



Above: The master bedroom. Below: The living room.

The day after this interview, they hit the road for an ongoing Black Crowes reunion tour. Afterward, Hudson planned a quick jaunt to New York to promote *Skeleton Key*, then a brief stop in L.A. before heading out for more concerts. Hudson seems totally at ease amid all the flux, and she is devoted to touring with her husband.

"I kind of feel like I live vicariously through him," she says, adding the unexpected comment that her lifestyle on the road with Robinson is "more [who I am] than what I do for a living." It's the one subject she won't elaborate on, saying that her private life on tour with Robinson is "something in my life that nobody will ever really know."

The couple has been together for almost six years now. They married on New Year's Eve 2000, just nine months after meeting in New York. "My mom always said I was the little girl who would jump in the deep end when I didn't know how to swim," says Hudson. "That's kind of how I got married. I jumped in the deep end and figured he wouldn't let me drown. And he hasn't yet."

The starlet-rock star marriage may seem like a combustible pairing—and, in fact, rumors circulated last year that the marriage was in trouble—but Hudson says that what she and Robinson experience are the expected ups and downs.

"We're pretty well suited for each other," she says. "We're not perfect. I don't think any relationship is perfect, but we appreciate each other and respect each other. Your greatest hope and desire is that you're with someone for the rest of your life. Is it possible? I don't know. But even if, God forbid, we didn't make it, he'd always make me laugh. It's a beautiful thing."

At the end of the interview, Hudson heads upstairs to finish her house tour with a visit to her bedroom. But before she gets there, she stops at the wainscotted landing atop the stairs and points out Robinson's collection of vintage rock photographs. Surrounded by images of Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones at their apex is a more recent snapshot, one of Hudson and Robinson on tour, stretched out in the back of a limo in all their bohemian finery. They're both laughing. ●





Clockwise from right: Hudson in the bathroom; with Ryder; the poolside loggia; the first-floor bathroom; a view of the master bedroom



why I'd be paying 10 percent to my agent."

It's a savvy if not entirely credible remark, and it shows the quick wit and self-deprecating humor that have made Hudson one of Hollywood's most likable young actresses. She shot to fame five years ago with a memorable performance as rock groupie Penny Lane in Cameron Crowe's *Almost Famous* and established her box office benchmark with 2003's \$100 million-plus hit *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. After last year's forgettable *Raising Helen* and the uncharacteristically gloomy *Skeleton Key*, the upcoming romantic comedy *You, Me and Dupree*, which begins filming this month with Owen Wilson and Matt Dillon, promises to make better use of Hudson's unparalleled ability to light up the screen. Beyond that, she is beginning to craft her own vehicles and is developing a drama about a father-daughter relationship called *Sleight of Mind*.

"Katie always knew what she wanted," says Hawn. "She's very, very put together. I would give her advice if she needed it, but I don't think I have advice to give. You set your kids up right, and they give you advice."

Like her mother, Hudson seems determined to have both a career and a family. She admits that having a child complicates the logistics of her schedule but doesn't see a career hiatus as an option. The notion of hard work and self-sufficiency, which Hudson espouses at several points in her conversation, was clearly a central theme in her upbringing.

"Kurt and I were taskmasters," Hawn says when asked about her daughter's work ethic. "We let them all know when you come from a family that has succeeded,

you have to do what you do a little better."

As energetic and optimistic as she is, though, Hudson admits that the responsibilities of grown-up life can at times become burdensome. "I have my breakdowns, like everybody else," she says. "I have moments when I just feel like I haven't touched the ground in months. Being a mother and a wife, you want to take care of everybody else, and then you forget about yourself. Sometimes that ends up showing itself in little miniature breakdowns, when you don't understand why you're emotional or why you can't get out of bed in the morning. You realize you've got to go do something for yourself."

One big thing Hudson did for herself two years ago was buying this house. After a long search in which she and Robinson unsuccessfully bid on five different Malibu properties, she finally found a nest to feather when she was six months pregnant with Ryder. One is tempted to say that fate delivered it to her, since it was Hudson's own childhood home, which Hawn had bought when she was six months pregnant with Hudson in 1979. The four-bedroom house was originally built for oddball director James Whale, whose life was dramatized in the film *Gods and Monsters*, and Hawn expanded it during the 12 years she lived there with Russell, their brood of four children—and a clutch of chickens in the backyard. "I can't explain how much I loved it," says Hawn. "The only reason we moved was because it became too small."

It was, as you might expect, a lively household. Hawn remembers that once when the children were young, she needed a new car and decided on a whim to

