

The Roush Review

BY MATT ROUSH

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Golden Girls
Bishop,
Graham and
Bledel

Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life

Turns out you really can go home again—if home is Stars Hollow

**SERIES
PREMIERE**
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@GilmoreGirls

EVER KNOWN A special someone who comes back into your life after years of absence, and when you reconnect, it's as if no time has passed at all? That's the sweetly satisfying and powerfully emotional rush *Gilmore Girls* fans will feel when gorging on the post-Thanksgiving feast of

this blissful four-part reunion (see page 30).

Though nearly a decade has gone by since the original series signed off, the good news is that little has changed in the beguiling Brigadoon of Stars Hollow, Connecticut, a safe-haven hamlet for lovably eccentric oddballs. Their overly caffeinated queen bee, now and forever, is that quirky chatterbox of an inn owner, Lorelai Gilmore (fizzy, funny Lauren Graham), who hasn't missed a beat, or seemingly taken a breath, since we last made her acquaintance. "I believe in a former life I was coffee," she blurts, as irrepressibly savory and zany as ever.

Once she welcomes daughter Rory (a delicately charming Alexis Bledel) back home from a globe-trotting whirl through journalism, it soon becomes clear that all of the Gilmore gals are at a crossroads. Rory is rootless, living out of boxes and seeking

a proper outlet for her voice. Lorelai is unusually restless at work and at home with curmudgeonly longtime companion Luke (Scott Patterson). Widowed matriarch Emily (the grand Kelly Bishop) is rudderless, rattling unhappily around her Hartford manse without her mate of 50 years (the late Edward Herrmann, much missed).

A Year in the Life is divided into seasonal chapters much like the classic, and just as timeless, movie musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*, which may be the only pop-culture reference missing amid the dizzying banter that distinguishes this delightful and oh-so-human comedy. Effortlessly shifting gears from screwball whimsy to bittersweet romance to lacerating multigenerational family conflict, the new/old *Gilmore Girls* is almost ridiculously satisfying. No wonder nearly every beloved character finds a reason to return before the over-too-soon finish. Seems everyone comes back sooner or later to Stars Hollow, that Mayberry-like TV land of enchantment. I never wanted to leave. ★★★★★

Lorelai hasn't missed a beat—or possibly taken a breath—since last we met