

DAILY NEWS

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An eyebrow-raising mystery

What went wrong for Olivia Goldsmith?

The best-selling author of "The First Wives Club" was only 54 when she walked into Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital two weeks ago for a run-of-the-mill "neck lift."

Ever since her shocking death on Jan. 15 — a week after suffering a heart attack on the operating table and slipping into a coma — the mystery has riveted the fashionable ladies who lunch from the upper East Side to Palm Beach.

"Everyone is wondering who the doctor was," a member of this charmed set told Lowdown yesterday.

These wealthy women of a certain

age — for whom face-lifts and Botox shots are as routine as a manicure — are now shying away from the scalpel.

"I was thinking of having something done, but now I'm not going to," one social doyenne confided. "It makes you worry."

In Goldsmith's case, she was scheduled for a relatively risk-free procedure to remove excess skin under her chin. But something happened when she was put under anesthesia.

Now her lawyer, Steven Mintz, is trying to find out what



KRISTEN ARTZ

OLIVIA GOLDSMITH

"What I'm doing is what any thoughtful, caring attorney would do," he said. "In due course, we will investigate and we'll take whatever steps we deem appropriate. ... All these things have a process, and we will follow normal process."

Reps for both Goldsmith's estate and the hospital are keeping the doctor's identity under wraps for now.

Mintz noted that several of his late client's fictional female characters undergo

plastic surgery to change their lives or win back lost loves.

But none die under the knife.

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