

# sunday



I WANTED TO  
END IT ALL  
THE JOURNEY INTO  
PRENATAL DESPAIR

NO BALLS!  
OUR WOMEN'S CRICKET  
TEAM GOES GLAM

“I’M A  
Sweet  
GIRL”

DONNA  
HAY’S  
EASTER  
TREATS

+

NIGELLA LAWSON  
MARTIN SACKS  
FRANCOIS NARS

CAN TARA REID PUT HER  
PARTY GIRL DAYS BEHIND HER?



It was going so well... I'm interviewing Tara Reid and we seem to be getting on famously. We've discussed her latest film, *American Pie: Reunion*, how great Australians are and even her 'party girl' reputation (more of that later). But then I make the mistake of mentioning her plastic surgery and it becomes very clear, very quickly, I've touched a raw nerve.

The atmosphere turns decidedly chilly. She purses her lips. "Can I ask you something?" she says, an edge to her voice. "How many women do you know who've had plastic surgery?" Well, none actually. Before I have a chance to reply, she leaps in: "Almost everyone has. I don't know why it's such a big deal. Yeah, I had it. End of story."

I point out that every article I've read about her mentions the surgery. "It's annoying," she snaps. "It's as if I'm the only person in the world who's had it. I don't want to be a poster child for it. I've done a lot more stuff in my life than have plastic surgery."

Her frustration is obvious, so I change the subject. "I'm a sweet girl," she says tersely, ignoring my attempts to move on. "I don't like to make people feel uncomfortable. And I don't like it when people pick on people. I feel that's bullying. I think that's wrong."

"I'm more than what  
YOU SEE"

*She wears the 'party girl' tag on her sleeve, but Tara Reid refuses to be pigeon-holed by her past, discovers Joanne Hawkins*

In retrospect, perhaps it's not hard to see why she's upset by the question, because, let's be frank, Reid has an image problem. After appearing as a child actor in TV's *Saved By The Bell: The New Class*, her role as the virginal Vicky in *American Pie* made her name in 1999. Since then, she's barely been out of the press. But, mostly, not for her work.

In fact, ask anyone about Reid and they'll probably mention the same things: her fondness for partying; the stay in rehab; the unsuccessful plastic surgery (sorry); the nudity (as well as posing for *Playboy*, she accidentally exposed her boob to photographers at P Diddy's birthday party in 2004). Then there are the love affairs and broken engagements, plus her supposed marriage to Bulgarian financier Zack Kehayov last August, which turned out not to be legal. "I'm not married," she confirms tightly. "I'm very single and very happy right now."

But Reid insists there's more to her than her public image suggests. "I'm actually quite sensitive," she says. "People form opinions of me that are crazy. But what am I going to do?" she shrugs. "I'm a lot more of a private person than what you see. There's only a certain picture of me [out there]. It's almost as if I'm a cartoon character. But I'm really loyal and I'm a family girl. I have three siblings and my parents live next door to me on the beach [in LA]. We're extremely close."

She pauses. "I'm not a robot, you know. If you cut me, I bleed. I can't always be perfect."

So what of that reputation as a party girl? Stories of Reid's fondness for a good time have abounded over the years, so much so that the words 'party girl' are almost permanently attached to her name. It also led to a spell in a Malibu rehab centre in 2008, for what she later admitted were problems with alcohol.

"It frustrates me, because there's more to me than that," she complains, when asked about the label. "It's like eating a cake with six layers and only touching the top one. But it's out of my control. All I can do is be the best person I can be."

"But I don't know why a party girl is a bad thing," she muses, changing tack. "It's about having fun and being happy. Why should we punish that girl? I've never been arrested, I've never been in trouble, I've never done anything bad, so I don't get why that's a bad thing. I like to be happy, and people know that if they're around me, they're going to have fun."

She reaches down to smooth out her black All Saints leggings, which she's teamed with >







(from top) Reid's infamous wardrobe malfunction at P Diddy's birthday bash

In 2004; with co-star Thomas Ian Nicholas in *American Pie: Reunion*; with Zack Kehayov, whom she was reported to have married last year.



**"I DON'T KNOW WHY A PARTY GIRL IS A BAD THING - IT'S ABOUT HAVING FUN AND BEING HAPPY"**

And what of her career? Does she have any regrets about how it's panned out? Despite the *American Pie* movies and a role in the cult classic *The Big Lebowski*, Reid has had lean periods over the years, even resorting to appearing on the UK's *Celebrity Big Brother*.

"You never know if it

could have been better because it hasn't happened," she reasons. "I've worked with some great directors, such as [the late] Robert Altman and the Coen brothers, and I've made 36 films. They aren't all as big as *American Pie* but, to me, they're all special in different ways.

"I've also had so many experiences, and it's those experiences that define who you are as a person. I've travelled the world and seen many great things."

She says she doesn't mind getting older. "Actually, I like it," Reid insists. "I've been through a lot and I feel good with my life right now. I'm a lot more at peace and relaxed. And that has a lot to do with maturing; you calm down a lot and life isn't so fast-paced. I like nothing more than chilling with my dog by the fireplace."

It's nearly time for our interview to end which, given our early run-in, is a relief for both of us. There's just enough time to ask - with a little trepidation - seeing as family means so much to her, does she want to have one of her own?

She chooses her words carefully. "If it's meant to be that I get married, then great. But if not, then that's great, too. You have to be happy with yourself, I feel good about where my life is going." ■

***American Pie: Reunion* is in cinemas April 5.**

sky-high pink Christian Louboutin heels, a pink cashmere jumper and a wide Hermès belt. At 36, Reid is a striking woman, even if the tell-tale lines of a life well lived are beginning to show on her face. She's tiny and, it has to be said, looks a little on the thin side - in the way Hollywood stars do - despite telling me she loves to eat.

"Food is what bonds our family," she says. "Every Sunday, no matter what, we all come together and cook. We're big eaters in our family. I love pasta. I love making chicken piccata. I love spicy stuff like arrabiata sauce."

Then what's her secret to staying so trim? "It's all about portion control," she explains. "I eat healthily, but I'm not a fanatic. If I want a piece of pizza, I'll have one. I won't eat two pieces, and I'll probably take off most of the cheese, but I won't deprive myself."

New Jersey-born Reid says she's having a ball promoting *American Pie: Reunion* alongside cast members including Mena Suvari, Jason Biggs and Eugene Levy (aka 'Jim's Dad'). "I was really excited when this film came up," she enthuses. "I mean, *American Pie* started all our careers. When we made the first movie, we never realised the magic that was going to happen, and then it did and it changed all our lives. So everyone was keen to do it again. It's been such a fun experience all round."