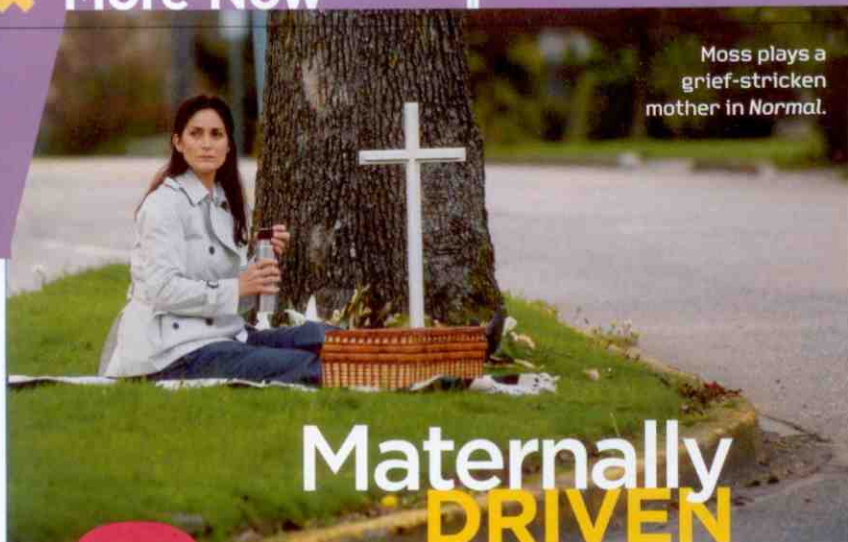


## ✕ More Now



Moss plays a grief-stricken mother in *Normal*.

## Maternally DRIVEN

**C**arrie-Anne Moss has changed her own personal matrix: "Being a mother is absolutely my priority." There's no mistaking that velvety voice; images of Trinity, the hard-bodied action heroine from *The Matrix*, are hard to shake as Moss chats amiably on the phone.

Although soft-spoken, the notoriously private actress is emphatic when it comes to her kids and what motivates her. "I'm not looking to be the star anymore," she says. "I don't want to put that kind of time into things."

Moss, who was born in Burnaby B.C., and now lives with her husband and their two sons in Los Angeles, has a new affinity for "mother" roles. She was mom to Shia LaBeouf in the hit thriller *Disturbia*, and a '50s-style mom in the freaky comedy *Fido*. In *Normal*, opening this month, she gives an emotionally raw performance as the mother of a high school student killed in a car crash. "I didn't expect to be so floored every time I put myself in that world," she says. "I really did feel overwhelmed by the grief."

Moss gave birth to her first son, Owen, in September 2003; she refuses to reveal the name of her second son, born in November 2005. "It just doesn't feel right to have my children be meshed into what I do for work. I don't want the whole world knowing what my kids' names are."

Showcasing her kids in public is one of many Hollywood trends Moss has rejected. What else? She says she doesn't believe there are no good scripts for women over 40. "I just turned 40, and I feel like I'm doing great roles.... I've never felt bitter about women in Hollywood."

Indeed, the scripts seem to keep coming her way. In addition to a role in the upcoming *Fireflies in the Garden* with Julia Roberts, Moss recently turned to TV, starring opposite Joseph Fiennes in the pilot *Pretty Handsome*, about a married father who tells his family he's transsexual. "I play his wife of 20 years who wonders — is it me? Am I not good enough, not perfect enough?"

In contrast to the dark characters Moss seems to be drawn to, her own life couldn't be sunnier. "I'm just happy that I get to witness my children growing, having fun and loving life. I love that I get to help create that environment for them." — GLORIA MARTIN

## WHEN CUPID FLEES

February is full of stories of love. But for those who have seen love disappear, and are perhaps on the brink of divorce, here's help from Eva Sachs, the founder of Women in Divorce Financial, a consulting service in Toronto that offers financial advice before, during and after divorce.

### ✕ What do women tell you about your website, [womenindivorce.ca](http://womenindivorce.ca)?

My female clients and women who visit the site tell me, "Just give me a to-do list." They're relieved to discover they don't need to know *everything*. They just need a place to start; otherwise they feel as though they're just spinning their wheels.


### ✕ What's the biggest misconception women have about the divorce process?

I think a lot of women are surprised at how many choices they have. They don't realize a divorce is a negotiation, and they get a say in what their lives are going to look like. The collaborative process, still very new, doesn't go through the legal system, and provides couples with the most control over the process. Couples can also opt for face-to-face negotiations either on their own or with a mediator.

### ✕ What's the first advice you'd give your best friend if she were facing divorce?

I'd suggest she sit down as calmly as possible with her partner and have a frank discussion about the process of going through a divorce. For example, how much are they willing to spend on a divorce? Is one partner going to move out and rent an apartment? These are questions they should try and answer. Many couples know what they want long-term, but they don't think about the interim period — between now and when a divorce is finalized.

## BUZZ OFF



"But how much runway has she got?" Not having a clue how to answer this question posed by her boss, my friend Jean just shrugged. Had she been up on the latest business buzzword, she'd have known her boss was asking how many years a recent job applicant had in her before she'd retire. Along with "delaying" (firing managers) and "unsiloing" (getting departments to talk to each other), "runway" is tossed out when the gift of plain language has fled a boardroom. My favourite? "Kudos." You know — those things handed out instead of raises. — SARAH MOORE

## 40-second RANT