



Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer

By Chely Wright

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Chely Wright, singer, songwriter, country music star, writes in this moving, telling memoir about her life and her career; about growing up in America's heartland, the youngest of three children; about barely remembering a time when she didn't know she was different.

She writes about her parents, putting down roots in their twenties in the farming town of Wellsville, Kansas, Old Glory flying atop the poles on the town's manicured lawns, and being raised to believe that hard work, honesty, and determination would take her far.

She writes of making up her mind at a young age to become a country music star, knowing then that her feelings and crushes on girls were "sinful" and hoping and praying that she would somehow be "fixed." ("Dear God, please don't let me be gay. I promise not to lie. I promise not to steal. I promise to always believe in you . . . Please take it away.")

We see her, high school homecoming queen, heading out on her own at seventeen and landing a job as a featured vocalist on the *Ozark Jubilee* (the show that started Brenda Lee, Red Foley, and Porter Wagoner), being cast in *Country Music U.S.A.*, doing four live shows a day, and—after only a few months in Nashville—her dream coming true, performing on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry . . .

She describes writing and singing her own songs for producers who'd discovered and recorded the likes of Reba McEntire, Shania Twain, and Toby Keith, who heard in her music something special and signed her to a record contract, releasing her first album and sending her out on the road on her first bus tour . . . She writes of sacrificing all for a shot at success that would come a couple of years later with her first hit single, "Shut Up And Drive" . . . her songs (from her fourth album, *Single White Female*) climbing the Billboard chart for twenty-nine weeks, hitting the #1 spot . . .

She writes about the friends she made along the way—Vince Gill, Brad Paisley, and others—writing songs, recording and touring together, some of the

friendships developing into romantic attachments that did not end happily . . . Keeping the truth of who she was clutched deep inside, trying to ignore it in a world she longed to be a part of—and now was—a world in which country music stars had never been, could not be, openly gay . . .

She writes of the very real prospect of losing everything she'd worked so hard to create . . . doing her best to have a real life—her best not good enough . . .

And in the face of everything she did to keep herself afloat, she writes about how the vortex of success and hiding who she was took its toll: her life, a tangled mess she didn't see coming, didn't want to; and, finally, finding the guts to untangle herself from the image of the country music star she'd become, an image steeped in long-standing ideals and notions about who—and what—a country artist is, and what their fans expect them to be . . .

I am a songwriter," she writes. "I am a singer of my songs—and I have a story to tell. As I've traveled this path that has delivered me to where I am today, my monument of thanks, paying honor to God, remains. I will do all I can with what I have been given . . ."

Like Me is fearless, inspiring, true.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

CHELY WRIGHT is an acclaimed singer and songwriter. Her seven albums have sold a million copies. Wright has given concerts around the world and has performed seven times for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. She lives in Nashville and New York City.

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“It has been twenty-eight days since she last spoke to me. How can she not call or reach out in some way? I have no idea if I’m going crazy or if I’m already there. Is this what it feels like?

I’m afraid of the thoughts that I’m having. My only relief is when I’m sleeping . . . When I am able to get rest, I risk dreaming of her. The dreams are happy ones, but then I wake and feel the truth bearing down on me . . .

I go upstairs and locate a loaded 9-millimeter handgun. It is heavier than I remember.

I say a prayer to God to forgive me and to understand why I can’t go on anymore like this. I beg God to realize that I will never be able to fit into the life that I’ve created, that I will never be accepted.

I pick up the gun and put the end of it in my mouth. It’s cold. I hold it steady and get my right thumb on the trigger and prepare to pull it by pushing it outward.

I close my eyes . . . thumb still on the trigger.

My mind is going a million miles an hour. I think of my family, my dogs, my friends, my fans, the sun, a kiss from Julia, and music.

Then I hear a noise.

It is the sound of my heart pounding in my head . . .”

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Celia Norton:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you that Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer book as nice and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Virginia Benson:

Now a day those who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources in it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each facts they get. How individuals to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Kenny Crowther:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Carol Stripling:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that query was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. So you know that little person such as reading or as examining become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the point. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update concerning something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is niagra Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer.

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