

'It was Love at first sight'



One of Kristen's favorite things to do is to go hiking with Kevin and their dogs.

How *Veronica Mars* star Kristen Bell met the man of her dreams

As high school super sleuth Veronica Mars, Kristen Bell has the daunting task of choosing between her true love, Duncan Kane (Teddy Dunn), and bad boy Logan Echolls (Jason Dohring).

But in reality, the actress' heart belongs to just one guy: movie producer boyfriend Kevin Mann, who swept her off her feet the moment they met.

"It was immediate love at first sight," Kristen, 25, gushes to *INSIDE TV*. "Fate brought us back together because we couldn't do anything about it at first, because it was in a professional setting (a TV segment producer at the time, Kevin was interviewing Kristen about an upcoming project). But we kept running into each other afterwards, and we've been inseparable ever since."

That was three years ago. Last November, the couple purchased a house in L.A., which they share with three dogs they adopted from the pound. Kristen spends weekdays filming in San Diego, and when the weekends roll around, she can't wait to get back to Kevin and their low-key lifestyle.

Unlike other hard-partying Hollywood stars her age, the Detroit native says she's "not into the whole 'scene-y' thing. When I have to go to an event and get all dressed up—that's fun.

But from the second you're there, I'm thinking, 'All I want to do is jump in my jammies and go home and have a slumber party with my girlfriends or have a wine and cheese party.'

"I think life is too short to not spend it with the people who are important to you," adds the down-to-earth blonde.

"And I just don't have that much of a desire to go and meet all of Hollywood and schmooze. I'd rather be with the people that are close to me."

In addition to shooting *Veronica* and recently performing on the Emmys, the busy star—who got her start on the Broadway stage before heading to Hol-

lywood—spent the entire summer filming the big-screen psychiatric thriller *Pulse* in Romania. "It's my first European experience, particularly Eastern Europe, which is kind of cool," Kristen says. "It was sort of a culture shock, but I think that's beneficial for anybody."

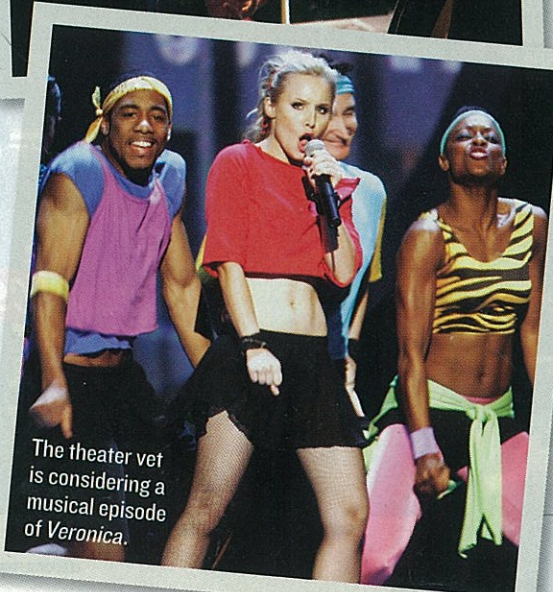
Back on *Mars*, she enjoys pulling pranks on her costars. "I took out this portion of Teddy's script where we had this make-out scene, and I replaced it with something really dirty. It said he had to show his butt at the end of the scene instead!" she laughs. "I just wanted to freak him out."

So who's Kristen rooting for in the battle for Veronica's heart—Duncan or Logan? "I'm more of a Duncan girl," she reveals. "They created this Romeo-and-Juliet-who-can't-be-together-but-want-to-be thing. The romantic in me wants to see that back together."

● By Lauren Brown



Kristen is pulling for her alter ego to end up with Duncan.



The theater vet is considering a musical episode of *Veronica*.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BETHANY VERSOY/ZUMA; JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE; MATTHEW IMAGING/FILMMAGIC; SCOTT GARFIELD/WARNER BROS