GENERAL HOSPITAL HOW EMILY McLAUGHLIN FIGHTS LONELINESS

Divorce Took Away One Husband And Death the Other... Now She Has to Make a New Life for Herself and 12-year-old Son

Since May 27, Emily has been the loneliest woman in Hollywood. A widow after only three months of marriage to Jeff Hunter, she is once more The Woman Alone.

Her first husband, Bob Lansing, stood by her side when Jeff was being operated on at the hospital. And he was with her at the funeral. But there seems to be no possibility that they will remarry, as so many of their friends hope. Emily says, "We should have remained best friends, and never married." But, then, their marriage produced Bob Jr., the lad they love so much. So, they have no regrets. Besides, Bob is steady-dating another girl and heading for the altar with her.

Emily (Nurse Jessie Brewer on General Hospital) had married Bob June 16, 1956, then separated Oct. 6, 1967 and divorced April 11, 1968. She was a very downhearted woman when Jeff Hunter swept her off her feet, and now she's back to concentrating on raising her Bob Jr. in their Van Nuys, Calif., ranch house.



As Nurse Jesse Brewer, on show since it began on April 4, 1962.

Since the tragedy, the entire cast of General Hospital has surrounded Emily with concern and affection. They invite her over for dinner; they suggest trips and things to see; they even mention some "nice bachelors" she ought to meet. But Emily has her own method for combating loneliness: she throws herself into her work. She's asked producer Jim Young to use her on the show as much as possible. She knows that work is therapy.

In fact, Emily insisted on reporting for work the day after Jeff died. And around the set, she stays busy and she doesn't mope around. She seems to have a firm grip on herself. She does not nurse her grief in silence, and she doesn't back away from questions and conversations about Jeff. She doesn't permit sad memories to fester inside; she brings everything out in the open.

She's been reading the huge condolence mail, and she's been trying to answer it, as quickly as she can. She's grateful for all the prayer cards and the assurances of perfect strangers that they feel for her.

One of her co-workers says, "Emily has so much courage and so much control! She's all right now. She talks freely about what happened, and we know that's a good sign. Besides, she has her son to live for, and she can't afford to bury herself with grief."



She's 5'5", 126 pounds, with brown eyes and hair.

TOP RIGHT: Emily and Bob, and son Bob Jr., in their happier days. Marriage lasted 12 years.

BOTTOM RIGHT: She married Jeff Hunter in February, 1969. He passed away tragically May 27, three months later.