



Carroll and producer-husband Jack Garfein both had an unhappy childhood, but she gives own children, Blanche and Herschel, affection parents denied her.



Even today when somebody tells me I'm good-looking, I have a hard time believing it."

At her father's insistence, Carroll enrolled in a typing course at high school, but her heart wasn't in it. Nor did she relish the idea of taking an unskilled job after graduation. Eventually she joined her mother in Florida, and enrolled in a junior college there.

During the six years mother and daughter had been separated, they had heard from each other only about half-a-dozen times. Yet Carroll convinced herself that, deep down, her mother still loved her. When she left junior college after one semester, she blamed it on the dullness of the courses rather than on any personal reasons.

FOR A WHILE Carroll concentrated on dancing, then became a lady magician, touring the vaudeville circuit. She came to Hollywood for a brief part in an Esther Williams movie and eventually reached New York and television commercials. She also gave the nightly weather report until she lost her cue cards one night and, in an attempt to improvise the forecast, announced: "There's a lot of hot air blowing in from Texas." This ended her career as a weather commentator.

Fortunately, residuals from TV commercials provided money for room and board while she was at Actors Studio. There Elia Kazan discovered her and, after she played a featured role in George Stevens' "Giant," cast her in "Baby Doll," which made her a star.

Stevens denies another piece of Holly-

wood gossip about Carroll—that she's unduly influenced by her husband, director Jack Garfein. "True, she and Jack usually talked over her scene if he was on the set. For that matter, I discussed many scenes with him myself. But he no more told Carroll what to do than he did me."

Yet there's little doubt that Jack has had a strong influence, which isn't surprising when one knows his background.

Born 29 years ago in Czechoslovakia, he spent years at Belsen concentration camp and saw both his parents killed in gas chambers. He himself was so emaciated that he weighed 48 pounds when he was released at the age of 15. He has suffered as few people his age have, and this, in Carroll's eyes, gives them a basis for mutual understanding. His patience and concern have made him both husband and father to her.

Obstinate as she may be with anyone else, she lets Jack have the last word in what concerns them both. Yet Carroll will strike back if anyone else threatens her personal domain.

When she moved to California with her two children, Blanche, 2½, and Herschel, 1½, she hired a nurse to look after the youngsters while she was at work. When the nurse refused to raise the children according to Carroll's specific instructions, she was fired. "I won't say that I was always right and she was always wrong, but if there are any mistakes made, I want to be the one to make them. I want the full responsibility for what is mine."

Thus, in a way, Carroll herself best explains Carroll Baker.

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