

# Ryan

'Kids Are Definitely Something I'm Thinking About'

Ryan Reynolds can sniff out avalanches, impress any dad and is smitten with second wife Blake Lively. Just don't call him a 'nice guy'...

We weren't sure what to expect before we met Ryan Reynolds. Sure, he's one of the hottest men in Hollywood, with a string of comedies to his name. And *that* ad campaign for Marks & Spencer certified him as a hit in the fashion world, too. But great style and perfect comedic timing aside, Ryan's high-profile relationships have rendered him a man of mystery. Remember how rarely we saw him out with Scarlett Johansson during their two-year marriage? And how hush-hush his second wedding to *Gossip Girl* star Blake Lively was seven months ago? As for his dalliance with Sandra Bullock and three-year engagement to fellow Canadian Alanis Morissette – blink, and you'd have missed it.

There's no doubt Ryan, 36, is a hit with the ladies, but with good looks can come attitude. So when the actor saunters into New York's Ritz Carlton Hotel for our interview, all smiles, we're secretly relieved. We're also surprised at how tall he is (6ft 2in). "Hi there," he says, offering a tanned hand (he's just got back from a holiday in Cape Town). Ryan's looking hot in blue jeans and V-neck cashmere, and it seems ironic that for his latest film *The Croods* – an animated adventure set in prehistoric times – only his voice was needed. Judging by the gorgeousness of the man sat before us, one thing is apparent – it's a waste not to see that face on screen...

**The Croods is a real family film. Do you think about your future kids seeing it one day?**

Yeah, that's definitely something I think about.



Ryan with his (equally gorgeous) wife, actress Blake Lively

I've got so many nieces and nephews, I've lost count. And I know how these types of movies are endearing to them, so I'm excited about them and my future kids seeing it. I'm not sure if I'd like to be in the room when they're watching it, though – I don't know if I'd want to hear my own voice all that much.

**Your character, Guy, has to win over a fiercely protective dad [Nicolas Cage]. Have you ever been in any scary 'meet the father' scenarios?**

Many times! I had a girlfriend when I was 18 until 22 and I remember being terrified of meeting her dad. I'd heard he was pretty hard, but actually it was fine. You always have to have a huge amount of respect for the father of a girl you're dating, but I like to think I'm the guy the parents actually like.

**What's your technique for winning over a girlfriend's dad?**

You have to let him know you respect his daughter and that you're not going to drive off with her and elope. You want to make sure he knows she's in good hands.

I'm fine at that, I think. I'm a pretty nice guy.

**Guy's fairly self-sufficient in the wild. Would you ever take Blake camping?**

Er, funnily enough, I haven't been camping since *that*

experience [when they got married] so I can't see it happening soon, but I'd love to one day.

**How do you think you'd fare in the wilderness?**

Quite well, actually. When I was 15 or 16 I did a year of 'survival school', which is a programme they offer kids in Canada. They essentially throw you out into the wilderness of British Columbia – the Rocky Mountains and glaciers – and teach you how to fend for yourself. You have to learn to set up camp and feed yourself. It was life-changing for me.

**Wow! So you're a good person to have around in an emergency?**

Well, I'm no Bear Grylls, but I can start a fire with nothing and I could tell you if there was going to be an avalanche. I know how to test the grade of snow, too. They teach you some cool stuff.

**Which luxury would you miss the most if you were stranded in the wild?**

Probably my motorcycle. That's my biggest luxury. I've been crazy about motorcycles my whole life.

**When was the last time you tried something new and exciting?**

I was recently in Africa and wanted to go swimming with Great White sharks. Then, as luck would have it, the weather got so bad they had to turn the boat around and go back which, actually, I was thrilled about [laughs]!

**Do you believe in seizing the day?**

Yes. I love the idea of living in the present, being here, now.

**You came to Hollywood to be an actor when you were 18. Was it very tough?**

It was a big challenge. As someone who's not a legal citizen [Ryan is from Vancouver, British Columbia], I was on a travelling visa so I could only stay for a short time. The only way I could get a working visa would be if I was the star of something so the studio would pay for it. I couldn't just get a job; I had to be the star. I arrived in LA with \$600 and not a lot of time to spend it.

**When was your big break?**

I found an agent and said, with real sincerity: "Look, if you get me five auditions, I swear to God I'll come back with one yes."

They fell for that stupid ploy and sent me out on five auditions.

By some miracle, I got the third one. It was the TV show *Two Guys, A Girl And A Pizza Place* and that saved my ass.

**What was your back-up plan?**

My dad was a cop and my brother was too, so that kind of profession was pretty much on the cards. I actually started training to be a fireman when I was 18. Acting was my back-up plan.

But the fireman thing didn't pan out.

**Thank God it didn't! You've played a lot of 'nice guys' – do you ever worry about being type cast?**

Do I have a 'nice guy' image?

**Kind of. It's a good thing.**

Hmm, I think I need to rid myself of this image. Maybe I should go outside and just punch the next paparazzo I see.

**Please don't! Ryan Gosling says he gets mistaken for you all the time.**

**Do you ever get mistaken for him?**

Yes, it happens all the time. It's a compliment, of course! I love him.

**He's just taken the leap into directing. Have you ever thought of doing that?**

I feel like I have insight into it and can take charge to some degree. So, yeah, I think I could direct a film. Maybe someday.

■ *The Croods* is released nationwide on 22 March.

“I trained as a fireman when I was 18. Acting was my back-up plan”

WORDS: SCARLETT RUSSELL. ADDITIONAL WORDS: GEMMA CALVERT. PHOTOS: KEVIN SCANLON/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX/EVYVINE, FILM MAGIC, REX FEATURES, WIREIMAGE.COM

# Ryan's Relationship Round-Up

The women who made Blake wait for her Mr Right...



## TRAYLOR HOWARD

**1998-1999** He dated his *Two Guys, A Girl And A Pizza Place* co-star, who was 10 years older than him. Go Ryan!

## ALANIS MORISSETTE

**2002-2007** The pair were engaged for the last three years of their five-year relationship, but never made it to the altar.



## JESSICA BIEL

**2007** Three years after co-starring in *Blade: Trinity*, Jess and Ryan had a few dinner dates.



## SCARLETT JOHANSSON

**2007 – 2010** Hollywood's then-cutest couple got hitched in 2008, but lasted only two years before divorcing.

## SANDRA BULLOCK

**2011** His co-star in *The Proposal* insists they were never dating, so why did Scarlett say they had her approval? Hmm.