

TV Julia's joy at 'miracle' baby

COUNTRYFILE star Julia Bradbury is expecting her first child at the age of 40.

The presenter suffers from a condition which can cause fertility problems and she had feared she might never become a mum.

Yesterday, she said her pregnancy was a "bit of a miracle".

The baby is due in August. Julia and her partner, Irish property developer Gerard Cunningham, 52, have decided to wait until the baby is born to find out its sex.

She said: "We didn't think it would be possible and the pregnancy has been a wonderful surprise for both of us."

"I have endometriosis and honestly wasn't sure if I would ever realise my ambition to be a mum."

"So to fall pregnant feels



EXPECTING: Julia

like a bit of a miracle. We are both delighted and our families are very happy."

Julia said she will continue to work during her pregnancy and the family home will be in west London.

Endometriosis is a common condition in which small pieces of the womb lining are found outside the

womb. The condition commonly causes pain in the lower abdomen, pelvis or lower back.

It can lead to fertility problems and its cause is uncertain.

Earlier this year, Julia found herself drawn into the ageism case brought by Miriam O'Reilly, her 53-year-old predecessor on Countryfile.

O'Reilly won a discrimination case against the BBC, claiming they dumped her because she was too old.

Since Julia and her co-presenter Matt Baker started work on Countryfile two years ago, and it moved to a prime-time slot on Sunday, it has become the third most-watched factual programme on television.

The show regularly pulled in nine million viewers during the winter period.

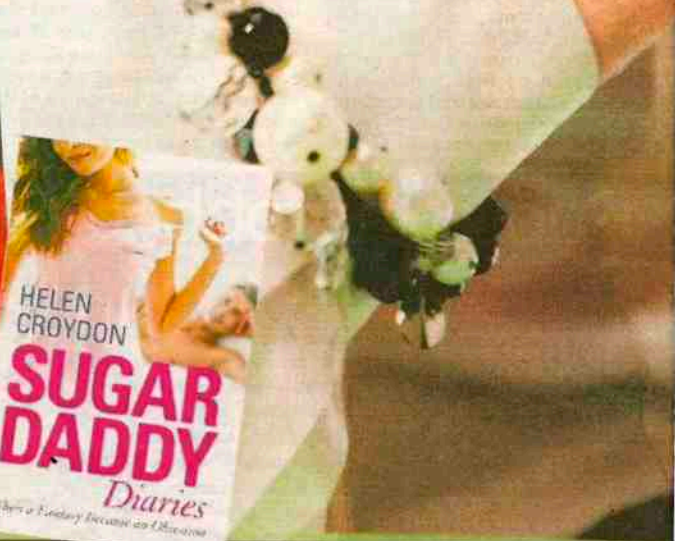


HELEN

WAS

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TRUE CONFESSIONS: Helen fantasised about older men like Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*, inset. Below, her book

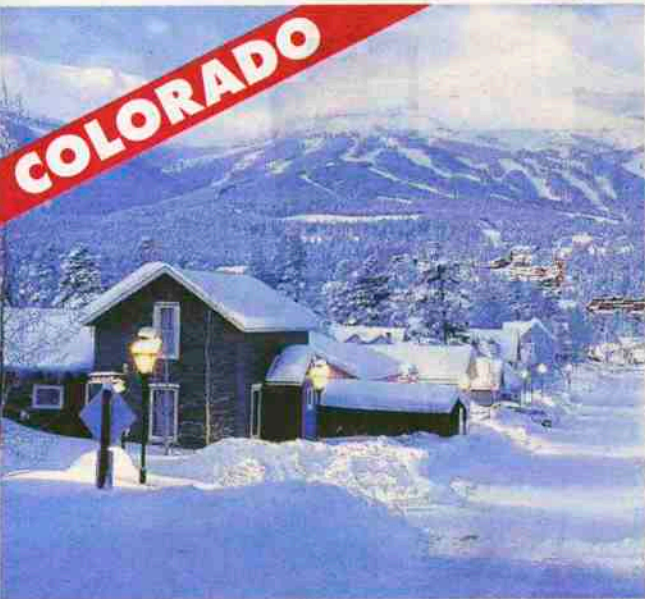


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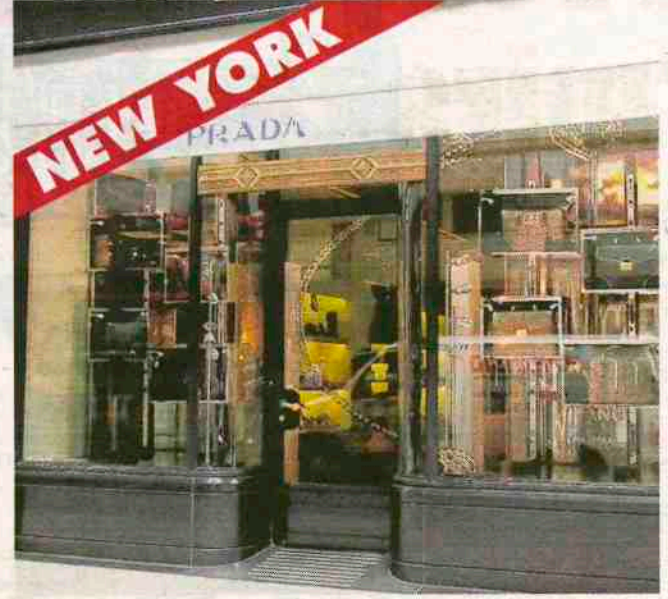
HOOKED ON LAVISH GIFTS FROM RICH DATES



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JET-SETTER: Helen's dates whisked her around the world. She went skiing in a top resort, was flown to a luxury beach resort in Malaysia and treated to a Prada shopping trip in New York

MY SWEET LIFE WITH 100 SUGAR DADDIES

JOURNALIST Helen Croydon always had a thing for older men – but she didn't realise that indulging her fantasy would lead to designer shopping sprees, exotic holidays and a jet-set lifestyle.

Helen's life was turned around after she joined SugarDaddie.com, a website which offered her the opportunity to meet rich older guys.

She was inundated with offers and, during three years on the site, she dated more than 100 men.

Helen's dating adventures took her to New York, Malaysia, top ski resorts and London's finest hotels.

She was wined and dined in the best restaurants and offered wads of cash for her company.

Now, the 33-year-old has written a book about her Sugar Daddy diaries.

Helen claims that when she joined the website, she was shocked at the thought of being paid to go out with men.

She insists some of the dates never went beyond dinner in a swanky restaurant. And she is

Writer's obsession with older men

By Lindsay Clydesdale

l.clydesdale@dailyrecord.co.uk

adamant that money was never a contributing factor in who she chose to have sex with.

Helen said: "That is the main difference from what I did and your run-of-the-mill escort or high-class prostitute.

"I only ever dated or took things further with someone who I would have dated anyway, who I was attracted to, either physically or emotionally.

"Once I realised that men were willing to pay for exactly what I was already doing for free, then what was the harm in accepting gifts and cash?"

Helen was 29 when she joined SugarDaddie.com.

She said: "I'd been on a few dates with men my own age and they didn't inspire me.

"They seemed to want to get into serious relationships and I didn't want that.

"I had a fantasy about an older guy who could show me a bit about the world and who was successful and had a bit of wisdom.

"In my head, I saw a suited, booted Richard Gere type and imagined myself sipping martinis in a posh hotel.

"It was an innocent fantasy. I had no idea about cash allowances or men taking women on shopping sprees.

"I was shocked when I discovered that.

But it became an obsession because I became addicted to the lifestyle of dating sugar daddies.

"I was taken to the best restaurants and the best hotels and that was addictive.

"Also, I could date these kind of men but keep them at arms length and not have a committed form of relationship."

HER favourite date was a Canadian businessman who flew her first class to New York for a shopping trip in Prada and Christian Louboutin.

Helen, from London, said: "He wanted to spoil me. He got a thrill from it because it made him feel like a provider."

Another date handed over £500 in a brown envelope before dinner.

Others paid her in generous gift cards for the London department store Selfridges.

She flew from a skiing break with a lawyer in Colorado, to a luxury Malaysian island resort with another of her sugar daddies.

At first, the idea of being paid for dates had disgusted Helen but, surrounded by wealth, her attitude changed.

Helen, who was then working for ITN, said: "I never imagined that a girl like me would ever entertain the idea of taking money from a man.

"But I thought, 'I can have the same fun, dating and a sexual relationship, with the

added element of material gain'."

Helen said of the men on the website: "They are too busy to emotionally invest in a relationship so they're willing to financially invest instead."

Helen stopped using the website after the thrills of the high life faded.

She said: "The money and the gifts weren't ever my reason for doing it.

"It was when I got used to them and they began to become my motivation, that I struggled with it and stopped."

●Sugar Daddy Diaries: When A Fantasy Becomes An Obsession. Published by Mainstream. Out Thursday, £7.99.



NO REGRETS: Helen used website for three years