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We Live for Fashion (and So Will You After Reading This)

W... ..



On my own

"Make sure you're an individual before you're a couple," says Glanville. Shirt, pants, Lacoste; sunglasses, Michael Kors; sneakers, Bensimon. See Glamour Shopper for more information.

Photograph by Ture Lillegraven

Brandi Glanville

“If you’ve ever wondered if he could cheat, read this”

Over the last three years, this *Real Housewife* has gone from just that (a housewife with two kids) to a divorcée with big-time baggage—in the form of her ex, Eddie Cibrian, and his new wife, LeAnn Rimes. But she’s stronger than ever. Here, her surprising wisdom for every woman.

As told to Lauren Brown

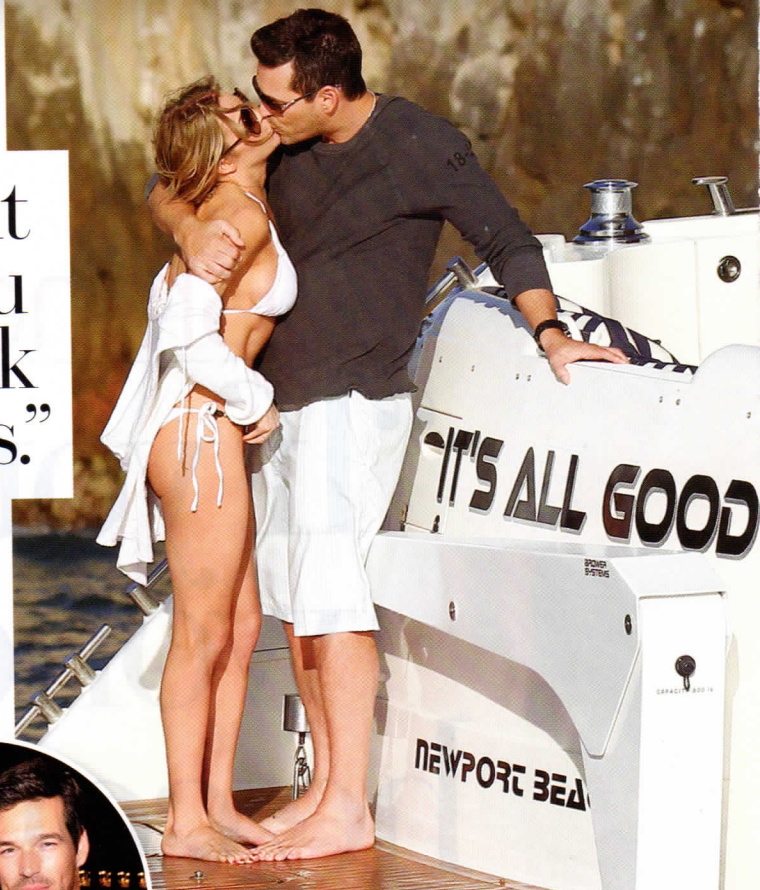
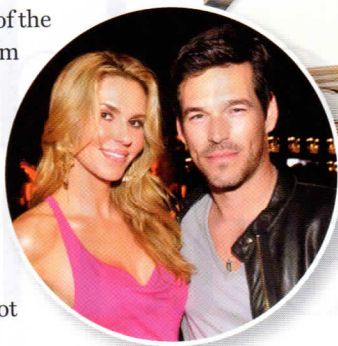
► Before Brandi Glanville became the breakout star of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* back in 2011, the world had watched a different kind of reality play out for her: Two years earlier, her husband of nearly 10 years, Eddie Cibrian, had an affair with married country singer LeAnn Rimes. The drama unfolded in the tabloids like a soap opera because Glanville—that rare Housewife even Housewife skeptics love—would not let her marriage fall apart without a fight. Today she is grateful to have survived the mess intact, and she wants you to learn from her very public agony. “My story is very different from Eddie and LeAnn’s story,” she says. “They have a love story; I have a heartbreak story. But you know what? It’s my truth.” And, if you ever need it, she hopes her truth will set you free.

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“I’m not a snooper...but I’ve realized you have to be aware. Ask the right questions.”

Lesson 1: “Trust yourself”

I was with Eddie for 13 years, married for eight. It was lust at first sight. We slept together the first night, which I would never advise, but we did. After two months we moved in, and that was it. I remember being very jealous of the women he was working with a lot of the time. I’m a Scorpio. I’m jealous. But he would always tell me I was crazy, and I started to believe it. My friends were all like, “He adores you.” So I would have things in my head, and I wouldn’t say them. I thought I was just being insecure. But you have to trust your gut on this stuff. [Glanville’s calls to Cibrian for comment on Glanville’s remarks throughout this piece had not been returned at press time.]



It’s so not all good

Cibrian with Glanville in happier days, left, and enjoying some time with Rimes, in 2011, above

Lesson 2: “Be a ‘me’ before you’re a ‘we’”

I didn’t go to college; I went to Europe to model. And then when I met Eddie, I was like, “I’ll follow you around, take care of you, cook you breakfast, be the wife you want.” I never established anything for myself. I didn’t have an education. I never even established credit; because he paid for everything, everything was in his name. I didn’t work, really. So when all this went down, at 36 years old, I found myself having to ask my dad to cosign so I could get a place to live and a car. Make sure you’re an individual before you become a couple.

Lesson 3: “Know the red flags”

I’m not a snooper. I never looked at Eddie’s phone or went through his email; I didn’t really know how to use the computer. But I’ve realized that you have to be aware. Ask the right questions. If a man has two phones, I think that’s a giant red flag. And he showers before going to the gym? Wait a minute, what’s that about? I made up a word. I was *blignorant*—that’s my term for “blissfully ignorant.” Eddie’s phone would be off, and he’d say he didn’t have service on the golf course or that the battery had died. And I’d think to myself, Sure, that’s possible. I had lots of suspicions but no

proof. And another thing: You have to set boundaries. If he’s on social media, you be on social media too. Married men are horny enough as is. They don’t need the opportunity to reconnect with an ex or see a pretty picture.

Lesson 4: “You don’t have to give him a second chance”

When the whole LeAnn thing came out, I kind of knew. You know when you know. But Eddie convinced me that he and LeAnn were just friends, and he was helping a friend in need. [Cibrian and Rimes had met on the set of the TV movie *Northern Lights*.] I believed him because I wanted to. We had two beautiful kids, this wonderful life. He still is the love of my life. Then, when he finally did admit it, he said it was a onetime thing, and we went into therapy. I told my friends, “Listen, people make mistakes.” But then we took the kids to see my parents for their anniversary. My uncle walks up to me and goes, “Did you hear about the other woman?” I thought he was talking about LeAnn. During that time I had stopped watching the news or getting the magazines. We get back home, and my friend calls me and says, “There’s pictures of Eddie on your boat kissing another girl.” I got a bottle of wine, and I cried and cried. Now I know: Once a cheater, always a cheater.

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PREVIOUS SPREAD: FASHION EDITOR: MAGGIE MANN; HAIR: CHRISTIAN MARC; MAKEUP: ADRIENNE HERBERT; BOTH FOR CELESTINE AGENCY; MANICURE: JANEL FOR FLORE BEAUTY; GLANVILLE AND CIBRIAN: JOHN SHEARER/WIREIMAGE; RIMES AND CIBRIAN: IXOLA/GSI MEDIA

Lesson 5: "Get a little revenge"

First, I called Eddie's mom. We were very close. I had nursed her through an illness. She basically lived with us. I said, "There's more than just LeAnn. I'm...I'm not OK." And I got a knife, and I went out to the garage. I just took it to both of his Harleys. I hated those bikes—my dad had almost died in a motorcycle accident. I had never wanted Eddie on them, because we had children. I slashed all of the tires, and it felt so good. I called his mom back and told her, "I want you to know, I just killed Eddie's motorcycles." And she was like, "Thank God." That night when Eddie got home, I said, "I'm going to move into a hotel for a week, and you need to get out of this house." At this point, I felt he was a very hands-off father. We had a nanny who lived with us, and it was mostly she and I raising our children. He was like, "I love you—I'll do anything." And I said, "If it had been one person [you cheated with], it would've been different." After that I left for the hotel. He refused to move out. He wouldn't let go of us. And I'm like, "You don't get to have your cake and eat it too. I'm done."

Lesson 6: "Try not to take the bait"

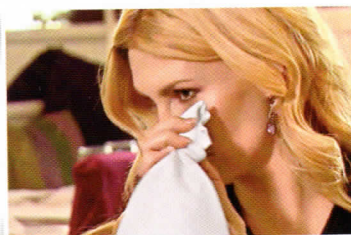
When I'm home alone on a holiday and LeAnn is tweeting pictures with my children, it breaks my heart. One way I hear from LeAnn is she'll text me—hurtful things like, "I can't wait to make your kids lunches and go to soccer..." Marriages break up all the time. People have affairs. Happens every day. It matters how you handle yourself after and if you're actually remorseful. I've never found LeAnn to be remorseful. I found her to be like, "Nah-nah-nah-nah-nah, I got your family."

Lesson 7: "Limit the wallowing"

My heartache probably lasted a lot longer than it should have, because in the old days, you broke up with someone, you never saw 'em again. You're not seeing pictures of how in love they are. I started to drink too much. I would cry all day. I began taking an antidepressant. I got a DUI and realized I needed to wake

Why We ♥ Brandi

The *RHOBH* outsider has become everyone's favorite, because...



She buried the hatchet with Eddie's onetime fling—on TV. *Ballsy*.



She doesn't put up with bullies and always defends friends *and* herself.



She loves her heels. She even wore them with crutches!



She's never afraid to laugh about what was once painful. Time heals.

—Caitlin Brody

up and let go. I said to myself, "You know what, Brandi? You have a life to live. Why are you obsessing over these two people? You know Eddie loves your children. It's time to do *you*."

Lesson 8: "Lose the toxic friends"

I had certain friends who were happy to see me miserable because they had been a little jealous of, "Oh, Brandi gets to marry this hot actor and live in this mansion." And they were the ones that said, "Let's go to lunch and drink." At first I did, because it made me not have to think about my life. But those are the ones that aren't around anymore. As for the rest? Some of them didn't know how to deal. I had always been the rock for all of us. I was the first one to get married, the first one to have kids. I was the one my friends called when they had a bladder infection and needed advice at the pharmacy. So when they saw me crumble, they really didn't know how to handle it. But I've learned there's no shame in leaning on your true friends. Make sure that when you're a couple you don't stop seeing your girlfriends. A lot of people do: They fall in love and they check out. I made sure to stay in contact and have 13 of the best friends. But it takes work.

Lesson 9: "Date when you're ready"

I believe in love, I do. When I was getting out of the relationship with Eddie, I met this guy who was amazing. He was what I needed at the time. I love him to this day, but I was never in love with him. But he saved me in so many ways. I think starting to date as soon as you can gets your mind off the hurt. It

makes you feel pretty again. I told all my friends, "Set me up. I'll go out with anyone." I've always been a very happy, fun, outspoken person. And there were two years of darkness and sadness. But you get your period of mourning. You get to freak out, you get to cry every day, you get to drink too much, you get to f--k too many guys. You get to do that. But then...you don't. There's a time when you've got to get back your dignity. ■

Brandi Glanville is the author of Drinking & Tweeting: And Other Brandi Blunders.