

Europe's Lighter Side

A Gabor Is Never Angry With a Former Husband

By Art Buchwald
From the European Edition

PARIS. Mme. Jolie Gabor, the mother of Eva, Magda and Zsa Zsa, has just come to Paris to visit Zsa Zsa and to make some telephone calls to her ex-husband in Budapest.

"Magda told me," said Mme. Gabor, "Mother, do not go to Paris without a man. You will be very unhappy." But I came anyway and I am without a man and I am very happy. I have always loved Paris. I used to come to Paris from Budapest and when I left, my heart would always break. It was like leaving a lover."

We said to Mme. Gabor she must be very proud of her three daughters and she replied. "I can be very proud of my girls but I am more proud of myself. Do you know I left \$1,000,000 in Budapest and the only thing I escaped with was a mink coat? I came to America on Jan. 1, 1946, in a cargo boat and when I arrived I had \$100 to my name. I asked Zsa Zsa, who was waiting on the dock for me with Conrad Hilton, 'Zsa, Zsa, how much can \$100 buy in the United States?' and Zsa Zsa said, 'Only a couple of hats.' So I went to the captain, gave him the \$100 and told him to distribute the money among the crew. And then I got off the ship without a nickel to my name.

"The girls said, 'Mama, we're going to take care of you. We are going to give you \$600 a month and you won't have to do a thing.' But I said, 'Girls, this is America and I want to do something for myself. Give me one year's allowance and I will open a business.' So they gave me \$7,200 and I found a small shop on Madison Ave. and opened a costume jewelry store. The first six months I lost the \$7,200. I was getting into debt more and more but I'm a gambler. I decided if I go bankrupt I'll escape back to Budapest."

"But before I knew it the money was pouring in and I had to buy a bigger shop and I bought a town house because I didn't want to take advantage of Hilton's friendship and live in his hotel. I also bought a home in Southampton. Now in America I meet the cream of the cream. I have two countesses working for me, all the most beautiful glamorous women beat a highway to my door. Oh I love America."

We said we were very pleased with Mme. Gabor's success and asked her if she had also found romance as well as wealth in

the United States of America.

She said sadly, "Romance goes with heartbreaks and when you have a heart as big as mine it can break just so many times. You know, I always wanted to be an actress. When I married my husband we agreed it would only be for six months. But then we started to expect Magda, and my husband said, 'You can't get a divorce now.' And after Magda I said, 'All right, now I want my divorce,' but then I started to expect Zsa Zsa and he said, 'You can't get a divorce now.' After Zsa Zsa the same thing happened with Eva, and after Eva I said, 'Now?' and he said, 'No, you have to raise the girls first.' So I raised them for twenty-two years and then I said, 'Now I want my freedom.' But my husband said, 'It's too late to be an actress now' and I replied, 'I want a divorce anyway. I'm going into the jewelry business.' So I got a divorce and before I knew it I had five stores and every one in Budapest will tell you I was a great success."

"Every one makes so much about the divorces of the Gabor, but we're four girls and there have only been eight divorces. Is that so much?"

We said they hardly scratched the surface.

"And another thing. We are never angry with our former husbands. We have always been on wonderful terms with all of them. All of them would remarry us if we asked them to."

"And another thing, they say the Gabor's always marry for money. But this is not true. We make our own money. We can earn our minks and our own diamonds. We're career women, why should we marry for money?"

Mme. Gabor said that she had signed with a publishing house to write a book called "My Three Daughters."

"I have to start on it when I get home. When Magda heard I was going to do it she wrote me and said, 'Mama, please, please publish it after I'm dead.' I guess she knows I always tell the truth."

"But the girls are wonderful and they still ask all the time for my advice. When I'm in America Zsa Zsa even calls me from Paris to ask me what she should wear. I'm very happy. I'm independent of my daughters and I'm still the queen."

We thanked the attractive Mme. Gabor for seeing us and she said: "It's been a pleasure. I'm sorry I had to talk so much about myself, but there is nobody here to talk for me."