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COUNTRY CAPITAL

COUNTRY QUEENS EDITION

40

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SHANIA'S SECRET BOYF?

EXCLUSIVE NELLIE WESTWOOD INTERVIEW

the world's next female country STAR

JEMIMA JONES

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#EQUIPPED TO BE TRUE

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**JEMIMA
JONES
PG 35**

**COUNTRY
QUEENS EDITION**

A photograph of country music artist Nellie Westwood. She is wearing a brown cowboy hat, a brown paisley jacket, and dark jeans. She is sitting and playing a yellow acoustic guitar. The background is a solid teal color. There are several text boxes overlaid on the image: a white box at the top right with an introduction, a pink box on the left with the interviewer's name, a pink box at the bottom left with a quote, and large pink cursive text at the bottom right with her name.

Overnight country bombshell **Nellie Westwood** is becoming a household name but who really is she? Country Capital journalist Cerys Collins gets the lowdown on the personal life of Nellie and what led her down this track. She chats about her sudden fame, current love life, future plans, how **YOU** can help with her next project and so much more...

Interview &
Photography by
Cerys Collins

"I'm just
like
everyone
else!"

Nellie
Westwood

"TOO BIG 4 MY BOOTS? NEVER!"

The name 'Nellie Westwood' has been buzzing around social media and the country community ever since the Southern belle sensation went **VIRAL** after posting a Tiktok of her playing an acoustic version of her song, '**Red Running Waters**'. Nellie is just 17 years old and is now a star. When her family uprooted her Texan life to London, I bet she didn't think that country would end up being such a huge part of her new life in the UK- but let's just say I think the UK is chuffed to have her!

Nellie was open about her unforeseen fame, "Yeah it's absolutely mental I mean it was like one day I was making riffs and exploring my creativity and the next my phone is flooded with notifications and I'm getting record label offers! I definitely didn't see this coming."

The media has taken to her well, "Of course there's gonna be haters but luckily for me, it's early days and right now all I am seeing is big love, **6.3 million followers** within these two weeks and I'm even getting recognized out in Piccadilly when I'm with

my friends. **I don't feel I deserve to be idolised this way - I'm just like everyone else!**"

So just how popular is '**Red Running Waters**'? "I don't even know the current numbers but last I checked the Tiktok it was at around **80 million views and 53 million likes**. The song is slowly increasing in streams too, up to around a million now which is absolutely insane. The love for the song genuinely means so much to me because **the song is very close to my heart.**"

"It's about the sort of heartbreak that that hurts so deeply that it just hits you in the face every morning and then that sinking feeling seeps in. I think it's important to a lot of people because **this feeling is so universal**, it's really easy to fall into the mindset that this is how it will be forever.

But that's not true at all and writing this song has shown me that! Healing is a process, it's a journey which means that it's not going to happen overnight,

nor is it going to be straightforward. Remember that a breakup slump doesn't mean that all your healing is gone. **It's a process.**"

A lot of young stars have struggled with accidental fame as it has caused them some emotional struggles; Nellie shared her fresh take, "I totally see how this attention can do that to a person; **already I feel a lot of pressure** and expectation from people and feel as though a layer of my privacy has been stripped away but at the end of the day I have such supportive family and friends that I know they'll keep me grounded."

"Like will I end up too big for my boots? NEVER! One thing that always helps me keep my mental health in check is songwriting - to me it's like journaling. That is something that can always remain private"

When asked what inspired her, Nellie was passionate in her response, "Oooh well I love..."

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Taylor Swift

