

ULTIMATE SURVIVOR

Bret Michaels

After recovering from a brain hemorrhage in April, what's the main life-lesson you've learned?

Enjoy the moments you have left. Do what rocks your world. My thing now is spending time with Kristi [Gibson, his on-off girlfriend of 16 years] and our daughters [Raine, 10, and Jorja, 5]. I don't want my legacy to be a hemorrhage. I want it to be: I'm a fighter, I'm passionate, I'm hardworking, and I love music.

Have you had any false alarms where you thought you were having another hemorrhage?

Yes, I've had two severe headaches where I thought I was, but I wasn't. The doctors told me it's to be expected.

Is there anything you still can't do?

I'm only 85 percent back, so I can't kickbox. I have short-term memory loss, so I have to repeat things to myself over and over. And I haven't had a good night's sleep since. My goal next year is to rock harder and sleep more!

Have you been partying?

I haven't had a drop of alcohol since my appendectomy [in April]. I didn't fight through this to want to die. I do have bus parties to let fans come up to have a good time.

Will you propose to Kristi soon?

I respect marriage, but it's the leading cause of divorce [laughs]. I still get a little sweaty about the marriage thing. I don't want to ruin our relationship by getting engaged and suddenly feeling like, "This really isn't what I wanted; I just wanted to stay where we were."

Aside from filming your VH1 show, *Bret Michaels: Life As I Know It*, what's up for you in 2011?

I'm shooting a show, *Bret Michaels: Love Guru*—I give romantic advice. And there's my Bret Michaels Super Cruise to Cozumel in November.

You're also having surgery to fix a hole in your heart in January. How did you handle breaking that news to Raine and Jorja?

We had a teary-eyed conversation. But I said, "My chances are great, I'll feel way better, and you'll love me more."

'My goal next year is to rock harder and sleep more!'



STYLING: JACOB VALE; HAIR AND MAKEUP: SHAWN SANDERS/ARTISTBYTWO; PROP STYLING: KENT CASEY/THE BEY AGENCY; GROOMER: ANJELI; STYLIST: ANJELI; IMAGINATION: LAS VEGAS; PROP STYLIST: KENT CASEY/THE BEY AGENCY