

CONFESSION OF A MODERN SOAP OPERA BRIDE

by

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Cast of Characters

ZINNIA:

Female, 30s-40s; an actress on a soap opera

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(deep breath)

Another wedding dress.

This is maybe the, what, the 13th or 14th I've worn? Three in real life. Once, we were too young. For the second, I was too blind. For the third ...

And then on the show. As Lulu Vandermere. Or, if we're going to be accurate about it, Lulu Lamont Slaughter Fitzgibbons Fitzgibbons Fitzgibbons - Lulu loves her some Fitzgibbons boys - Jenkins Hopewell Crustaff Walnut Vandermere - that's nine. And now another wedding. Another Vandermere. This'll be 10. That's lucky number thirteen. Poor Lulubelle. Kidnapped at her own wedding, shot at her own wedding, abducted by a gorilla at her own wedding. Watched Barry Fitzgibbon die at one wedding, then he came back just as she married his twin brother, Larry. The mobsters who tied her up at her own wedding - that head writer had serious problems with women. Went into labor at her own wedding - without even knowing she was pregnant, thank you, evil Gary Fitzgibbons. And now there's Tommy Vandermere. Not to be confused with Jonny Vandermere, the good twin. The safe twin. Sorry, Jack, the movie career didn't work out, you're your own twin brother. Lulu's married two sets of twins. Maybe I can go for triplets?

There was the wedding to Judson Jenkins. That was just a simple wedding. It was nice.

...

Too bad he turned out to have leprosy. But at least I got my Emmy.

Oh, I forgot when I (meaning her character) had amnesia and got married. Oh, and my evil twin Zuzu got married. So that's fifteen.

Oh, and then that cheap-o horror movie.

Bloodbath for the Bride.

Paid the rent. Sixteen. Seventeen if you count the copy of the dress with the blood splatters.

That community theater play when I was just out of high school. I had to kiss Zach Sploot.

No wonder I tried to block it out. Eighteen.

All the paper ones I wore as a girl. We'll say they all combine into nineteen. Nineteen dresses. Who wears nineteen wedding dresses? An actress, that's who.

All those dresses. And it never goes away. You'd think it would lose something. Especially all the times it was just make-believe.

And yet, every time I put one on, I think ... maybe this one. Maybe it'll all still work out. This time.