



ATLANTA HOUSEWIVES BIG FIGHT!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

NeNe: 'Kim could be racist'

Kim: 'I fear for my life'

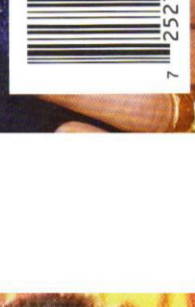
NICOLE'S BABY JOY
It's a girl!

Inside Teen Mom Leah's wedding

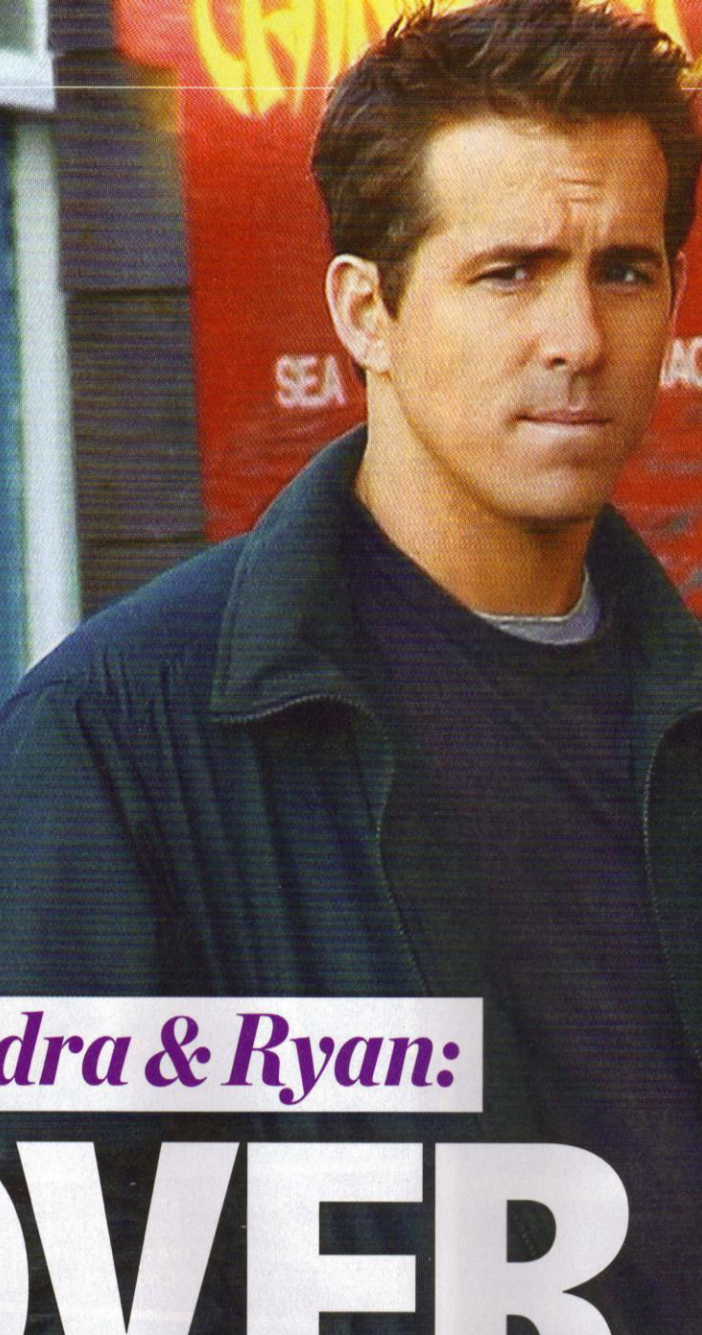
EXCLUSIVE

SANDRA'S HEARTBREAK

IT'S OVER!
 Sandra puts her baby before romance and splits with Ryan. Is she afraid to love again? Plus, inside her meeting with Scarlett



Bad timing
 Still scarred from their individual breakups, Ryan and Sandra couldn't make their new love work despite undeniable chemistry. "There's nothing you can do to manufacture it," he says of their fireworks. "It's just there or it's not."



Sandra & Ryan:

OVERALL

Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds' budding romance fizzles

Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds seemed like a perfect match. After each overcame painful public splits in 2010, the *Proposal* co-stars — like their characters in the 2009 comedy — found themselves on a delightfully dizzying journey from co-

workers to potential lovers. But sadly, Sandra, 46, couldn't follow her heart and let herself fall completely. Despite starting the new year full of promise with Ryan in her adopted hometown of Austin, Texas, Sandra has apparently made the agonizing decision to sacrifice her own happiness so she can

devote herself fully and selflessly to her beloved 1-year-old son, Louis. Any hope for romance has disappeared. "Ryan's not my lover," Sandra confessed at the Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 16 in LA. "Louis is all I can handle." And Sandra's rep confirmed that the budding relationship was no more, telling

Life & Style on Jan. 14 that Sandra and Ryan "are literally nothing except friends." Tellingly, Ryan, 34, was in LA when the devoted mom stopped to take snowy pics with her little guy at a local NYC park on Jan. 12. Two days earlier, it was all about Louis again as Sandra braved the cold with her son on her



Cover Story

READY

as Sandra pours her heart into being a mom



Sandra is sacrificing her love life so that she can be a hands-on mom to precious Louis.

hip for a shopping excursion. "Louis has the stage," she's said. "No one understands the shift in priorities about having a child in your life that you're responsible for until you have a child in your life."

Afraid to love again

Hopeful that Ryan, who's

expressed his own interest in adoption, could understand. That's why she quickly let her defenses down, inviting Ryan into her home — and into Louis' life. Besides romantically ringing in the New Year at her restaurant, Bess Bistro, Sandra also reportedly snuck away with Ryan to her cozy Jackson Hole, Wyo., house

at least twice during the holidays. And as *Life & Style* has reported, the starry-eyed twosome and little Louis had a lunch date at Sandra's sister's bakery in Austin.

"I've always thought they were good for each other," says an insider. "But there were also a lot of things going against them, so it fizzled.

"They're done for now." Among the roadblocks? The mere chance that Ryan might not recognize that Louis will *always* be the No. 1 man in Sandra's life — and that Ryan might distract her from showering her baby boy with unconditional love — was apparently too hard

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WHY SHE'S AFRAID TO LOVE AGAIN

Sandra was so totally mortified by the way Jesse publicly humiliated her that she'd be guaranteed of having another public romance — which is what she'd be guaranteed with heartthrob Ryan. What's worse, Jesse continues to rub his new reality star Kat Von D in Sandra's face on a daily basis. As if his five-year marriage to Sandra meant nothing, the despicable cheater constantly writes syrupy posts back and forth with his lover on Twitter, less than a year after he destroyed Sandra's picture-perfect world with his serial cheating.



While Sandra's heart is still healing, Jesse sparked engagement rumors with Kat on Jan. 15.



It takes time to get over a breakup

While Sandra needs to let herself find happiness and love again, it doesn't happen overnight. Crushed after her 2005 split from Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston is still desperately searching for Mr. Right. But there's hope: Drew Barrymore may have finally found "the one" with on-and-off boyfriend Justin Long, 10 years after her divorce from comedian Tom Green. "It would be best for Sandra to date casually," advises couples counselor Carolyn Bushong. "Seeing different men and going out can actually be really helpful in getting past a situation like she's been through."

to imagine for Sandra. And the last thing she could bear was to embark on another romance that would just break her fragile heart.

After all, it's been only 10 months since the actress found out the man she thought was her soul mate, Jesse James, had been cheating behind her back with a bevy of women. While the rest of Hollywood prepares for award-show season, the glitz and glamour is an excruciating reminder of how Sandra stood in front of her peers just last year and gushed about her "hot" husband, only to be mortified by his philandering confession a week after her big Oscar win.

So it's easy to see why terrified Sandra would put up walls. Even her choice of a potential partner in Ryan shows a scorned woman being overly cautious. Nervous to step back into the dating pool, Sandra's reaching out only to people she completely trusts — first getting close to her longtime bodyguard, Damian Holton, and now Ryan, a close friend for 10 years. "The person I met years ago...is the same person [now]," Sandra said of Ryan. "No change in the humility, talent, kindness."

The two had grown so tight over their decade-long relationship that they used to cherish couples' vacations with their former spouses: Jesse and Scarlett Johansson. But the fact that Ryan and Scarlett just split in December — and have yet to finalize anything — was likely another barrier too big for them to overcome. While Sandra and Ryan naturally sought comfort in each other's arms, the demise of their marriages is still too fresh —

and the risk of further heartbreak too high.

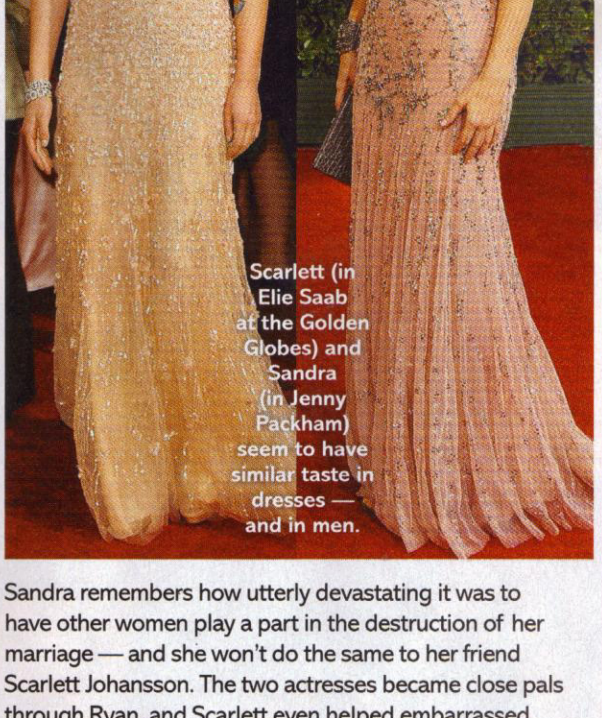
"Even if Sandra met the man of her dreams today, it probably wouldn't work because I don't think she's healed enough," relationship expert Carolyn Bushong tells *Life & Style*. "The very vulnerable. She's very vulnerable. And she's probably being extra careful, and somewhat distrusting, in a healthy way."

A daddy for Louis

But while it makes sense for Sandra to take her time and heal before risking her heart again, she deserves a shot at love — and can't let herself be haunted by Jesse's vile behavior forever. America's sweetheart needs the happy ending she makes millions of fans believe in every time she appears on the big screen. Instead, Sandra soldiers on unselfishly, like she always does, celebrating the first anniversary of having Louis in her world. As she poured herself into work in NYC between Jan. 7 and Jan. 13, looking somber, the baby was her constant companion. "The first time I met Louis it was like the whole outside world just got quiet," she says. "It just fit."

Still, there's hope that Ryan could "just fit" as a father figure one day and that Ryan and Sandra will get a second chance at romance. After all, they're expected to reunite to film *Most Wanted*, which will hit theaters in 2012. "They like each other," says an insider. "While there is a spark, it's not happening now. It can't." But when she's ready, Sandra needs to take a brave step forward and open herself up to Ryan — and to love — again.

SANDRA RECONCILES WITH RYAN'S EX, SCARLETT



Scarlett (in Elie Saab) at the Golden Globes) and Sandra (in Jenny Packham) seem to have similar taste in dresses — and in men.

Sandra remembers how utterly devastating it was to have other women play a part in the destruction of her marriage — and she won't do the same to her friend Scarlett Johansson. The two actresses became close pals through Ryan, and Scarlett even helped embarrassed Sandra publicly move on after her split from Jesse with a jaw-dropping kiss at the 2010 MTV Movie Awards. Now, having called it quits with Ryan, Sandra's honorably trying to clear the air with his soon-to-be-ex-wife. Sandra's rep confirms to *Life & Style* that the ladies saw each other at the CAA-sponsored Golden Globes afterparty on Jan. 16 in LA, their first encounter since Sandra and Ryan's very public New Year's Eve date. "Sandra explained exactly how she felt about the whole Ryan situation," says an insider.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WIREIMAGE; SPLASH; LANDOVY; (2) WIREIMAGE; ADRIANA