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*JEZ:* What's your relationship like with Ellen Pompeo, who plays Dr. Meredith Grey?

*PD:* I didn't know it until after we were cast, but she's my neighbor! I really care about her, she's a friend and we've been able to go on this ride together. She has her concerns about the visibility, but I began my career at a younger age so I've learned to deal with it and not let it affect me. I just tell her to enjoy it and take it all in.

*JEZ:* In light of your success, how do you remain so down to earth?

*PD:* I've been in the business for a while, and I realize that everything goes in cycles. Right now, the cycle is going up, and it's been a long haul to get to this point. It's humbling to be on a successful show because I know what it's going to take, and I know that my personal life is exposed much more than I'd like it to be. It's rare when you get success, but I really appreciate it because it has taken so long to get here. It hasn't been easy, but it provides me with so many opportunities. And it's like, "So what, you're visible." It doesn't make me different from anybody else.

*JEZ:* What are some of the bigger obstacles that you've overcome to get to this point?

*PD:* You go through a period when you're like "the flavor of the month" and everybody wants you, and then you're disposed of when you stop making money for people or when you lose popularity or you make the wrong choice or you don't do well. You have to survive the down time; it's not always about being up front, being popular, being on a successful show. I went through a rough patch when it was hard to get work and hard to be taken seriously because I started so young.

*JEZ:* What do you owe this epiphany to?

*PD:* What really turned everything around [for me] was buying a home in Maine, where I grew up. It gave me a chance to reinvent myself and go to the ideal place where I wanted to be. Being married, having a loving and supportive wife who is independent and allows me to have my independence has been a great, strong foundation. And, of course, my daughter, Talula, who is the reason I live. All of that combined with work is great, and I think that's where it comes from. —BW