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Angelina and Brad

By David A. Kenny

You may have learned, in an earlier column, about RelNet, the television channel devoted to relationships. I have been able to obtain a transcript from the RelNet interview of the stars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. You may notice from the interview that the couple has hired a relationship coach. What is a relationship coach? It is someone who uses their knowledge of relationships to help people understand what is happening in their lives. Here is that interview:

RelNet: Angelina, let me begin by asking about your estranged father, Jon Voight.

Angelina: First, he is not my “estranged” father, but rather my father is just strange. The problem with him is his dismissing attachment style. He is highly avoidant and low anxiety. According to our relationship coach Rowland, he is a total narcissist, he has tremendous difficulty showing normal emotions. The only time I have ever seen him emotional was with Rizzo, Dustin Hoffman, on a Greyhound bus in *Midnight Cowboy*.

RelNet: While your relationship with your dad is strange, is not your relationship to your brother Haven even stranger? Is not one of your

numerous tattoos an “H” for him, and did you not plant a big wet kiss on him during the Academy Awards?

Angelina: A woman needs a father figure in her life and Haven was that for me.

Brad: Actually the “H” is for Timothy Hutton. Angelina likes to show her commitment to her partner. I will not tell you where she has my last name tattooed and it is not in her armpits.

RelNet: Angelina, you were married to Billy Bob Thornton. I have to ask about the vials of each other’s blood that you wore around your necks.

Angelina: You have to understand that his mother was the town psychic in the small town where he grew up. I guess being psychic has low heritability, or maybe he inherited just the psycho part of psychic. As for the vial of blood, it was a symbolic expression of our mutual commitment. I also pretended to lose my vial so I could get Billy Bob’s blood periodically tested, for reasons I will not reveal.

RelNet: You are now pregnant with Brad’s baby. Are you worried that a child from the two of you is going to be too beautiful?

Angelina: It was indeed a worry. However, you have to factor in regression toward the mean. The expectation using Galton’s formula is that the child will be about half as beautiful as we are. The expectation

for any kid of Billy Bob's is for regression up toward the mean.

RelNet: I guess that is why you adopted children with Billy Bob, Maddox from Cambodia and Zahara from Ethiopia.

Angelina: Although our children are living in the United States, we give Maddox a chance for a strong Cambodian identity by trying to feed him rice and Zahara an Ethiopian identity by trying to feeding her nothing.

Relnet: Let me now turn to Brad Pitt, who attended the Missouri School of Journalism and was two credits shy of graduating. Brad, you were married for many years to America's sweetheart, Jennifer Aniston.

Brad: Yeah, I was a bit of a zombie during the Bradfer years, but eventually I did an Exit thing and she did the Loyalty thing. I still think Rachel is a great person, and when we broke up I asked her if we could stay friends.

RelNet: What did she say?

Brad: She engaged in an act of physical assault on the Conflict Tactics Scale scale.

RelNet: What does that mean?

Brad: She slapped me in the face. You know I played Achilles but I am no heel. Hey, I have moved beyond the grave dressing state of relationship dissolution.

RelNet: When did you first get interested in Angelina?

Brad: It started years ago when I got PlayStation and I beat Tomb Raider.

RelNet: Since Angelina had repeatedly fallen in love with her costars, are you worried she may dump you for someone else?

Brad: Abandonment issues are not part of the person called Brad Pitt. However, I have been urging her to sign up for a remake of Cocoon with Wilfred Brimley. No way she does Oceans 13.

RelNet: Can you comment on the tattoo on Angelina's belly that says "Quod me nutrit me destruit" ("What nourishes me also destroys me").

Brad: At first I thought it was a Nike ad, but then she told me that milk makes her puke (oh, I mean vomit). Rowland says it is really an unconscious reference to her father.

RelNet: So what is it like being an adoptive father?

Brad: I do find it difficult to accept, you know from an evolutionary point of view, that I share none of my genes with Maddox and Zahara. But then I learned that people share 98 percent of their genes with a Drosophila or fruit fly and I felt better.

RelNet: One last question: When you two check into a hotel and you want to remain anonymous, what name do you give?

Brad: Laura and I sign in as Mr. and Mrs. Smith.