



# Ritter Rising

Unconventional star Krysten Ritter talks stylish sociopaths, her love of grunge and why the world needs more Ryan Goslings.

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IF THE PHRASE “YOU ARE WHAT YOU TWEET” SHOULD be applied to anyone, it’s Krysten Ritter. Frequently posting Twitpics of her bed-headed boyfriend (*The Hurt Locker* actor Brian Geraghty), her designer heels (mostly pointy-toed, mainly Louboutin) and her pouty terrier-chihuahua mix, Mikey, Ritter is one of the most unguarded actresses hashtagging in Hollywood. The most telling snap the star has shared so far is of a quote from a *Vanity Fair* article: “The interesting adults are always the school failures, the weird ones, the losers, the malcontents. This isn’t wishful thinking. It’s the rule.”

It’s a sentiment that Ritter—who was raised on a cow farm in the small town of Shickshinny, Pennsylvania—is happy to have seen printed. “Finally, being different is actually cool and accepted,” she says, moments after wrapping up an episode of *Don’t Trust the B--- in Apt. 23*. “I’ve been waiting my whole life for this!”

The “this” that the 31-year-old talent is talking about is all the attention she’s been getting as the scene-eclipsing star of ABC’s primetime comedy. Ritter plays Chloe, the weirdly loveable villain/heroine and self-described “bitch” of the New York abode she shares with unlikely roommate June (Dreama Walker). “[Chloe] is such a sign of the times,” Ritter says. “She’s purely unconventional and a truly modern bad-ass chick who marches to the beat of her own drum.”

If the premise sounds like a grown-up, turbo-charged version of *Mean Girls*, it is. “It’s seriously like *Friends* on acid,” Ritter says, citing an episode in which Chloe works at *People* magazine and calls on co-star James Van Der Beek—who plays himself—to pose for the magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive cover.

“I do think my character is breaking the mould for females on TV,” Ritter says. “It’s always the boys who get to play the nut jobs and sociopaths. Guys usually get the funny lines and the girls often roll their eyes or have to set up the joke. She’s smart and confident but she’s also the comic relief.”

Ritter says she often “chimes in” when it comes to the show’s writing (in 2011, Ritter co-wrote her first feature film, *Life Happens*, which co-starred Kate Bosworth) and also helps strategize her character’s outlandish wardrobe.

“I’d like to create my own clothing line one day, so naturally it’s a two-heads-are-better-than-one situation when I’m working with [costume designer] Leah Katznelson,” Ritter says. “Chloe is more costume-y than I would want to be in real life. She’ll

wear a giant fake fur with red high heels that crosses the edge of insanity. In real life, I’m much more grunge-y and gothy. I’m a proud child of the ’90s.”

Ritter’s love of grunge runs so deep that after appearing in films such as *Confessions of a Shopaholic* and *27 Dresses*, as well as shows ranging from *Gilmore Girls* to *Breaking Bad*, she led an indie pop band called Ex Vivian (their first disc was released last summer).

“I’m fascinated by Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love’s dangerous, fatal love for each other. I find all that stuff sexy and weirdly romantic. Music from that time period affects my songwriting and how I dress.”

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Yet there is so much more to Ritter than her ability to rock a plaid shirt and combat boot. This comes across as she shares her list of must-work-with names: Diablo Cody (“she writes female characters who are fresh”), Woody Allen (“I love how he portrays women”) and Canada’s own Ryan Gosling.

“I can’t count how many times I’ve seen *The Notebook*. I’m glad there’s an appetite for a leading man who is unconventional,” she says. “The world needs more Ryan Goslings.”

As for her leading man at home, “He’s a *dude*,” she says of Geraghty, laughing. “The guy’s a surfer from New Jersey. He’s great at acting and he’s successful but I don’t see him as an actor. He’s not the guy who gets his hair and makeup all done up to go out and he’s not reading *Us Weekly* to see if he’s in it.”

When *Don’t Trust the B* ends, Ritter will still have her plate full; recording songs for her band, writing a new screenplay and producing an MTV series with writer Eric Garcia based on his book, *Cassandra French’s Finishing School for Boys*. The latter project is about an overachieving twentysomething woman who locks her ex-boyfriend in a basement in order to train him to be a perfect gentleman.

“I really do think it’s the multitaskers out there that last,” Ritter declares. “People like Kristen Wiig, who write and act. They are the ones who are able to make mountains out of molehills.” □