

GIRL CRUSH WHY WE'RE FALLING FOR THE FALL'S SÉAINÍN BRENNAN

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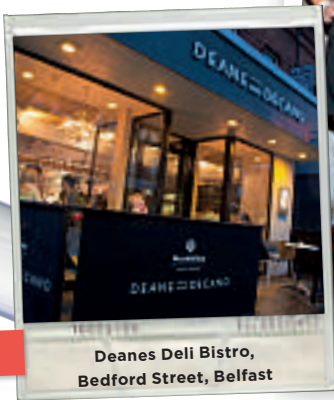
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Séainín with boyfriend Ben Fetherston



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SÉAINÍN BRENNAN

Girl crush

JO LINEHAN uncovers everything you need to know about the northern star we're all falling for ...

The *Fall* has taken over. From your television screens to coffee table chat, the excitement about the new BBC mega-drama and its Belfastian star, Séainín Brennan, is palpable. Unsurprisingly, then, we're a little nervous to talk to the girl who plays a grieving mother with a troubled persona, embroiled in the hit series of 2013. We start with the name, "It's like Shen-eeeeen," she laughs. We needn't have worried. She's the antithesis of her broken character, Liz Tyler – strong willed, vibrant and enthusiastic. "They told me I was too young for the part, but my agent and I fought hard. If I know a part is for me, I'll do everything I can to get it."

Her unstoppable attitude is certainly a recurring theme. She tells us that at age six, she begged her mum to enroll her in stage school and instantly began touring Ireland and the UK, honing her skills in musical theatre. A detour into politics, working at the EU Commission in Brussels, led her right back to her passion of the thespian trade and, lucky for us, into the hands of *The Fall's* team. Now, she flits between apartments in Belfast, London and Dublin, wherever work beckons. "I've been working a long time, and I'm really choosy about the roles I play." We have to ask about Jamie Dornan, her heartthrob co-star everyone's talking about. She laughs, "He doesn't walk in, as if he's the big gorgeous guy! He is so humble, so gracious and very generous to work with." Damn, so he is perfect. When it comes to her look, she stays local, entrusting her team of Belfast

professionals – "Mary Rose McGrath always fits my dresses for red carpet occasions and Michael Quinn is my hairdresser," she gushes, "he's a genius" – and keeps her circle of friends small. "I love spending Sundays with my family, and my boyfriend, Ben. We're planning a holiday to Greece soon." It all sounds pretty normal for such a beautiful, rising star. So has life changed much for her at all since the show? She pauses for a minute. "It really hasn't ... I'm loving the interaction with fans of the show through Twitter, and we've just had a second series confirmed, so that's great. It's exciting to be a Northern Irish female actor who's making waves. I'm really happy." ■



Séainín with co-star Jamie Dornan in *The Fall*



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It's exciting to be a Northern Irish female actor who's making waves.

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