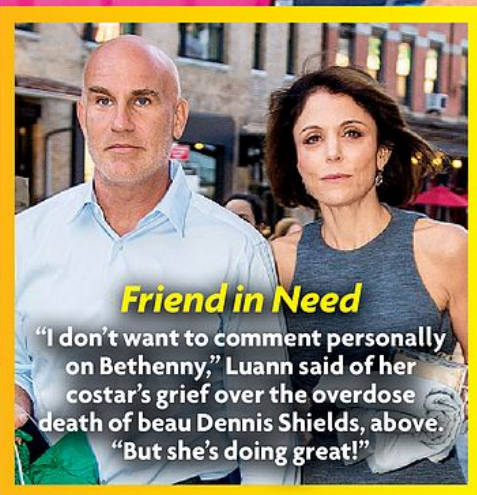


# LUANN: HOW I STAY SOBER!

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH *STAR*, LUANN DE LESSEPS SPILLS ON HOW SHE'S STAYING STRONG WHEN IT COMES TO BANISHING THE BOOZE.



### Friend in Need

"I don't want to comment personally on Bethenny," Luann said of her costar's grief over the overdose death of beau Dennis Shields, above. "But she's doing great!"

**M**ONEY can't buy her class, but it *can* afford Luann de Lesseps healthier alternatives when it comes to kicking old habits! It's been almost a year since the *Real Housewives of New York City* star, 53, drunkenly threatened to kill a cop last Christmas Eve — ultimately landing herself in rehab. But this winter, there will be no spiked eggnog at her holiday shindigs.

"It's not easy. I take it day by day," she told *Star* at the New York City launch of her Countess Luann Collection jewelry line on Nov. 15.

"I'm sober today, and I plan to stay sober. My family and friends have been

really supportive, and I make it my priority. Meetings help, and yoga, and keeping busy and just putting my focus on my cabaret."

The "Girl Code" singer, who's been spotted around cabaret venues across the city as she prepares for her Christmas concert at Manhattan's Gramercy Theatre, will take the stage Dec. 19–20 to perform holiday hits and old favorites. "You're going to be hearing 'Santa Baby' in a whole sexy way," she gushes. "In the Lu way!"

While the cabaret has kept the countess in check, she's also been busy filming the upcoming season of *RHONYC*, which, she spills, will

include a new addition to the group of loudmouthed ladies. Though she says she "can't give you the skinny on her yet," sources tell *Star* construction CEO **Barbara Kavovit** — who was among the guests at Luann's jewelry launch — is the newest gal to become a Bravolebrity.

"It's a great season," Luann adds. "Of course, there are always shifts in alliances and friendships. It's a season with a lot of drama — and a lot of happiness too." C'est la vie! ★