

# PORTER

**SUPERMODEL GISELE BÜNDCHEN GRACES THE COVER OF PORTER'S FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE AND TALKS ABOUT THE CRISIS THAT LED HER TO RETHINK HER ENTIRE LIFE, HER HUSBAND TOM BRADY'S LOVE OF FASHION AND THE POWER OF FEMALE SOLIDARITY**



**PORTER MAGAZINE ON SALE GLOBALLY FROM FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8**

**PORTER's** first-ever cover girl, the world's top-earning supermodel for 15 years straight and business powerhouse, Gisele Bündchen, returns to talk to the global fashion magazine for the title's fifth anniversary issue about the power of female solidarity, her husband Tom Brady's love of fashion and the crisis that led her to rethink her entire life: *"No longer numbing myself with smoking, drinking and too much work, I was becoming more and more aware of things that I'd chosen not to look at".*

The 38-year-old Brazilian supermodel talks candidly to Carolyn Kormann for the Spring issue (on sale February 8). Photographed in New York by fashion heavyweight Mario Sorrenti and styled by George Cortina, Bündchen is shot in a series of natural portraits showcasing her lioness beauty and pure spirit.

The model's Zen like approach to life was not always the case, and it was the difficult decision to walk away from a relationship that ultimately changed her course [In 2005 Bündchen and Academy Award winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio ended their six-year relationship]. Reflecting on that decision, she tells **PORTER**, *"Was I alone in wanting to do some serious soul-searching while he stayed the same? In the end, unfortunately, the answer was yes."*

The married mother of two [Bündchen and Brady married in 2009 and have two children – Benjamin Rein, aged 9, and Vivian Lake, aged 6] says she will forever be a jeans and T-shirt type of girl but laughs at her husband's extensive wardrobe: *"Tom actually loves clothes more than I do. Sometimes I am like 'What is all this clothing?' He just loves it."*

Following last year's powerful #MeToo movement, the model says she has seen a significant shift in the landscape for women – *"This movement has united women. It's a beautiful thing. We are stronger when we are together"*. Speaking candidly about the power of female solidarity, Bündchen tells **PORTER** it wasn't always the case – specifically amongst her peers, *"I come from a family of six strong, beautiful women. The way I grew up, we always supported each other, we helped each other, we loved each other. But when I left home, that's not what I felt with the other models."*

To mark the fifth anniversary of **PORTER**, Bündchen will cover both the print and weekly digital edition magazines. For the first time in **PORTER's** history the digital cover, shot by Sorrenti, will be animated showcasing the multi-platform capability of this truly innovative title.

PORTER's editor-in-chief Lucy Yeomans says: "When PORTER launched in 2014, I promised it would be a magazine that both celebrated incredible women's stories and empowered women to be everything they dreamed of. Words that, thankfully, five years on, seem to reflect this seismic shift towards honoring and sharing women's stories in the broader culture. Gisele was the only choice to have for this special issue's cover as she was PORTER's very first Incredible Woman."

Also in the anniversary issue, PORTER's Features Director, Vassi Chamberlain, speaks exclusively to Meghan McCain, 34-year-old daughter of the late American war hero and Republican senator John McCain. McCain talks about grieving for her father – the man she called her best friend – and shares her thoughts on President Trump and why she will never be like Chelsea Clinton, "She's so sophisticated and put together and pretty much the polar opposite of me. I have tattoos. I get drunk and Tweet".

## **GISELE BÜNDCHEN INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**

**Bündchen on feeling ashamed to ask for help when she first suffered from panic attacks:** "When I was going through my panic attacks, I didn't even feel like I could share with anyone. I thought maybe I don't have the right, everybody is going through so many difficult things in the world, and I don't have the right to feel this way. So I'd suppress it, and the more I suppressed it, the bigger it became."

**Bündchen on the difficult decision to walk away from her relationship with former boyfriend Leonardo DiCaprio [the couple dated from 2000-2005]:** "No longer numbing myself with smoking, drinking and too much work, I was becoming more and more aware of things that I'd chosen not to look at. Was I alone in wanting to do some serious soul-searching while he stayed the same? In the end, unfortunately, the answer was yes."

**Bündchen reflecting on coming from a family of strong women:** "I come from a family of six strong, beautiful women. The way I grew up, we always supported each other, we helped each other, we loved each other. But when I left home, that's not what I felt with the other models. I did not understand why anyone would not want the best for me, when I wanted the best for everybody."

**Bündchen on seeing a significant change following #MeToo:** "This movement has united women. It's a beautiful thing. We are stronger when we are together. It makes me wonder why we weren't being like this before."

**Bündchen on never being late in her 24-year career:** "It doesn't matter how tired you are, if you have a headache – you show up and give 100 percent. I wasn't a girl who thought I was going to be a model, I thought I'd be a volleyball player, or a veterinarian. So when the opportunity came, I took it very seriously. It was a job. I thought, how can I do this the best I can?"

**Bündchen on the importance of always remaining professional:** "I definitely had my moments when people weren't very kind, but I've always been very professional, I never walked off a set. Whoever I'm working with, they trust I can do this job, so I have to deliver, always."

**Bündchen on what she credits for her success:** "I don't know how I would have achieved anything in my life if I didn't have discipline. Discipline is my best friend! It propels you forward, makes you stick to things. It kind of puts you in the driver's seat, tells you that you are taking accountability for your actions. It makes you more confident."

**Bündchen about long-time employer Victoria's Secret's portrayal of women:** "I was always a person who asked, 'Can I please cover my butt?' In the studio I don't mind, it's very controlled. But if you're on a runway, god knows. So, you'll notice, I usually had a little skirt or cape to wear. They were always very kind and accommodating when I said I did not feel comfortable."

**Bündchen on the power of sharing her own stories to help others:** "If I could allow myself to feel vulnerable and share, they would see that there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. The letters seemed to really help these girls. One started an anti-bullying program in school; another stopped being bulimic."

**Bündchen on how she and her husband, Tom Brady, differ when it comes to fashion:** "I'm a jeans and T-shirt kinda girl. If you see me once a year at the Met [Gala] dressed up, it's because I have to wear a dress,

*otherwise I'd show up like this. It's so funny. Tom actually loves clothes more than I do. Sometimes I'm like, 'What is all this clothing that is showing up at my house?' He just loves it. The only time he asks me advice about clothes is when we go to the Met Ball, and he wants to coordinate with what I'm wearing."*

### **MEGHAN MCCAIN INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **McCain on whether Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner were invited to the funeral or just turned up:**

*"I didn't know they were coming, I didn't know until I saw them there." So they just turned up uninvited? "I have no idea, I still don't know the answer to any of this. I looked over and saw them and well... they got to listen to what I had to say."*

**McCain on if she knew what a big deal her father's funeral would be?** *"As naive as that sounds, I didn't really understand."*

**McCain on whether her father planned his own funeral:** *"Hell, yeah, he planned the entire thing – from who would be invited to who would speak, as well as asking close friends."*

**McCain On how she kept it together to read out her eulogy at the funeral:** *"I know it sounds strange. But when I got up and walked to the lectern, I saw his casket and said to myself: 'Stay with me, stay with me, stay with me...' And I felt him with me."*

**McCain on the difference between her and her friend, Chelsea Clinton:** *"She's so sophisticated and put together and pretty much the polar opposite of me. I have tattoos. I get drunk and tweet."*

**McCain on her and her father's mutual love of vodka:** *"He would call me and say: 'you've got to try this new vodka, Absolut Gold, it's so smooth, it's amazing."*

**McCain on her father's love of Abba:** *"He absolutely fucking loved Abba more than anything. He was very defensive about them. He wanted them to reunite. He loved Mamma Mia! I've heard every goddam Abba song on repeat my whole adult life."*

**McCain on how her father reacted to Donald Trump belittling his war record:** *"Oh, he was like, 'Fuck 'em.' He was more concerned about how other POWs and their families would feel."*

**On why the way Donald Trump conducts himself is dangerous for our democracy:** *"Are we Americans who believe in human rights, democracy and freedom? Or do we believe in KGB dictators murdering people for speaking out and having a free press? Are we going to be OK with that? I will die before I let it happen. I will be on TV screaming 'bloody murder' before I let it happen. And maybe I only have so much control, but I have a megaphone too. The Trumps aren't the only ones with megaphones."*

**The advice John McCain gave Meghan right before he died:** *"You need to be tough. You need to speak out. You need to speak for the things you believe in."*

**McCain on her father on finally liking one of her boyfriends:** *"My dad loved Ben, and my dad hated every boyfriend – hated, hated!"*

**What McCain told her husband when her father called him a jerk:** *"I told [Ben], you know he loves you if he's calling you a jerk."*

**McCain on her relationship with her now husband, Ben:** *"If you can do brain cancer with someone and still have a great relationship, which we do, I think that's what saved me."*

**McCain on knowing how privileged she is:** *"That I am part of the one percent and come from the luckiest background in the entire world is not in question. I mean, my dad, even at the very end, was like: 'We do not feel sorry for ourselves. We are the luckiest people in the entire world.' I am blessed. I mean look at this hotel! We're in Claridge's and I'm having tea with you."*

**McCain on dealing with the press intrusion following the announcement of her father's illness:** *"It was like a bomb went off in my apartment – I didn't understand what was happening. I wasn't flying home till the next day so I went out with friends. Then there was the headline 'Meghan McCain Admits Drinking Through Her Father's Cancer', and I thought 'Fuck you'. I used to wake up at five o'clock every morning to take him to radiation. So, I was like 'fuck you'. You can't get up at five o'clock in the morning and do that if you're, you know, wasted out of your brain."*

**McCain on managing her grieving process for her late father, John McCain:** *"It's horrible, I'm in therapy, I'm in counseling, I'm reading Joan Didion – books and books about grief, doing everything I possibly can. I'm trying to meditate – I'm terrible at it."*

**McCain on how she is still struggling to come to terms with her father's death:** *"I wake up groggy sometimes and have this impulse to call him, which I have done... but he's not answering. This is why print interviews are hard because I'm just not far out enough to not cry, which is why I was hesitant to do this. I feel like I've lost a part of my body, like I've had something amputated. I know that sounds dramatic."*

**McCain on what she does to comfort herself now her father is gone:** *"I sleep with his sweatshirt"*

**McCain on her unique relationship with her parents:** *"I've come to realize it's not that normal to have a close relationship with both your parents. There is an intensity to how much I love my mother. I feel very lucky. She's very, very, very strong. It's weird because I think of myself as being strong and tough but, throughout my dad's diagnosis, we role-reversed. I slept next to her. I'm a grown woman but when my husband went back to work and I stayed in Arizona, I'd sleep in bed next to her because I didn't want to be alone."*

**McCain on her relationship with her mother, Cindy McCain:** *"She's wonderful. She likes to have a glass of wine, cook dinner and have a good time. She loves fashion. My mother's closet is like a mecca for fashionistas. ....She's very, um, proper and ladylike, our personalities aren't the same, but she's incredibly supportive, incredibly warm and was an absolute fucking saint through my father's diagnosis."*

**McCain on not being a feminist:** *"I want them to be about all women, everywhere, even if we believe in different things and look at the world in different ways. I think, because I am pro-life, I often feel like I'm excluded from the women's movement. The issues I do feel strongly about are not traditional women's issues. I'm here for the Magnitsky Act, foreign policy is what I care most about."*

**McCain on President Trump and how he made her father's cancer harder for the family:** *"He made cancer harder for me and my family because of all the things he said. Then, when my father was sick, he still said disparaging remarks about him during the rallies and during some of his events."*

**McCain on the different approaches taken by her father and President Trump to commanding respect from their country:** *"I think that President Trump wants people to walk into a room and be intimidated by him and scared of him and in awe of him, and maybe there are a lot of people who are, but... my Dad never had to tell people how strong and tough he was – he just was strong and tough."*

**McCain on whether President Trump is doing anything right for their country:** *"There are some things President Trump does that are fine. I think part of the problem is – and my dad said this – when a car alarm is sounding all the time, you can't differentiate between when something is really serious and when something isn't, and I think that's the problem we're at right now. Every single thing this man does isn't the end of world. And some things are 100-percent worthy."*

**McCain on often having the opposing opinion [McCain is a panelist on US TV Show, The View]:** *"There's a lot of people who watch The View who really hate me simply because I'm saying something different."*

**McCain on following in her father's footsteps and entering a career in politics:** *"I don't believe just because my father was good at it that I necessarily would be as well. But at this point in my life, I would never say never to anything happening."*

**Photo captions:**



Gisele Bündchen wears dress and earrings by Chloé. Photographed by Mario Sorrenti.



Gisele Bündchen wears bodysuit by Hermès, socks by Pantherella and shoes, stylist's own. Photographed by Mario Sorrenti.



Gisele Bündchen wears top by Simon Miller and briefs by Araks. Photographed by Mario Sorrenti.



Gisele Bündchen wears shirt by Jil Sander, boxers by Derek Rose and earrings, Gisele's own. Photographed by Mario Sorrenti.

**To see the full cover story and interviews, buy the latest issue of PORTER, on sale February 8, available in both print and digital editions, or visit [PORTER.com](https://www.porter.com)**

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**ABOUT PORTER:** PORTER launched in February 2014, the only women's fashion magazine to offer a truly global perspective. Edited – and launched – by high-profile British editor Lucy Yeomans, the game-changing luxury-fashion magazine, which combines the intimacy of print with a state-of-the-art, digital shopping experience, is sold in 60 countries and is published by The YOOX NET-A-PORTER Group. PORTER celebrates and is aimed at stylish, intelligent women and offers readers a unique global curation of fashion, lifestyle and beauty. Cover stars have included some of the most iconic women in the world from supermodels Gisele Bündchen and Christy Turlington, to music phenomenon Lady Gaga and Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett. In May 2015, PORTER was named best print product at the British Media Awards. In 2018, PORTER launched PORTER Digital, delivering daily original content, every day. [PORTER.com](https://www.porter.com)