



the golden girl

We know her as a movie star, style icon and America's sweetheart - but who's the real Cameron Diaz? The actress, who turns 30 this month, talks to Gill Pringle about boyfriends, gap years and growing up. Photograph Steven Meisel

On the face of it, the title of Cameron Diaz's latest film, *The Sweetest Thing*, couldn't be more apt.

Diaz is no diva - the worst the tabloids can find to say about her is that her skin is prone to breakouts. Actors and directors queue up to work with her; fashion editors coo over her confident style. And who could resist that smile, almost wider than the face it rarely leaves?

But like America's other sweetheart, Julia Roberts, scoring \$20 million-plus a movie doesn't happen just because you're nice. What seems to have been an easy route into acting for Diaz has actually been hard graft: since her debut in 1994's *The Mask*, she's managed to cram in up to three films a year.

Yet, turning 30 this month, Diaz's priorities seem to have shifted. She's just taken

a year off and wants another extended break after she wraps *Charlie's Angels 2*. When we meet, she is still mid 'gap year' - and it shows. Positively glowing with wellbeing, she's enviably stylish in midriff-baring black drawstring trousers and a loose white cotton shirt. Her hair is scraped back into a pony tail, and she wears little make-up.

Most intriguingly, on the third finger of her right hand is a distractingly sparkly diamond ring. You can't help but wonder if it lives mostly on her left hand, but she talks only vaguely about her three-year relationship with *Panic Room* actor Jared Leto, mainly because she regrets how open she was about former flame Matt Dillon - the magazine covers they posed for together and their public protestations of love.

'I love Matt incredibly,' she was quoted as saying at the time. 'We're totally happy together. The distance really isn't a