

# FALL STAR

## HALEY BENNETT

...IT'S 11 A.M. AND HALEY BENNETT is on her third cup of coffee. "I'm heating it up for the 10th time," she says, laughing. She's chipper but ready for a break: "I'm going to Italy tomorrow, so I've been up every night for the past three nights in anticipation of my first vacation in two years."

You need only glance at Bennett's fall movies to see how busy the past two years have been. In September, she's the sole gun-toting lady in Antoine Fuqua's *The Magnificent Seven*; in October, she'll dazzle audiences as missing housewife Megan Hipwell in Tate Taylor's adaptation of *The Girl on the Train*; and come November, she'll play an aspiring actress in Warren Beatty's *Rules Don't Apply*. Add in her parts in next year's *Thank You for Your Service* and Terrence Malick's long-in-the-works *Weightless*, and suddenly three coffees don't seem like enough.

Bennett, 28, is unfiltered and captivating, both in conversation and on screen. It doesn't take much to see how Emily Blunt's Rachel Watson could become obsessed with Bennett's mysterious Megan from afar in *The Girl on the Train*. As Megan's layers are peeled back, Bennett is a revelation, flitting from vulnerable and childlike to calculating and seductive. What's puzzling is why it's taken until now for Bennett to get noticed.



Haley Bennett in *The Girl on the Train*; (right) with Luke Evans

She moved from Ohio to Los Angeles at 18 to pursue acting and quickly booked the role of a Britney Spears-like starlet opposite Hugh Grant in 2007's *Music and Lyrics*. But after that, work was scarce. "I was on the precipice of just giving up before I met Terrence Malick," says Bennett, who at times couldn't afford the gas to get to auditions. She confided in Malick that *Weightless* was all or nothing for her. "I was like, 'If I don't work with you, then I'm probably just going to live in New York and work in a bookshop.'"



### THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

STARRING Emily Blunt, Haley Bennett, Justin Theroux  
DIRECTED BY Tate Taylor  
RELEASE DATE 10/7



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN: BARRY WETCHER (2); JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK: DAVID JAMES

She got the job, and things started falling into place, beginning with a role in Fuqua's *The Equalizer* (2014). Taylor credits Bennett's struggles for her current success. "To get knocked down and s--- on, you've got no choice but to come into your own," he says. "I like people who are open books, who've got nothing to hide, because that means they're fearless."

For her part, Bennett is unfazed. "I'm just a girl who happens to have filmed a lot in the past two years," she says. But before hanging up the phone, she has one more thing to add: "By the way, just heated up my coffee—again." Better keep those pots brewing. —ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

OCTOBER

FOUR YEARS AFTER TOM CRUISE FIRST PLAYED MILITARY POLICEMAN—turned—wandering badass Jack Reacher in 2012's eponymous thriller, *Never Go Back* adapts another one of Lee Child's novels—but don't call it a sequel. "Unlike a lot of franchises, this had a kind of anthology feel to it," says director Edward Zwick, who partnered with Cruise for 2003's *The Last Samurai*. "It's a different set of circumstances." And those circumstances are personal: Reacher reconnects with old-friend-and-maybe-more Susan Turner (Cobie Smulders). Turner has Reacher's old job, and his attitude. But she's no movie cliché. "There's the trope of the Tough Chick suddenly in a man's world, but when you deconstruct [that trope], she's still The Girl," says Zwick. "That's not what Cobie is. They are true peers." A good thing, because the pair quickly find themselves on the run from a military conspiracy. "It's an interesting dynamic between these two characters, who are so used to being alone and being in charge," says Smulders. "Now they're forced to work together." Further complicating things: a teenage girl (*Heroes: Reborn*'s Danika Yarosh) who might be Jack Reacher's daughter. "We're in this really weird family dynamic," says Smulders, "all being hunted, all being chased." Can't wait for the family Christmas card! —DARREN FRANICH

## JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

STARRING Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders  
DIRECTED BY Edward Zwick  
RELEASE DATE 10/21



Tom Cruise, Aldis Hodge, and Cobie Smulders