

STATUS

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POP FICTION

You've probably had her high-octave, powerhouse vocals as a soundtrack to your freedom Friday endeavors or Saturday night drives. But more than just being the voice behind Cash Cash's club anthem, "Take Me Home," **BEBE REXHA** is paving her own way to the top of the pop charts.

By Isabella Argosino



Having mostly been in the background vocals, BeBe is finally breaking free of her feat and taking the spotlight. Her debut album, which includes her hits "I'm Gonna Show You Crazy" and "Drinking About You," is her own personal initiation into the world. Beneath its poppy synths and estrogen-infused vocals, BeBe Rexha shares that it's all about her growing up in a sheltered world.

While she can definitely command a mean pop hook, the 25-year old American singer is also a songwriting virtuoso, having written tracks for Rihanna, Usher, Eminem, and the like. With all that under her belt, there's no denying that she's no stranger to the music industry, having also lent her vocal chops as the lead singer of Pete Wentz's Black Cards.

With collaborations with Tinashe, The Chainsmokers, Nicki Minaj, David Guetta, plus shows at this year's *Warped Tour*, and more on the way, it looks like BeBe is definitely gonna show us crazy.

Despite your songs being heavy pop, you say that most of them are actually very dark. What's the story behind this? Compared to what most pop songs are these days, my songs are a bit more insightful. I don't sit around singing about fluff. My songs usually say something that's important to me. I have my moments and I write about absolutely nothing sometimes when I want to, but mostly my songs are heavy on the lyrics.

Have you always been into songwriting and music?

Honestly, I'm not really sure how I got into music. I did sit around listening to the radio a lot and watch Disney as a kid. My parents are Albanian so they listened to a lot of Albanian music, which is very drum-heavy and rhythmic. I guess music was always just a part of me.

How do you approach writing songs for different kinds of artists?

Every time I write a song, I write it for myself. I never sit down and try to write for another artist. It just somehow finds its way to another artist. And if it doesn't make sense for my project and someone else falls in love with it, I give it away.

My songwriting process is quite simple: I just write and sing about what's currently going on in my life, what makes me happy, what makes me sad, and what moves me.

Do you ever find it hard to give up songs you wrote for other artists?

It does get hard giving songs away, but in the end, it's worth it, especially if I can help people through the message. It's always interesting hearing how another artist interprets a song I wrote.

With your latest single, "I'm Gonna Show You Crazy," what has been the craziest thing you have ever done?

The craziest thing I've ever done was getting out of a moving car in the middle of the highway. But there's a good reason for this: my cab driver was legit crazy. He was talking about murder and all this crazy shit, and he wouldn't stop.

What are your thoughts on the state of pop today?

I think pop music is pop music. There's always bad pop music that's good and bad pop music that's bad. And then there's good pop music that's bad and good pop music that's good. I guess what I'm trying to say is that it's whatever you want it to be.

beberexha.com
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