

Jennifer Winget on Crafting Complex Women, One Role at a Time

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In her latest cover interview with ELLE India, actress Jennifer Winget reflects on her journey from popular television star to an actor deeply drawn to “complex women”. She explains that, for her, a “good role” is one that doesn’t only entertain—but also challenges, and resonates.

She emphasises that each character she takes on is a form of exploration—“one role at a time”—which reveals new facets of her creative self while honouring women who are layered and multi-dimensional.

Choosing Roles That Matter

Winget shares that her selection criteria have evolved. Early in her career, she accepted roles that offered visibility and popularity. But now, she prioritises depth over glitz. She says she’s looking for characters with rich backstories, internal conflict and growth arcs.

She explains: “It’s not just about being seen—it’s about being felt.” The cover piece highlights how she gravitates toward narratives where the female lead isn’t simply the hero’s love-interest, but a central figure with agency, flaws and transformation.

This shift signals not only a maturation in her career but also a wider change in Indian screen culture—where the demand for strong, authentic female narratives is growing.

The Craft Behind the Character

For Winget, creating such a role goes beyond memorising lines. She discusses the “quiet work” that happens off-camera: reading scripts thoroughly, meeting writers and directors, understanding motivations, and sometimes even rewriting scenes to amplify the emotional truth.

In the interview she admits that some roles required discomfort—sitting with contradictions, allowing vulnerability and making choices that might not always be immediately popular. But she views that discomfort as integral to growth.

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