

MONITOR

word on this month's hottest films, music & books

BREAKOUT STAR



Wentworth Miller has scored plenty of fans as *Prison Break*'s hottest inmate, but GLAMOUR's **Corrie Jackson** could be his biggest yet...

"I've been to this city half a dozen times; I love it here," Wentworth Miller is talking about Paris. At least I think he is, but I can't be sure because the only thing I can concentrate on is trying not to blush like a deranged schoolgirl while I'm caught in his meltingly intense gaze.

Such is the effect of the 35-year-old star of cult TV show *Prison Break*. Wentworth plays Michael Scofield, a structural engineer who lands himself in jail to break out his wrongly accused brother. Fans will be glad to hear the fourth series is due to start shooting this month. I regain my composure enough to ask if he can give any hints as to what's going to happen. "I hear rumours but nothing definite," he admits. "I really feel there's a beginning, middle and an end to this story and my gut feeling is that we're on the last leg of the journey." His character has come a long way in 57 episodes. An idealistic but naive hero ("I'd describe him as an extreme boy scout") has developed into a darker ►

Out of our way - Wentworth needs a neck rub!

GLAMOUR 219

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◀ character with blood on his hands. "It's what I find so fascinating about the story," says Wentworth. "How far across a line can a good man go before you can no longer call him good? At this point his hands are filthy. He has a lot to answer for."

Like Scofield, Wentworth is a bit of a brainbox. Born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, he and his family moved to New York when he was a child ("I still have my British passport and consider it my second home"). After studying at the renowned Princeton University, he moved to LA to work for a production company before setting his sights on acting.

"It was hard," he recalls. "I had a lot of rejection. But I'm glad I heard a thousand and one 'no's. It just made me value external approval that little bit less."

After starring in the video for Mariah Carey's 2005 hit *We Belong Together*, he auditioned for the lead in *Superman Returns*, which, at the time, was being directed by Brett Ratner, who would later produce *Prison Break*. "Legend has it Brett was directing the pilot for *Prison Break* and remembered my audition – but only at the last minute," he laughs. "I try to forget that bit!"

I ask whether there's a downside to being in a hit show. "Well there was the tattoo," he laughs, referring to his character's enormous, torso-covering ink stain which hides the blueprints of the prison he's breaking out of. "It took four hours to apply and became a bit of a burden. My skin was caked in this blue gunk; it was horrible." What about the attention he gets? Even during this interview, fan mail has been pouring into his hotel suite. "The mail amazes me – I sometimes



Grand designs: Wentworth in *Prison Break*

"If I meet someone who knows who they are, and who's not afraid to express it, that's what I find attractive"

get these letters that are ten pages, handwritten, from women pouring their hearts out and, for security reasons, I can only respond with a headshot and "Dear so and so, be good. WM". It never feels like enough." I tell him there is also a gaggle of women outside the hotel. "I'm continually surprised with our fascination with the mundane," he jokes, self-deprecatingly. "I've been snapped coming out of Starbucks five or six times; I mean, how many pictures does it take before people know I drink Starbucks?"

Until now *Prison Break* has been filmed in Chicago and Dallas, affording him relative anonymity. But for series four it relocates to the ultimate goldfish bowl, LA. Is he worried about feeling exposed? "You have to do publicity," he

explains, "but some people in this business pimp everything about themselves for attention, so when you turn around and say 'no comment' people think you have something to hide." There are many things Miller won't talk about: religion, politics, family, money. "I was raised to believe there are things you don't talk about in public," he says with a shrug.

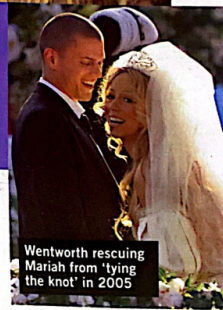
I decide to go for it anyway and ask what turns him on. He smiles enigmatically. "For me the route of attraction begins and ends with confidence. If I meet someone who knows who they are, who's not afraid to

express it, that's what I find attractive." And how would he show that he's smitten? "Preparing a meal, because I don't cook. I'm afraid of the kitchen; when the stove's on it makes me nervous. If I actually leap over that hurdle and cook something simple, like spaghetti Bolognese, that would really show someone I'm into them."

There's that intense gaze again, and I realise

it's time to leave before I lie through my teeth that I love spaghetti Bolognese and am available to fly to LA any time. As he stands up to shake my hand – a 6ft 1in of him uncurling from his chair – I ask him if he'll have a chance to explore any more of Paris. "If they could, they'd keep me locked in a hotel all day doing interviews," he sighs, then smiles at the irony. "But I hope to break out of my gilded cage at some point." As I pass the ever-growing throng of women waiting outside the hotel, I hope for their sake he succeeds.

Prison Break returns to Sky One in the autumn. Series three is released on DVD on May 19



Wentworth rescuing Mariah from 'tying the knot' in 2005