

# NEW Album Gossip

## + the LOWDOWN

# with HANNAH OAKS



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**H**annah 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.

Oaks grew up in Leeds with her mother, father and two sisters. As the middle child, Oaks always had to fight her own battles. She explained to us that she got into all sorts of trouble in her youth due to the lack of love surrounding 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."

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. She said that this song has a special place in her heart because 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 song expresses Oaks thanks for her friends and tells the listeners how she feels 'Elevated' by telling them, like it was a weight off her shoulders.

"I can see how some listeners would be offended by the content and themes on it,

however I hope that they accept it and grow to love it because I really have put my heart and soul into the album. I wrote the songs in order to make the topics addressed more approachable. 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's okay to have bad thoughts; you're never on your own."

"I've touched on topics like mental health, including suicide and anxiety, being in toxic relationships, losing friends, my own illness and the constant support that your family gives you. 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. She told us that at first she didn't tell any of her friends, family or even producers because she was scared of their reactions and the impact it would have on her album being released. But, she eventually came to

the realisation that the best thing to do was to tell them, because it is a part of her life that she can't hide, so they decided to add it to her album as the last track. "It makes it up to date with my life, so hopefully, my next album can address my next battles. That's if this album gets a good enough reaction!" And from what I have heard, the album is beautiful with sentimental lyrics. The first time I listened to 'Trust', I must admit I had some tears in my eyes.

"The future is pretty scary. It all depends on this album's success really. I am hoping to go on tour with Rebekah Bishop in May 2020 across the UK and Northern Ireland. I am also hoping to

**"My friends have been so supportive."**