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INTERVIEW WITH KRISTEN BELL

A Conversation with Kristen Bell

In Judd Apatow's latest rom-com, the *Veronica Mars* and *Gossip Girl* star finally plays someone her own age

Celeste Perron

Watching Bell walk into a laid-back café near her house in the Hollywood Hills is like watching Norm stroll into Cheers. She greets the hostess by name, makes a beeline for her favorite seat, and orders the K. Bell special: fried egg whites on rye with lettuce, tomato, avocado, a slice of cheese, and a whisper of mayo. "It's healthy," says Bell, who sports skinny pants, a plum blouse, and suede boots. "But the mayo gives it that diner feel." (Something tells us she doesn't do gravy fries.)

Ever since the star of the CW's cult hit *Veronica Mars* moved on to juicier roles—as a femme fatale in NBC's *Heroes*, the mischievous narrator of the CW's *Gossip Girl*, and the lead in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, the new flick from Judd Apatow (*The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*)—she's found it tougher to go unnoticed. Becoming a fixture at a neighborhood brunch spot is just one way she's clinging to normal. Another tactic: staying in. Though she loves the occasional night out with her new guy, comedian Dax Shepard, she can usually be found playing *Mario Kart* with her four roommates. For this homebody, *that's* life in the fast lane.

Your character on *Veronica Mars* was the "queen of geek chic." Are you?
I'm a geek who loves fashion. There's been a reinvention of the word *geek*. It means [being passionate about] anything that's under the radar or sort of frowned upon, like Comic-Con.

Comic-Con?
It's a giant comic book convention, and I've gone for the past four years to represent the shows I've been on. I have friends who wear *Star Wars* costumes and act like the characters all day. I may not be *that* deep into it, but there's something great about loving what you love and not caring if it's unpopular.

That's so un-*Gossip Girl*. What's it like being cattiness incarnate?
I channel that voice everybody's had in her head since grade school. It's the critical voice that pops up when you see somebody who's wearing mom jeans, you know what I mean? It's a defense mechanism—that's what cattiness and gossip are. You're worried that someone is thinking something bad about you, so you think it about them first.

Do you know who *Gossip Girl* is?
She isn't a physical being. *Gossip Girl* is a slambook, she's the Internet, she's where secret thoughts are written.

Bill Hader, Paul Rudd, Jonah Hill, Kristin Wiig—they've all worked with Apatow before. Was it a hard clique to break into?
They're a very welcoming and warm group, but definitely intimidating because they do a lot of improv. I had to be ready for anyone to throw any-thing at me.

Your character is a heartless actress. Yet somehow she's still likable.
Sarah was written in a beautiful way: She's not just the antagonist or the victim. Typically in romantic comedies, one person is demonized and the other isn't. But this is like *Knocked Up*; all the lines are blurred. Nobody's really at fault, and that's how reality is. Sarah is probably 25 percent bitch, 25 percent airhead, and 50 percent real.



Jim Wright



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BY SEASAMENESS ON JUN 5 2008 - 5:44PM

Love her! More interviews like this please!!



BY JNEBERT ON MAY 5 2008 - 6:57AM

I love K.Bell so I was really excited to see her in my WH as well as on the cover of my Cosmo... I wasn't so excited to see that the first paragraph of both articles was identical. Someone wasn't doing their job.



BY CEWHITE102001 ON APR 30 2008 - 8:54AM

Kristen Bell is a great person. She is still trying to stay true to herself while becoming successfull in Hollywood. Something I think is hard to do. She is also a fellow Michigander. Great people and things can come from the Midwest!!!!

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