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# InStyle

**EMILY**  
*Ratajkowski*  
*'I've never been  
shy of my body'*

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know you  
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**THE**  
**DETAIL**

16 PAGES OF  
HOT SHOES  
AND BAGS

**EMILY RATAJKOWSKI**

HEIGHT 5'7 HAIR BROWN EYES BROWN BUST 32 1/2 WAIST 24 HIPS 34 SHOE 8 1/2

'My go-to look is wannabe French  
girl - I love understated and retro'



THE NEW  
**G O T H I C  
D R A M A**

Actress, art aficionado and music  
lover: there's way more to Emily  
Ratajkowski than *that* music video

JENNY GAGE AND TOM BETTERTON

# EMILY RATAJKOWSKI

HEIGHT 5'7 HAIR *BROWN* EYES *BROWN* BUST 32 1/2 WAIST 24 HIPS 34 SHOE 8 1/2

WORDS BY  
MONICA CORCORAN HAREL

Never set your watch by a movie star, they're always late. And on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles, Emily Ratajkowski is no exception. But unlike most tardy actresses, who sweep in dramatically and blame traffic, the international bombshell is personally texting me frantic apologies and updates on her whereabouts. "I'm five minutes away!" So sorry about making you wait! Trust me, this does not happen in Hollywood. And when she does finally show up an hour late to our lunch date at the hip Ace Hotel downtown, the woman who's been hijacking scenes in high-profile movies such as  *Gone Girl*  and  *Entourage*  offers up a ridiculous excuse: "I was cleaning my car!"

Now, to be fair, Ratajkowski had the time for an interview written down wrong and, clearly, she feels horrible about it. (She apologises six more times in the first minute after she arrives.) But really, hasn't the voluptuous beauty who made a worldwide splash by gyrating in the insanely popular  *Blurred Lines*  video and who co-stars with Zac Efron in the new film  *We Are Your Friends*  ever heard of a car wash? My boyfriend's mum is coming to visit today and my car was really messy," she explains, rolling her exotic coffee-brown eyes. (Her beau is musician Jeff Magid, by the way. We'll talk about him later.) Like how bad? She ticks off a list that includes 20 pairs of shoes, lots of dirty coffee cups, a parking ticket from 2011 and an old picnic blanket. "I emptied out two trash bags of stuff," she says. "I might look pulled together, but it's a miracle because I'm a really messy person."

That sounds hard to believe. On this afternoon, Ratajkowski looks effortlessly off-duty stuning even though she's fresh out of the shower. Her hair is still dripping wet and her face is completely make-up free. She's wearing faded, high-waisted jeans by Frame, which she recently borrowed herself, and a Reformation white T-shirt with flat, not-brown sandals that match her Marc Jacobs bag. It's a tame look compared to her typically racy red-carpet outfits that highlight her long lean legs or showcase major cleavage. Still, heads swirl as we saunter through the hotel. Even flying under the radar, sultry, dark,



STYLING: JENNY GAGE; HAIR: JENNIFER WILSON; MAKEUP: TOM BETTERTON; SHIRT: REFORMATION; JEANS: FRAME; SANDALS: MARY KATE SCHWARTZ; BAG: MARC JACOBS

EMILY  
RATAJKOWSKI

Ratajkowski stands out in a city known for honey-blonde highlighted beauties. Years of modelling have perfected the 24-year-old's easy-gal-but-be comes-off-as-more-calm-and-self-assured-than-a-lot.

*Gone Girl*  director David Fincher once summed up her appeal pretty perfectly. She was just incredibly mature. She wasn't smitten with being the girl of the moment. If anything, in fact, she's now making career moves to ensure her staying power. "I'm not looking to play the pretty-girl type that you would expect from a model turned actress," she says, as soon as we settle on a velvet settee. Ratajkowski curls up like a sleek cat, with her long legs folded beneath her. "I want to surprise people. Maybe play the weird girl. It takes fighting for which I'm prepared to do."

She surprises me throughout our lunch. First of all, she's girly and even a little goofy. "I'm not scared of you," she says with a throaty laugh when I apologetically lean in closer to hear her better. After ordering a huge crispy fried chicken sandwich — that's not typical movie star behaviour either — and an iced coffee, she digs in and warns me, "Look out. My friends call me a baby dinosaur because I'm always knocking into things and spilling on myself." From there, we get to talking about her sexy strutting and posing in  *Blurred Lines* , which has been watched more than 400 million times on YouTube. "I wasn't into the idea at all at first. I think I came off as a bit annoyed in the video," she admits. "Now, it's the bane of my existence. When anyone comes up to me about  *Blurred Lines* , I'm like, are we still seriously talking about a video from three years ago?" FYI: In the unrated version, she and the two other female models are topless. She doesn't want to comment on the song's sexist lyrics that caused a stir — "I didn't write the words" — but she's quick to say that she's never been shy about baring her body. She posed nude for the cover of the  *LA*  men's erotic magazine  *Trots*  in 2012 and appeared semi-naked in  *Gone Girl* .

It's weird to me that the reaction to a woman's naked body is so controversial in our culture," says the actress, who was born in London and moved to a sleepy beach town in southern California at the age of five. Her bohemian upbringing as an only child with older progressive parents — an English professor named Kathleen and JD, an artist — included lots of trips to County Park, Ireland and summers in Majorca, where everyone sunbathed topless. "My mum taught me to never apologise for my sexuality. My dad never made me feel embarrassed," she says, proudly. "I also don't think I've ever had an awareness of my own body as being super-sexual. It was always just my body."

Take a peek at her Instagram feed and you'll see that lack of self-consciousness in shots of her wearing tiny bikinis and low-cut tops. It's no wonder she has

2.9 million followers. Does she ever look in the mirror and moan? "Sure. There are things I don't like about my body. Like that part of my thigh beneath my butt. But my friends will say I'm crazy and I know it's just my perception," she says. "You can't beat up on yourself." To stay fit, she swims, hikes and does a lot of yoga. Diets don't work because she doesn't deprive herself. "I don't weigh myself either. If I'm feeling loopy, I'll watch what I eat for a while."

Ratajkowski may look like a modern-day Sophia Loren, but she's become a style icon among social media fans for dressing like a young Brigitte Bardot. "My go-to look is definitely wannabe French girl — feminine, but just super, super cool. I love understated and retro," she says, and names an eclectic round-up of favourite designers that include Dries Van Noten, The Row, Marc Jacobs and Valentino. For the red carpet, she works with celeb stylist Tara Swennen who also dresses Kristen Stewart. Her fashion MO is to play it "fun" with pops of bright colour like the ultra-silky emerald-green Fausto Puglisi frock she wore to the MTV Movie Awards this year or the marigold Cashnie et Ochs fitted sheath with a plunging neckline she chose for  *InStyle* 's pre-buffa party back in February. She likes to keep her beauty look streamlined though. "Hair and make-up always kill me," she says. "I have really big features and a lot of make-up artists get carried away and make me look like a drug queen." Along with models of the moment Bella Hadid and Hailey Baldwin, Ratajkowski wore bespoke Topshop to the 2015 Met Gala. "I really appreciate design and I love nice things, but the whole brand factor has never meant a lot to me," she says. Care in point: her favourite stop when she visits her native London is Showstitch for the vintage shops. "I'm not into labels. You'll never find me in a picture in front of a Mercedes Benz. I still drive my Nissan Versa."

Make that a very clean Nissan Versa, which brings us back to Ratajkowski's boyfriend Magid. She smiles when she talks about the musician and former professional poker player she met through mutual friends and started dating late last year. They now live together downtown. "We found out that we had all these similarities. We both love art and music. Our mothers are professors and he's an only child too," she says. What does she most appreciate in a man? "I've never dated guys who are hunky in pictures. I look for kindness, which is way underrated. I like someone who will split his lunch with you," she says. Her only relationship rule is to communicate. "I'm not always the best at that, which is funny because I'm pretty emotional and I talk a lot. But I have learned that you have to talk about things that bother you, even if you don't want to bring them up. If you have a good partner, he will listen."

Before she leaves, I ask her about the recent reports that the two got engaged. She hoots. It's clear that Ratajkowski has a good attitude about the toll of her newfound fame. "Wow. That's news to me," she says, before she hugs me goodbye and apologises one last time for being late. "People make up stuff all the time. Apparently, I love to bake and I'm really into astrology too." ☺

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