

= Deanna Merryman =

Deanna Merryman ( born 1972 ) is an American actress , glamor model , and fitness model . Merryman went to high @-@ school with model and sports commentator Leeann Tweeden . She was part of Playboy 's Great Lingerie Model Search in 1997 and was a contestant in the Miss Hawaiian Tropic beauty pageant in 1998 ; later becoming a model for Hawaiian Tropic . The next year , she was featured on the cover of Iron Man Magazine .

She starred on the documentary soap drama Desperately Seeking Stardom in 1999 . This garnered her roles on Baywatch and Veronica 's Closet . Merryman met stock car racing driver Jeff Gordon in 2000 and they had a brief relationship while the NASCAR driver was still married . Merryman was featured in a pictorial in the October 2003 issue of Playboy magazine .

= = Early life = =

Deanna Merryman was born in 1972 . Her father was a clergyman from Virginia . Merryman attended high @-@ school with Leeann Tweeden . She spent her early years living in Texas . Merryman worked as an exotic dancer in the mid @-@ 1990s . She danced at a nightclub in San Antonio , Texas called PT 's Show Club in 1992 . While employed at PT 's Show Club she suffered injury from a bite by a patron at the facility who was later charged with assault by police . She was transported to the hospital where she received treatment for puncture wounds .

= = Acting and modeling career = =

Merryman was featured in Playboy magazine in 1997 in Playboy 's Great Lingerie Model Search . She was featured in a pictorial in 1998 in an Celebrity Sleuth . In 1998 Merryman was a contestant in the Miss Hawaiian Tropic beauty pageant . She later became a model for Hawaiian Tropic . Merryman worked as a fitness model . She was featured on the cover of Iron Man Magazine in 1999 .

She starred on the documentary soap drama Desperately Seeking Stardom in 1999 . Broadcast on the ITV network , the program featured six individuals living in a house in California and documented their attempts to become successful actors in Los Angeles .

During this time attempting to gain a foothold in the acting industry , Merryman worked simultaneously as a model for lingerie , and a waitress , and was featured in Playboy . The show chronicled her audition process for a horror film , and a role in the television soap opera The Bold and the Beautiful . She successfully landed a role during Desperately Seeking Stardom , on the television show Baywatch . Merryman subsequently gained a part on the television series Veronica 's Closet . In 2000 , Merryman was selected for a photo shoot by American photographer Mark Daughn ; her pictures were used to advertise the Internet company Bomis . Daughn 's photographs of Merryman also appeared in Mystique Magazine in January 2003 , alongside models including : Aria Giovanni , Sunny Leone , Lisa Marie Scott , Natasha Yi , and Kalin Olson . She was featured in the book Mystique : Models of Mystique in the same year , photographed by Daughn .

Merryman posed nude in the October 2003 Playboy issue , and was photographed for the publication by Daughn . In May 2004 , Merryman appeared onstage at the " Porn Star Ball " at the Uptown Cabaret in Charlotte , North Carolina ; she was introduced to the audience by Ron Jeremy . Merryman starred in the 2004 comedy film Busty Cops alongside Nikki Nova , Jesse Jane , Katie James , Sunn Leone and Seana Ryan . She again appeared in a Celebrity Sleuth pictorial in its October 2004 issue . She was photographed by Sam T 'Ang for Beach Babes calendar in 2005 , and by Daughn for the Mystique calendar published the same year . In 2006 , Merryman moved from Los Angeles , California and hosted a party in South Beach , Florida at Club Deep which was sponsored by FireStar Film Works and Phunhauz Ent . In 2011 she resided in Fort Lauderdale , Florida , where she worked as a makeup artist .

= = Personal life = =

Merryman had a relationship with stock car racing driver Jeff Gordon . She first met Gordon in 2000 while she was employed in Palm Beach , Florida at a Neiman Marcus store in a mall where she advised customers about cosmetics products . Merryman did not recognize the race @-@ car driver at their first meeting , though her friends were excited to meet him during the same encounter . Initially Merryman turned down Gordon 's request to take her out for lunch . One year after their initial encounter , they began a relationship . They were romantically @-@ linked for 11 months . Merryman and Gordon vacationed together in Saint @-@ Jean , Saint Barthélemy in the Caribbean in January 2003 to celebrate the New Year . This relationship caused difficulty for his then @-@ ongoing marriage to Brooke Sealy . Sealy discovered Gordon 's relationship with Merryman and subsequently divorced the race @-@ car driver . Gordon 's wife , who also went by the name Jennifer Brooke Gordon , cited Merryman by name in her divorce papers with the racecar driver . Merryman was featured in the October 2003 issue of Playboy magazine , where she was interviewed about her relationship with Gordon . Merryman stated that Gordon had confided in her : " He got married when he was 23 and has been on the racetrack since he was a kid . He used to tell me all the time he never had a chance to have fun . " She reflected on what she had learned after her period of time with Gordon , saying in the future she would avoid relationships both with men of his occupation and those who were married . Gordon did not comment on Merryman 's 2003 appearance in the magazine . When asked about the article , Gordon refused to comment on it . He stated : " It 's not even worth commenting on . All I want to talk about is being fast " . Gordon 's divorce was finalized in June 2003 .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =