

ride with me

*the vampire
diaries' kat
graham weaves
some practical
magic in fall's
equestrian
and military-
inspired pieces.
photographed
by isa wipfli.*



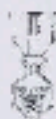
coat by sabatella, faccagamo, dress and boots by paco rabanne, stylist's own hat

DESPITE HER silky caramel skin, smoldering stare, and spunky demeanor, things haven't always come easy for Kat Graham. A trained eye could have caught her in fleeting roles in teen flicks like *17 Again* and *The Roommate*, but it wasn't until she landed the CW's hit supernatural drama *The Vampire Diaries* in 2009 that her luck started to change.

"I was so broke when I booked it—I had 86 cents in my bank account. I remember that number specifically," Graham recalls, laughing. On the show she plays Bonnie Bennett, a teenage witch in a small town crawling with vampires and werewolves. Though Graham's personal style can be a bit eccentric—she's a fan of Jeremy Scott and loves "the '90s and a little avant garde"—she showed up to the audition sporting overalls, Keds, and a red barrette. "I thought that's how Bonnie dressed!" she says. Indeed, Bonnie—a bit of a goody-two-shoes who only uses her powers when her friends are desperate for help—generally looks fairly chaste (though she's slowly amped up the sass over the years).

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, the Los Angeles transplant got her start in the entertainment industry when she was six years old, appearing in various commercials, most notably as a Fanta girl in 2006. After belting out "Wanna Fanta?" and dancing in knee-high mod boots as one of the fictional Fantanas, she transitioned into a music career, singing on a will.i.am track and backup dancing for Usher, Pharrell, and more. Though she made a switch to acting, she never lost focus on her musical pursuits: In May she released her debut EP, *Against the Wall*, and the sexy video for her dance-ready single "Put Your Graffiti On Me" has been viewed more than four million times on YouTube.

"At the end of the day, what makes me the performer that I am is the fact that I do all three," Graham says. "I need my acting to put in my music videos or I need my singing to put in my films or I need my dancing to put in my music videos. It's almost like having a painting unfinished if I lose one. My goal is to have all three working simultaneously in my art, to be able to paint with all those colors." ABBY GILMAN



coat by lammy hilligan; shirt and corset by elio; pants by dequand; kat's own necklace



altuzarra, \$3,370



dkny jeans, \$128



american eagle
outfitters, \$110



barberry brit, \$795



max mara, \$2,300



g-star, \$308