
Personal file: Barbara Lynch

Born: March 19, 1964, South Boston

Any unusual circumstances? "I had yellow jaundice and needed a 100 percent blood transfusion."

Ever have a brush with Whitey Bulger? [They grew up in the same housing project.] "My younger brother and I were walking down the street — this was almost 20 years ago — with my little dog, a schnauzer, and it didn't have a leash. [Bulger] hopped out of his Jeep and said, 'Here, take a leash. You need one.' So I did."

Is it true you were a bookie? "Yes."

A guideline bookies should follow: "Make sure you call all your bets in. Don't take your own chances."

A simple technique that isn't easy to do well: "A brunoise [a tiny dice of vegetables used for soups and sauces]. Everything has to be a perfect square."

Your favorite kitchen gadget: "The Vita-Mix. It's like a heavy-duty blender."

A rule of thumb you find useful: "15 par on a regular night."

What's that mean? "Have 15 of each dish on the menu available each night."

Your favorite place on earth: "Right now, I'm in love with Vergennes, Vt."

The last thing that really surprised you: "My pregnancy."

A skill you need to work on: "Not to be so rough. I say what's on my mind and get it over with, and sometimes I offend people. Especially when I'm unsure about the future."

A downside of celebrity: "Loneliness."

The one thing you wish they would just get right: "The T should be 24 hours."

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