

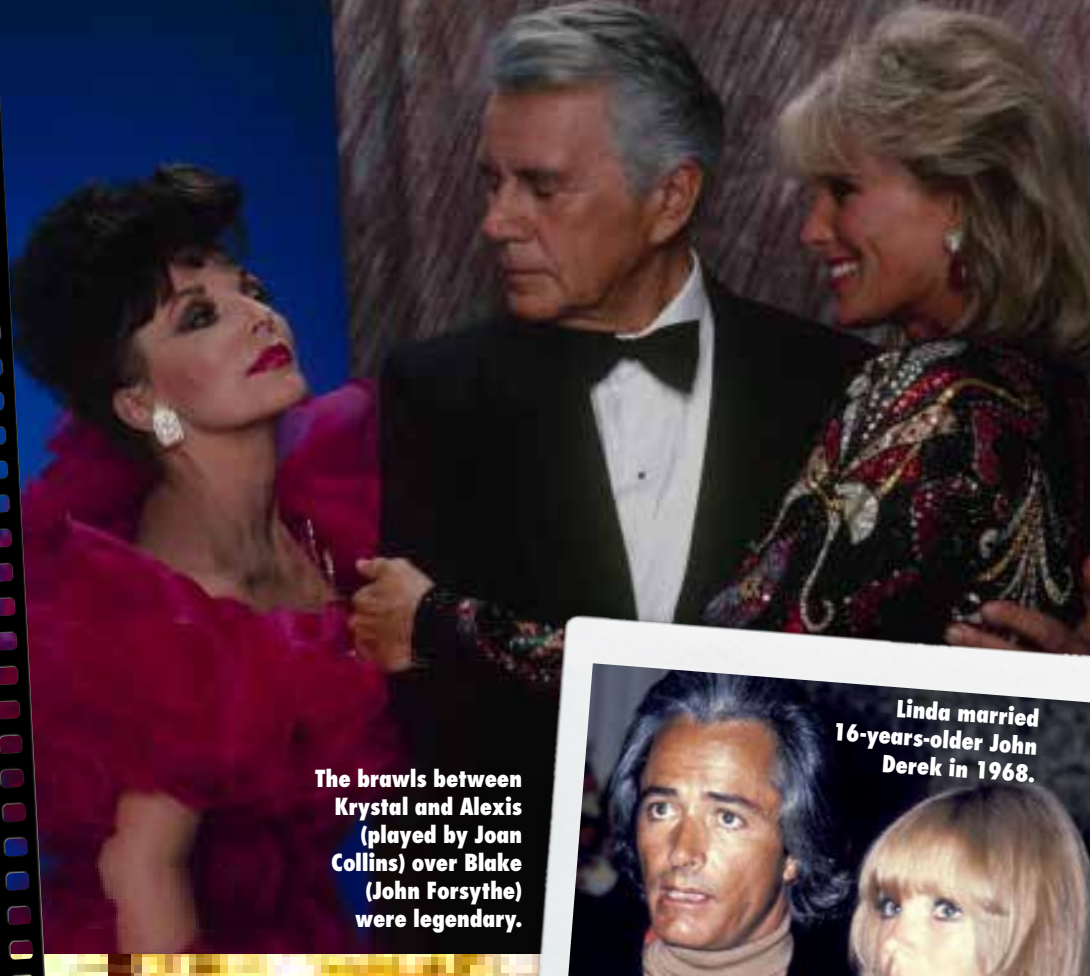
KRISTAL CLEAR

Linda, still looking beautiful at 73, found peace on a rural property after the glitz and glamour of playing Krystal in *Dynasty* (below).

THE TV ICON OPENS UP ABOUT FEUDING WITH JOAN COLLINS, GETTING OLDER AND THE BETRAYAL THAT CHANGED HER LIFE

Linda Evans

WHY I QUIT HOLLYWOOD



The brawls between Krystal and Alexis (played by Joan Collins) over Blake (John Forsythe) were legendary.



Linda married 16-years-older John Derek in 1968.



Nine years of fights and fabulousness!

Dynasty may have come to an end on TV more than 25 years ago, but the hit US soap's popularity has endured – and with it the fame of one of its most recognisable stars, Linda Evans.

Synonymous with her role as the glamorous Krystal Carrington, the actress has spent more than five decades in the spotlight. And though she's long since left the gigantic shoulder pads behind her, the Golden Globe winner still reflects fondly on the show that made her a star.

'I was so blessed that *Dynasty* came to me, yet when you're on a show like that there was no time for anything else,' she tells New Idea. 'Yes, it was wonderful and exciting, everything you can imagine... but at some point, I just wanted to have a life – my own life.'

'I couldn't go to the movies, walk on the beach or do things that most people do, because I was so recognisable at the time. I wanted to be normal.'

'I asked to be released from the show a year before it was cancelled – if I'd known it was going to be cancelled, I would have stuck it out to the end. That's why Krystal had to go to Switzerland for an operation on a brain tumour. They wrote it that way, just in case I changed my mind – they didn't want to kill me off!'

So Linda hatched a plan to escape the awards, global fame and extravagant parties that marked the show's heyday. She bought a remote lakeside villa in the US state of Washington as a getaway, but soon decided to make it her permanent home.

'I thought: "OK, time for me to get a reality check after *Dynasty* and move somewhere where there's nature and real people," says the 73-year-old. 'I kept my house in Beverly Hills but never really spent another night in it.'

'I just completely love it here.'

Linda acknowledges that maintaining the large rural property – which she has now called home for the past 30 years – is a full-time job in itself.

'When you live on 70 acres [28ha] there's a lot to do! I have an organic garden, lots of fruit trees, chickens... my nephew has some cows in the front pasture.'

'We also have our own well, solar power and we maintain our own roads. It's kind of like your own little city and there's always something to do. I've got a really nice little life here.'

It was in this idyllic setting that Linda decided to put pen to paper and write *Recipes For Life: My Memories*. An intimate book, the actress opens up about the ups and downs of her incredible life – including her marriage to actor and director John Derek, who left her after six years for a schoolgirl who later shot to fame as *10* star Bo Derek.

'To marry the man you had a crush on from seeing on the big

screen as a teen was amazing. But when he left me for Bo – who was only 15 then – it was truly one of the most devastating things that could have happened to me.'

'In retrospect, I look back and see the perfection of it. John didn't want me to work, so if I'd stayed with him I never would have done *Dynasty* or have the life I've had. Sometimes the worst things that happen to you turn out to be the best.'

Indeed, *Dynasty* turned out to be the biggest role of her career. Not only was the show a runaway hit, Linda was lauded for her turn as Krystal, receiving a Golden Globe Award in 1982, as well as five People's Choice Awards, an Emmy nomination and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. And although the show wrapped in 1989, it's only recently that Linda has actually taken the time to watch it.

'I never saw *Dynasty* when we made it because we were so busy doing it,' she explains. 'It was on late at night and I'd usually be in

bed, because I had to get up early to be on set.'

'Recently, I've recorded a bunch of the shows and I've started to watch them and I can't believe that it's me. I've only watched about five shows, but it's so long ago I find it hard to even relate to it. Compared to what's on TV today, it's pretty tame!'

Of course, at the centre of the series was the feud between Krystal and her conniving arch-rival Alexis Carrington Colby, played by Joan Collins. The onscreen catfights between the two women soon became the stuff of TV legend.

'I loved them!' squeals Linda of their slugfests. 'However, Joan didn't like fighting at all – she hates any kind of physicality. She was great at verbal sparring, but I was excellent when it came to the physical ones!'

When quizzed about whether there's any Joan anecdotes in her book, Linda confirms that she's divulged a few tales, saying coyly: 'How could there not be? I think

she would be upset if I didn't!'

While the original cast of rival show *Dallas* reunited in 2012 for a reboot – which lasted three seasons – Linda is certain that *Dynasty* won't be following suit.

'They can't possibly do that,' she says matter-of-factly. 'We don't have John [Forsythe, who died in 2010], and there's no way to write around Blake Carrington, you just can't. The relationship between Krystal and Alexis was all about Blake – it would have no foundation. We had a lovely nine years, so I think that's enough.'

The lure of a hefty pay cheque would be enough to coax most actors out of retirement, but Linda definitely won't bite.

'Thanks to [*Dynasty* producer] Aaron Spelling, we don't have to worry about that!' she says, laughing.

While financial worries aren't a problem, dealing with getting older hasn't come without its difficulties – especially to a woman who was three times named

one of the 10 most beautiful in the world by *Harper's Bazaar*.

'I never took what I look like in any serious way, thank God, so getting older has been the same struggle [for me] as for any other woman. It's just such a shock to see how much the body changes and how many things are affected by time. When you're young it seems like you'll never not be young. It's difficult.'

'I've realised that our value doesn't come from what we look like, but from who we are – that's what's truly important.'

'Nowadays, I live through my heart – I do less thinking and more feeling. There's something exciting when you do things you're not 100 per cent certain of. You feel very alive living like that.'

By Paul Ewart NI

Recipes For Life: My Memories by Linda Evans is out now. For more information, visit lindaevansofficial.com.

