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Oh Inés

Victoria's Secret's angel spreads her wings
with a new daughter, a new charity
and new ideas for the future.

Interview by Cheryl F. Hendrick

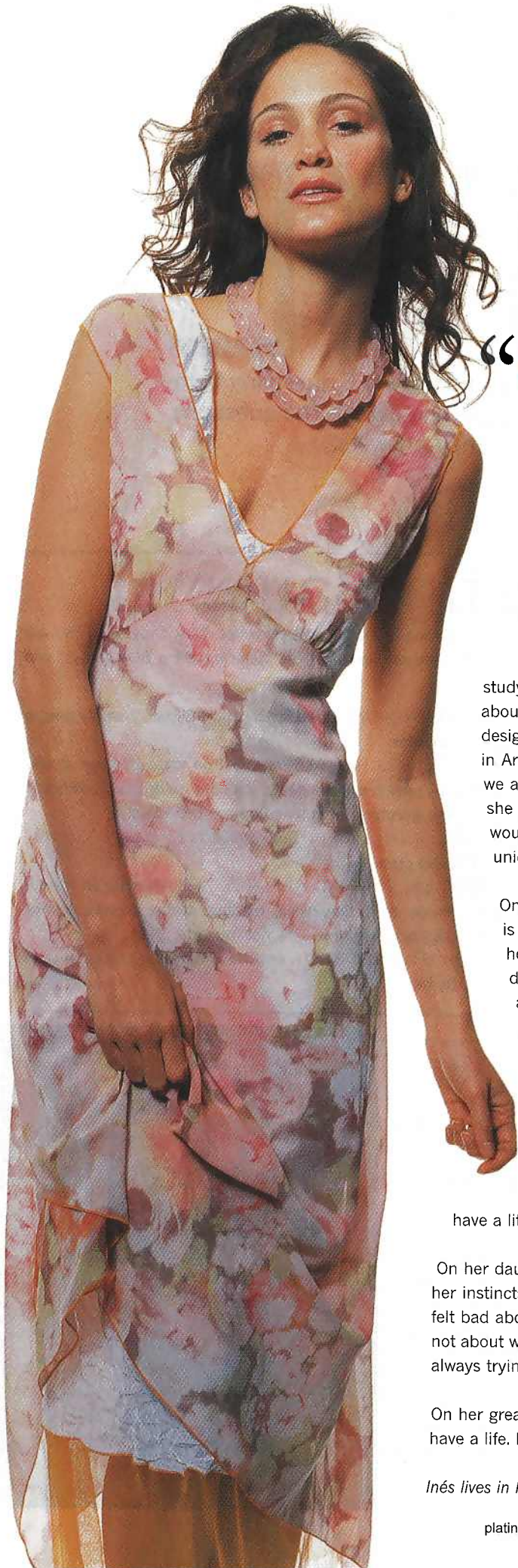
Photography by Art Streiber

Styled by Kristyna Kane

argentine beauty Inés Rivero has been taking the fashion scene by storm ever since leaving her native country at 14 to follow her dream of modeling. Originally beckoned by the European fashion industry, she has broken American ground by being the only Latino to appear as a Victoria's Secret Angel. Further breaking new ground in her personal life, with the birth of her daughter, Ines still finds time to help kids reach their dreams, her mother creates baby clothes and *platinum* readers understand what it's like to be in her wings.

On her husband: Obviously you can tell that I'm in love. We started out our relationship in a very healthy way—we were very good friends. He's been very supportive. He's been more than what I've expected. He really pushed me to get back in shape [after having the baby], so I could get back to my career. He's always pushing me to be active because he knows me well, and he knows I would be so unhappy if I wasn't working.

On her future: There are so many things. Eventually I would like to go back to



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studying. I’m also a frustrated architect and I love decorating. I’m very about hands-on work. Now that I’m into the baby thing, I would love to design baby clothes. I’m actually getting started to help my mom. She’s in Argentina, and the situation in Argentina is so bad. She’s retired, and we asked what we could do to help her. She came up with the idea that she knits very well. I asked her to send me a little bit of everything and I would show it around. I’ve had great response. Hand-made stuff is very unique, and people love it.

On her favorite charity: I recently actively joined Reach Your Peak. There is a whole side of Latin kids we are helping. Reach Your Peak is about helping kids reach their dreams. There are kids who can’t get to their dreams because they don’t have the opportunity or the support, so we are helping in that way. I’ve always wanted to do something for my community.

On inspiring new models: Being a model takes more than what you would think. It’s not all about being glamorous and getting your hair done. There’s a lot more to it. It takes a lot of professionalism. It’s a job, and you’re working with other people. It’s a great job, but it’s a serious one. Be sure that it is what you want. Also make sure that you would be good at it, and that you have a little bit of financial sense.

On her daughter: I want to make Maia very secure about herself, and to follow her instincts about everything. When I was young, I was very odd looking and I felt bad about it. I don’t want her to feel that way. I want to assure her that it’s not about what everyone thinks beautiful means. Beauty comes from within. I’m always trying ways to be better.

On her greatest achievement: I found the right person. And I’ve found a way to have a life. I thought it was going to be almost impossible.

Inés lives in New York with her financier husband, Jorge, and their daughter, Maia. ■