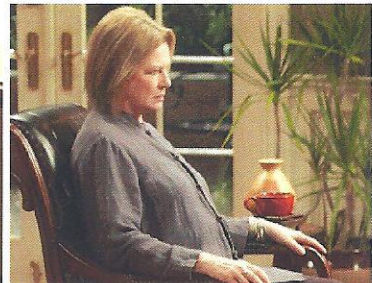
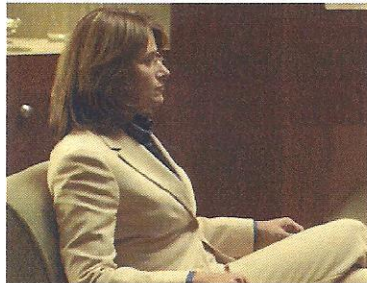


Analyze This: The Doctors Are In

THE EXECUTIVES AT HBO MUST BE WORKING THROUGH SOME ISSUES, BECAUSE THEY KEEP GREEN-LIGHTING SERIES FEATURING MIDLIFE WOMEN THERAPISTS. WE'RE JUST GLAD THEY RECOGNIZE OUR HEALING POWERS



SERIES	The Sopranos (1999–2007)	Tell Me You Love Me (2007–)	In Treatment (2008–)
BACKGROUND CHECK	Dr. Jennifer Melfi, played by Lorraine Bracco What her degrees didn't prepare her for is her fascination with criminal pathology.	Dr. May Foster, played by Jane Alexander An empathetic den mother for those in need of sexual healing.	Dr. Gina Toll, played by Dianne Wiest Retired but treating a former intern with whom she had a rocky past.
ON HER COUCH	Panicky, charming, and sociopathic mob boss Tony Soprano.	Couples who don't or won't have sex, can't stay faithful or can't conceive. (Must be a busy practice.)	Paul Weston, another shrink, who tells her, "I've lost my patience with my patients." Oh, and his family seems to be falling apart.
SAGE OBSERVATION	"You were shot, Anthony, by a member of your family. I think you and I have a lot to talk about."	"Put a lock on your bedroom door. You've devoted 11 years to your children. Give yourselves a half hour a day."	"Don't even try to break down the relationship between a woman and her gynecologist. That's the deep end."
THE SHADOW KNOWS...	She's attracted to Tony's power, self-medicates and lives in denial that she's helping a murderer take care of business.	She has her own intimacy issues—like that period when she was cheating on her husband.	There's a reason Paul's holding a grudge against her.
SEX APPEAL	The dominatrix of the doctor's office, in glasses, pencil skirts and blazers.	Warning: Her life contains graphic nudity.	Paul dubs her style "analytical castration," so don't look for much heat to be generated here.
WOULD WE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?	Not unless we want to go into waste management.	Sure, although we really hope we'll never need her expertise.	She gets results, and we're not worried about the castration thing, but she's not taking new clients.

Who, us? Afraid of conflict? 87 percent of women over 43 claim to have good communication skills, yet 34 percent admit to avoiding difficult conversations by screening phone calls or e-mails.

Source: Nationwide's *Have the Talk* survey

ILLUSTRATION BY SHOUJI