

## INTERVIEW *with* JENNIFER EHLE

— VIA TINA DOAN  
@JENNIFEREHLE.BLOGSPOT.COM

### PART VI: MISCELLANEOUS & SILLY QUESTIONS

118.) Your complexion is the envy of women worldwide. What's your secret?  
[Chelsea]

~ No way! How funny.  
Well, genetics I guess.

119.) There's a lot of Champagne consumed in TPS, but what was the most memorable bottle of wine you've ever had, and what was the occasion?  
[Steve]

~ I don't think that there is one.  
I had a really memorable bottle of beer once — third date with my husband — we spent it sitting on the stoop of my apartment in NYC and brown bagging it. Very nice.  
Most memorable meal was of chocolate cake and ice cream. We had just got home from the Birthing Center where our son had been born that morning; and the cake was his birthday cake which I had baked while in early labor, before leaving to meet the midwife. It was the first thing I had eaten since giving birth and I ate it sitting in this big, old chair we have, holding our new boy, both of us all wrapped up in a blanket together. That cake was the best thing I have ever tasted.

120.) Are you a collector of anything (apart from awards, that is)? [Steve]

~ Baby carriers, or 'slings' as they are called.  
My *Ellaroo* and the *Sutemi* are my favorites, but we have about ten of them.  
And just the one child.

121.) I was just wondering what you think about the proliferation of images of yourself as avatars or icons on various Internet [P&P, Austen] communities. I think it's a huge compliment not only to how lovely you really are, but also to your amazing performance in P&P, and how much we all enjoyed it and have fond memories of it. But, what do YOU think of the whole thing?  
[Pru] Likewise, fansites and fanmail: freaky or flattering? (Unanswered)

122.) How do the NY and London tube systems compare? [Sandra]

~ I like them both very much, but the London Tube map is in my bones in a way that the NYC Subway is not. I mainly walk in NYC, so may never get to the point where I'll be able to plan a complicated Subway journey in my head.

123.) Have you picked up any cool skills from acting? Besides, say, period dancing. (Unanswered)

124.) Classic quote: "Nudity only becomes awkward if you do things naked that you normally wouldn't, like driving a car," From experience?

~ Oh, yeah, sure, of course.

125.) What have you done with your Tony and BAFTA awards? Are they paperweights?

~ The BAFTA is in London; in my Mums flat. It has false eyelashes on it, given to me by an actress in *Paradise Road* as a goodbye present. I'm not sure why she chose that to give, but they look pretty there and have for nine years.

(It seems sort of disrespectful to me now, so I think I'll take them off, next time I see it.)

Mum did bring the framed part of the BAFTA award over the other day, which was very sweet of her. I had not asked her to do so. Not sure what I'll do with it. Our house has no pictures hung yet, other than a painting by my friend Daisy Cook. We've only lived here three years, we'll get there ... not sure if the framed award will go on a wall, though. Am I that person?

The Tony is here in my (ha ha) Office/Playroom. I took it down from a high bookshelf after reading this question yesterday; and so now it is on a shelf on my desk, which seems a little more appropriate — but I may hide it again the next time we have anyone come visit. Or will try not to, and see how that feels.

126.) What's the worst interview you've ever had? (excluding this one!)

~ The one where the journalist and I walked to the tube together after the interview was completed; and we were both talking about what an extraordinary actress Cate Blanchett is. When I love someone dearly, I get moved to hear them praised — and he misinterpreted my welling up to be some sort of envy and it got tacked onto his piece. That sucked.

127.) You've met Prince Charles and other notaries. Is there anyone you'd still be excited to meet?

~ Met Elton John and Peter O'Toole recently, and those were both a thrill. Peter O'Toole kissed my eyes — and he might very well do that to all the girls, but if so, please do not under any circumstances let me know it.

128.) Are there any roles you'd like to do for fun, but are totally unsuited for? (e.g. Geoffrey Rush wanted to play a geisha) (Unanswered)

129.) Do you know all the words to The Wiggles? [Chelsea] (Unanswered)

130.) The most important question any North Carolina native should answer: which do you prefer - Eastern or Western North Carolina barbecue and why? [Tom]

~ I don't know! I don't know! Oh, help.

I would imagine I have never even *had* Eastern. Have not had a lot of BBQ, because my Mother is involved in reforming the way pigs are farmed so we avoid factory-farmed pork as a rule. But did I mention her cheese grits?

131.) Do you have any special memories of your time at Queen's College, London? [Julia]

~ Um, I was not a very good girl there; especially in Latin. Terrible behavior.

132.) What's your nickname? (how about J-Eh?)

~ My Father calls me 'Jud-ger Baby.'

## PART VII: THE INEVITABLE COLIN FIRTH/KEVIN SPACEY, FANGIRL QUESTIONS

133.) Would you ever work with Kevin Spacey again? [Linda] You admitted you had a crush on Kevin Spacey as a teenager. What's it like kissing him every night now? [Donna]

~ I would adore to work with him again. A room is a more interesting place to be if he is in it — and so is a city. London is lucky to have him at *The Old Vic*; he is doing wonderful things there.

134.) I've seen intelligent, career women such as Katie Couric, the women of the T.V. show *The View*, etc. reduced to giggly schoolgirls by Colin Firth. Having loved him on screen and off I'd be interested to know if you believe this is a quality he possesses and uses at his whim or, as he's been quoted as saying, that he doesn't understand it himself and has no idea what causes women of varied ages to swoon. I hope you'll give your opinion as I am one of these schoolgirls myself. [Carol] (Unanswered)

135.) What was it like working with Colin Firth? You had a personal relationship with him- why did you break up? Do you resent the fact that he seemed to gain more popularity and notoriety after P&P than you did? [Madge]

~ No, I don't resent that he gained more notoriety than I from *Pride and Prejudice*. I feel fortunate that I got to play Elizabeth Bennet in a good adaptation *and* got to escape the popularity and notoriety. I just hope that, with all the sex symbol stuff, people don't forget what a damn good actor he is.

We were together for almost a year. It was a blessing that our relationship ended before the show was aired.

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