

AT HOME WITH ALI WENTWORTH

& GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

# FUNNIEST MOM ALIVE!

The comedic actress  
and her news anchor  
husband open up about  
laughter, love and...

more laughter

By GILLIAN TELLING



At first it might seem like Ali Wentworth and George Stephanopoulos are a mismatched couple. Wentworth, 53, the self-described WASP, loves a provocative joke, has had a successful acting career and just released her third book of humorous essays, called *Go Ask Ali: Half-Baked Advice* (and *Free Lemonade*). Stephanopoulos, 57, a self-described “very regimented” former political adviser and an anchor on ABC’s *Good Morning America* and *This Week*, has spent his recent days

prepping for a big interview with former FBI director James Comey. “He’s the rational one, and I’m the fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants fun one,” says Wentworth. But two minutes with the couple at their Manhattan duplex, which they share with daughters Elliott, 15, and Harper, 12, and it’s clear they’re a perfect pair. “You just need to come to terms with the idea that you’re going to be with this person forever,” says Wentworth about the secrets of their marital success. “Don’t think, ‘Oh, I

## FULL HOUSE

“We couldn’t scientifically have another baby, but we have the dog,” says Wentworth (with pup Cooper, George, Harper and Elliott). “He’s Ali’s boyfriend,” jokes Stephanopoulos of Cooper.





### A GOOD MAN

"Someone described him as the last man standing [in morning TV]," says Wentworth. "He's just known as a stand-up dude."

(BOOK) PETER ZAMBONIOS

'I WAS PHYSICALLY ATTRACTED TO HIM. I HOPE IT WASN'T ONE-SIDED. AND HE THOUGHT I COULD COOK WELL AND HAD GOOD TEETH'

—ALI WENTWORTH



Wentworth's third book of humorous essays, *Go Ask Ali: Half-Baked Advice (and Free Lemonade)*, is out April 24.

*can always get divorced or have an affair.' We're in it until a nurse comes in to change our diapers and wipes the drool off our face." She adds, smiling, "Knowing that makes the fights less scary."*

**You have a funny story in *Go Ask Ali* about screaming on a plane because you thought it was crashing, and George was just sitting there meditating. So he's the steady one?**

**ALI** Yes! He's so pragmatic and the anchor. Our roles are actually very traditional.

**GEORGE** But we split the cooking. I hate doing dishes. I'll shop for groceries and I'll cook, anything I can do to get out of cleaning.

**Do your daughters think you're a hilarious mom?**

**ALI** I think it's mixed. They think I'm funny, but it depends on the day. I use humor to make a point more. Like if I said, "You shouldn't post pictures like that, it's sexualizing your youth," it goes in one ear and out the other. But if I make fun of it, it seems to penetrate their brains more.

**What's it like to raise teen daughters in the age of Instagram and social media?**

**ALI** My kids don't get yet that it's curated. It's like, "Oh, look, they're having so much fun at the sleepover," but it's probably more like, "That one is throwing up, this one called their mom to pick them up early." It's a joke. It's not real.

**GEORGE** It's also just pure addiction. They



think Instagram is an actual activity. "We're just doing our Instagram!" But we have some rules. Never at the dinner table. We're failing at the bedtime thing, though.

**You guys got engaged in 2001, two months after meeting? That must've been a great first date.**

**ALI** Yes, we have Tinder to thank for all of this!

No, we were set up by a friend in L.A., and when she offered to introduce me to him, I said no! See him shaking his head? He doesn't believe me.

**GEORGE** [*Shrugging*] It's her story to tell.

**ALI** I grew up in D.C. around politics, and so this idea was not sexy to me. But I thought, "All right, I'll go on a date with George Stephanopoulos. It will be a good dinner-party story." But then we met for lunch at Barneys. We both ordered the crab salad, and I was instantly smitten.

**GEORGE** You were wearing a raincoat. And you had that clip in your hair.

**ALI** I remember that, because you said when I took the clip out it was very sexy. Anyway, we went outside and he shook my hand, so I assumed he didn't like me. But then he called me and asked for a second date.

**Did you ever think two months was too soon to get engaged?**

**ALI** No, I was like, "Ticktock, mister, what's the holdup?" I had been engaged before to a guy for eight years, and *that* had seemed too soon, but with George I was like, "Come on, let's just start our lives together..." I went through my bad-boy stage before I met him, and the reason I was blown away by him when we met is because he has so much integrity.

**Your book has some very practical advice for women about to get married.**

**ALI** Basically, if you're crying hysterically on the way to your wedding, it's probably a bad sign. Or if you think, "I'm about to get married, I better have one last fling!" I didn't even care about the actual wedding. I just wanted to marry George.

**Do you guys ever fight?**

**GEORGE** We'll have a quarterly blowout.

**ALI** It's usually about the same thing. You don't appreciate me, I don't get what I need.

**GEORGE** It's a pretty clear cycle, which is actually a comforting thing to get used to.

**You both have crazy careers—how do you relax?**

**GEORGE** I go to the gym, I meditate, and I like a cocktail.

**ALI** I don't meditate, and I don't drink. I'm not an alcoholic, I'm just a lightweight. I'm already fun—I don't need to take my clothes off at a dinner party.

**GEORGE** Tell her the real reason.

**ALI** Okay, I don't like it! I smell his cocktail, and

### HANDS-ON MOM

"George will go to sleep at 8:30 p.m., and they'll be like, 'Ugh, I need help on my project, and the smart one has gone to bed!'" says Wentworth (with Elliott, right, and Harper, top).



'I USE HUMOR TO PARENT. IT'S MUCH MORE DISARMING TO MAKE THEM LAUGH THAN TO SCREAM'

—ALI WENTWORTH

I'm like, "I'd put that on a cotton ball and clean my face with it, but I'd never drink it!"

**Do you talk politics at home?**

**ALI** We talk about the show *Riverdale* more than anything in this house.

**Ali, when did you know you were funny?**

**ALI** I found humor just because I needed attention. I was a middle child lost in a sea of divorce, and I used it as a way to deflect. I still do. I think the world is such a serious place now, and I'm a big believer in laughing, in having that release.

**GEORGE** [When it comes to her] I always laugh. ●