CATCH THE SECRETS!



HANNAH DAKS 202

Hannah Oaks, 21, is a rising pop star who hasn't always had it easy in life and her new album 'Raise Me Up' (out on 6th February 2020) tells her inspirational story through the beautiful and heart-felt lyrics.

aks grew up in Leeds with her mother, father and two sisters. As the middle child, explained to us that she got into all sorts of trouble in her youth due to the lack of love sur- telling them. rounding her and the mental health issues she had as a teen in the developing social media world. We met up with Oaks in her favourite Camden bistro in London to discuss her upcoming album and tour.

"I have been working on my album 'Raise Me Up' for the past three years, which has been very fulfilling. I have really enjoyed releasing all my caged emotions and stories and being able to put them into words has made me feel free. It's unbelievable how much support and kindness I have received from my family, friends and producers. No one has questioned my decisions about lyrics or themes which has been really reassuring."

"My friends have been so supportive."

Oaks told us her album tells the story of her youth from the age of sixteen to the present day - in fact the last track on the album is about a recent battle she has just faced. Her favourite song on the album is called 'Elevate' which is about Oaks' closest friends as it is based around the moment when she told her friends about her mental illnesses.

Oaks said that they were extremely supportive: "I don't know why I didn't tell them sooner." The Oaks always had to fight her own battles. She song expresses Oaks thanks for her friends and tells the listeners how she feels 'Elevate'd by

> "It felt so good to open up and release my thoughts. It's like a weight off my shoulders."

"I can see how some listeners would be offended by the content and themes on it, however I hope that they accept it, grow to love it and start to talk about their feelings more. I know teens today find it difficult to speak to parents and friends about the battles they're having to fight, but I want to get the message out that it will be okay; you're never on your own. That's one important thing that I have realized whilst creating this album - the realisation that your family will always be there to catch you when you fall and to be a shoulder to cry on, even in the most difficult times."

Oaks told us about her recent battle with schizophrenia which influenced the track 'Breathe & Survive'. The first time I listened to the track, I got goosebumps all up my arms.

"The future is pretty scary. I am hoping to go on tour with Rebekah Bishop in May 2020 across the UK and Northern Ireland. I am also





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