

STAYING IN

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Autumn Reeser on Her 'Entourage' Return: 'Lizzie's a tiger'

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When we last saw Autumn Reeser's junior agent Lizzie on HBO's *Entourage*, she was making life hell for Ari (Jeremy Piven). Her affair with TV department boss Andrew (Gary Cole) had disastrous effects on the company, but when Lizzie returns in this Sunday's episode, she'll prove herself to be a surprising asset to Ari's business. I recently talked with Reeser about Lizzie's all business attitude this season, whether she might spell trouble for Mrs. Ari, her Felicity-like makeover, playing a female agent in a male-dominated world and more.



At the end of last season, it seemed like maybe that was it for your character. Were you surprised to be asked back to do six episodes this season?

I was happy and I didn't question it beyond that! [Laughs] I was thrilled. I was like, "Great!" Anytime anybody says they want you back, that's great news for you because it means you did your job well.

How are we reintroduced to Lizzie? What is she up to when she returns?

Lizzie has been working at the agency in the meantime. She's been busting her ass trying to do a great job and be an efficient agent and climb up the ladder. Andrew is no longer at the agency. Gary Cole's character, Andrew, is in rehab. They have no head of their television department. Lizzie and the rest of the television department have been working overtime to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Is she trying to angle herself into that position?

She has learned her lesson from last year not to go around sleeping with people at the office. My theory is that she cut off her hair to kind of remove that from it. She's gone all business this year, she thinks.

So it's less about who she's sleeping with and more about her skills and what she can bring to the table?

Exactly. I think she was always that type of person to begin with, but I think the thing with Lizzie is she's not going to rule anything out that might possibly help her get ahead. But she did learn her lesson last year. She's put that behind her. She's been working her butt off trying to show Ari that she's a valuable asset to the company.

She's pretty instrumental in Ari's new business venture. Will he finally be showing her some respect?

I think he will. Yeah. I think so because, in a way, Lizzie is the female Ari. She exists in dubious moral ground when it comes to business dealings. It's all about the bottom line and getting ahead for her. She's not there to make friends like Ari. He isn't either.

In Ari's play for the NFL, you have a scene were you rattle off all this sports talk. Are you a sports fan in real life?

I had to call all of my husband's guy friends. [Laughs] I was like, "What the hell is she talking about in this scene?" I had no clue! None! I wish I was that cool. I really had to learn it. If I don't know what I'm talking about, I can't say the line, personally. I had to really learn what I was talking about. So I did learn a little more about sports than I used to know.

Will Ari and Lizzie working together cause trouble with Mrs. Ari?

I think anybody who's working with Lizzie, their wife would be smart to be a little worried because Lizzie's a tiger. She's already shown she's willing to sleep with a married man to get what she wants. I think Mrs. Ari is right to be cautious. And I think Lizzie knows that too. I think Lizzie realizes she's not going to win any friends there. She, rightfully, backs off.

It's nice to have some strong female energy on the show. Is it a testosterone-heavy environment on set when you're working with the guys?

I only recently met most of the men on the show at the premiere this year. I only work with Jeremy [Piven]. Jerry [Ferrara] and I met for the first time. Adrian [Grenier] and I met for the first time. I don't know them at all. But of course, it is a testosterone-heavy set with or without them. Most film sets and television sets are. In any given circumstance, it's 75% male pretty much. It just is.

What was it like working with Gary Cole?

I love Gary. I think he's so fabulous. He's a great actor and a really wonderful human being. I actually worked with Gary back in 2001, as well. I did the third Brady movie. I played Marcia Brady and he played Mike Brady.

As an actress, you've obviously been around a lot of agents. Did you pick up any tips for playing one? Is there anyone that you're basing your performance on?

Even though I've met a lot of agents, there's a fairly small percentage of agents out there that are female. I think the unifying factor among all of them is they're all really good at their job. I think in this business, to be female, you have to be great at your job. It's a giant pressure cooker. It's anxiety producing. It's a very intense business. You really have to be a badass to be a female agent out here. Across the board, they've all just been great. My agent, Jennifer Craig, she's killer. She's great at her job, but she still brings her femininity. She's really, really talented. I wanted to represent female agents in a way where they're strong and intelligent and really well versed in the film and television business.

Los Angeles area fans, check out Autumn every month in [The Thrilling Adventure and Supernatural Suspense Hour](#). A small number of tickets will be available at the door for the sold out show this Saturday, July 10. Autumn will be playing "a Spanish girl who has been turned into a goat."

Look for more from my chat with Autumn about her new fall show No Ordinary Family and The O.C. next week.

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