

## With 'Dynasty' Dead, Just Tune to the Trumps

Chicago Tribune

By Cheryl Lavin

February 18, 1990

Did you hear the one about Donald Trump? He just bounced his first Czech.

Valentine's Day just wasn't Valentine's Day this year for Ivana Trump, who turns 41 Sunday. "Trump: The Marriage" is over. "Trump: The Divorce" is just beginning. And it looks like it's going to be one **long**, dirty fight. The mud started flying as soon as word got around that Donald Trump, 43, wanted out of his nearly 13-year marriage.

First he briefly locked his wife, whom he used to refer to as "my twin as a woman" out of her office at his Plaza Hotel, then he compared her to Leona Helmsley, a woman he called "a truly evil human being." Maybe it's a good thing they both hired-not divorce attorneys-but criminal attorneys to fight for their right to unparty.

The only person who seems to have been caught off balance by Trump's sudden need to file a single tax return, is Ivana. Rumors about him and other women have been around for more than a year. When Playboy asked him flat out if marriage to him meant monogamy, he replied, "I don't have to answer that." Well, no, of course, he doesn't. But couldn't he at least have lied?

Ivana Trump arrived in Aspen for the Christmas holidays with 16 pieces of luggage and a new face. She was ready to rock 'n' roll. She took one **look** at the separate beds in the master bedroom of her suite at the Little Nell hotel and said, "No way," She wanted a king-size bed for her and The Donald-as she called him-and she got it.

They were together every afternoon, hanging out with Adnan Khashoggi, Marvin Davis, Lee Iacocca, folks like that. At night they were seen at all the best **parties**.

"Ivana looked terrific," says another guest at the Little Nell then.

"She was always pencil thin, but her hair was much longer this year and her face looked perky. She looked very happy. She and Donald were together 99 percent of the time." Ah, but that other one percent of the time, Donald was busy, busy, busy.

He had a friend in town, actress/model Marla Maples, a minor Georgia beauty queen. She struck some Aspenites as a younger, prettier Ivana.

"I saw him walking with his arm around a blond and I just assumed it was Ivana," says a Chicago decorator who spent the holidays in Colorado. "Same size, same hair. I walked around to look, but it wasn't her."

Donald was with Maples at a party at the chalet of Leslie Wexner, chairman of The Limited Inc. A guest overheard Maples turning down a request for her phone number by telling the man she was already taken. When he asked her by whom, she said Donald Trump.

“They were very cozy,” says a Chicago businessman who was at the party. That is, until Ivana arrived.

So, just to get this straight. Donald Trump had his wife and his special friend in the same town, at the same party, at the same time. Nobody left. Trump, his wife and his special friend just kind of circulated.

“The girl and Donald got kind of neutral when Ivana was around,” says the businessman.

Partygoers ceased discussing snow conditions, the price of real estate, and whether fur coats should be legal. All anyone talked about was “Trump: The Trio.”

Then things got even more interesting. The two women had words at Bonnie’s, a restaurant where everyone goes for lunch, the most public spot in Aspen, the equivalent of, oh, say, the lobby of Trump Tower. Then, Donald and Ivana put on a show for the **holiday** skiers.

“They walked out of the restaurant together,” says the decorator. “She was talking and he was trying to shush her. Then they both stopped to put on their skis. She was a little behind him and she was being kind of playful, bumping into him.

But then they stopped about 50 feet away from the sundeck. She was facing us and he had his back to us and it’s now clear that they’re fighting. She’s waving her hands and yelling at him.

And now everybody decides, “This is interesting” and we all go over to the railing. It goes on for 25 minutes. It went on forever! Every now and then she tried to make up and put her arms around him, but he pulled back, he wouldn’t respond.

He finally skied off, and everyone started clapping and cheering. She smiled and waved to the crowd and skied away in his direction. But I saw them near the next lift, and they were still going at it.”

“They were like two bag people fighting on the subway,” says E. Graydon Carter, co-editor of Spy magazine, which engages in frequent Trump-bashing.

Now that the Trump marriage is over, the question is, Was it much of a marriage in the first place? Visitors to his office mention that his walls are papered with photographs of him, smiling out from magazine covers. No one remembers seeing any pictures of Ivana.

“They always seemed like more of an ’80s merger than a genuine romantic couple,” Carter says. “They led such an extraordinarily public life, I always suspected there was no private life behind it.”

“To my mind, she was always an acquisition to him,” says Chicago Tribune columnist Michael Kilian. “He made much about her background as a skier and a model. Well, she was a model in Montreal. She worked for a department store. She wasn’t doing the de la Renta **show** at the Plaza. And she was an alternate on the Czech ski team. She was a trophy wife he acquired when he was still in the Little League, a Little League trophy.”

“I really thought they were great **friends**,” says William Norwich, the New York Daily News society columnist. “They’d laugh. She’d whisper in his ear. I watched them in a variety of situations-like the Tyson fights. Here in the middle of this huge circus, they’d be talking to each other. They were on a little ship called relating.”

At the heart of the Trump divorce are four documents, one prenuptial agreement drawn up by Roy Cohn in 1977, and three postnuptial agreements, the last one dated Dec. 24, 1987. It gives Ivana \$25 million, the couple’s 47-room Greenwich, Conn., estate, which sits on 10 acres of prime real estate, and custody of their three children.

To no one’s surprise, she wants more. Or, as a **New York** Daily News headline put it, “Ivana Better Deal.” But can she get it? Attorneys say it all depends on how good those agreements are; and chances are, they’re just fine.

“If the agreements were done properly and entered into in good faith, there’s no reason why they won’t stand up,” says Raoul Felder, who represented Robin Givens in her championship bout against Mike Tyson.

What would be an example of a prenuptial not done properly?

“I know of one case where the prenuptial was signed on the left side of the lawn, while on the right side the guests were seated and the minister was waiting for the ceremony to start. That’s duress. I have cases where men have lied about what they were worth. You really have to take advantage of somebody for it not to stand up.”

But many people, including Mrs. Trump and her lawyer, Michael Kennedy, who has called the prenuptial “unconscionable and fraudulent,” believe Donald Trump did take advantage of her. He’s worth billions-anywhere from \$1.5 to \$4 billion-and she’s getting millions. It doesn’t seem fair.

“We’re entitled to make unfair deals,” says Felder. “The law says we can make as many bad deals as we want. Fair is not the hallmark.”

“You have to be Houdini to undo a prenuptial,” says Richard Golub, who represented Sandra Jennings in her palimony suit against William Hurt.

“Ninety-nine percent hold up. Courts like them. They mean less work for the judges. And here you have one that’s been renegotiated three times. The more you discuss and mess around with these things, the more evidence exists that you accepted the terms.

She’s getting \$25 million plus. She can’t throw herself on the floor in front of the **court** and get pity from a judge who’s making 90 grand a year.”

One way Ivana’s attorney can try to get her more money is to prove that she earned it as his **business** partner. According to Trump’s autobiography,

“The Art of the Deal,” she worked hard for him from the time they were married in his hotels and **casinos**.

She gave birth to their third child on a Friday and was back at work on Tuesday. And all he paid her was “\$1 a year and all the dresses she wanted.” Still, Golub doesn’t think it’s much of an argument.

“He’s the one who came from the rich family. It was his business acumen that built the fortune. She didn’t negotiate with Merv Griffin. I don’t know what her role is in his business, but she has a big, big tough road ahead of her if she’s going to prove that she was the brains behind Donald Trump.”

Even so, there are plenty of attorneys who enjoy a challenge, including the **father** of palimony, Marvin Mitchelson, who renegotiated a better deal for Bianca Jagger than her prenuptial with Mick gave her.

“The natural inclination is for **the court** to be fair, and one percent doesn’t sound very fair,” says Mitchelson. “Fair would be somewhere between 10 and 20 percent. Anything under \$100 million is a bargain for him.” The fact that the original document has been amended three times doesn’t bother him. “If it’s void to start with, it’s void thereafter.”

Adds Mitchelson, “I never **saw** a prenuptial that didn’t end in a divorce.”

What lies ahead for Ivana Trump? Right now her life has become New York’s favorite soap opera.

“It’s ‘Dynasty’ come to life,” says James Revson, society columnist of Newsday. But the fascination won’t last. A new scandal is bound to come along and knock her off the front pages of the tabloids. And then?

“Maybe she’ll just be forgotten,” says E. Graydon Carter. “Who remembers the wife that William Randolph Hearst left for Marion Davies?”

Source: [chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com)