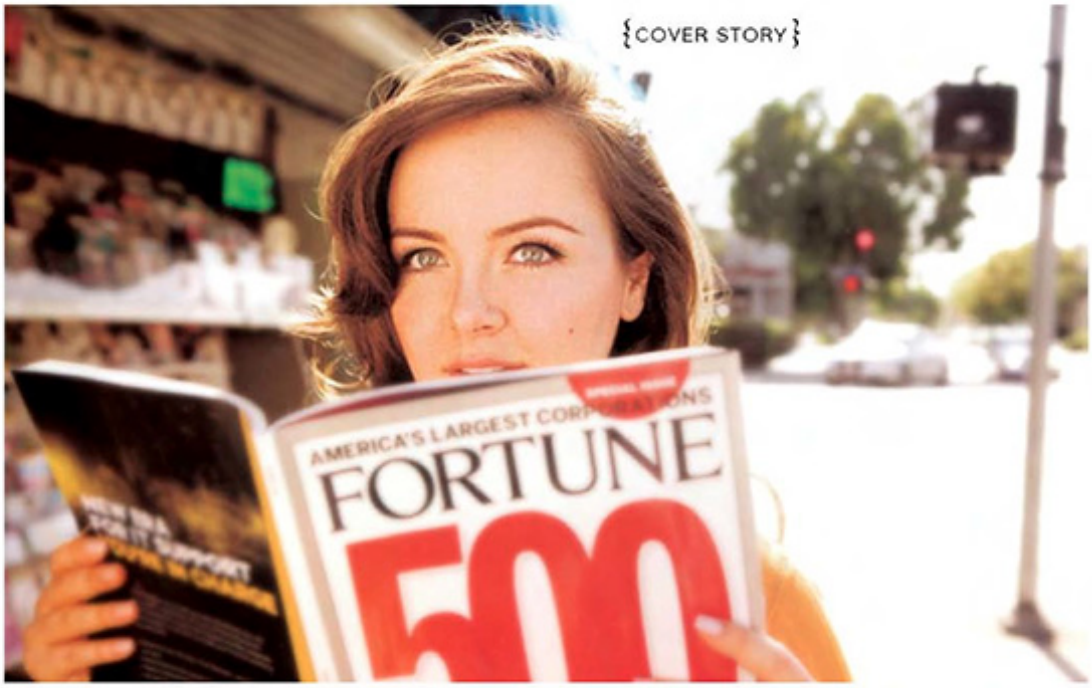


CNN.COM'S *nicole lapin*



Although her easygoing conversational style may tempt you to beleive otherwise, Nicole Lapin is one accomplished 24-year-old. Prior to securing an anchor position on CNN.com Live (and earning the title of the youngest anchor in the network's history) the experiences that brought her to this point sound almost unbelievable, as she casually confirms each of them like items on a grocery list. When she verifies the educational portion of her resume, Lapin takes on a friendly, if not humble tone that puts you at ease. Yes, she entered Harvard at 15, later transferred to Columbia, UCLA, and finally Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, where she graduated as 2005 valedictorian -and yes, she somehow squeezed in studying European politics in Paris and Brussels along the way -but she has a simple explanation for it all.

"I just love being curious," she quips in her trademark blend of broadcaster-meets-best-friend. Like the parents of many prodigies, her immigrant mother (a former Miss Isreal) and father (a Nobel Prize nominee who pioneered bloodless surgery and passed away when Nicole was 11) instilled in their children a hunger for knowledge, "All that mattered was studying and being smart," Lapin says. But with one key stipulation: no news allowed. And they meant it. "They had us studying algebra and chemistry at this ridiculously early age, but I would always flip on the news, and made sure I had Disney Channel on the recall button so I could flip it back over. It was like I was watching some R-rated movie." By sneaking in Gulf War coverage on the sly, she was unwittingly mirroring her future. "Think about this irony," she laughs. "Now my mom has to watch me on the news to see me every day."