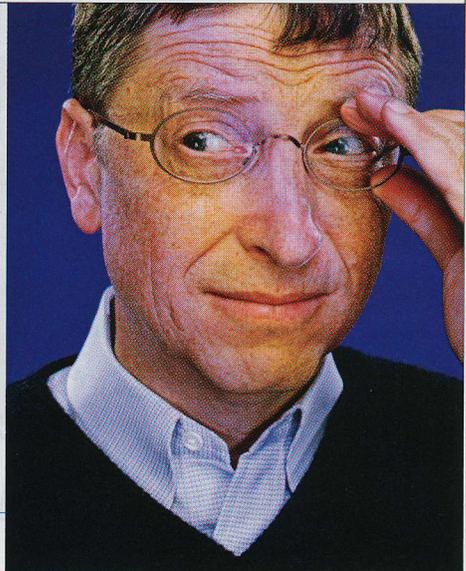


# The Renegade



**H**er life story reads like a Hollywood blockbuster: On the way to earning more than \$10 million, Christine Comaford-Lynch, now 45, dropped out of high school, dabbled in modeling, trained as a geisha, spent seven years as a Buddhist monk, became the first female contractor in Microsoft's Operating Systems division, dated Bill Gates and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison, launched and sold companies for whopping profits, and consulted for more than 700 Fortune 1,000 companies. She describes her current baby, Mighty Ventures, as helping entrepreneurs "rock their businesses" and corporations "make their employees more entrepreneurial." In her spare time, she wrote *Rules for Renegades*, out this month. Oh, and she thinks Cameron Diaz could play her in the movie that is, in fact, in the works. We had questions.

### How do you reinvent yourself again and again?

I see people as software. We can

upgrade and change, but you have to know your intention. If you're running from failure or thinking, "Man, I'm in such pain—I have to do *something*," you're probably going to pick a new you that will be only temporary. You need to have clarity and to design your new self from a place of possibility.

### But if you are trying to recover from failure?

Take time to chill and get perspective. I couldn't laugh about the failures I wrote of until just a few years ago. I once made a business mistake that cost me \$8 million. Now I think it's a riot.

### People think they can't change their lives without huge savings or a husband who'll support them.

That's not true. There are always baby steps you can take toward

Playing truth or dare, Bill Gates confessed to Comaford-Lynch that his greatest fear was "not getting smarter."

your goal, things you can do at night or on weekends without quitting your job.

### What do you wish you'd known in your thirties?

In my thirties, I would think, holy crap, I hope I can get this all done! Now I'm like, I'm going to produce quality work, but I'm not going to kill myself to achieve perfection, because that doesn't exist. But I am going to follow through. Success is all about declaring yourself to be confident. The evidence of your audacious courage shows up later. I learned that from Bill Gates.

### Speaking of Bill Gates . . .

You know what was cool about dating Bill and Larry? It was so liberating for me to realize that I wasn't the right woman for them. So many women tell me they would bend over backward to marry those guys, and I'm like, Why? Money's not that interesting.

### What is interesting?

Positive reinvention. Why not throw a "come as you're going to be" cocktail party?

### Are you and Bill Gates still in touch?

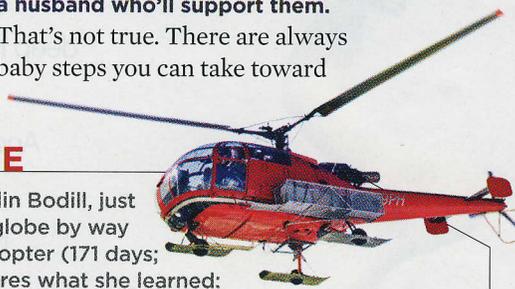
I had drinks with him about six years ago. When these guys marry, it changes. They don't respond to your e-mails. —RACHEL BERTSCHE

## THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

Jennifer Murray and flight partner, Colin Bodill, just became the first people to travel the globe by way of the north and south poles in a helicopter (171 days; 32,206 nautical miles). Murray, 67, shares what she learned:

"How big the world is. We certainly saw signs of global warming, but what's heartening is how much open area remains. The trip was a time of introspection. When people asked why I was doing this, I began to wonder—because at times it was tough, and I was scared. Knowing how much students learned about the environment from our Web site made it feel worthwhile."

—JENNIFER IRWIN



PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF MIGHTY VENTURES, JONATHAN SAUNDERS/GETTY, DIEGO UCHITEL/GETTY