

## Reality Check: "Housewives" **Alex McCord** Still Annoying

Thanks to reality TV, I have not only A, B and C list celebrities to cover here, but an exponentially multiplying list of wannabes spawned by the sweet scourge that is reality TV. Who else have I to thank for that endlessly entertaining gift, Tiffany "New York" Pollard, or the images of Aubrey O'Day's ("Making the Band") fashion fiascos forever burned into my retinas? And without "The Hogan Family" would we even live in a world where Linda Hogan's dalliances with a teen-aged boytoy give us plenty of opportunities for a little snarky fun?

Today, we check in on **Alex McCord** -- one of the stars of Bravo's "Real Housewives of New York" (returning for a second season next month) -- and her husband, the effeminately pretentious Simon Van Kempen. You may remember Alex as the one from Kansas who named her sons Francois and Johan and spends ridiculous amounts of money on designer clothes in the hope of eventually shouldering enough debt to be considered a New York society name. No? Perhaps the story about her suspiciously-leaked nude photos of McCord will jog your memory.

It isn't clear, from the scene pictured below, if the onlookers even know who Alex McCord is, let alone that her kids can order lemonade in French. What is obvious, though, is the revulsion the couple's very presence inspires to anyone within a 10-foot radius:



McCord and husband Simon Van Kempen at New York's Bruno Jamais Restaurant yesterday. (Getty Images)

Is it the over-the-top public display of affection? McCord's Pepto-Bismol hued dress (that doubtless set her back at least a thou), Van Kempen's cropped military jacket (who knew he shopped at Hot Topic?) or perhaps some intangible -- like the acrid smell of desperation -- that has soured these onlookers? No? Maybe they just learned a new season of "Real Housewives" -- including McCord -- will return to Bravo next month.