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THE BEGUILING  
**GINNIFER GOODWIN**  
OF ABC'S ONCE UPON A TIME



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GRACEFUL, CHARMING AND PERFECTLY PLAYFUL,  
GINNIFER GOODWIN MAY JUST BE THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL.



Ginnifer Goodwin is on a roll. In just minutes, she has swiftly yet succinctly expounded upon her lifelong penchant for fairy tales, the deeper significance of Snow White, a zeal to experience ziplining, why clothes are like costumes meant to express how you feel each day, and how her family has provided her with a rare emotional strength.

She finally comes up for air. "I am extremely high energy," Goodwin admits with a giggle. "It's annoying to some people. I don't know where it comes from. I just don't want to miss anything." Hard to imagine that happening. Goodwin is a spitfire and she shows no signs of slowing down. And why should she? At the moment, there's an avalanche of good in her life.

For starters, the 33-year-old is one of the lead players (as Snow White/Mary Margaret) in ABC's *Once Upon a Time*. The bold yet mysterious fairy tale yarn finds classic storybook characters cast out into the "real" world without any recollection of who they really are (oh, what a scornful queen can do). That's alluring, but beyond the show (already generating buzz for being a latter day *Lost* with its "save the real world/enchanted forest" storyline) Goodwin's own personal story is worthy of inspection. >>>

LIVING IN A

# Fairytale

BY GREG ARCHER

## ON WITH THE SNOW:

Ginnifer Goodwin on her quintessential role in ABC's *Once Upon A Time*:

**dl!:** What drew you to the role of Snow White?  
**GG:** The writing. I wasn't looking to get on another television series, but then I discovered that TV is where all the great writers have gone. Every single script I read was phenomenal but the one I was drawn to far above the others was *Once Upon A Time*.

**dl!:** Best thing about playing her?  
**GG:** We're not reinventing the story. We're filling in all the blanks.

**dl!:** Can we expect any *Lost*-isms in the storytelling?  
**GG:** It's a very different story but we use a very similar formula for storytelling. We're going to give the audience all of the puzzle pieces—out of order and leave it to them to put it all together.

**dl!:** Three Little Pigs or Jack and the Beanstalk?  
**GG:** Jack. He's such an adventurer.

**dl!:** Cinderella or Snow White?  
**GG:** Snow White for sure. She's a woody girl. And she's a brunette. She's the one I responded to in that way. That's what you do when you are a little girl—ask yourself which one you look like the most.

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**WATCH IT NOW!**  
Ginnifer Goodwin has a hilarious chat with Jimmy Kimmel.



**TUNE IN:**  
Sundays, 8/7 pm C, ABC

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[twitter.com/ginnygoodwin](https://twitter.com/ginnygoodwin)



Ginnifer Goodwin stars as Snow White/Mary Margaret in ABC's *Once Upon a Time*.

At first glance, her life looks enchanting. "When I was little, I thought I was Alice in Wonderland," Goodwin beams, noting that she wore "the dress and everything." She'd often instruct her mother come in her room at varying intervals and say a certain line Goodwin had prepared for her. "She wouldn't belittle it and say, 'Oh, isn't that cute, she thinks she's Alice.'" She would come in and say the line and leave. And I would go on with whatever scene I had created with my dolls."

Goodwin was, in fact, always encouraged by what she proudly calls her "hippy-artsy-fartsy family" in Memphis, Tennessee.

"My father was in the music business and I did not realize that children [elsewhere] were not raised being woken up by blasting rock 'n' roll music," she reflects with amusement, "or having a mom that was not bothered by finding that their child (Goodwin's sister) had taken the trash and papier maché it in the middle of the bedroom. Instead of my sister getting in trouble, we threw a party to celebrate her artistic talents."

Goodwin laughs. "That was my house."

"There just was never a question that I wanted to be an actress," she says. "I remember loving being in school plays and then local productions. My parents said that, 'as long as you keep up your grades and as long as you don't take a paycheck'—because I wasn't allowed to do anything that would make me money because I think they felt that would change my relationship to it—I could always act. And my mother was encouraging, saying that acting wasn't going to be a 'backup' job.

She said, "You don't need to have a backup. If you have a backup, you'll back up."

And so, with her family's blessing, the young girl from Memphis ventured out into the world, shined in university productions and eventually received honors for her performance skills at Boston University's College of Fine Arts. That was 10 years ago. In just a short amount of time, Goodwin has become something of an anomaly in the showbiz universe—a young actress praised for both her beauty and her talents. She's one that has consistently received favorable reviews in television appearances from *Law & Order* to *Ed*, and dramatic movie roles in *Mona Lisa Smile* and *Walk the Line*.

Of course, there's *Big Love*, HBO's award-winning polygamy saga with Bill Paxton, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Chloë Sevigny, in which Goodwin played ingenue wife, Margene, to such believable ends. The exposure led to feature roles in heart-warmers like *He's Just Not That Into You* and *Something Borrowed*. It also solidified her as a sought-after actress with girl-next-door charm.

But she's quick to point out that it's her love of good stories that influences much of her decision-making.

"I was always on the high school summer reading list," she reveals. "I loved anything by Jane Austen. I loved my Edith Wharton and Charles Dickens. I was so into that, into those characters. I realized recently that there isn't any one genre I love. I just love exploring what makes other people tick. I had a really disgustingly healthy upbringing in a really loving supporting family so I just wanted to know what it was like for other people."

It's downright fun to hear Goodwin confess all this with such fervor. She's relentlessly focused, seems genuinely happy and perfectly upbeat. "I generally always know what I want," she goes on. "I am not really fussy about that. I am really competent in asking for those things."

She pauses to reflect. "Growing up, my mother always used to say, 'Never compromise yourself—you're all you got.'"

Insights worthy of a princess. So ... what are the odds this fair maiden will live happily ever after? Pretty darn good. **cl**

