



# Carrie Underwood

Why she's got more than "some hearts" pulling for her by Lisa Arcella

**T**he soft-spoken 23-year-old from Oklahoma dishes on her *American Idol* win, why she's proud of her recording debut and how her newfound stardom has changed her dating life forever.

**How did it feel the moment you won *American Idol*?**

Like a big weight had been lifted off my shoulders.

**So is Simon Cowell as rude as people think?**

For one-on-one relationships, I prefer Paula or Randy, but as a judge, Simon is the one who really says what he thinks—you get the most honest opinions from him.

**Your first CD, *Some Hearts*, is a huge hit. Why do you think your debut was so successful?**

We made all the right moves in terms of recording and promotion—and, of course, the songs are great!

**What don't you understand about the opposite sex?**

I don't understand why they don't understand us!

**Are you in a relationship now?**

Yes, I have been for a couple of months, though it's kind of impossible to have a dating life right now—I don't know if people really like me for the real me.

**Do you see yourself with a family one day?**

Maybe in 10 to 15 years, but my husband will be the stay-at-home father and I'll keep working.

**What's the last thing you splurged on?**

I bought a couple pairs of Rock & Republic jeans the other day that I never would've before.

**What keeps you grounded?**

My mom still makes me clean my room when I'm home. She's like, "I don't care who you are out there, little girl."

**How do you define happiness?**

Being able to sit back and be satisfied in what you've done, the things you have and the people around you.