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There are certain things that Drew has learned over the years, and she uses them as her rules for living. Or, as the saying goes, "to thine own self be Drew."

Drew Barrymore is sitting in front of one of the most wacked out houses in California's Topanga Canyon-or anywhere. It's a 90-year-old ranch stuck in the middle of a craggy mountain range. It's surrounded by oaks, aloe, and cacti, as well as a giant teepee and a customized 1956 Mercedes bus that looks like the cast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show took vacations in. The house is laden with Moravian star lamps, frog-shaped basins, Buddha statues, and, inexplicable, cast-iron hands. It is the most cosmic amalgam of spiritual kitsch imaginable. Something like Drew herself.

At the moment, Drew's taking a rare break. She's just finished two films - The Wedding Singer with Adam Sandler, and the dark comedy Home Fries - and is getting ready to star in the live-action version of the classic fairy tale, Cinderella. She's sitting on the porch under a wisteria-laden trellis wearing a gray T-shirt and black corduroy bell-bottoms with a cream-colored butterfly applique over the butt. The sun is shining, birds are singing, and the scent of a septic tank is in the air. Morcheeba is on the boom box. Drew notices a vine climbing into the front room from outside. "I love that you're letting the vines grow through the house," she says to Uschi, the owner of indeterminable origin. "This house has the best vibe."

***Nature is my temple.*** *I believe in astrology, yoga, and psychology. I believe in every religion that exists. I believe in it for every person who believes in it. But nature is my temple; I've found myself understanding that whatever the Earth says goes, and I feel good about that. I think that you probably have many lifetimes, and I know that each one counts. I'm lucky to have experienced what I have. I believe in fate. I believe that everything happens for a reason, but I think it's important to seek out that reason-that's how you learn. That's how I've learned.*

You have to drive up the Pacific Coast Highway then work your way up a narrow, winding road to get to Uschi's house. As Drew and Jane drove up that morning, Drew mentioned that her parents used to bring her up there when she was little so they could visit their hippie friends who lived there.

***Those things that I've figured out on my own are what guide me.*** *I was thinking about how I got my green eyes from my mom this very morning. My mom was a great reader. She gave me a lot of books when I was young. I think it was my absolute favorite thing she did. And she had good taste in music. I'm listening to the Beatles right now. A lot of my influences come from her. Physically, I take after my father-I don't think so, I know I do. My dad seems kind of obsessed with the mind, being free. He likes to study religions and nature. So I think I get a lot from my parents. And then there are other ways that I*

*oppose from them. When you're young, you're like, "What kind of person do I want to be in life?" Those things I've figured out on my own are what make me...me.*

***What makes everything in life tolerable.*** *Love is love, and the forms that you get it in are what make everything in life tolerable. We've got to learn hard things in our lifetime but it's love that gives you the strength. It's being nice to people and having a lot of fun and laughing harder than anything, hopefully every single day of your life. It's having patience. I like patience. Especially driving in LA, you freak out on how important patience is.*

Drew and the makeup artist are in the front room of the house. "You have nice skin," she tells Drew. Someone mentions another *very famous young actress* who has actually left photo shoots to get Cortisone shots because of a zit or two. Drew can empathize. "It's so rude," she says. "Life is so harsh, you shouldn't have to put up with spots on top of it all." The talk moves to how vocal cords look. Drew got to see a picture of hers when she had a tonsillectomy last year. "They're so beautiful, like the hairs on a violin bow," she says. Drew then mentions her aversion to hearing her own voice on telephone answering machines ("I ask people to fast forward") and the difficulty of avoiding leather in purchasing shoes ("It's hard. I'm such a nerd, but I never surrender").

***The way I'd like to see us all treat each other.*** *Is a person better off single or in a relationship? I can only speak for today and "in a relationship." I think you can have both. I think you can be with somebody but still remain yourself and have a sense of your independence. It can be very damaging if you don't have your own world that you can go into every day. But a relationship can be sensual without being sexual. What I mean when I say "sensual" is soft and gentle and kind and patient and nurturing. That's the way I'd like to see us all treat each other, rather than putting us in our own small places or having us be self-conscious or insecure.*

Though Drew's a vegan, she loves the sauce served at the In-N-Out burger chain: "It's so good, it's like a circus in your mouth!" She also loves fake bacon, yet she bought a Hot Diggity Dogger (a device that allows you to cook both hot dog and bun together) for her boyfriend, Luke, who is not a Vegan. "Are you kidding?" She says, "He's from Texas!"

***I love animals.*** *I LOVE FOOD! I eat all the time. I don't eat meat, fish, or dairy. I think veganism has a lot of different directions; some people won't eat cream cheese, some people will eat a little butter.... I do this because I love animals and I don't want to eat them or wear them. I made this choice, and I don't miss anything about it. You go to dinner with me and I'll recommend the swordfish because I know it's yummy, but I don't miss it. It's just my own personal crusade, you know, and if someone doesn't understand, then I can try to explain it to them, but only the belief and education is going to make you do something.*

Drew gets a thrill out of pop culture; she never misses Melrose Place. "Megan rules!" she says. She recently spotted Kelly Rutherford, aka Megan, in Los Angeles, introduced herself and discussed recent plot developments. "Don't tell me what happens on Monday!" she called out on parting.

***I'm still learning.*** *I'm still learning, and I think educating yourself is one of the most important things. I know somebody who reads three newspapers a day, and I think that's one of the most beautiful things I could ever imagine. I've just finished reading "Memory, Dreams, Reflections" by Carl Jung, and it's so fascinating. He had a sense of peace because he understands the way people work and the subconscious. I really want to understand the mind so I can be more comfortable with the way people are. Being comfortable with people is incredibly important.*

"Did you know?" Drew asks, "that there's a fish in Belize that can reproduce with itself? That's so groovy and empowering. Too bad people can't do that. They'd be by themselves all the time." Minutes later, she's stirring the pot, as in the dance, while Daft Punk plays on the boom box. "This music is so sexually forward," she says. She talks about flashing David Letterman. "That was so fun - one of the best moments of my life. It was so spontaneous and so out of body. I can't believe I did that. I would never have the nerve now."

***Intimate love is the most beautiful thing in the world.*** *I've always had the ability to talk openly about sex, and I think the reason is because I want other people to be comfortable with it. Making love is the most beautiful thing in the world. But we live in a society and a day and age where free love is an absolutely different concept. We must protect ourselves, and the healthiest sex there is is safe sex. As much as I want to educate myself, I'm thrilled to be a part of an educational group, the Female Health Foundation. It funds clinics all over the world because it's associated with the United Nations, and it's distributing hundreds of thousands of female condoms to women all over the world. I always think how truly lucky I am because an opportunity like this does not come about very often, so I do as much with it as I can.*

Drew doesn't have much use for shoes; she's been barefoot all day. Or clothes; she once lived out of a green duffel bag for three years while she searched for a house. But she does carry a bag, and inside it you'll find her journal, which she always carries and likes to keep very private "because it's like being alone. You act differently when you're alone; that's when you're in your truest state." Besides the journal, the bag contains hand cream, moisturizer and baby wipes "so I can refresh myself all day."

***I tend to feel freer without possessions.*** *I'm a minimalist. I'm eliminating more and more, too. I tend to feel freer without possessions. That's more my father's mentality, but I can kind of understand why he feels that way. You know, if you give a bag to a woman, no matter what size it is, she'll fit it. If you give her a wallet, she'll fill it to the brim, and if you give her a huge tote bag, she'll shove toms of stuff in it that she thinks she needs. You only need so much. I find that when I don't have so much, I'm more aware and appreciative of what comes to me.*

Drew has two dogs, Flossie and Templeton. She adopted them at the same time. Templeton's been sent away to obedience school but Flossie's here with Drew. They've headed up to the tripped-out teepee and its Eternalux candles honoring San Antonio de Padua and San Jose, protector de la Tierra. "It's so groovy," she says. "The rocks hurt to sit on, but it's a great place to Zen out."

***I'm concentrating on what my tummy says more and more.*** I think instincts are very important. One time I didn't trust my instincts. I won't tell you when it is, but that was the moment in my life when I learned to trust them, so that was my lesson that I learned. I'm getting more aware as I get older. I always used to say, 'You're fearless when you're a kid and you're fearless when you're older,' but there's something that happens in the meantime when you're trying to figure things out.

It's time for Drew to go. She hugs every single person on the shoot. She sits in the driveway and wipes her feet with a baby wipe. "It's like a portable bath," she says. She and Flossie turn to climb into the car. There's that butterfly again.

***Beauty is a good thing.*** I love butterflies. They're metamorphosis. They prove you can be beautiful and then become even more beautiful. It could be said that the sky's the limit on it. You can become as beautiful as you want to be. Beauty is a good thing.

"The nerds are leaving!" she shouts, and they're gone.