

The Roush Review

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The versatile Bloom in Marilyn mode—or is it Madonna?



Crazy Ex-Girlfriend

Love means never having to repress your musical-theater gene

Fridays,
9/8c, **THE CW**
@CW_CrazyXGF

PEOPLE KEEP TELLING me about a terrific new show they discovered this summer on Netflix. Something about a crazily obsessive ex-girlfriend who bursts

into song, one ribald production number topping the next. When I tell them I've been beating the drum tirelessly for a year about this fabulous series—which aired first on The CW—they smile sheepishly while probably wondering, "What's a CW?"

Happily, our love affair continues, though it still feels a bit like a secret tryst, what with the network shuffling this acclaimed but chronically low-rated odd duck off to Fridays, and the promise of another Netflix binge awaiting fans shortly after the 13-episode second season ends sometime this winter or spring.

Why wait? No time like the present to celebrate the award-winning manic exuberance of *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend's* creator-star Rachel Bloom as Rebecca Bunch, the most twisted variation yet on a *That Girl* romantic heroine. *Crazy* is a rom-com for those who shirk the genre, hewing to but subverting the conventions, including the all-important love triangle—recently described by *The Mindy Project's* Mindy Kaling as "the sexiest of all shapes."

Rebecca would agree. In a splashy and deranged song-and-dance in the November 4 episode, inspired by Marilyn Monroe's "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend"—or Madonna's "Material Girl," depending on your generation—she dissects "The Math of Love Triangles," surrounded by a chorus line of gay professors.

"Whichever Tom or Dick I might pick, the center of the triangle is little old me," she coos delusionally.

Because the truth is neither of her choices are prizes: adorably dim Josh (Vincent Rodriguez III) or broken Greg (Santino Fontana). Despite their shortcomings, and Rebecca's lack of impulse control, you root for them all to be happy.

That includes supporting side-kicks like the dynamic Donna Lynne Champlin as loyal coworker Paula, who's trying to kick her Rebecca addiction, and Pete Gardner's affably daffy and proudly bisexual boss Darryl. I'm crazy about them all, and you should be too. ★★★★★

**The subversive
Crazy is a
rom-com for
those who
shirk romantic
comedies**