

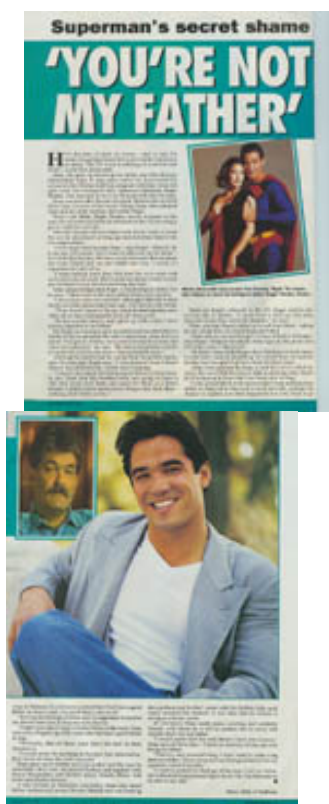
Woman's Day

29 janvier 1996

January 29th, 1996

[Traduction française/ *French translation*](#)

[Article en anglais/ *English transcription*](#)



Merci à Sandi pour les scans de l'article !

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Superman's secret shame : "You're not my father."

He's the Man of Steel on screen - and in real life hunky Superman Dean Cain is proving he can be just as steely. The TV hunk is refusing to meet his real father - a man he's never seen.

Dean, 29, grew up believing his father was film director Christopher Cain. It was years before he discovered his actress mother Sharon Thomas had been pregrant with him when she split

from his biological dad, Japanese-American Roger Tanaka, who went to serve in Vietnam with the US Army.

Dean was born after the pair divorced. Sharon later married Chris Cain, director of the movie *Young Guns*, who adopted Dean and his older brother, also called Roger.

Dean's real life father, Roger Tanaka, served overseas in the army for 15 years and when he returned to the US, he simply got on with his own life.

Now the 54-year-old ice-cream truck driver wants to meet the son he abandoned so long ago and introduce him to his two stepbrothers.

"I very much want to meet Dean," says Roger. "After all, he is my son. Of course, I don't want to take over as his father - it's a little late for that. We have never even met. But we share the same blood and we are father and son. I think it's important for both of us."

"I want nothing more from him than for us to meet, talk and maybe stay in touch. But it seems he doesn't want to meet me. He feels it's too late for anything like that."

Dean acknowledges that Roger is his biological father, but he says : "Chris Cain is the only father I have ever known."

"I have never seen my real dad, although I did talk to him briefly over the phone some time ago - he's not my real father."

"There doesn't seem to be any point in meeting him now. After all we have led separate lives all these years."

"He has another family and I grew up with a man I have always regarded as my father."

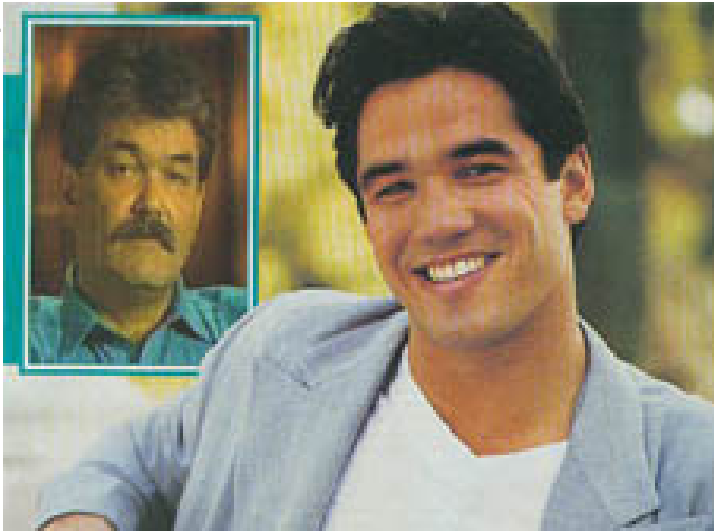
But Roger isn't going to give up easily and has asked Dean's family to try to persuade his son to meet him, even if it's in secret. "I'm proud of Dean. I am proud of what he's done and what he's achieved," he says. "He was a remarkable scholar at university and has become a very successful actor."

Although he admits that he was far from the perfect family man 30 years ago, Roger says : "I was stunned when I heard Sharon had divorced me. I never saw it coming."

"I wasn't very much into being a good father in those days. In me, Dean and his brother were not going to have a dad who lived with them and cared for them as a father should. I didn't know much about being a dad back then - nothing, didn't have a clue."

When he finally returned to the US, Roger settled into civilian life in Seattle. "I never tried to find my two boys because I knew they had been adopted," he says.

Then, one day, Roger's father got a call from Dean - asking for the actual date on which Roger had died.



"Dean told my dad he thought I'd been killed in Vietnam," says Roger. "Imagine his shock when I got on the phone and I told him I wasn't dead at all."

"He didn't seem really happy about finding me. In fairness, it must have come as something of a shock since he and his brother had thought I had been dead all these years."

"After a few minutes he hung up and he's never called me since. But now I feel the time is right to meet my sons. I have to let it be known to them that I am ready and willing."

"I also would like to be known that I want nothing from either of them, other than just to meet and talk, perhaps the chance to explain just what happened and why I had to go away to Vietnam. I could never pretend that I had been a good father. In Dean's case, I've never been a dad at all."

"But I am his biological father and it's important to me that we should meet and at least try to be friends."

"I regret now that I wasn't a better father to the boys. Dean was lucky. He grew up with a man who has been a good father to him."

"Obviously, after all these years that's the man he feels attached to."

"I would never do anything to threaten that relationship. But I think it's time the truth was told."

Dean grew up in Malibu with his mother and the man he calls Dad, Chris Cain. He played football and baseball with future Bratpackers and brother actors Charlie Sheen, Rob Lowe and Emilio Estevez.

A star student at Princeton University, Dean also dated fellow student and actress Brooke Shields and was heading for a professional football career with the Buffalo Bills until injury wrecked his chances. It was then that he looked to acting as a future career.

At university, Dean made many sporting and celebrity friends, with whom he is still in contact, but he never told anyone about his real dad.

"I would never hurt the only father I have ever known," says Dean of Chris Cain. "I have no memory of him not ever being my father."

"This is a very personal thing, I don't want to make a big deal out of this. I never met my biological father but my Japanese comes from him."

"I want to protect the feelings of the man I call my father. He is the most inspirational figure in my life. I'm fortunate to be able to say that."

Le secret de Superman : "Vous n'êtes pas mon père."

Il incarne "l'Homme d'Acier" au petit écran - et dans la vraie vie, le beau Superman Dean Cain prouve qu'il peut être aussi décidé que son personnage. L'idole télévisée refuse catégoriquement de rencontrer son véritable père - un homme qu'il n'a jamais rencontré.

Dean, 29 ans, a grandi en croyant que son père était le réalisateur de films Christopher Cain. Il

a fallu des années avant qu'il ne découvre que sa mère et actrice Sharon Thomas avait divorcé de son père biologique alors qu'elle était enceinte de lui, l'Américain d'origine japonaise Roger Tanaka, qui a servi les États-Unis dans la guerre du Vietnam.

Dean est né après que le couple se soit divorcé. Sharon épousa plus tard Chris Cain, qui a réalisé le film Young Guns, qui a adopté Dean et son frère aîné, qui s'appelle aussi Roger.

Le véritable père de Dean, Roger Tanaka, a servi outre-mer dans l'armée pendant quinze ans et quand il est revenu aux États-Unis, il a simplement repris sa vie en main.

Maintenant, l'homme de 54 ans, qui est un chauffeur de camion de crème glacée, veut rencontrer le fils qu'il a abandonné il y a si longtemps et veut l'introduire à ses deux demi-frères.

"Je veux réellement rencontrer Dean," dit Roger. "Après tout, c'est mon garçon. Il est évident que je ne veux pas prendre la place de son père - il est un peu tard pour cela. Nous ne nous sommes jamais rencontrés. Mais nous avons des liens de sang et nous sommes père et fils. Je crois que c'est important pour nous deux."

"Je ne veux rien d'autre que de le rencontrer, qu'on discute et qu'on garde contact. Mais il semblerait qu'il ne veule pas me rencontrer. Il a l'impression qu'il est trop tard pour faire quelque chose comme ça."

Dean reconnaît que Roger est son père biologique, mais il déclare que : "Chris Cain est le seul père que j'aie jamais connu."

"Je n'ai jamais vu mon véritable père, même si je lui ai parlé pendant un bref moment au téléphone il y a de ça un moment - il n'est pas mon vrai père."

"Il n'y a aucune raison valable à ce que je le rencontre maintenant. Après tout, nous avons

vécu des vies séparées toutes ces années."

"Il a une autre famille et j'ai grandi avec l'homme que j'ai toujours considéré comme mon père."

Mais Roger ne rendra pas les armes si facilement et a demandé à la famille de Dean d'essayer de le persuader de le rencontrer, même si c'est en secret. "Je suis fier de Dean. Je suis fier de ce qu'il a fait et accompli," dit-il. " Il était excellent à l'université et il est devenu un acteur très en vogue."

Même s'il admet qu'il était loin d'être le père de famille parfait il y a 30 ans, Roger déclare : " J'ai été étonné d'apprendre que Sharon m'avait divorcé. Je ne l'ai jamais vu venir."

"Je n'étais pas un très bon père à cette époque. Selon mes agissements, Dean et son frère n'allaient pas avoir un père qui allait vivre avec eux et s'occuper d'eux comme un père devrait le faire. Je ne connaissais pas grand chose au rôle de père - rien, je n'avais aucune idée."

Quand il revint finalement aux États-Unis, Roger s'établit à Seattle. "Je n'ai jamais essayé de retrouver mes deux garçons parce que je savais qu'ils avaient été adoptés," dit-il.

Puis, un jour, le père de Roger reçut un appel de Dean - lui demandant la véritable date du décès de Roger.

