

# Recent Transplant

Who says imports are down?  
**Rebecca Addelman** dishes on her new home

BY HANNAH SUNG

- » **"On one of** my first days here, I saw a guy on a street corner in long fake fingernails, a *Scream* mask, and a cardboard sign around his neck that said AIDS MONSTER. He wasn't handing out pamphlets or anything. L.A.'s got some of the most talented people and some of the craziest."
- » **The 27-year-old** Canadian, who is a writer, comedian, and actor, crossed the county line on February 29. "My agent in Toronto said to me, 'When you get to Hollywood, tell everyone you're 21.' I don't think I could pass for that, and I'd feel a bit dumb doing it."
- » **When she** arrived, Addelman sublet an apartment near Melrose and Fairfax that she found on Craigslist. "There was a kitchen table in the living room and a leather couch in the kitchen. I also found a box of erotic whipped cream dispensers."
- » **Addelman made** the week-and-a-half trek from Sackville, New Brunswick, in a 1999 Ford Contour with a broken door and plates in English and French. "People point and laugh."
- » **"I used to have** a sense of doom every time I got on the freeway. I thought that if I didn't die that day, I would soon have a fatal collision. But it took me about six weeks to become an asshole L.A. driver."
- » **"Being new can be** an excuse for not knowing where things are," says Addelman. "But on the other hand, you don't always want to stick out, so sometimes I fake it—'Oh yeah, I'll meet you at Pink's. Just hop on the 405? Sure, no problem.'"
- » **More than a third of** L.A. County residents are foreign born. Of those, more than 150,000 are from Canada, making Los Angeles the fifth-largest Canadian city in population.
- » **"It's almost** impossible to not have preexisting ideas about L.A. I still get giddy when I see someone with a 90210 zip code."
- » **"I did a set one night** at a Ramada Inn in Hollywood. I think I was performing for six people, some of whom may not have spoken English. I was met with blank stares."
- » **Addelman is living** off her savings. "I'm working on deferred payment—I believe I will be reimbursed for this work not too far down the road."
- » **"I have one of the** dirtiest cars in L.A. It's a stubborn reaction to the car culture here. Or maybe it's just that when I went to the do-it-yourself place, my car was covered in soap when I ran out of quarters."
- » **"Even though I'm** here on a working visa, I have this irrational worry that it could be taken away from me. You're not a citizen, so you're not entitled to the same rights. You're always something of an outsider." ■



Photograph by PEJ BEHDARVAND