

JK – 1952

When asked what mattered to her, JK answered without hesitation, “Independence.” She identifies deeply with being an Italian woman, which to her means being strong and caring for those she loves. It also means she’s a “straight shooter,” telling it like it is from her perspective, and expecting others to do the same; she implied that in the medical context this means she wants to hear what’s going on with her without it being softened for the sake of her feelings. She also described herself as a “survivor,” noting that she has ‘survived’ two divorces. She singled out going to the casino as something she particularly enjoys, and endorsed the idea that she “works hard and plays hard.”

JK has a daughter who’s worried about her. While JK appreciates the concern, she worries in turn that her daughter is beginning to treat her like a baby. Beyond reversing their historical family roles, this new dynamic threatens JK’s sense of independence and identity as a caretaker.