

Julie Matos



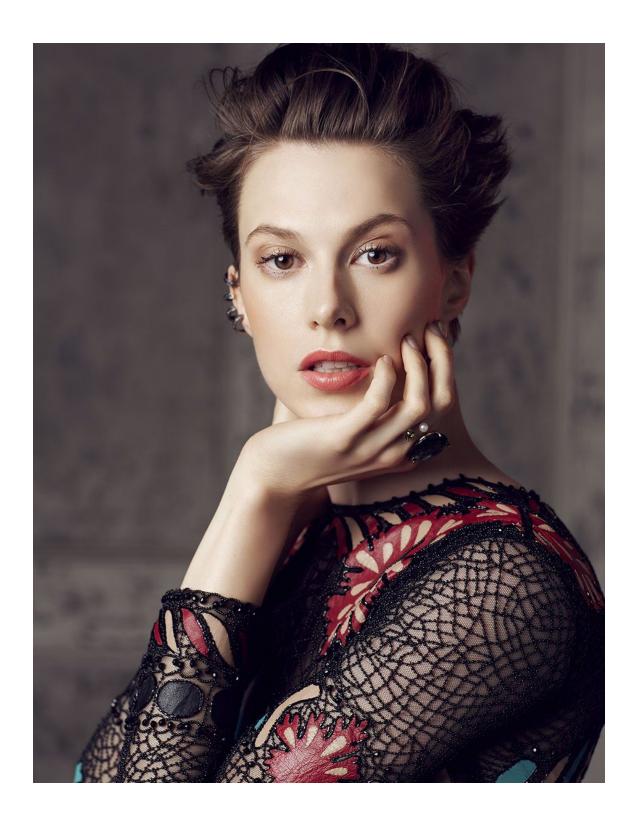
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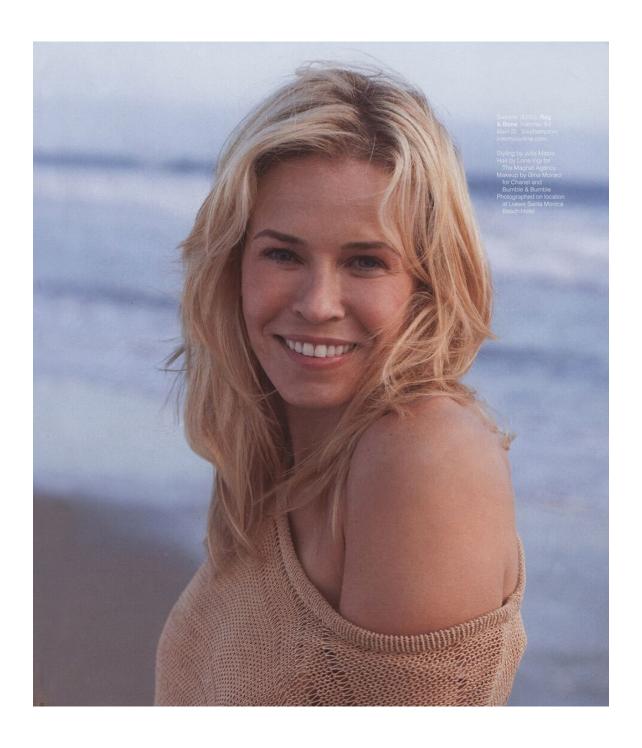
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operate like anything I knew. Now it's become a very liberating place, because there is no other place where such an enormous cross-cultural mix of people are just out in the world with each other.

EB: Having been born and raised here and never leaving, not even for college, everything I do is infused with my New York-ness. I can't separate myself from New York; it is me in so many ways. Of course it defines my work, because to go back to what Demi just said, it's the perfect connection. I have been exposed to a very cross-cultural socioeconomic world. That's

the world I grew up in, and Γve been informed in a much broader way than I would have been if I grew up on a pig farm somewhere.

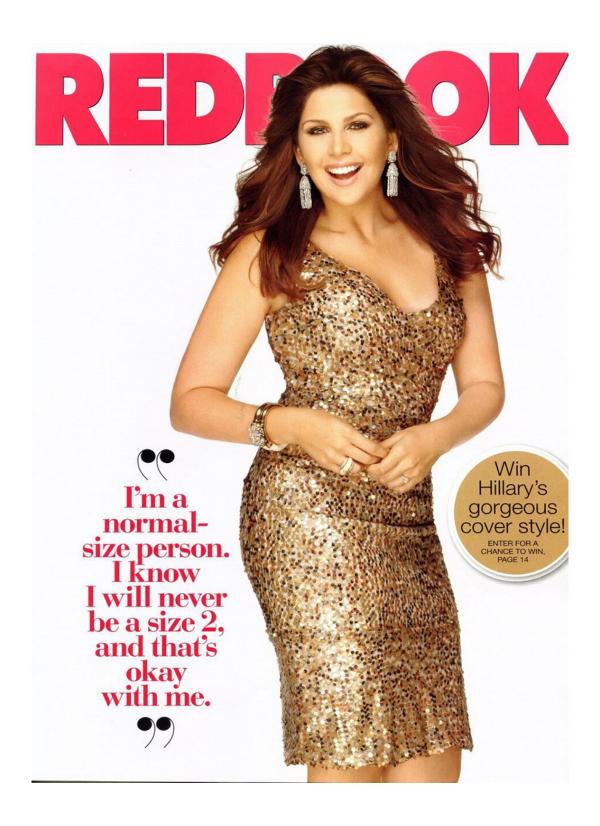
DM: It definitely gives you a certain strength and confidence to move about the world when you are in New York. You walk out your door, and that means you are coexisting with other people in a way that forces you to feel more of the world. That actually gives you great energy, a different level of compassion. At the same time it can make you feel guarded and protective, because you are so exposed. G

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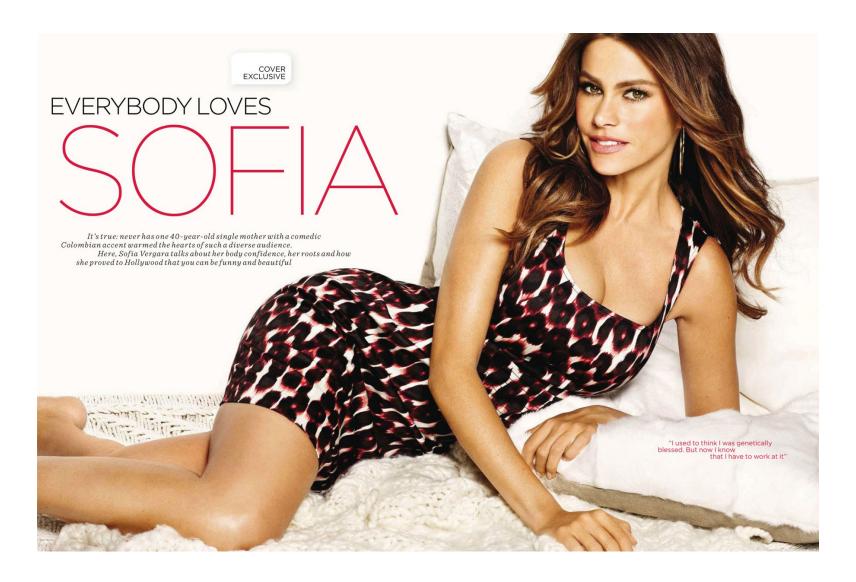
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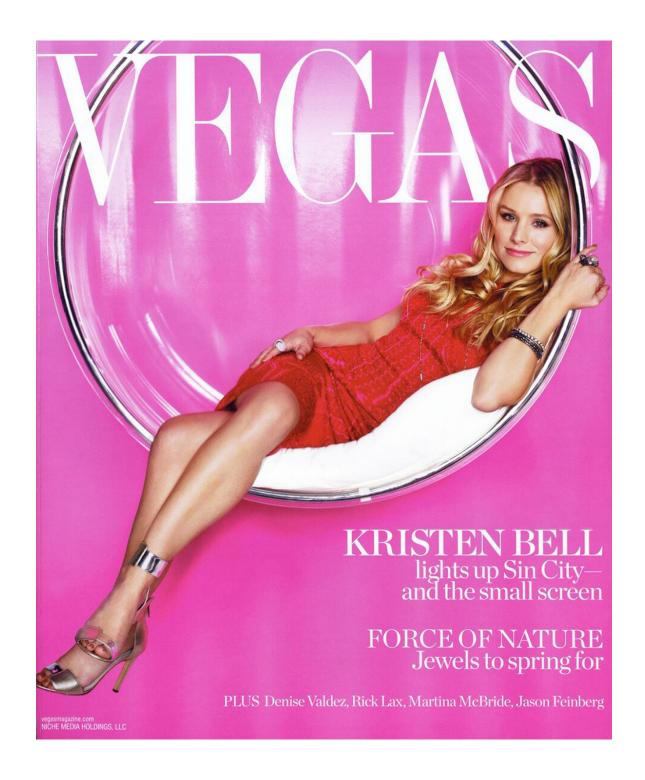
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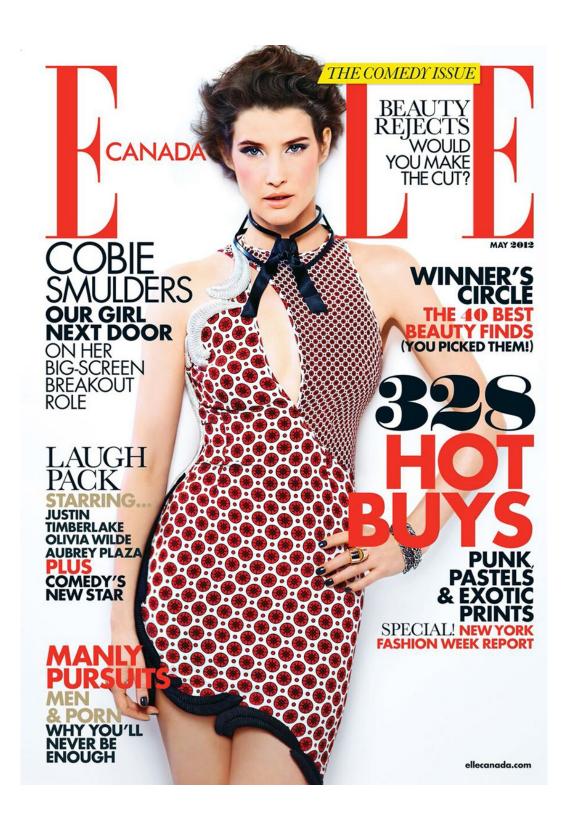
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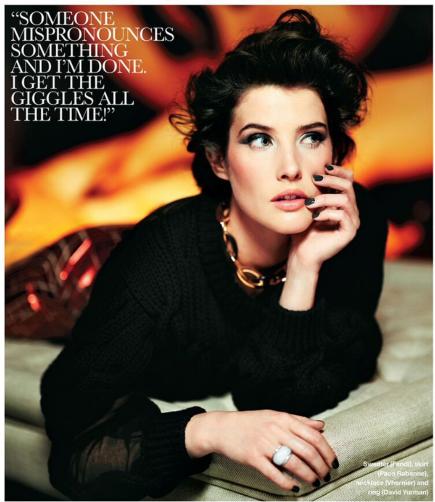


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cerulean Rachel Zoe skirt, and the only thing I can think is "Seriously?"

I shouldn't be surprised, though. It's actually the second time I've seen her demonstrate such telling thoughtfulness. That very morning, when the shoot producer scalded her own stomach with boiling water, Smulders took off down the hallway in her robe to get some ice, darting away like a willow terry-cloth ghost.

When I tell Neil Patrick Harris, her costar on the hit sitcom How I Met Your Mother (HIMYM), about her random acts of kindness, he isn't surprised. "She can read people well and quickly pick out when I'm having a bad day. I appreciate that since I'm all over the place—I drink Red Bull," he says, laughing. "I always find that Canadians have a great sense of humour and are almost uniformly grounded and cool to hang out with—but she's also the super-hot chick on the show, and usually the super-hot chick is not what I just described. Cobie defies all that."

I see what he means. The striking Vancouver-born actress is explaining that HIMYM's creators made her ▷

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schedule and, you know, a toddler is dreadfully hectic, Smulders isn't one to moan. Instead, she happily chats about taking Shaelyn to Albuquerque, N.M., for a month to film *The Avengers*. "She was such a trooper, but it turns out that my child is not a desert child. She was practically picked up by the wind. It was so cool introducing her to such a beautiful place, though."

Watching her kid get buffeted in the face with desert sand doesn't sound particularly romantic, but Smulders seems completely taken by the place. Actually, she has loved any sort of travel ever since she Ping-Ponged around the world as a teenage model. After getting into the biz at 12 years old, Smulders soon started working in New York, France, Japan and Germany during summers. "At first >

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