

A photograph of a person sitting in a chair in a forest. The person is wearing a brown sweater, blue jeans, and black boots. The background is filled with autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The title 'Spring Season' is overlaid on the image in a large, stylized font. 'Spring' is in white and 'Season' is in a teal color.

# Spring Season

It's cold outside but it's warm in here! From *Men in Trees* to *Desperate Housewives*, we round up TV's hottest couples

## *Is Men in Trees the most romantic show on TV? We think so!*

I'm spending Valentine's Day in Key West this year, but lately I find my heart belongs to an even toastier locale: Elmo—as in Alaska, the setting of *Men in Trees*, TV's most romantic show.

We're told the earth moves all the time in Elmo. I'm not surprised. This is a place, and a romantic comedy, of woozy moonstruck enchantment, of self-discovery and reinvention through love, where courtly gentlemen who look like lumberjacks—or “Plow Guys”—sweep the ladies (a rarity in these parts) off their feet.

Forget *Sex and the City*. Try the forest. It didn't take long for cosmopolitan relationship coach Marin Frist (Anne Heche) to realize Elmo wasn't a place for high heels. Or for heels. The men in these trees are princes in flannel, and the dashing Jack (James Tupper) is their king: a soft-spoken naturalist who turned Marin's world topsy-turvy. (When he washed her hair—how “Out of Alaska”—you could feel the global warming.) “Even when you get what you want, at best, love is a shot in the dark,” a bittersweet Marin recently observed after Jack rekindled with his ex. True, but when a show takes swoony aim at amour with such giddy results, how can any self-respecting romantic resist? —*Matt Roush*

# Here's the Lowdown on *Men in Trees*' Quirky Couples

BY DAMIAN HOLBROOK



## Marin & Stuart and Jack & Lynn (Anne Heche, Jason O'Mara, James Tupper and Justine Bateman)

Four's a crowd when it comes to Elmo's most complicated denizens, who are in for a major shake-up, according to creator Jenny Bicks. Former bedmates Marin and Jack "will struggle to be friends as Jack becomes closer—and closer—to Lynn," leading to a "surprising announcement" from the sexy exes. Meanwhile, Marin is going to have a lot of material to put in her next book after she and her publisher, Stuart, make their professional relationship "very unprofessional," says Bicks.



## Patrick & Annie

(Derek Richardson, Emily Bergl)

His mommy issues may—finally—be resolved, but that doesn't mean it's smooth sailing for these young lovebirds. "They'll find the path to their wedding is more complicated than they thought," hints Bicks.



## Ben & Theresa

(Abraham Benrubi, Sarah Strange)

Reunited and it feels so good? Not so fast! Things will get rocky once more for the on-again, off-again marrieds when "a discovery by Theresa throws Ben for a loop," says Bicks. We're sure the recent return of Ben's other woman, Sara, won't help either. (They were on a break!)

## Buzz & Mai

(John Amos, Lauren Tom)

The pilot and his mail-order bride will continue to struggle with family issues, which include the arrival of Buzz's other son (Orlando Jones) and "Mai's professional ice-dancing cousin from China, who visits with surprising results," teases Bicks.

## Chief Celia & Richard

(Cynthia Stevenson, Currie Graham)

There's no stopping in the name of love for this policewoman and her boss man. But, reveals Bicks, the blossoming relationship "will be tested when Celia doesn't uphold the law."

## Jane & Sam

(Seana Kofoed, Ty Olsson)

Marin's uptight editrix and her laid-back Plow Guy "will struggle with their relationship after she tries to move to Elmo." Poor Plow Guy!

**Men in Trees** THURSDAYS, 10/9c, ABC