and follows the lives of privileged hot twentysomethings as they navigate L.A.'s rocky social landscape – Heidi and her Chiclet-toothed boyfriend, Spencer Pratt, are the evil yin to narrator Lauren Conrad's happy-go-lucky Teen Vogue intern yang.

Heidi hails from the small town of Crested Butte, Colorado (population: 1,500), a crunchy mountain outpost that's about as far from Tinseltown as one can get. While studying at L.A.'s Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Heidi befriended Lauren "L.C." Conrad, and the two became costars in 2006 when MTV spun off Laguna Beach into *The Hills*.

Heidi-as-bad-girl stems from a major blow-out in season two, when she and Spencer allegedly spread rumors about a supposed L.C. sex tape. Tears were shed, Heidi and L.C. screamed at each other in various hip nightspots, and America was hooked. Today everyone from 12-year-old girls to crusty men's magazine editors is either on Team Heidi or Team Lauren, and Heidi in particular has become a paparazzi magnet, red carpet fixture, and tabloid magazine star. Like the show, she'd become a bona fide cultural phenomenon. (Don't believe us? Google her and you'll find hundreds of fan – and enemy – sites, paparazzi footage on TMZ.com, and some pretty awesome bikini photos taken while she was filming her first music video, directed, of course, by Pratt.) Because we're on Team Heidi, this month at least, we sat down with the villainess to find out how she's dealing with such a meteoric rise to fame in Hollywood. Or, should we say, Heidiwood.

The Hills is a "scripted" reality show. Let's settle this: how real is it?

The Hills is a show that's 22 minutes long about seven people's lives. It's edited for drama, and there are story lines. If someone walks in front of the camera, we have to redo the shot. It's not like *The Truman Show*. They're not with us all the time, although I wish they were, because it would be a *way* crazier show. Let's see how Lauren would look then!

Meow! So are you and L.C. friends at all?

She's changed. Some people go more Hollywood than others. Were from different backgrounds. She grew up in that spoiled Laguna world, and I grew up with humble beginnings. She's very controlling. She was crazy about how much time I spent with Spencer. I've heard that she's a big diva now – "insiders" say.

A few years ago you lived in a small town and all of the sudden you're on the cover of Maxim. How are you dealing with the fame?

I'm having fun. You can't take any of this seriously. My life really hasn't changed. I sit home and watch DVDs with my original friends.

Ever been accosted by crazed fans?

I have. It's the craziest. I couldn't go anywhere in Vegas without people taking photos. People get crazy – they take this show very seriously.

Do you feel like you and Spencer are unfairly dubbed the villains of the show?

Obviously, it's hard. It's Lauren's show and she's the narrator – I'm always going to be the villain. She has to be shown in a good light because she's the main character. If people don't like her, people won't watch the show.

So what happened with the wedding?

It's on pause. It was causing us to fight, so we decided not to deal with it. I've had a few girls scream while I was driving, "Get married! We love you guys together! Team Heidi!"

Did you give back the ring?

I still have it. But I guess when we decide to resume the wedding, I'll need a new ring.

Rumors are flying that Spencer has a sex tape.

Spencer does not have a sex tape. Believe me, I would know.

Were you surprised that the tabloids made such a big deal out of your nose job and breast augmentation?

It's funny. Almost everyone on the show has had some kind of surgery. They were saying malicious things about me, and I was like, "You guys are hypocrites – trying to make me look bad when you've done things to yourselves!"

Who's had what done?

I don't want to get into that, because then I'm going to start a war.

What's the first thing you thought when you saw your new breasts?

I was excited. I was always insecure, and this was something I really wanted for so long.

Did it change things in the bedroom?

I get a better ab workout now because it's like there are two weights on my chest. That makes it both easier and harder.

What is the kinkiest thing you've ever done for Spencer?

I tied him up the other night, like, "I'm going to tie you up, bad boy!" But then I was laughing so hard. I couldn't take it seriously.

And the kinkiest thing he's ever done for you?

He tied me up first!

You're considering marriage, and you're only 21. Are you worried about sleeping with one person for the rest of your life?

It's going to be a few years before we get married because I am so young and I want to go on tour. But it actually makes me sick to think about being with someone else. I'd rather be single for the rest of my life.

Wait, you want to go on tour?

Yeah, I'm working on an album, but it's not like with most pop artists, where they have a song sent to them that has nothing to do with their emotions or lives. It's all about me and my life. I'm taking my time to make sure it's a classic. I don't want to be the next pop person who's in and out. I want to be like Michael Jackson, Madonna, Stevie Wonder – all the greats.

Did you always want to be famous?

I always wanted to perform. When I was little, I'd flit around in giant sunglasses in a pink Barbie car, saying, "Hello, daaaahling. I'm Heidi."

So you were a five-year-old drag queen?

Pretty much. That reminds me of a wild night in a San Francisco bar when I didn't realize it was gay night. A transvestite tried to make out with me. I got the hell out of there.

Had any surreal Hollywood moments?

Yes! When Joel Madden and Nicole Richie came up to Spencer and me at the Beverly Hills Hotel and started yelling about something Spencer said about Nicole in an interview, like, two years ago. It doesn't get any more surreal than that. Joel was yelling, "You've been talking shit about my girl!" He was removed by security.

How come we never see you stumbling out of Hyde, shitfaced, at 2 a.m.?

I sort of stopped drinking.

Who gives up drinking at 21?

I used to drink – sometimes a little too much – for a couple of years, but then I grew out of it.

When you did go out, you must've heard some bad pickup lines. The worst?

I was at a party wearing red shoes, and this guy goes, "If you click your heels together three times, will you come home to my bed?"

Has a guy ever said anything lame in bed?

One time a guy was like, "Don't worry, I really like small boobs. I don't care that you don't have more than a handful." I was like, "Yeah? You can go fuck yourself."