

## Questions for ABBY DALTON



Abby Dalton as  
Julia Cumson  
(season 1).

February 26, 2001

Thomas J. Pucher asked Abby Dalton (Julia Cumson, 1981 – 1986) questions about her work on the *Falcon Crest* set. Abby Dalton's answers are in bold print.

Ms. Dalton, I would be thankful if you could answer some questions.

**I am thrilled and glad to answer the questions.**

How did you enjoy playing Julia?

**I enjoyed playing Julia although I wanted her to be stronger.**

What elements of your own character have you contributed to the character of Julia?

**Very little. The writers had a definite picture of what they wanted. The actors job is to give it to them.**

We know that there were several drafts for the "confession scene" of the season 2 cliff-hanger. Was the final draft with Julia confessing the murder of Carlo Agretti your idea? How did you like that storyline and the development of Julia's character after she was imprisoned and later sent to the convent?

**No. It was their [the producers'] way of disposing of a character they couldn't figure out what to do with.**

Abby Dalton (Julia) with Lorenzo Lamas (Lance)  
at the Tuscany Founders Day Parade in season 2.



Are you still in contact with your fellow cast members?

**Only with Jane Wyman. She lives in Palm Springs and I call or see her when we go there. Father Bob Curtis who played the priest is a very close friend and we see each other often.**



Abby Dalton as Julia and Jane Wyman as Angela in a scene at the *Tuscany County Jail* (season 3).

Who were your favorite cast members to work with?

**Jane — she was always very disciplined.**

Who were your favorite producers and directors?

**Earl Hamner is my favorite. Reza Badiyi is a wonderful sensitive director.**

What was your most memorable scene?

**The monolog I did in the prison confessing. It was 5 pages long and rewritten just minutes before we shot. I learned it on the spot and loved the slow camera work coming into to closeup.**

Did you advise the producers and directors on certain aspects of your character?

**No.**

How did you like filming on location in the Napa Valley?

**We all loved filming in Napa. We went ballooning and glider flying — wonderful restaurants.**

Is there any truth in the rumor that you left the series because you wanted to spend more time with your family, especially to appear in theater plays with your son, Matthew?

**No. Matt and I did work together and had a great time.**

How did you like the series in general? Did you watch the episodes regularly during the time you were on the show?

**I thought they could have used the location to more advantage. It became redundant and silly. — Yes, I always watch my work and try to improve.**

Did you watch *Falcon Crest* regularly after you had left the show?

**No.**

Is it true that the character of Julia was initially named "Dorcas" in the original series predecessor, *The Vintage Years*?

**Yes.**

Would you like to reprise your rôle if there was a *Falcon Crest* reunion?

**Yes.**