

PRETTY

smart



ONE ACTS:

BEHIND
THE SCENES

&

GET

YOUR
SCHOLARSHIP

ON!

FEATURING

Alyssa

Pearl-Ross



Welcome

TO THE MARCH ISSUE OF

PRETTY
smart

M A G A Z I N E



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Letter

from the

Editor

DEAR READERS,

Life has been a whirlwind of astonishing opportunities this month. When senior year began, I believed that junior year was the highlight of my life—and I was okay with that. But I was wrong. There's so much more in store, and I'm buzzing with a thrilling energy every second of each day. I cannot spill any details yet, but next issue will reveal everything. Be ready for a super spectacular issue in April.

I am allowed to talk about something very special, though: the Pretty Smart Gala!!! On April 8th from 7-10 pm at Foxcroft Academy, I will be hosting the Pretty Smart Gala. The event will cost \$5 to attend, and there will be a chocolate fountain, desserts, a photo booth, a special presentation, and live music acts. The money raised from the event will be going towards the Pretty Smart Scholarship. This scholarship will allow a female student from Foxcroft Academy to put money towards their future, whether it's towards their college education or a summer camp. More details will be revealed later.

I want to be able to give other girls the chance that I've recieved. Giving back is incredibly important to me, and who better to give back to than my amazing readers and school community. I love you all, so thank you for all of your support.

I hope you enjoy the brightest and boldest issue of Pretty Smart. As always, stay brilliant, bold, and beautiful.

So much love,

Bronna

meet **ALYSSA**

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FLIRTY



POWER
SUIT



PRINCESS



GLITZ



BEST *Gala* GOWNS

SHORTER OPTIONS

BOLD



FLORAL



SPACEY



SIMPLY ELEGANT



— — — — —

PRETTY smart

Gala

Black tie formal wear

Admission: \$5

*Join us for an especially glitzy event filled with delicious desserts and
spectacular live music to honor Pretty Smart
and to introduce the Pretty Smart Scholarship*

AT FOXCROFT
ACADEMY

APRIL

8TH

7 - 10 P M

All proceeds benefit
Pretty Smart and the
Pretty Smart Scholarship



come for a brilliant, bold, and beautiful night.

INTIMATE INTERVIEWS

QUESTIONS TO ASK TO GET TO KNOW THE
NEW--AND OLD--PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT
YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

**WHICH FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER ARE
YOU CLOSEST TO? WHY?**

**WHAT SOCIAL ISSUE HITS HOME WITH
YOU? WHY?**

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN
5 YEARS?**

WHAT DO YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN?

WHAT SCARES YOU THE MOST? WHY?



NOT YOUR

Princess:

QUEEN

ALYSSA

PEARL-ROSS



ALYSSA

isn't a mere flickering flame, she's a bright, raging, brilliant blaze. She burns bright, and she won't allow her flame to be blown out to wisps of smoke. This girl is red-hot fire, and you will never meet anyone more ready to radiate with exuberant beauty.

I've had the privilege of getting to watch Alyssa grow into an extraordinary and confident girl—or rather, queen—for a year and a half now. When she first strutted down the halls of Foxcroft Academy in her suede black heels and crimson lips, I was immediately drawn to her. She was magnetic, and still is.

This queen—despite only being a junior—has added major feats to her list of accomplishments. She starred in *Shrek the Musical* as Donkey her first year at FA, became an essential part of select choir, and developed into a major school style icon. In just a short amount of time, Alyssa has learned how to make her mark on the world.

I'm so excited for you to read about this mystical and alluring girl. Get ready to bow down to the queen of style, hilarity, and musical theatre.

Meet the royal highness of brilliance, boldness, and beauty: Alyssa Pearl-Ross.



Q&A

Bronna: Hello Alyssa! You're one of the sassiest, funniest, most charismatic girls I've ever come to know. Thank you for being Pretty Smart's cover girl. What was your first reaction when I asked you to be the cover girl?

Alyssa: Oh gosh, I was ecstatic! Just being able to be apart of such a phenomenal creation is amazing! When I was asked, I was speechless. It's such an honor to be a cover girl along with the rest of the beautiful and talented ladies!

Bronna: You're so sweet. You're amazing. You've been able to showcase the sparkle within you at Foxcroft Academy insanely well. What have you been able to do here that other schools did not offer for you?

Alyssa: My previous school did not have a drama department, nor a music department (besides the basic concert band and chorus) so arriving at Foxcroft was a little overwhelming. I've been able to partake in Chorus once again, Rock Band, Select Choir, musicals, plays, and some beginner instrument classes.

Bronna: You're a beautiful singer and actress. What was it like getting to be Donkey—a huge lead—in Shrek the Musical your sophomore year?

Alyssa: It was exciting, yet terrifying! It took so much time and effort, but it was so worth it! I've been doing theatre my whole life, but was always casted as an ensemble part! It was a risk auditioning for a lead my first year at a new school, but it was a part that I had always dreamed of playing.

Bronna: You've also been able to be a part of so many other shows at FA. You've been doing One Acts for two years now. Can you explain your experience with the group?

Alyssa: My experience with One Acts over the last two years is something I will never forget! You meet so many people and have so much fun! All theatre people are the best. We all have a lot in common, and we all go for one purpose: to have a blast and share our productions. It's a long 2 day process, and we are exhausted by the end, but that is all part of it.

Bronna: Along with acting, you've also been the head of the makeup and hair department for One Acts. You also helped with the costuming aspect. What does this consist of? How long does it take to do this?

Alyssa: Along with the acting comes the production team. That consists of set design, costuming, props, lighting, hair and makeup. I do the hair and makeup, which is a lot more difficult than it sounds. You have to partner with costuming, so you can match the makeup and hair with what each character is wearing. I underestimated the time and effort you need to put into it. It took roughly 1 1/2 months just to find wigs, pick out the right colors for foundation, and practice on the actual characters. It's well worth all the work, though.

Bronna: What's the entire One Acts process like? Do you like acting or designing more?

Alyssa: The process of one acts can be extremely stressful, but the good kind of stress. Auditioning has to be the most difficult, because you don't get the monologue ahead of time, so you have to read it for the first time just 20 minutes before you go in. After casting, we have the first read through, where we get to see each character in full for the first time.

After a few rehearsals, we get into character development, which is one of the most difficult things you have to do. You have to dig deep into your character. You might not think that it is necessary, but it will help build your character over time. I love designing, but I prefer acting! You get to be someone you may have thought you never could.

Bronna: You're also very involved with the Center Theatre's productions. You just got cast in Cinderella. Can you spill your role?

Alyssa: I auditioned a month ago and they just recently allowed the roles to be shared. I will gladly be playing the part of the Evil Stepmother!

Bronna: That's incredible! How do you plan on getting into character for that role? How do you usually get into your characters?

Alyssa: I plan for roles differently depending if one is a musical role or not. Since it's a musical, I plan to get into character by listening to the songs in which the Evil Stepmother is in and watch the production of another company. I will also try out different expressions I think my character might do, and see which one fits best for each the situation. For plays, I use the questioning method. I write out a list of about 50 questions such as "What is my full name? What must I overcome? What is my background? What is my greatest fear?"







Bronna: Whats the difference between working at the Center Theatre and Foxcroft Academy?

Alyssa: Working at the Center Theatre is so different than F.A., because at CT most productions are youth musicals, so the atmosphere is a complete change. At the Center Theatre it's a lot of group work, so we can work as a team and form a good bond together. There's a lot more explaining, because some kids have never acted before, so they need training. At FA, the theatre department allows for a lot of individual work so you can really focus on yourself, and it's a lot of your own interpretation of how you think the part should be played.

Bronna: Do you get a lot of stage fright? How do you get past that in order to perform your best?

Alyssa: When I first started acting, I definitely had a lot of stage fright. One time I forgot a line on stage and got physically sick, because I was so nervous that I would mess up the show. I now overcome my stage fright my keeping my calm and rehearsing my lines before I go on! A key thing I have to remember is that it's not Alyssa that is going on stage, but the character I am playing, so if I forget a line or a movement, then I need to make it look like the character was meant to do it! I keep in mind that the audience will never know if I mess up, because they don't know the original staging!

Bronna: You've also decided to join select choir this year once again. You're an all girl group this year, which is insanely cool. How is everything going with that?

Alyssa: It's going great! We competed at regionals a while back, so now we are preparing for states, which will be held on April 1st.

Bronna: How did you first get into acting and singing? Why did you stick with it?

Alyssa: I first got into singing and acting when I was 8 years old, because I got to ask to sing at a wedding. A year later I auditioned for Annie at the Center Theatre. I stuck with it, because I love to entertain, and I love to see people's reactions whether it's a comedy or a tragedy. I especially love seeing little kids come watch the shows and I love how they go to meet you afterwards. It's a great feeling!

Bronna: Why are the arts so important?

Alyssa: The arts are so important, because they allow you to improve on skills that you will need throughout your whole life. They boost creativity, and are great for decisions. They let you interpret a piece of work in any way you would like. It boosts your confidence a huge amount. Seeing the crowd's reaction to one of your lines makes you feel accomplished, and that sense of confidence is key!

Bronna: You're only a junior which is so great. Once I leave FA, I know that you'll be here to continue the fantastic drama and music legacy. What do you have in store for next year? What do you hope you'll get to do?

Alyssa: I have so much in store for next year: I'm hopefully doing the musical, one acts, three acts and helping out at the Center Theatre! I hope Mr. Guthrie chooses a great musical that everyone will enjoy. I also hope I can come visit you down in New York!

Bronna: I would love to have you visit me. NYFW together! Thank you so much Alyssa! I just have one last question. What is one dream for your life that you will never stop chasing, and how are you going to get it?

Alyssa: I've dreamt of becoming an actress for the longest time, and that is probably what I will never stop chasing. It's what I do in all of my free time—and not so free time. I plan on working really hard, so I can focus on what I love to do: music and the arts!



ONE ACTS:



CHAMPS

a

WITHOUT

trophy





This year the Foxcroft Academy One Acts cast caused its audience to burst into laughter, tears, and fits of anger. They yanked every emotion known to man out of each audience member. One Acts did something special for several people this year: it taught them how to feel again.

Although the FA cast didn't place high at the regional competition, they received the most awards for acting, and that's incredible. Even though their placing wasn't justified correctly, they were happy with their performance, because it was perfection. They showed the audience what Our Place was really about: love and loss.

This group of theatre kids is phenomenal, so if you see a show on the Center Theatre marquee that reads: "Foxcroft Academy Drama," then you better pull over and get a ticket. You need to see these actors.





SPECIAL AWARDS:

REGIONAL ALL CAST



HANNAH POLAND



ROSE KREIDER



LIAM CASEY



BRIANNA ADKINS



ETHAN POLAND

SPECIAL SCENE AWARDS



**FLICK OF THE WRIST:
JOSHUA WHITEMORE
AND BRIANNA ADKINS**



**TUNA FISH: HANNAH
FISHBURN AND ETHAN
POLAND**

THE GIRL WHO CHASED THE STORM

BY: BRONNA ADKINS

"India, where the hell are you? You promised to meet me in front of the White House at 10:30. It's 11:30 now, and I'm sick of standing out here."

As the wind strikes across Ava's peeved face, she whips her hood over her head and slams her back against the black fence just yards in front of the Oval Office. Her protest sign—that was being lifted before with millions of motivated, victorious women—with the words "the future is female" written across the white plane in dauntless sharpie lettering, plummets to the ground next to her feet. There's a moment of bitter silence, then static breaths sound through the other end of the cellphone: India.

"Shit. I'm so—"

"Don't."

A disbelieved and hysterical chuckle erupts from Ava as she folds her frozen hands into fists. She utters two sentences with an incandescent tone as she slams her thumb on the 'end call' button.

"You forgot me. You freaking forgot me again."

* * * * *

As Ava's finger swirls around the rim of her mug filled with piping hot cocoa, she dips her index into the whipped cream topping. As she pops it into her mouth and tastes the delicious topping from the aerosol can, she checks her phone again. The time reads 2:30 A.M.

"Dammit, India." She drops her phone on the clean counter of the diner bar and shifts her vision to the flickering neon sign that reads 'open' every other second.

"You okay, sugar?" A southern voice erupts from the swivel chair at the bar.

Ava pivots in her chair to find a twenty-something year old woman with vibrant tattoos plastered all over her arms. The sleeves of ink create an edge to the young woman drinking a chocolate malt milkshake. As she pops the cherry into her mouth, Ava gulps.

"I'm fine."

Ava's pallor shifts to a red pigment of humiliation. She picks at the fries slathered in ketchup on her tray, and knocks the remains of her burger over. As she places her vision back on the extraordinarily beautiful woman, she word vomits.

"Actually, no I'm not. My sister hauled me out to this rally for women's rights in D.C., but she left without me. She left me behind, because she met a boy. She met a boy at a protest event for god damn women's rights and she left me behind."

The mystery tattoo girl bats her eyelids down to the table as she inhales another sip of her creamy shake. Ava pivots in her chair as she awaits her response, but receives nothing. She pops her knuckles and pulls at the joints on her finger.

"I'm sorry. I'm just really upset, because this isn't the first time that—"

"I can give you a ride." The tatted woman interjects. "Where d'ya live?"

There's a moment of pure astonishment that shines in Ava's eyes, but she shakes it away. The corners of her lip balm covered lips rise up.

"Arizona."

"All right Arizona. Let's get you home."

* * * * *

"Here we are," the woman now known as Birdie—full name Bridgette—gestures towards the faded and beaten up super punch buggy with a flourish of her hands. "Welcome to my humble abode."

As Ava enters the van, she's met with various forms of high tech, alien, and expensive equipment. For fear of owing thousands—even millions—of dollars, she holds her breath.

"What is this stuff?"

Birdie picks up something that mirrors the appearance of a weapon from Ghostbusters, and aims it at Ava. She jumps up into the air, fearing the release of the trigger, allowing Birdie to release a teasing cackle. Ava remains huddled on the floor like an armadillo.

"I'm a storm chaser. I like findin' storms and figurin' out ways to capture 'em so I can study 'em. They fascinate me," she explains, then sets down the tool. "Sit here. This'll be a long ride."

Ava settles down in the cushiony shotgun seat, and looks out the window, still fearing the metallic and galactic-looking gadgets. As Birdie jumps into the driver's seat and elevates the volume on the country radio, the crooning tunes flow out of the stereo and she hums to the music. Her strong arms shift the gears with ease, then the engine rumbles, and they're pulling out of the driveway and on their journey to the highway.

* * * * *

"Up Arizona! We've got a class 5," Arizona jolts up at the hectic sounds of shouts, thunder, and something that sounds like a train charging at full speed.

"Get your ass up now!"

Ava rips the scratchy fleece blanket off of her body and springs to her feet in the trembling vehicle. Wind whips, howls, and screeches through the open windows, sending pieces of paper flying through the car like a confetti explosion. The air is filled with chaos.

"Arizona! Get out of there!"

Her eyes fill with panic as she peers out the window to see Birdie standing next to a metal trap door leading into the ground. A fearful frenzy of horror pools in Ava's stomach as her brain registers what it is with absolute terror: a tornado shelter.

Ava bolts to the exit, fumbles with the handle, and opens the door to meet with the most horrifying sight. A massive tornado stands before her, stretching its swirling, gigantic winds for miles. Bile rises up her throat as she's faced with immediate and certain death. Before she can release her fright, she's swept up in the terrifying gusts, sending her into an expert boss battle.

Her body collides with a telephone pole and a spark ignites her skin, causing her to burst into flames on contact. There's white hot pain—it's agonizing, fiery, and she lets a scream escape her rigid lips—then she passes into a void, and her pain turns to nothing.

* * * * *

Beep.

As Ava's eyelids flutter open, she peeks through her lashes to see a pristine room.

Beep.

There's a single card standing on the bedside table that reads, 'get well,' and the tackiness of the damned thing causes Ava to let a laugh go. A gurgle sounds through the room.

Beep.

"Holy shit, you're awake. I thought you were dead, Arizona," Birdie exclaims from the stiff hospital chair next to Ava, sits up with a jolt, and perches on the end of the chair. "Can I get you anythin'?"

Ava moves her mouth to speak, but her throat closes in. The words are trapped inside her sandpaper mouth, but she's able to mouth a single word: juice.

"Where is it?"

Frustration fills Ava as her mouth begins to burn from the lack of liquid. Her arm lifts to point in the direction, but Birdie doesn't notice the gesture. Sudden anger fills her up, so she snaps at the juice box, and in that moment, a bright light shoots out of her index finger. As Birdie turns to ask where the juice is once again, A lightning bolt zaps past her vision, and hits the apple juice, vaporizing it in an instant. Both girls face each other in complete astonishment, as they look over the charred table and hole in the wall. Ava gasps, and moves to speak, but Birdie races her to it.

"How the hell did you do that?!"

SOCIAL *Media*



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