

## MART ALLEN'S GRANDAUGHTERS SAY HE'S A SPECIAL CHARACTER, TOO

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We all know Mart Allen as a pillar of the community, author of the popular column "To Make A Long Story Short," family man and friend to many. But those who are close to him – friends and family – know the **REAL** Mart Allen.

There is another (evil) side to Mart, which you must hear, whether willingly or not. Don't believe us? Read the evidence for yourselves.

For example, on numerous occasions he has threatened to "throw the cats into the river with rocks tied around their necks," because he claims that they are "a nuisance." There is nothing wrong with them; they are just two harmless cats loved by Mart's two granddaughters. You may think that Mart is just joking, but we all know about his bad temper.

I'm sure everyone has met Forrest, his grandson. So I'm sure you all know what a talker he is. I'm sure you also know how much Mart swears. Put the two together and you get a lethal combination: two-year old Forrest swearing. Mart says, "That's okay, because I'm too old to change."

Then there's his poor wife, Nancy, a flight attendant. Whenever she returns from a long trip, Mart makes her feel guilty for being away and then he goes off to be with his friends, leaving Nancy to do the housework that he has neglected. Amazingly enough, Nancy has put up with him for 39 years!

Mart is also incredibly fickle when it comes to his children and grandchildren. As soon as a new one comes along, it becomes his favorite. For example, Margaret's mom, (Little Nancy) was spoiled by Mart until Aunt Lisa came along three years later. Margaret was so jealous that she tried to suffocate Lisa by pinching her nose while she slept. He also used to make us fight by saying that one of us was a "Beauty" and the other was "Pretty." Then he would leave us to fight about it and just laugh when we asked him which was which.

Our grandfather is always biased when it comes to his latest "favorite." Cindy was watching a movie with Forrest and me when he hit Cindy in the ear (which was sensitive to surgery) causing her to cry in pain. When she told Mart, he asked her in a

very serious voice, “What did you do to my boy? You must have done something to make him do that.”

Cindy truthfully insisted that the attack was unprovoked, but Mart was adamant – his boy could do no wrong in his eyes. It will be interesting to see if Forrest is still “his boy” when Forrest’s brother is born this month!

There isn’t one thing that Mart Allen doesn’t complain about – how “wrong” everyone else is and how “right” he is, the dogs, the cats, the phone bill (of which he is the biggest contributor), etc. The list goes on forever.

Above all, Mart Allen is human. He does have his good points: He’s generous, kind, helpful, a hard worker and an honest man who loves his family.

Mart Allen: a man who has written so many characters turns out to be a character himself.