



Emmanuelle Vaugier
 One perfect girl and two little ladies
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AAH, REMEMBER THE DAYS OF HIGH SCHOOL? THE PIMPLY faced awkwardness of walking through the hallways between classes and slipping notes to your equally awkward, slightly gangly, best friend. Have you seen him yet today? Was he with HER?! The torment of the crush on “that perfect guy” was only worsened by the agony that came from knowing he was already dating “that perfect girl.” Be she Prom Queen, cheerleader, debating team captain, or—worse—all three, this was the girl we would all have loved to hate. And yet somehow, we couldn’t. Because not only was she the archetype of all things perfect, being beautiful, perky, and smart, she was also blessed with the good fortune of being super nice. Quelle nightmare!

While the days of such high school horrors are long over, every once in a while, a grown-up version of this lovely girl appears in our adult life. Such is the case with 29-year-old Emmanuelle Vaugier, where bombshell meets brainiac meets sweetheart. “Wow, you’re hot!” tokens to her credit include a spot on Maxim’s coveted Top 100 list, a fifth place ranking in Femme Fatale’s 50 Sexiest Women on the Planet, and cover shots on more than her fair share of prestigious rags. But the Vancouver, B.C. native is about a lot more than what is on the outside. With stints on hit shows like CBS’s *Two and a Half Men*, *CSI:NY*, *One Tree Hill*, *Monk*, *Smallville* and UPN’s *Veronica Mars*, as well as appearances on the big screen opposite heart throbs like Josh Hartnett and legends like Robert Duvall, Michael Caine, and soon, James Brolin and Peter O’Toole, Emmanuelle’s star isn’t just shining. It’s out and out shooting. Put simply, if this were high school, we’d probably hate her. But turns out, she’s too nice for that. And if you don’t believe us, just ask a couple of furry little friends of hers. Nope, not pompoms. Poodles.

MD: You are what I would call a very busy gal. With recurring roles as Mia on *Two and a Half Men* and as Detective Jennifer Angell on *CSI: NY*, not to mention your leading role in *Blonde and Blonder*, what has the last year been like for you?

EV: It’s been great. Just great. You’re right, it has been really busy. But a good “really busy.”

MD: Are you starting to see a shift, where you are such a busy actor right now?

EV: Absolutely there is a shift happening. Sure, it’s been building over the years, because certain projects just seem to lead to other projects. But yes, there is a shift going on right now.

MD: To make your year even more exciting, I understand that *Blonde and Blonder* premiered at Cannes this spring?

EV: It did! At the Market (the *Marché du Film*).

MD: Did you go over for that? What was it like to be part of that kind of buzz?

EV: I did go, and it was so much fun! We actually had the opportunity to fly over on a friend’s private jet. It was a 727, converted into this amazing space. It was incredible. We had our own on-board chef. I was so spoiled! I have no idea how I’ll ever go back to regular travel.

MD: Even in First Class now, you’ll be like: Why am I being stowed in baggage?

EV: Exactly! So funny!



MD: I understand fellow dog-lover Pamela Anderson was one of the producers of *Blonde and Blonder*. What was she like to work with?

EV: She was great. A very smart businesswoman. It was really nice to get a chance to work with her. I would've loved to have gotten to know her better.

MD: Did you always know you wanted to be an actor?

EV: Yes. Since I was about seven years old.

MD: But you're more than just an actor now. How surreal is it to have a videogame character created in your likeness? I mean, you are, after all, Nikki in *The Need for Speed Carbon*!

EV: It's kind of funny, actually. It's something that I'll have forever. And it's great that it's a car racing video game. They were always my favourite growing up. At the arcade as a kid, that's where you'd find me!

MD: What are you working on right now?

EV: Well, ironically, it's a movie based on a video game. It's called *Far Cry*. And then I am going off to Philadelphia to work on a film with Peter O'Toole. Overall, it's shaping up to be a great cast and I am so excited to get to work with Peter O'Toole!

MD: I bet. Eight-time Academy-award nominated actor that he is! But in addition to rubbing shoulders with acting greats like Peter O'Toole, I understand that you have two leading ladies in your life?

EV: I do! Lily and Isabelle!

MD: What kind of dogs are they?

EV: They are little Toy Poodles.

MD: Have you always been a Poodle-person?

EV: Yes, I grew up with them. I just love them. Totally and completely. They're so smart. They're clean. They don't smell like what you think of dogs smelling like. They don't shed. They can be so charming and yet manipulative and moody.

MD: How old are your girls?

EV: Isabelle is 8. And Lily is 12.

MD: What sets them apart from each other in the way of personality?

EV: Lily is such a supermodel. She can eat anything and not gain weight. She loves to be the centre of attention. She's also kind of a snob. Isabelle is like a real dog. Even if she is a Poodle! She acts and behaves like a dog. She plays fetch, things like that. She's tougher and heftier. She is more of a guard dog.

MD: Obviously your work requires that you do a fair bit of travel—Vancouver, Los Angeles, even Miami. Do Lily and Isabelle ever travel with you?

EV: They do come with me a lot. And when we fly, they fly with me in the cabin. Then on other occasions,



when they can't come with me, they stay with their grandma, my mom in Vancouver.

MD: When you are away and people pull out the photos of their human kids, are you equipped with photos of them?

EV: Absolutely. I have photos of them everywhere! I'm like: "And these are the ladies..."

MD: The ladies? That's great! What have you learned most about life from the ladies?

EV: I would say that no matter how bad things get, things can't possibly be that bad. Because their tails are always wagging. No matter what happens, I've always got the ladies.

*Interview by Mary-Jo Dionne
Photographed by Chris Haylett
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Mary-Jo Dionne is a Vancouver-based writer and mother of two modern dogs, her own little lady, Nelly, and one little man, Cowboy. All three of them would've loved hanging out with Emmanuelle in high school.

