

**MISS
POPULAR**

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downlow

With the paperback version of her memoir hitting shelves this month, **KRISTIN CHENOWETH** spills on Hollywood, hooking up and her return to *Glee*.

BY SONA CHARAIPOTRA

KRISTIN CHENOWETH is nothing if not candid. Last year, while accepting her best supporting actress Emmy for the dearly departed *Pushing Daisies*, she pleaded with the powerful audience of Hollywood heavens for employment. It seems some of the major players in the room took notice.

She has since been inundated with work, from her fabulous turn as feisty April Rhodes on *Glee* to the musical *Promises, Promises*, which opens this month on Broadway. As if that weren't enough, her best-selling memoir, *A Little Bit Wicked: Life, Love, and Faith in Stages*, hits shelves in paperback this month. We chatted with the pint-size powerhouse about what it's like to grow up adopted, her return to Broadway and *Glee*ing out.

You confessed when picking up your Emmy last year that you'd love to be on *Mad Men*. Have they called you yet? I love *Mad Men* so much, it was just the first thing that popped into my head when I got onstage! I didn't plan a speech, because I didn't think I'd win. I still haven't talked to them, and I'd love to do it. But I'll be a fan even if I never get to do it. And, anyway, I'm doing the one show I love the best.

You must be talking about *Glee* — your character returns this month, right? Yup, April Rhodes is back. That show just gets better and better! It's just, like, the most perfect thing on TV right now. Where I grew up, in Oklahoma, it's more of a *Friday Night Lights* type of vibe. But this is making glee club cool, and I love that! Now glee clubs are popping up all over the country.

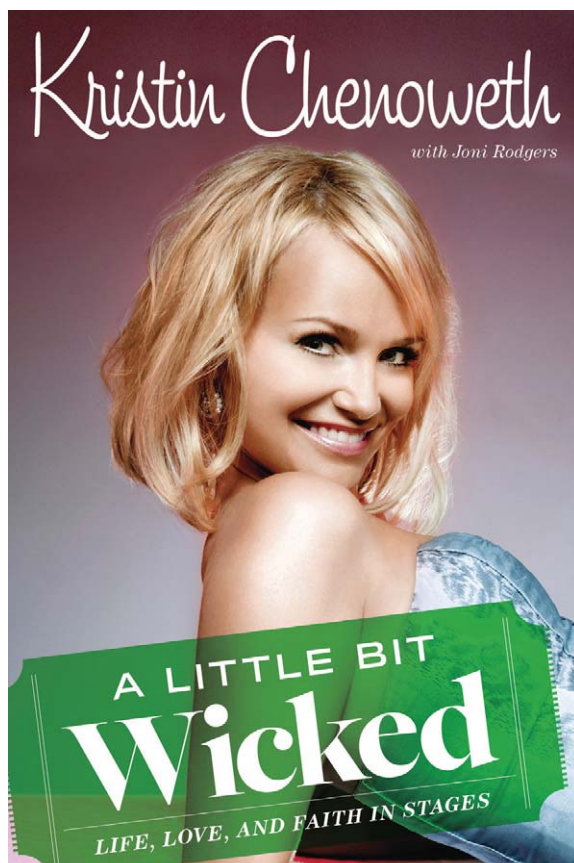
Do you know whether April will become a more permanent fixture on the show? Nope, but I like not knowing where she's going. I don't think [the creators] know either! I have a pretty loaded schedule, but I would come back as often as they wanted me to. It's so much fun, and the people on the show are inspiring, but it's really hard work. I don't think people realize how much work goes into doing a show like that. It's like doing a new Broadway show every week.

Speaking of which, you're returning to Broadway this month. I never stray too far from Broadway —

it's my first love. And [*Promises, Promises*] is a classic. It stars Sean Hayes, Tony Goldwyn and me, and it's a musical that was first done in 1968. It's about a man who falls in love with a girl who lives in his apartment building, but she doesn't ever notice him because she's involved with the wrong person.

In your book, you mention your ex, the writer Aaron Sorkin, as the one who's that guy for you — the one you can never quite get out of your system. Well, I can certainly relate to the part that I'm playing on Broadway. Aaron and I are still friends, but we're not together. Dating is hard in Hollywood. I haven't been dating a lot lately; I'm too busy. But I think it's possible to balance it all. I would love to have a child. That would make life complete. Whether it's adoption or having a baby, I hope it's in the cards for me. I have a lot of happiness in my life — I'd like to share it.

In the book, you say that you grew up knowing that you were adopted. Do you ever wonder about your biological parents? I've never heard from my birth mom, and for me, that's a blessing. I don't feel that burning desire to meet my biological parents. Really, I'd just like to know who sang [in my family]. Where did that come from? And I have eczema. Where did that come from? It's more like those kinds of things — curiosities. I've had such a great upbringing, and if you met my parents, you would say, "Of course she's their daughter!" If I ever did meet my birth mom, I'd just say, "Thank you for making the decision to give me such a great life." That's all. But I do feel like I would like to write a children's book, maybe, about adoption. I would love to share my story.



Kristin Chenoweth with a few of her *Glee* co-stars



Glee