



A FATHER'S WISH

John Aniston tells *Us* his hope for **Jen** and his dream of being called Grandpa

BY ERIC ANDERSSON

ALL PARENTS OF a certain age fantasize about having grandkids, and Jennifer Aniston's dad, John, is no exception. "Being a granddad is the perfect situation," the *Days of Our Lives* actor, 75, told *Us* April 4 at an NYC Barnes & Noble, where he read from *Loukoumi's Good Deeds*, a kids' book and audio CD he co-narrated with his daughter. "You get the grandkids, play with them, have a good time. Then, at the end of the day, you say,



John Aniston in NYC April 4.

Aniston's Dad

'I WANT SOMEONE TO MAKE HER HAPPY'

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"We lived by the Golden Rule in our house: Do unto others as you would have done to you," John Aniston tells *Us* of raising daughter Jennifer (in NYC March 31).

"Bye!" And, when asked who he'd like to see his daughter date, John told *Us*, "What kind of guy? Someone who makes her happy."

Alas, there doesn't seem to be a "someone" in sight. After she declared in 2005, "In five years, I would hope to be married and have a kid," Jen, who hit the milestone age of 40 in February and recently split from John Mayer, finds herself single yet again. Adding insult to injury? Outside her L.A. cocoon, Jen is living in NYC's Greenwich Hotel while filming *The Baster* (a comedy, ironically, about a 40-year-old single woman who uses a turkey baster to get pregnant) at the same time that ex Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have settled in the area for Jolie's *Salt* shoot. On the heels of Jen's third post-Pitt split (she also dated model Paul Sculfor, 38, and Vince Vaughn, 39, who's now engaged), a Jen pal sighs, "We all want her with the right guy."

Flying Solo

John Aniston (who divorced Jen's mom, Nancy, in 1980) tells *Us* he never shared his daughter's romantic troubles: "I never had a hard time dating in Hollywood. I had an unusual situation. I shared a house with



Aniston ex John Mayer dirty-danced with fans and drank bubbly on his Mayercraft *Carrier 2* near L.A. (March 31).

a photographer, so there was a stream of beautiful women coming in and out every day!" His theory on why dating there can be so difficult? "If you are working, I think it's hard because the only people you meet are the people you work with."

Indeed, a close pal tells *Us* that, for Jen, career takes priority over romance: "She wants to marry and have kids, but she *really* wants to be the biggest actress in Hollywood. That's more important to her than anything." (Following a string of stinkers, her last two movies, *Marley & Me* and *He's Just Not That Into You*, both topped the box office their opening weekends.)

And even as all her friends raise families — Courtney Cox, Laura Dern and Jennifer Meyer (Mrs. Tobey Maguire) are married with kids, and single Sheryl Crow adopted a son — "Jen has no problem being the third wheel," says another insider.

Still, despite Jen's seeming lack of concern with her single status, "her close friends really want to see her settled down," says the insider. But blind dates set up by pals such as Cox "never work out. Guys get intimidated because she's so in the public eye." Another challenge?

She's picky. "We all try to get her with a nice, normal guy: a lawyer, an executive," says a friend, "but it never works. She's bored after the first or second date and never calls them again. She blames the guy and says they 'don't get' how hard it is to be famous."

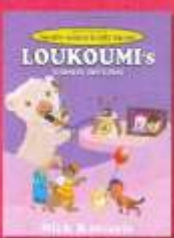
Making matters worse: "Jen is obsessed with her looks and is petrified of getting older," the friend tells *Us*. Jen even admitted to Ellen DeGeneres in February that finding a gray hair sent her into hysterics: "It actually brought me to tears, slightly." A Mayer source says it's precisely that behavior that drove the crooner away: "She was high-maintenance and unbearable."

Good Friends

For now, Aniston seems content to be in the company of her pals. At a Paul McCartney benefit concert for the David Lynch Foundation in NYC April 4, "she was having a great time. No guys, no flirting. Just enjoying the show and talking to David [Arquette]," says a concertgoer. When pal Crow took the stage, "Jen cheered. And she particularly lit up when Paul and Ringo [Starr] sang 'With a Little Help From My Friends.'" A fitting anthem for Jen, once again. **US**

Jen's Children's Book

Penned by author Nick Katsoris, *Loukoumi's Good Deeds* is the third book in a series about a lamb named Loukoumi who helps others by doing nice things. That Jennifer and John Aniston both lent their voices to narrate the bonus audio CD "is the ultimate good deed!" Katsoris tells *Us*.



With reporting by Ian Drew, Ali Nahas & Alexandra Puig

COVER: JENNIFER ANISTON: JEFF HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN ANISTON: JEFF HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; JENNIFER ANISTON: JEFF HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES