

# Pamela, a Love Story

BY KINDRA DEVORE

**P**AMELA ANDERSON'S LIKENESS HAS BEEN public property since day one. She has never been in control of what the media says about her, until now. On January 31, Pamela, in collaboration with Netflix, released "Pamela, a Love Story." Now this is the story I have been waiting for! I love Pamela Anderson. She fascinates me. I have always wanted to know her story (her actual story, not her story as told by TMZ). Rumors and negative press have muddled it beyond repair. She is no longer Pamela Anderson but is now "Pamela Anderson."

I found it troubling to listen to her talk about her childhood. Her story is not suitable for younger audiences or even some older audiences. Viewer discretion is very much advised. She talked about how her parents fought frequently and briefly separated, leaving her mom to care for her and her brother. A traumatizing yet formative event in her childhood was the three years she was sexually abused by her babysitter. I was not surprised

by this information because it seems to be a theme for many stereotypically troubled celebrities, and Pamela Anderson fits that stereotype.

Pamela is blonde, genetically blessed, and has childhood trauma— The trifecta to becoming a Playboy Playmate. I had known Pamela's story with Playboy, but having more information on her life growing up only solidified my thoughts on Playboy. They are known for taking young girls from small isolated towns with trauma and promising to make them "stars." Most of the girls fell from grace, but Pamela prevailed. I respect her for that.

Pamela Anderson also popularized slow-motion running. Her role as C.J. in the mega-hit show "Baywatch" made her a cultural icon. Who knew that a show about lifeguards would be one of the most popular shows the world has ever seen? I don't think many people watched it for the plot, if you know what I mean. During this time, she caught the attention of Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee. After only knowing

each other for four days, they married in bikini and board shorts; I expected nothing less of them. Fast forward less than a year into their marriage, their tape was leaked. This tape, stolen from their home, contained very intimate moments between Pamela and Tommy (to say the least). This major invasion of personal privacy only further objectified Pamela.

This situation was another disturbing chapter in Pamela's life. Everything, and I mean everything, was available to the public. She became the butt of every sex joke for years. Every interview she had revolved around her boobs, but she decided to roll with it. She became a cartoon character version of herself. She used her popularity to her advantage and advocated for things she believed in, like animal rights.

This documentary has received some strongly mixed reactions. The younger generations came to know Pamela through the Hulu original "Pam & Tommy," a highly dramatized version of their story. The show's creators never received consent from her to discuss any information from this event. This is yet another example of the media thinking they own the rights to her private life. Tommy Lee's reaction to the documentary was what I expected. He apparently "couldn't care less."

What I gathered from watching this documentary is that Pamela is a chameleon. Sure, there are still people out there who try to berate her or those who think she's nothing more than some dumb blonde. I think this documentary will (hopefully) change the way people see her because she is so much more than public property.



Photo Credit: Amaya Nordos