



{ THE STARLET }

BLOND AMBITION

Laura Vandervoort is out to prove that she's more than a pretty face. TEXT: TRISTAN STADDON

Laura Vandervoort used to be a superhuman teenager; now she's an alien lizard-queen-in-waiting who stalks pre-colonized earth searching for the right mate. (She was also that character's evil twin—the one who gets the guy and then eats him.) It's not exactly a natural casting path for someone who looks more like a classic Hitchcock blonde than a sci-fi siren. The Toronto-born actress first made her name on *Smallville* playing Supergirl Kara Kent before taking another turn toward the extraterrestrial on *V*. "Every role is a challenge," she says. "And so is being alone out here in L.A.—I just got my own place."

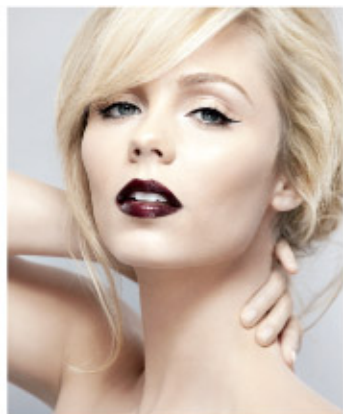
Recently, however, Vandervoort was in Vancouver shooting the McG-directed flick *This Means War* alongside Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and Tom Hardy. The romcom, which just finished production, is about two CIA agents who battle it out to score the affection of the same girl (Witherspoon). Vandervoort, who plays "a sort of dominatrix," got to flirt with the guys—and try her hand at comedy. "We were given the freedom to improvise and be silly and over-the-top," she explains. "McG would whisper lines in our ears so that we could throw the other actors off and get genuine responses. He's such a positive voice on-set." ▷

One Day tackles summer love—and loneliness.



Vandervoort is looking for laughs again in her latest big-budget feature, *Ted*. The film, which will hit theatres next summer, stars Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis (and a teddy bear that comes to life). Vandervoort plays Tanya, Wahlberg's co-worker at a car-rental office.

Opting for comedic roles is a little scary for this shy girl. (Besides, she's just proud of herself for braving L.A. freeways.) "Each role is terrifying, but it's also satisfying to force yourself to become someone different. You come out on the other end realizing that you've survived, that it was slightly thrilling and that you're still in one piece."



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She's hardly an adrenaline junkie, though. For this vocal animal-rights advocate (the seal hunt is

"one of the only things [she is] ashamed of as a Canadian"), the ideal summer day would be spent at the cottage, taking photos and hanging by the campfire.

In conversation, Vandervoort comes across as a thoughtful young woman. She knows that she has to participate in the Hollywood PR machinery but is leery of being typecast as just another sexy blonde. A prominent men's magazine recently offered her its cover—a major coup for many rising stars—but Vandervoort declined. "Maybe some day it will feel right to do something like that, but right now I'm more interested in growing as an actress," she explains. "I want to create an image that is me, not what people want me to be." □

Adapted from **David Nicholls'** acclaimed novel, *One Day* follows **Anne Hathaway** and **Jim Sturgess** as Emma and Dexter, college friends who spent the night together when they graduated from Edinburgh University in 1988. That date becomes a touchstone, reconnecting the two over the next 20 years as they experience the highs and lows of their personal and professional lives. Director **Lone Scherfig** (*An Education*) deftly guides performances that move from youthful optimism to the inevitable disillusionment of middle age.

{ PUCKER UP }

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Cozy up with these summer romances.



Carell gets mano-a-mano with Gosling over drinks, putting us in the mood for a six-pack—Gosling's, to be specific.

In his first movie role since leaving *The Office*, **Steve Carell** explores his vulnerable side in *Crazy Stupid Love*, a romcom

verging on dramedy. Reminiscent of the downtrodden lead in *Dan in Real Life*, Cal is heartbroken to learn that his wife of 25 years (**Julianne Moore**) has cheated on him and wants a divorce. Soldiering on into the brave new world of modern dating, he finds an unlikely mentor in **Ryan Gosling**, who delivers a deliciously over-the-top performance as the ultimate smooth operator—before running into his own romantic dilemma when he falls for one of his conquests (**Emma Stone**). EGLE PROCUTA

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