

Second Time Around

BY JEANNE FAULKNER

A few days before actress Nicole Ari Kodjoe (*Soul Food*, *Remember the Titans*, *CSI*) was scheduled to fly from her home in Atlanta to Los Angeles for her photo shoot with *Pregnancy*, her doctor changed everyone's plans. Due to the late stage of her pregnancy, she was told she had to stay put. As the magazine went to press, Kodjoe was preparing for her most challenging role yet: mother of two under 2. She and her husband, actor Boris Kodjoe, were expecting their son in late October, when daughter Sophie was only 19 months old. The second-timer talked about becoming a mom again and revealed her most embarrassing moment in front of the camera.

PM: Was this a surprise? Not many parents plan babies this close together.

NAK: Totally a surprise. I'd just lost my baby weight after Sophie and splurged on a personal trainer, determined to be a hot mama again. As soon as I started to get back in shape my husband pounced on me. Funny thing is, when I get pregnant, he gets nauseous. Pregnancy books talk about the husband's sympathetic pregnancy symptoms. He's the one in 5 million who gets them.

PM: You'll be juggling two babies.

NAK: It's overwhelming. I can't imagine giving both that enormous amount of love and attention. I know how to take care of my little girl. Is a boy much different? I've learned not to worry about germs and tantrums.

PM: Is this pregnancy different than the first?

NAK: I exercise more—a little every day—arm weights, squats, lunges, and walking. It's liberating to exercise with no weight-loss goals. Even with the roundness of my body, I think I'm the most beautiful I've ever been. Maybe it's superficial but



I want a great romantic life with my husband. I want to be stylish and care about the shirt I'm wearing, but every time I look down, there's spaghetti sauce on it.

PM: That's not superficial—that's universal.

NAK: And before kids it's effortless. My husband comes home and I meant to put on lip gloss but it just doesn't happen.

PM: After the second baby, women frequently cut their hair. Yours is gorgeous. Are you going to go short?

NAK: I don't know. When I was pregnant before it grew beautifully but then it fell out. I woke up with this choppy, scary hard-to-manage hair I didn't plan. I brought it back with protein treatments and the luxury of extensions and braids to get me over the hump.

PM: Your funniest mama moment?

NAK: When Sophie was two months old, I did a screen

...est for *Law and Order*. I looked fantastic—the only woman on an all-guy show. I was kicking butt halfway through my fourth scene when all of a sudden everybody went silent. The wardrobe lady scooped me into the dressing room. I had two huge puddles on my shirt. I had to laugh—I'd embarrassed the boys. They hugged me and said, "My wife went through the same thing." ▶

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Like many expectant moms, Nicole Ari Kodjoe loves clothes, says stylist Lauren Sheffield who went shopping with the actress prior to the photo shoot. "She had very definite taste and gravitated toward feminine, fashion-forward pieces," Sheffield notes. Kodjoe wasn't afraid to try every color, from light pink to turquoise, but she did gravitate toward classier cuts. That may have been due to the presence of another shopper on the trip: Nicole's mother. "You can tell that they have a close, wonderful relationship," says Sheffield. In fact, mom also cheered her daughter on at the photo shoot.

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