

finest NYC

# Shon GABLES:

"By the sixth grade, I was creating newspapers from my spelling words, sitting behind my mother's cedar chest pretending to be Bryant Gumbel," New York's CBS2 morning anchor Shon Gables fondly recalls. "I was mesmerized by him! Here was someone who looked like me, spoke well and defied every stereotype I believed about being black."

Growing up picking cotton in predominately white Geary, Oklahoma, Gables, the sixth of seven children, caused quite a stir when she was awarded a broadcasting scholarship to the University of Oklahoma. "But I lost my scholarship and my parents wouldn't let me move back home. I had two choices: the street or the Army. Yes, I threw grenades, dug foxholes and learned how to fire a M16 for the GI bill."

After graduation, she eloped to Vegas with her first boyfriend, the lead singer of Color Me Badd. "I quit my job at Bristol Myers and moved to Long Island. I had nothing to do, so I became a Soul Train dancer, modeled in a Karl Kani show. I was living la vida loca!"

But everything that glitters is not gold. "I maintained this rock star lifestyle. I was more concerned about what people saw on the outside. But I had no integrity. I was rude and burned so many bridges." Gables, who remarried in December 2004, says that when her ex-husband decided he didn't want to be married anymore, he left \$0.16 in the checking account. "I was buying formula on WIC. I was depressed; my weight went up to 210 pounds."

The gift of gab rescued Gables when she began her broadcasting career. "I worked the worst hours, but wore a suit everyday, and was the best coffee getter!" Later, after she finally got some air-time, Gables recalls a humiliating holiday party where "the entire blooper reel was of me. I asked God, 'How can I be a reporter if everyone says that I suck?' But it made me hungry. I said, 'They may laugh now, but they're going to see the back of my head.'"

And they have. Following stints in Oklahoma and Detroit, Gables joined the CBS2 team in June 2003. "And this is not the end for me. I've already been told that I'm not cute enough, black enough, smart enough, skinny or curvy enough. Many have told me that I can't, but my God has told me that I can." —*Amber Efe*