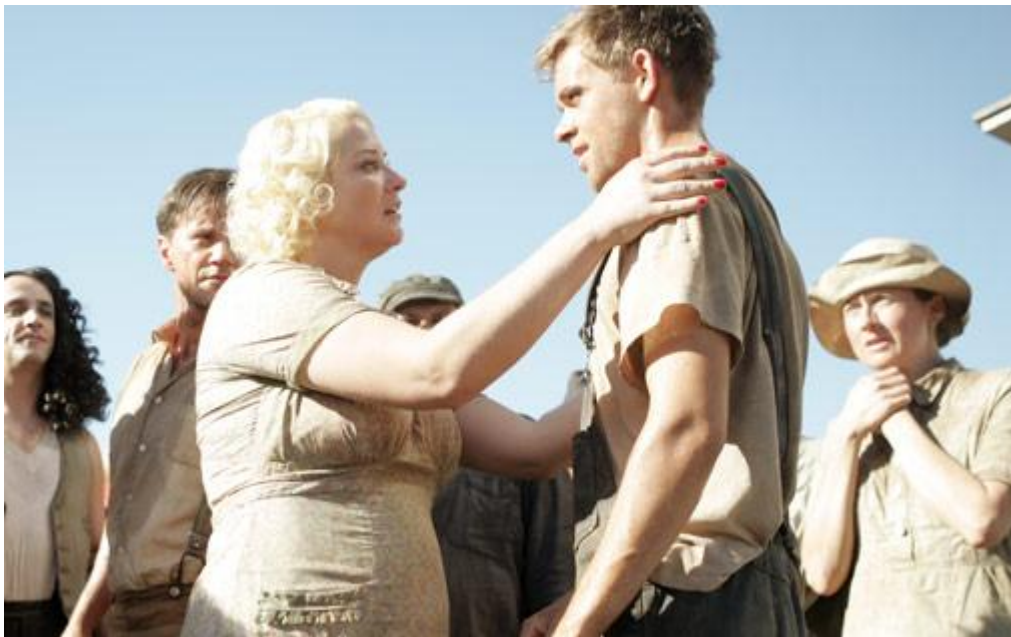


The following is a personal letter to Blake Shields. I know him from working with him on Carnivale.....Please do not read it.....

Thank you.



Dear Blake:

First, in case some fan reader or agent or assistant is reading this, this is not a crazed love letter from a fan. I do not “know know” Blake, but we did work together and he does know me in that capacity. I was a Carny wife on the set of Carnivale, when Blake played Osgood. I am writing him to thank him. **Please do not read the rest of this. It is for Blake.**

OK, I am thanking you because in a weird way you are one of many people who gave me strength and encouragement even if you did not intend to. You are a hero to me and you helped save my life.

I was diagnosed with cancer last year. I am OK, but the last time I saw you on set I was not sure if I would be OK. I felt like a goof at the time, but I just did not know what to say to you. I understand what you are trying to do with your life. I also know how important concentration is on set. I could not tolerate being a distraction by telling you I was sick. Please forgive me for not saying anything to you about my condition. I also wanted to let you know I am OK and why I did not tell you in case someone else told you about my condition.

The last time I saw you I will never forget how you asked me if I was Ok to get home and if the air conditioner worked in my car. I could tell you were having a bad day, but you took the time to make sure I was OK. I am most grateful for your kindness that day. Last summer some people surprised me. They turned their back on me or kicked me when I was down. You were humane to me and I will always be grateful for that.

I had surgery on September 1 and reconstruction on November 22 for breast cancer. The worse is hopefully over. Another reason I could not tell you. It was easier for me to tell guys who hit on me and made me feel uncomfortable. You were always very nice and very cool and I could not tell you I would be losing that part of me.

Also, often actions are misinterpreted. I did not want to receive extra attention from you because I was sick. I know how I would feel if someone I knew was sick and well maybe I have more compassion and empathy for others than most, but I could not risk you not being your best at work. I know how important concentration is to you. I cared about you as a friend and I want you to happy.

I am so grateful for having the experiences I have had in the past three years on sets. You may not remember it, but our conversation on the Mall location made me realize how much I love delving into the research of creating a character and how stimulatingly scary the whole process can be. I will be honest and say that your conversation that day peaked my curiosity. In a way, it gave me hope- a hope that I would have other conversations like that and that there were reasons for me to fight the cancer and to strive for my own acting dreams. Two weeks after that conversation I found out I had cancer and a week after that I signed up for an acting class at a local community college. You inspired me.

I may go SAG next year, and if I do, who knows if I will run into you. I do though hope that you find happiness and joy. You deserve it. I saw "Sleeper Cell" and I think you were one of the best on the show. I refused to work it but one day I got tricked into it. Too many emotional memories of my illness and my body can't take the stress. Plus they blew you up. I have not seen all of your work. I have not even seen all of Carnivale (no cable) but I can tell you have a gift.

I also did not know at the time of Sleeper Cell you had a girlfriend and I was not being friendly to you to get work. I find my own. I make my living on sets. I love acting and being on sets and want to act. That is up to my work. I heard also that you got married. I do not know if that is true. Congratulations if it is. I hope you are in love and happy. I am a woman and a lost child of the 60s. You have my love always and my gratitude. I'm a nice girl waiting for the right guy at the right time. I love theater. Thank you for reminding me of a reason to want to keep living in this sometimes-cruel place.

Thank you Blake, and best wishes to you.

Truly,

Laura Tull 310-936-0467

(I moved to Hollywood/ Los Feliz in January. Sorry I am not anywhere near the Palms, though I had a feeling you were not honest about that. Your business. I am thinking of moving back to Pasadena next year or who knows. Wherever I can find a nice place at the cheapest rent.)