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relaxed. He’d already won once. And from what Glen had said before the race. For Glen to come home, leading up to the Cup, and say he was so excited and so confident and that nothing was going to beat her (Makybe Diva), that she was unbelievable, I just knew. He wouldn’t stop raving about her. And the third time too. He was just so confident.

J The third Cup win (2005) really was a magical moment. What were you thinking at the time?

S I was on the lawn and it was the most spectacular day. A sky-writer had written “Diva” in the sky, just before the race. We had lots of friends from Sydney who had flown down. I remember watching it on the big screen and seeing how far she was out in front. And I remember looking at my friends, thinking “Oh my God, she’s won again!” It was amazing. She was carrying so much weight. No horse has ever done it, no jockey has ever done it, so you just think you’re out there for a nice day and no expectations and then, my God, it’s incredible. And you can see how much it means to your friends and they’re so happy for you and that means so much, sharing it with them. Glen said it was like he was on a runaway train. The way he describes it, there was no stopping this horse. She was going to win. I don’t think it will ever happen again.

J And how have you enjoyed Melbourne since you’ve been living here?

S Love it! Just loving it. In fact we went to Sydney last week and I realised I don’t miss it one bit.

J Do you remember going to your first Melbourne Cup Carnival?

S The first time I came down was

when Tate was only five months old, so my Mum came down too, to help. And we stayed in South Yarra and it was so pretty to me, so beautiful with so many nice shops. At the time, Shane Dye was the “big” jockey and I remember meeting his wife and thinking, “Oh my God, I’ve just met Carla Dye!”

J Do feel any pressure to dress a certain way at the races, being Glen’s wife?

S I don’t know. Maybe there is, but I don’t really take much notice. I often get asked if someone dresses me, but all the jockeys’ wives — it’s so different from the football world — we just have to do it all ourselves.

J Do you wish you were dressed by a fashion designer?

S Oh, absolutely (laughs)! Absolutely. Because a lot of hats, over the years, they just end up sitting in boxes. I think of all the money I’ve spent and they just end up sitting in boxes in storage. Some of them you look at and think, “What was I thinking?”

J Did you ever work?

S When I met Glen, I was working in Myer. And I did a bit of modelling, some showings, mostly swimwear and fashion parades. But then I was going to the races a lot and we went to Sydney and it just died off. And I’ve been fortunate enough not to have to work and lucky enough to be able to travel with Glen. A lot of jockeys’ wives haven’t been able to travel and the marriages fall apart. There’s a lot of that.

J Does Glen get stressed before a big race?

S No, never.

J So that’s the secret. He must be a very relaxed person. Is that one of the qualities you love most about Glen?

S Yeah, he’s very easygoing. He’s probably the most generous person I know, too. Not only with me, but with his friends. He can be funny at times, but it’s more the fact that nothing seems to bother him. And he’s a wonderful father. Most of our friends would say he’s unbelievable with the kids. That’s what I admire the most.

J Surely he has at least one annoying habit?

S When he talks on the phone he’s always scratching his head and when he reads the paper, he can’t keep his fingers still; it’s like he has to keep moving all the time. It’s very annoying. He’s a fidgeter.

J That’s hardly very serious.

S I know (laughs)! No, he’s pretty good.