

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ

20 WAYS OF BEING FOR 20

REGARDLESS OF WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING AROUND HER, THE CHEERFUL SRI LANKAN BEAUTY STANDS TALL, UNFAZED BY TECTONIC SHIFTS THAT ROCKED THE ECONOMY, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT. AS AN INFLUENCER, HER DOMAIN IS GLOBAL NOW, AS HUDA KATTAN RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A NEW LAUNCH NAMED AFTER HER. IN THIS CANDID CHAT WITH HELLO! SHE SHARES 20 DREAMS AND DESIRES FOR 2020 FOR HER FANS, HERSELF AND THE WORLD

Pop go the camera flashes, and in beguiling synchronicity, the HELLO! team sees a dance of glamour by Jacqueline Fernandez — one of Asia's more accomplished beauties, who has definitely earned her stars as an influencer and entertainer. The mood around her is balmy; the dance near-auto pilot, as glamazons go: Hair tosses, chin ups and downs, arms framing her face, hips swaying, and those sunny — should we say 100 degree Celsius — smiles.

We are on board the AB Celestial float, floating gently while anchored — a philosophical stance that works well when you are a celebrated persona. One needs to be rooted in today's mantras and yet look like a character from a fairy tale. So it comes as little surprise when we finally settle down to chat with Jacqueline, and discover that "self-reliance" is her go-to mantra. There is no stardust in those beautiful eyes; if they shine, it's because she stands tall on a pedestal all beautiful and ambitious women can concoct in their prime. The smart ones know that such pedestals come with a timeline, and

Jacqueline Fernandez clearly has no illusions about this. "I am a positive person, always saying "never say never", but I think all women need to be self-reliant, independent, ready for anything that may happen in future, financially, emotionally, physically."

The buzz around Jackie is global. All her 25 million followers on Instagram were thrilled when the iconic beauty entrepreneur Huda Kattan announced a collaboration with the actress, posting, "How gorgeous is she?!! Here is a little sneak peak of our 'Jacqueline Lash', inspired by the beautiful Bollywood QUEEN." A frequent traveler to Dubai, this tie-up was seemingly the result of a fashion magazine event at the Mall of the Emirates, where Jackie met with two of today's most followed fashion and beauty icons — Victoria Beckham and of course, Huda Kattan. Jackie has not only aced the glamour game, she has no snobbery about her whatsoever, which is truly refreshing. It came through in one of her famous *chamak chalo* Tik Tok videos, filled with artful *nakhra*s, leaving no doubt that this young woman was made to entertain. HELLO! asked her to share 20 Notes — to her fans, herself, and the world at large, for 2020. ►

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TO SEA OR NOT TO SEA...
Jacqueline is a glamazon personified wearing an ensemble by Pankaj & Nidhi featuring an embellished tesserae silver and gold leaf mosaic slip dress, additionally styled with earrings featuring baguette diamonds set in 18K white-gold, along with a Couture Bracelet studded with elegant round diamonds set in 18K white-gold, and a White and Black diamond ring set in 18K white and rose-gold, from Irasva



NOTES TO MY FANS

1 IT'S OK TO THINK 'I, ME, MYSELF'

"So I think society has made us out to believe that there is a certain way that things get done, and women need to be a certain way, men need to be a certain way. They make you believe that to live a fulfilled life you need to do things in a certain way. I just do not believe in that narrative anymore. I would advise all the wives, daughters, sisters, girlfriends, please have the mind frame that if you want to get anything done, go out there and do it for yourself. Safeguard all of your own interests. You never know when life is going to throw a curveball at you."

2 BREAK THE MENTAL JAILHOUSE

"I truly believe that if you have the confidence to do whatever it is you want to do, the sky is the limit. When I entered the industry, I had no movie experience, no family, no friends here. I basically had one agent, I didn't even speak Hindi, I had literally nothing! I was not even an actor. But I went into it with a positive mindset, and a fearless one. I think a lot of us live in a lot of fear - 'I can't do this without so and so, I can't do what is not acceptable' - stuff like that. It's terrible, a mind-jail to live in. It restricts us so much, and it's only when we break out of that comfort zone in our minds, that we can achieve amazing things."

3 BE STUBBORNLY POSITIVE

"This is actually a bit of an exercise in itself. I feel staying positive is something people take for granted, and I have heard people being critical about this, like 'O God this girl is only smiling and O God she is only laughing, and so positive.' You know always seeing the brighter side, seeing the better side of the people around you, is not the easiest thing. You are literally battling negativity at all times, you're not getting sucked into it, not letting it impact you. It definitely has its perks, it opens so many doors. It lights things up for yourself as well. I have seen how it works. Sometimes when you allow yourself to take a negative view of things, you can hit a downward spiral. Other times when you are resolutely positive, things only go in a forward and upward direction."

4 FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT!

"This really works. I never let myself feel down, even if I was auditioned for a role and did not get it. I was like 'OK, I will still keep a good mood through the day, be thankful for whatever I do get.' It all worked out for me because I got one movie, then two, then three, then 10 movies by the end of it! Right after I finished shooting *Race 2*, I went through a lull phase. Films would come my way and I would lose them. Or I would just not get meetings, or I would not get new auditions, and it didn't occur to me that my own outlook was so negative. It was so desperate. I was not trusting that things would work out for me, or eventually something would work out. But a friend had one small conversation with me, he just said stay positive. I was so beaten down about getting nowhere, and almost made that my reality. But then I said you know I have nothing to lose, I may as well be positive. And in like a matter of a few weeks, I literally signed *Kick*. It was like maybe just 10 days. Now, I just wake up every single morning and just tell myself things are going amazingly well."

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MOMENTS IN THE SUN

Jacqueline lives in a spirit of positivity and emits a sunshine all her own. Her look is enhanced by an Aurum gold, trapunto quilted jacket by Pankaj & Nidhi. Her vivacious butterfly frame Amaya sunglasses are from Nova Eyewear. The view of Mumbai's shoreline lends an aura of urban romance, aboard the AB Celestial floatel

5 REDEFINE 'COMMERCIAL' ACTOR

"I think commercial cinema right now, is by itself a dynamic term. We want to do meaningful cinema, that has become extremely important for actresses today, but commercial cinema is perceived to be where the money is, and where the bigger reach is. But day by day, I feel that commercial cinema has upgraded itself to stronger storytelling, it's much closer to reality, and much more interesting to be a part of. Am excited to see where this genre is going in 2020."

6 'POLE' PERFECTION

"So a big perk of our profession, is that we are given these challenges - things to master for each new character we attempt. A few years ago, I had ▶

HERE'S LOOKING AT THE WORLD

Jacqueline glows in a topaz crystalline bodice gown with a sweeping trail in diamond quilted satin by Pankaj & Nidhi, accentuated with earrings embedded with champagne diamonds set in 18K white-gold, an intricate bracelet set in 18K rose-gold, featuring a veil of round diamonds, and a pie cut white diamond ring, set in 18K white-gold, all from Irasva

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to prep for the pole dancing in *Race 2*, it required a lot of body confidence and skill, lots of core strength and fitness. My character was a cop, and so I trained accordingly. In general, through trial and error, I have found comfort with Pilates. As a discipline I not only got a lot stronger with Pilates, I also enjoyed the work out. I am not into the treadmill so much, or weights. Pilates really helps tone up the core muscles. I never knew what Pilates felt like, two or three years ago. Now I do it three times a week."

7 TRICK FITNESS INTO YOUR SCHEDULE!

"It's important to plan your fitness routine a week ahead. So there is always a core routine, that I follow, but if I am trying to acquire certain levels of fitness for a film, I plan the add-ons for the week. I know I am going to do a few days of Pilates, mix it with some power yoga or other routines, like maybe horse riding. So all of these activities not only add to your skill set, they also keep you fit, keep you outdoors, keep other health challenges from cropping up. So planning that around your schedule, is important. It would be great if this could be the year that gyms became mandatory in offices, and this became the 'new normal', nationally."

NOTES TO MYSELF

8 TAKE A DAY OFF IN A WEEK

"I would say for myself, I want to take one day a week off from my work schedules. Right now, I work everyday. Monday or Sunday, I am always flying around, or meeting some work commitment. It's not the healthiest way to live. I don't want to wait for a holiday, I want to take a consistent day off per week. There's no point to life, just working around the clock!"

9 VALUE PUNCTUALITY

"I am not a very punctual person, so I want to improve my time management. This is something our environment doesn't pay too much attention to, people don't respect each other's time, but it's a habit I want to cultivate."

10 NURTURE LOVING RELATIONSHIPS:

"Everyone is like, 'you don't date, your social life is pathetic, you are always working.' I tend to agree, one gets so caught up in ambitions, goals, whatever it takes. But I have improved, in the last two years, I do take longer and more frequent breaks to be with my family. Where earlier we hardly managed to speak, I now make it a point to stay connected." ►



MERMAID BLUES
Jacqueline exudes an aquatic mystique in this iridescent shattered mosaic cocktail mermaid dress by Pankaj & Nidhi paired with a matching pair of embellished mules from Papa Don't Preach by Shubhika. She completes the look with an emerald and diamond-studded bracelet and a ring with pie-cut white diamonds, both set in 18K white-gold, from Irasva. A lover of the environment, Jackie reluctantly let the balloons she was holding fly into the atmosphere. "I would love to see us stop using plastic water bottles on film sets," she shared, in a candid moment

'Romances within the industry are not for me. It can just unnecessarily complicate things. Also I feel if you marry a co-star, your whole life can become about the movies!'

11 ROMANCE REALISTICALLY
"Romances within the industry – they are not for me. I see things a bit differently. In the last 10 years of being in the industry I have come to the conclusion that I never want to be involved with anyone here. It can just unnecessarily complicate relationships around your private relationship, since everyone belongs to a camp or a clique! I sometimes worry that if I break up with a person, there may be all kinds of repercussions! Also I feel if you marry a co-star, your whole life can become about the movies. I don't desire that, I want to have a partner with interests beyond acting and entertainment. You also really can't rush into love or force it into being... then you become desperate. If it happens, in a natural, easy way, great!"

12 FINDING MYSELF
"I think this is an ongoing journey! I am still unraveling who I am, discovering my independence in a different way. Once I get somewhere on that journey, I will holistically attract the right people or persons into my life."

13 TRAVEL
"I definitely want to see Egypt this year. I have travelled around the world since I was a kid, but not as yet seen Egypt. Also, I want to revisit a lot of things that I have done in the past; I used to be an adventure junkie. I need to reactivate that side of me. I used to go sky diving, bungee jumping, going into crocodile-infested lakes, crazy things like that."

14 FASHION/STYLE
"Believe it or not, I am not a very fashionable person! But I really want to do more with my hairstyling this year – more extensions, head scarves, I see all these references on Instagram, a lot of looks I can try out, but so often we run out of time and go for a standard blow dry!"

15 ACCESSORIES
"Since I travel a lot, I do like to play around with my accessories – be they shoes, bags, or even shades. For this HELLO! shoot, you see me wearing Nova sunglasses. Since we were shooting in an outdoor location, on a floatel, they worked really well!"

16 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
"Getting involved with a campaign or movement to support women, is definitely something I want to get into. It's on my radar,

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as much as it's important to be giving back to society, I think the more you do, the more you give, the more you grow as a person."

17 LEARNING A BRAND NEW LANGUAGE

"I took up learning Urdu this year, it is quite a complex language, and I am getting to learn it very, very slowly. In 2020 I will take it up more seriously. I love the language."

NOTES TO THE WORLD

18 VEGETARIANISM
"We would do a lot of good to ourselves and to our environment by practicing conscious eating. I am a vegetarian. I am not saying people should walk away from the diets they have grown up with, but it helps a lot to focus on what goes into your system, how it was cultivated, how nutrition plays such a big role in our health. Understand why you would be choosing vegetarianism."

19 WOMEN IN POWER.
"Finland's Sanna Marin became Prime Minister in 2019 at the age of 34. Yes, the past year was all about these larger-than-life patriarchy ruling the biggest economies – President Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, PM Modi. But the election of Sanna marks a change. It's a great sign, so it would be great to see more of that, definitely."

20 A WORLD LESS ADDICTED TO SOCIAL MEDIA
"People would possibly be way happier interacting in person than just on digital apps. I think we would all benefit from real 'face-time' with friends and loved ones. Also, it would be nice to see people being more real on social media."

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Digital queen, Jacqueline works her usual spell in a mini aurum gold dress with hand cut applique detailing and statement sleeves by Pankaj & Nidhi, paired with Christian Louboutin pumps. She pairs the look with an emerald and diamond ring set in 18K white-gold from Irasva

