

Melissa -  
never having such  
a good time  
your life story, what great  
Maderias. We will miss you  
lots I love to find you  
at ground  
Susie

**MOSTLY MELISSA  
OR  
THE BEAUTY AND THE WITCH**

**OCTOBER 31, 1997  
AMERICAN CONSULATE SAO PAULO**

**A SUPRESA PRODUCTION**

Melissa -  
I'll never  
be able to  
watch Pijama Game  
without  
thinking of  
you.  
Jayle

When you fly to the  
Canarys we will miss  
you here in the Cuckoo's Nest.  
Enjoy! Thanks for the inspiration  
the

Thanks for the good  
times - Maria

Buena suerte en  
su vida nueva  
Victoria

What a wonderful  
life! More great  
adventures ahead!  
Chuck  
Kempner

Dei o meu máximo  
mas parece que o des  
fins - conspiração contra  
Beijão, Clara  
You're like Jimmy Stewart -  
it's been a wonderful life.  
continued happiness & success!  
Dennis

Melissa,  
I hope you  
enjoy the show!  
Melissa  
Kempner

**MOSTLY MELISSA  
OR  
THE BEAUTY AND THE WITCH**

(music: Piaf, Non, je ne regrette rien – music continues underneath opening remarks)

NARRATOR ONE (Mark): IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK BACK IN SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, YOU SAID AMONG YOUR GOALS WERE TO BREAK FIVE WORLD RECORDS. NOT ONLY DID YOU REACH YOUR LOFTY GOALS, YOU EXCEEDED THEM, BREAKING 10 WORLD RECORDS FAR BEYOND YOUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS. (end of music) LET'S LISTEN AND WATCH, SHALL WE, BECAUSE MELISSA FOELSCH WELLS, THIS ((dramatic pause) IS YOUR LIFE – MOSTLY MELISSA - THE BEAUTY AND THE WITCH.

NARRATOR TWO (Maria): IN 1932, AS THE DEMAGOGIC AND DICTATORIAL HITLER WAS RISING TO POWER IN GERMANY, A FORCE FOR DEMOCRACY AND COMPASSION WAS BORN IN ESTONIA.

CHORUS: Happy Birthday in Estonian sung by Cezar and John – two verses – the words in brackets are the rough phonetic transcription) :

Onne soovime sul [Uhey sohvimy sool]  
onne soovimesul [uhney sohvimy sool]  
Palyu uhney yah heyad [Palju onne ja head]  
Taena soovime sul [tanah sohvimy sool]

Onne soovime sul [Uhey sohvimy sool]  
onne soovimesul [uhney sohvimy sool]

Palyu uhney Melissa [Palju onne Melissa]  
Taena soovime sul [tanah sohvimey sool]

NARRATOR THREE (Susie): THEN,

CHORUS: Sing the words “Hooray for Hollywood”, cut off and point:

NARRATOR # 3(continues): AS A LITTLE GIRL (film clip on screen) YOU  
WALTZED INTO HOLLYWOOD WITH YOUR SINGER/ACTRESS MOTHER AND  
YOUR PHYSICIST/SCHOLAR FATHER. (end film clip) AMERICA WAS  
ENCHANTED BY THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM “THE GREAT  
WALTZ,” STARRING YOUR MOTHER, MILIZA KORJUS, RHYMES WITH  
“GORGEOUS.”

(show a 60-second film clip from “The Great Waltz” where Melissa’s mother is singing a  
Strauss opera at the Vienna Opera House and ends with full closeup on her)

NARRATOR #2: AS A YOUNG GIRL, YOU SPENT 10 YEARS IN MEXICO.  
(Mariachi music starts in background) IT WAS THERE THAT YOU BEGAN TO  
IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A “LATINA.” AS YOU ONCE TOLD A RIO  
JOURNALIST IN 1975, YOU BECAME ENAMORED WITH “THE WARMTH AND  
ENTHUSIAM OF LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS CONFRONT  
ADVERSITY WITH HUMOR.” (Mariachi music fades into the opening bars of  
“Jalisco”) NOW, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE LEAD US INTO SONG, HERE IS  
“JALISCO”, ONE OF YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITES. (Melissa is invited on stage to  
sing her favorite song – Jalisco!!)

NARRATOR #3: RETURNING TO CALIFORNIA, YOU FINISHED TWO YEARS AT A CATHOLIC WOMEN'S COLLEGE AND ENTERED SHOW BUSINESS AS A SHOWGIRL AND A SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMER IN A TRAVELING AQUATIC BALLET TROUPE. (show two pictures of Melissa in bathing suit, Photo #2)

CHORUS: Women: She was afraid to come out of the water

She was afraid to come out in the sun.

Men: Dum, dum, dum (jaws music)

Women: It was an itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, yellow polka dot bikini. . .

Men: Dum, dum, dum, dum, dum (jaws)

Women: And in the Water she wanted to stay

(End photo #2)

NARRATOR #1: WHEN YOUR TROUPE RAN OUT OF MONEY IN EUROPE, YOU TRADED HOLLYWOOD FOR DIPLOMACY. RETURNING TO COLLEGE, (Begin showing photo #3, graduation photo) YOU MELISSA FOELSCH, BROKE YOUR FIRST WORLD RECORD BY BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO GRADUATE FROM THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE. (begin playing georgetown song in background) YEARS LATER, IN 1991, IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN DIPLOMACY, YOU WERE INVITED BACK TO GIVE THE SCHOOL'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AND WERE AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE. (End photo #3)

NARRATOR #2: WITH A DEGREE IN HAND, YOU LANDED YOUR FIRST PERILOUS ASSIGNMENT (begin photo #4) AS SECRETARY TO VICTOR ANDRADE, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. WE DO HAVE SOME EVIDENCE OF THOSE IMPORTANT YEARS (End photo #4) AND, WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT HOW WE THINK YOUR JOB INTERVIEW WENT:

ANDRADE: Miss Foelsch, can you tell me the name of the capital of Bolivia?

MELISSA: La Paz

ANDRADE: Can you tell me the name of our great port?

MELISSA: You don't have one. You're landlocked

ANDRADE: **Si, si, si, it was a trick question.** We're landlocked. !El mar es nuestro!  
You get the job!!.

NARRATOR #1: TWO YEARS LATER, YOU ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE. YOU SWAM THROUGH THE EXAMS, RESPONDING TO THE THEN INEVITABLE QUESTION ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE PLANS WITH A JOKE ABOUT "BEING 6 FEET TALL AND TWO POUNDS HEAVIER THAN SUGAR RAY ROBINSON, THE RIGHT GUY JUST WASN'T AROUND." (Wedding March sung by Cezar in German) WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THIS, HOWEVER, THE RIGHT GUY DID APPEAR, AND YOU MARRIED THIS MAN (Begin Photo #5 – wedding photo), FELLOW FSO ALFRED WELLS. (Al takes a bow and is applauded) YOU THUS BROKE YOUR SECOND WORLD RECORD WHEN, YOU BECAME THE

FIRST WOMAN OFFICER WHO DID NOT RESIGN FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE WHEN YOU MARRIED. (End Photo 5)

NARRATOR #3: AS A NEW AND THE FIRST TANDEM COUPLE (ANOTHER RECORD - - YOUR THIRD) YOU AND AL WERE FORCED TO PURSUE SEPARATE ASSIGNMENTS. YOU MOVED BY YOURSELF TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WITH A VERY YOUNG SON CHRISTOPHER (...AND LOOK HOW MUCH HE'S GROWN!) A FIRST ASSIGNMENT IS ALWAYS MEMORABLE, AND YOURS WAS EVEN MORE SO AFTER YOUR TOUR WAS NEARLY NIPPED IN THE BUTT...AND THAT IS SPELLED B-U-T-T. MELISSA, WHY DON'T YOU TELL US THE ALLIGATOR ALLEGORY. (Melissa tells the story.)

NARRATOR #1: FROM THE SUNNY CARIBBEAN, YOU WENT ON WHAT OUR ITAMARATY COLLEAGUES LOVINGLY REFER TO AS "THE ELIZABETH ARDEN CIRCUIT." FIRST THERE WAS PARIS (WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS). THEN THERE WAS LONDON, (music starts underneath: God Save the Queen) WHERE YOU BROKE TWO MORE WORLD RECORDS. REUNITED WITH AL, YOU SET YOUR FOURTH WORLD RECORD BY BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN FSO TO HAVE A BABY AT POST. YOUR FIFTH WORLD RECORD WAS SET AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, WHERE YOU CONSUMED FIVE HELPINGS OF THE QUEEN'S FAVORITE MANGO SHERBERT. FORTUNATELY FOR US-UK RELATIONS, THE QUEEN NEVER FOUND OUT WHY SHE DID NOT

GET DESSERT THAT NIGHT. (Raquel hands Melissa and Al two dishes of mango sherbert to enjoy during the rest of the show)

(photo 6 of Melissa in her '29 Ford, as the photo is displayed, narration continues:

NARRATOR #2: AFTER SEVERAL INTERVENING ASSIGNMENTS IN WASHINGTON, YOU FLEW DOWN TO RIO - THE CITY OF CARMEN MIRANDA. (Recording of Carmen Miranda singing "Chatanooga Choo-Choo" in Portuguese; lower volume after she finishes her first "choo choo" and let play softly) AS THE AMERICAN BOMBSHELL, (begin photo of newspaper #6) YOU SET YOUR SIXTH WORLD RECORD AS THE FIRST WOMAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ASSIGNED TO BRAZIL, AN EVENT WIDELY REPORTED IN THE RIO PRESS. (End photo).

(Narration pauses as we wait for the start of the music of Ebilio Duarte)

NARRATOR #3: AS MUCH AS YOU LOVED BRAZIL, YOU WERE SOON NAMED TO BE THE FIRST US AMBASSADOR TO BOTH GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE, THEREFORE BREAKING YOUR SEVENTH WORLD RECORD. DURING YOUR SWEARING IN CEREMONY, (start photo 6A) THEN-DEPUTY SECRETARY LARRY EAGLEBURGER REMARKED HOW WISE THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN IN SELECTING A CHAMPION SWIMMER AS AMBASSADOR, SINCE YOU COULD SWIM BETWEEN YOUR TWO COUNTRIES OF ASSIGNMENT AND SAVE ON TRANSPORTATION COSTS. (end photo 6A) FACILITIES WERE PRIMITIVE OR NON-EXISTENT. IN CAPE

VERDE, YOUR FIRST OFFICE WAS ON A PARK BENCH IN THE PRACA, THUS SAVING ON RENT. NEVERTHELESS, ONCE AGAIN PROVING THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS ITS CHARMS, THE MUSIC WE ARE HEARING NOW WAS WRITTEN BY YOUR CHIEF INTERLOCUTOR, EBILIO DUARTE, CAPE VERDE'S FOREIGN MINISTER.

NARRATOR #1: DIVING FROM THE SHORES OF AFRICA INTO THE SHARK-INFESTED U.N. BUREAUCRACY, (begin photo 8) YOU SPENT 10 YEARS NAVIGATING THE PERILOUS SHOALS OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

CHORUS: (softly) They're rioting in Africa

And the U.N. calls you . . . (End photo 7)

NARRATOR #1, (continuing) (begin photo 7) LITTLE HAS IMPEDED YOU IN YOUR CAREER EXCEPT ONE NIGHT IN UGANDA, WHEN YOU AND YOUR DRIVER GEORGE HAD YOUR CAR STOLEN AT GUNPOINT, AND WERE ABANDONED AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. WHILE MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE RAILED AGAINST THEIR FATE, YOU CHARACTERISTICALLY LOOKED ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AND WERE HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN RESCUED ALIVE.

Chorus: Theme from Jaws, -- (impending doom. . .)

NARRATOR #3: A FEW YEARS LATER, THE SHARKS BEGAN TO CIRCLE AGAIN, WHEN YOU WERE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE. CAUGHT IN AN UNCOMPROMISING POLICY DEBATE BETWEEN SENATOR JESSE HELMS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT....

Chorus –

Helms: You say Frelimo  
And I say Renamo

Wells: You say Renamo  
And I say Frelimo

Helms: Renamo!

Wells Frelimo!

Helms Franamo!

Wells Relino!

Helms and Wells: Let's blow the whole thing up!

NARRATOR #3 (continuing): ....YOU BROKE EVEN MORE WORLD RECORDS.

THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WAS THE LENGTH OF TIME YOU HAD TO WAIT FOR YOUR

AMBASSADORIAL CONFIRMATION (start photo 9) – 11 MONTHS , 2 DAYS -

AND THE 9<sup>TH</sup> WAS THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS YOU HAD TO FIELD FROM

THE SENATORS – 247 (end photo 9). ONE OF THESE ASKED:

SENATOR HELMS : (heavy southern drawl) Madam, are you now or have you even  
been a member of the Communist Party of (garble) Estonia?

STAFFER (equally heavy southern drawl) (nudging the Senator): Senator, Miz Wells  
was only 4 when she left Estonia...)

(Cezar sings a bit of a Russian song )

NARRATOR #2: FINALLY, YOU ARRIVED IN MAPUTO. AS U.S.

AMBASSADOR TO A WAR-DEVASTATED MOZAMBIQUE (Begin film clip)

YOUR GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT WAS

REPAID BY THE MOZAMBICANS. IF, INDEED, IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST

FORM OF FLATTERY, YOUR INFLUENCE IN THE COUNTRY WAS CLEARLY

DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD RECORD: TODAY IN MOZAMBIQUE

THERE ARE MORE YOUNG MELISSAS PER CAPITA THAN IN ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY, AND SOME WOULD EVEN SAY IN THE WORLD (End Film clip) . UNDER YOUR WARMTH YOU KNEW HOW TO EFFECTIVELY DELIVER THE TOUGH MESSAGES. IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON MOZAMBIQUE, THE NEW YORKER CALLED YOU A “TALL, HANDSOME WOMAN WITH THE EASY MANNER AND STEADY GAZE OF A VERY GOOD POKER PLAYER.” AS ONE RENAMO REBEL LEADER YEARS LATER WAS TO REMARK RUEFULLY, “MELISSA WELLS E UMA MULHER MUITO DURA.” WHEN, AS THE LEGEND GOES , YOU LEFT MAPUTO AT THE END OF YOUR TOUR, THE MOZAMBICANS LINED THE STREETS FROM THE EMBASSY TO THE AIRPORT TO BID YOU A LOVING FAREWELL.

NARRATOR #1: (music: Whatever Lola wants, underneath) NEXT ASSIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, YOUR INNER STRENGTH EARNED YOU THE TITLE OF “IRON LADY” (begin photo 11). CONFRONTING PRESIDENT MOBUTU AS HIS COUNTRY DISINTEGRATED AROUND HIM, YOU READ HIM THE RIOT ACT ON THE NEED FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS (end photo 11). YOUR MESSAGE WAS REPEATED IN THE PRESS WHICH SAID THAT: “IT MUST NOT BE NICE FOR A MAN TO BE DRIVEN TO THE WALL IN HIS OWN HOME BY A WOMAN WHO ISN’T HIS WIFE, ESPECIALLY IF SHE IS LIKE MELISSA WELLS.” ANOTHER PRESS REPORT WAS EMBLAZONED WITH THE HEADLINE: “FORMER SWIMMING CHAMPION PUSHES MOBUTU UNDER WATER.” CLEARLY, MELISSA, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DID NOT DROWN.

TODAY WE HAVE FOR YOU A FLAG OF THE OLD/NEW DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO. (Raquel delivers flag)

NARRATOR #3: (Photo 12 -- flash picture of Melissa on a motorcycle in SP)  
EVENTUALLY, YOU CAME BACK TO BRAZIL TO COMPLETE THE CYCLE  
(pause for pun) OF YOUR BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE, STARTED EVEN BEFORE  
YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO RIO (end photo 12) THE CHAOS IN ZAIRE WAS  
PEANUTS COMPARED TO THE STREETS OF JARDINS, (begin photo of line outside  
Consulate) WHERE THOUSANDS OF BRAZILIANS CLAMORED FOR VISAS TO  
SPEND THEIR NEWLY MINTED REAIS IN MIAMI, ORLANDO OR NEW YORK.  
(Maria sings - wrapped in U.S. flag)

I WANT TO BE IN America  
Everything cheap in America  
Come shop with me in America  
Might as well be in America!

NARRATOR #2 (continuing) LEADING YOUR TROOPS INTO BATTLE, YOU  
AGAIN EMERGED VICTORIOUS. AS FOOT SOLDIERS IN YOUR CAMPAIGN,  
(show other photos of consulate) YOU NOT ONLY DRAFTED THE ENTIRE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAO PAULO, YOU EVEN DRAFTED AL AND YOUR  
VISITING BROTHER TO STICK VISAS IN PASSPORTS OR ELSE THEY WOULD  
NOT REPEAT NOT GET A RIDE HOME FOR LUNCH! (end photos) UNLESS, OF  
COURSE, YOUR 10 A.M. NOSH HAD ALREADY SATISFIED YOUR HUNGER. . .  
CHORUS ("To the tune of Hernando's Hideaway)

There is a place where you can go  
For pao de queijo e cafe  
I know a place Melissa goes for that  
Fernando's hideaway!!! Ole

NARRATOR #1: AND SO WE COME TO TODAY. (music: I did it my way, softly underneath narration) MELISSA, YOUR LIFE AND CAREER HAVE LITERALLY TOUCHED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD. YOU HAVE REFERRED TO YOURSELF AS A GYPSY, AND AS AN ADVENTURER YOU CHOSE THIS LIFE "WITHOUT A CHARTERED COURSE, LIVING IN VARIOUS PLACES AND AMONG DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DISCOVERING THAT, IN REALITY, WE ALL SEEK THE SAME THINGS AND HAVE THE SAME DESIRES." (end music) (begin photo 9) AS FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ SAID TO YOU: "I REMEMBER WELL THE COURAGEOUS BATTLE YOU WAGED TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE. I WAS PROUD TO SWEAR YOU IN. YOU WERE AND ARE A GREAT CREDIT TO THE COUNTRY." (end photo 9) YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLED "HONORABLE MA" BY YOUR SON CHRISTOPHER, AND "MOTHER" BY YOUR STAFF, FOR WHOM YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN CONCERN AND RESPECT.

NARRATOR #2: ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE PROFESSED THAT YOU LIKE TO "BE LEFT ALONE QUIETLY FOR HOURS AND MAYBE EVEN DAYS," WE SUSPECT THAT YOU WILL NOT STAY QUIET FOR LONG. FOR AS YOU YOURSELF

HAVE SAID, YOU ARE “A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD AND WHEREVER YOU ARE YOU FEEL AT HOME.”

NARRATOR #3: THOSE OF US WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO SERVE WITH YOU THANK YOU AND WISH YOU GODSPEED FOR WHATEVER COURSE YOU SET FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE. AND REMEMBER, MELISSA, WHAT YOUR MOTHER ONCE SAID: (film clip from The Great Waltz where her mother says, “The performance is not over”)  
(Start music on the road again and roll credit on the video)

**THE END**

WRITTEN BY

*SUSIE PRATT, MARIA SANCHEZ-CARLO AND DENNIS REECE*

PRODUCED BY

*ALL OF THE ABOVE, MARK COLLINS AND CHUCK LEVESQUE*

NARRATED BY

*RALPH EDWARDS*

DIRECTED BY

*SUSIE PRATT*

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY

*VICTOR HUSER AS AMBASADOR ANDRADE AND JESSE HELMS*

*RAQUEL MARTINS AS DELIVERY LADY*

SPECIAL EFFECTS BY

*LEONARDO DA USIS*

VOCALS BY

*CESAR BORSA, MELISSA HUSER, CHUCK LEVESQUE,  
GAYLE LOPES, MARIA SANCHEZ-CARLO AND JOHN TUREK*

SPECIAL THANKS TO *AL WELLS* FOR HIS HELP AND ACCESS TO

THE WELLS FAMILY ARCHIVES

A SUPRESA PRODUCTION