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Bea Miller
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Queen Bea

By singing her mind and speaking her heart, Bea Miller is making serious noise—onstage and off.

By Chelsea Duff

Bea Miller is no stranger to sass. Between belting out lyrics like “*And I never will be the girl who says sorry*” and firing off impassioned tweets, this 16-year-old songstress is more punk than pop. Need more evidence?

Just take a look at her debut album title—*Not an Apology*—and you get the sense straight away that Bea’s got swagger. “I don’t really have a filter. I always speak my mind and own my opinion,” she says. “I think a lot of girls my age are afraid to share what they think. I want to show them you don’t have to be scared to say what you feel. You don’t have to apologize for what you believe.”

It’s this cool, sorry/not-sorry confidence that has helped skyrocket the singer to fame since she competed on season two of *The X Factor* in 2012. Whether she’s opening up to her fans (aka “BEAsts”) via social media or delivering raw, soulful lyrics, it’s easy to see why Bea is so beloved.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL FAIRY TALE

Bea speaks her truth, especially when it comes to the tough stuff she’s gone through in life. While her meteoric rise in the music industry might seem like a dream come true, Bea is quick to say things aren’t always so simple.

“It was really hard for me to move across the country,” Bea shares about moving from New Jersey to Los Angeles to start her career. “I didn’t want to leave my home but, at the same time, my parents were struggling a lot with money. We couldn’t afford to stay in the house we had. It almost made it easier for my mom and I to move because if we hadn’t, the five of us would have all been living in one small two-bedroom apartment.”

Bea and one of her moms now live in L.A., while her other mom lives with her twin sisters, Esther and Georgia, back in Jersey. Although Bea doesn’t regret follow-

ing her dreams, she admits it’s pretty hard to be away from so much of her family. “It’s sad to think about how I wasn’t always grateful for family dinners and game nights,” she says. “Family is everything.”

That’s a lesson she passes along to her fans, reminding them on Twitter to give their moms hugs. “I used to get so annoyed when my mom would make me come home from hanging out with my friends just so we could all eat together,” she says. “Now I know those are the most important things in life.”

REACHING OUT

Something else Bea wants girls to know? It’s OK to not be OK. “When I was younger and having a hard time, I’d turn on the radio and hear these upbeat songs. Listening to them, it felt like life was great for everyone else and I was the only one sitting there alone with my troubles,” she confesses.

So when it came time for Bea to make her own music, she wanted to share a different message. “I think it’s awesome to tell people life is not amazing every single day,” she says. “You’re going to have struggles, and it’s OK to admit that. We all have those moments, but when you can connect with someone through a song, it’s really powerful.”

When Bea needs to hear that message herself, she turns to her favorite artist, English folk musician Keaton Henson. “He has a song for every emotion. His album *Romantic Works* is all orchestration, no lyrics. You can find whatever you’re feeling in it, and it really feels like he understands you.”

Similarly, connecting emotionally with fans is Bea’s fave thing about making music. “I’m happy to be there for them when they feel like they can’t talk to anyone else. Knowing that someone isn’t going to judge you is important, and it’s so cool to me that I get to be that someone for other teens.”

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QUEEN BEA

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She applies this attitude to her close friendships, too. No matter how crazy busy her schedule gets, Bea makes a point to always be there for her squad—a chill group of teens who prefer hanging out and watching movies at somebody’s house over hitting the town.

“The best kind of friends know how to sit down and listen. They don’t need to have the perfect solution or even be able to really understand, they just have to say, ‘I’m here for you,’ and mean it, or say, ‘Hey, are you OK?’ and really want to know. When you can spend hours just talking in your room, those are the best nights.”

Bea’s craving for heart-centered connection also is evident when she shares details about the other major relationship in her life—her singer-songwriter boyfriend Jacob Whitesides, whose EP *A Piece of Me* released over the summer.

Bea admits it can be tricky for the two crazy-in-love teens to juggle their separate (white-hot) careers, but they are definitely making it work.

“It’s hard when you’re touring, and whoever you’re with is on the road at the same time. You don’t get to just have dinner or go see a movie or play mini golf,” Bea reveals. “You have to really commit to FaceTime and texting. It gets a little rough, but what’s nice about dating someone who does the same thing as you is that they get it.”

CREATIVE VIBES

When she’s not touring the country, chilling with her crew or connecting with Jacob, Bea always carves out time to tap into her creative side. Just about every day, she writes poetry, sketches or updates her Instagram feed (check out her photog work on the right).

“I’m actually horrible at drawing, but I love art,” she says. “I’m always doodling little pictures and phrases I come up with. And I’m really passionate about photography, too. I’m that person who’ll say, ‘Stop the car! The sunset looks amazing—we have to get out.’”

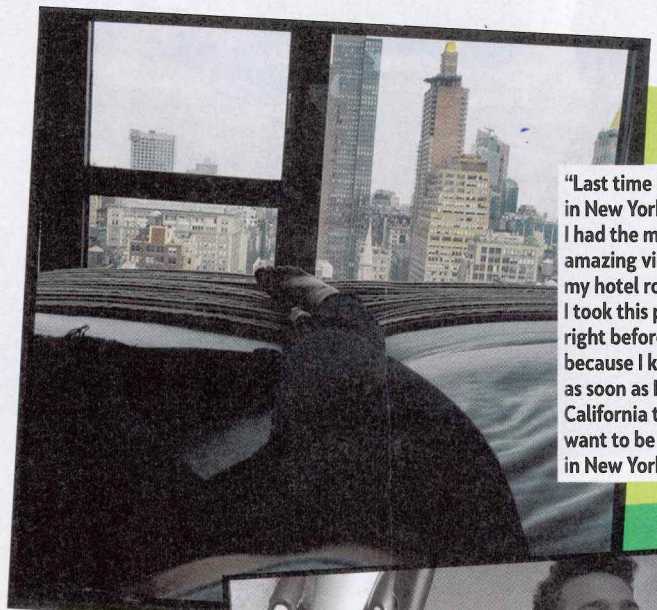
Bea wears her artistic flair on her sleeve—literally. Take a glance at her right arm and you’ll see a small tattoo of the planets in our solar system in the order of their distance from the sun.

“I got it for my 16th birthday,” she explains. “I chose planets because I’m really into learning about space. Plus, it symbolizes how much we don’t know about the universe and ourselves—and how we have so much left to learn. And it looks really cool, too.”

Sure, she’s an open book. But there’s so much more to learn about Bea...and we can’t wait for her next chapter. ✿

Picture Perfect

Though singing is Bea’s true passion, photography comes in a pretty close second. Whether it’s in front of the camera or behind the lens, she loves letting her artsy side shine through—and sharing it with her fans on Instagram. Bea spills on some of her best snaps...



“Last time I was in New York City, I had the most amazing view from my hotel room. I took this picture right before I left because I knew as soon as I was in California that I’d want to be back in New York.”



“On one of our days off, we went to Universal Studios Florida and had so much fun. You can’t see it here, but in the full pic there’s a bubble on the wall behind Jacob’s head that says, ‘Thinking of you.’ Aww.”



“They put up the walls from CBGB when we did a video shoot for my YouTube channel. They were so rad, so I had to take a picture with them.”