

# Two of a Kind

A local twosome proves the adage, “like mother, like daughter.”

BY ANDREA M. GALABINSKI

**T**hey are the epitome of bright, beautiful, dedicated and ultra-successful women, with a mother-daughter bond more important to them than all of their awards, honors, accolades and notable accomplishments.

The mother is June Stride, Ed.D., an author and educator whose distinctions include being named to *Who’s Who in American Education*; *Who’s Who of American Women*; and *Who’s Who in the World*.

The daughter, April Masini, is a best-selling author and dating-advice guru. Masini is also a recognized TV and film executive whose credits include *Baywatch*, *Miss Universe* and *Blue Crush*, among others.

Stride’s background encompasses 30 years in education and administration, working with students ranging from kindergarten through post high school, to those in a maximum-security prison for youthful offenders. A champion of providing a positive course for real-world children’s issues, Stride co-authored her first book series, “Images,” a highly acclaimed educational series on human sexuality that won a Healthy Living Award. All of her 12 books focus on how to develop programs of positive growth.

Masini’s background includes modeling, soap opera roles, and her ongoing gig behind the camera as a television writer and producer.

“The Learning Annex in Los Angeles asked me to teach a class for men called ‘How to Date Out Of Your League,’” Masini says. “At first I thought they were kidding. I agreed and the class sold out in under two hours.” She wrote a script that later became her first best-selling book, *Date Out of Your League*, and was the start of her dating-advice empire, which includes books, e-books, the “Ask April” advice column and online magazine, two online dating sites and an infomercial, all within three years.



## BOND NOTES

### Mutual likes:

Masini: Besides sneaking out for ice cream, we like little projects. For example, Mother helped me do my garden.  
Stride: Laugh. Laugh while we share whatever we do.

### Shared dislikes:

Both: Shopping. We get what we need. If there are long lines or crowds we leave; there’s too much to do.

### Great things in Southwest Florida:

Masini: Naples; my neighbors and my neighborhood.  
Mediterra is just beautiful, and my neighbors are so incredibly thoughtful and kind. I cannot tell you how refreshing it is to meet such sincere and genuinely nice people.  
Stride: Marco is my little island paradise, an embracing small-town home filled with inspirational, caring people who share a tiny patch of sand in the turquoise Gulf.

“My ‘dating career’ allows me to live and work in Naples, near my mom,” Masini says. With their busy schedules and separate interests, the two had lived on opposite coasts. Two years ago, Masini was overwhelmed by an urge to be near her mother. “I woke up one day and decided that I needed to move to Florida; for some reason I just felt like my mother needed me.”

Barely a year after her daughter relocated, Stride was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer and blood clots and nearly died. Stride is now a grateful cancer survivor.

“April used to think so big that at times it frightened me. She doesn’t know the words

no or can’t,” Stride says. “April is also the best friend anyone could ever ask for. If you need her, and she’s your friend, she will be there—no matter what.”

Masini says she owes everything she is to her mother. “My mother is an inspiration ... she’s my inspiration. I am who and what I am because of her. When my father left us, we had nothing. We had no home; we had nowhere to go,” she says. “My mother worked so hard, seven days a week, and sacrificed so much for my sister and me. Frankly, I see way too many ‘me, me, me first’ mothers out there who could use a lesson—or five—from my mom.” *NI*