

# NOGEL

MODEL TURNED ENTREPRENEUR MIRANDA KERR KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS IN LIFE, SAYS ALICE WASLEY, AND ISN'T AFRAID TO ASK

Photography **Hugh Stewart** Styling **Trevor Stones**

**M**iranda Kerr in a fluffy white robe. I'm sure this exact scenario has been conjured up by a hefty chunk of the male population; however, in my case it's really happening. The 30-year-old beauty from Gunnedah, NSW, does rock a robe better than most but, sadly, it's wasted on me.

We're in a dilapidated building out the back of the historic Strickland House in Sydney's Vaucluse for the *Sunday Style* shoot. After our brief introduction, Kerr heads off to be tended to by the hair and make-up team. A little later she returns wearing a sheer, nude Alex Perry gown. First, she makes sure I've met Hugh Stewart, the photographer. Of her dress she says to Stewart, "It's very sheer, what are you going to do about that? Obviously we're not showing nipples." Then there's some kind of car-related logistical problem: "Whose car is it? Is it in the way?" Kerr pipes up, then, "Everybody needs to move, you're standing in my light." Next, a quick shift from bossy to flirty: "I take direction well, don't I, Mr Stewart?" she says, eyes mockingly aflutter. And on it goes.

Later we're in a large van filled with clothes for the shoot, make-up and the remnants of the raw, vegan, organic lunch (catered by Newtown's Sadhana Kitchen), which lie on the little table between us. A generator whirrs in the background. Kerr is soon up out of her seat, fiddling with the keys in the ignition, trying to make it stop.

"I took the keys out. How is it still going?" she says, irritated, brow furrowed, deep in problem-solving mode. Eventually, it stops.

This is not the serene, sunshine-and-rainbows flowerchild I was expecting. The adorable dimples are there, yes, the glowing skin, and her rather girlish voice, but this woman is forthright, feisty and cheeky.

"I'm very direct. It's part of my personality," she explains. "I've actually grown into that." So this is all part of getting older?

"There's no BS. Put it that way," she says, assuredly. "It's like 'OK. Let's do it. No mucking around.' I think it's part of being a mother as well. It's like you do what you need to do to get things done."

As I list the adjectives I would use to describe her demeanour on

the shoot (like feisty) she jumps in, "I would say probably bossy. Bossy is a good word," she laughs.

Most people wouldn't think of you that way though, would they? Maybe they can't see past your angelic face?

"Yeah, well... There's a difference between being nice and good," she says. "I consider myself a good person. And I think people perceive me to be, 'Oh, she's nice,' but being a good person, knowing your strengths and working towards those strengths, and encouraging those around you to do the same, *that's* a good person. A nice person will sit back and go [she puts on a meek voice], 'Oh yes, yes, OK, no worries, yes, yes.' A nice person is a yes person, whereas a good person is a person who accepts their responsibility in things and moves forward and tries to constantly evolve and isn't afraid to say no, or challenge someone or be honest or truthful.

"I think the perception of me can be, you know, confused. But that's only because people only see that side of me when I'm at work, in front of the camera. So they don't see Miranda at home; they don't see behind the scenes. They see the glamour of it all but they don't see Miranda standing barefoot in a dirty old house."

Earlier this year there was intense media speculation that Kerr and her husband of three years, actor Orlando Bloom, 36, were on the rocks due to work commitments keeping them apart.

During our interview Kerr's phone rings. Her two-year-old son Flynn is with his dad, Bloom, at home in Los Angeles for the 11 days she's away (she says it's easier for him to stick to his routine, which includes mind-blowingly adorable-sounding hip-hop classes). It's her longest stint away from him yet.

"Sorry, it's Orlando, I just want to speak to him," she says to me.

"Hello. Hi honey, can I call you back in seven minutes? I'm just finishing an interview. [She pauses to listen] Oh, good. OK, I love you."

She hangs up and says, "The boys are in bed and ready to Skype." So, contrary to rumour, things are actually going quite well for Kerr and Bloom. ►

SCAN THE PAGE  TO GO BEHIND THE SCENES AT OUR SHOOT WITH MIRANDA KERR