

44 SEX TIPS

From Around
the World
PREPARE FOR
GLOBAL
WARMING!

BEST
BEAUTY
UNDER
\$10

Get Fit! The Fun Way

p. 126

Gwen Stefani

On Turning
Heartbreak Into
Happiness
**YOU CAN
TOO!**

**YOUR STRESS
SURVIVAL GUIDE!**
Read This,
Feel Better
About
Everything

UNEXPECTED SEX ADVICE

How to Turn Yourself On

WANNA SPOON?

Dig Into
These
Desserts
Tonight

SEPTEMBER 2016

Ivy League Addiction: "I'd Take Any Drug to Succeed"

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IN HER OWN WORDS

Gwen Stefani

My happy place:

Writing Music



Kissing my BABIES

Before I go onstage, I always have to:

- Pee
- Pray

My most-used emoji:



My favorite subject in school was:

Lunch



If I could keep only three beauty products, they'd be:

RED Lipstick
RED Lipstick
RED Lipstick

JACKET, Moschino.
BUSTIER, Di\$count
Univer\$. SHORTS,
Express Edition.
TIGHTS, Capezio.
NECKLACE, Martin Katz

My favorite California slang:

WAKE UP

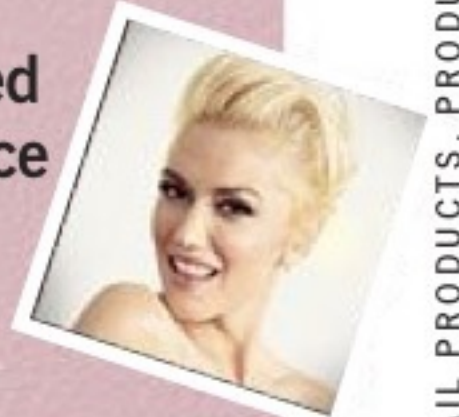
My favorite dirty word:

Poop 🍑

I can't help dancing when I hear:

Whip / NAENAE

What I do when I need a confidence boost:



USE A FILTER

Biggest turn-on:

TRUTH

Biggest turn-off:

Lies 😞

Sooooo grateful for this magic time for my STUFF Journey

Gwen Stefani

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES WHITE. FASHION DIRECTOR: AYA KANAI. HAIR: DANILO FOR PANTENE AT THE WALL GROUP. MAKEUP: GREGORY ARLT FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT USING MAC COSMETICS. MANICURE: SHELLEY H FOR SPARKLES NAIL PRODUCTS. PRODUCTION: FIRST SHOT PRODUCTIONS. CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA/STUDIO D; GETTY IMAGES (5). SEE PAGE 218 FOR SHOPPING INFORMATION.

WHEN LIFE
THROWS YOU A
CURVEBALL,
SUIT UP IN
SEQUINS, DROP
YOUR PANTS,
AND JUST DANCE!
(NOTE: CAN BE
DONE SOLO OR
WITH FRIENDS.)

WHAT'S SEXY FOR SEPTEMBER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES WHITE. FASHION DIRECTOR: AYA KANAI. HAIR: DANILO FOR PANTENE AT THE WALL GROUP.
MAKEUP: GREGORY ARLT FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT USING MAC COSMETICS. MANICURE: SHELLY H FOR
SPARKLES NAIL PRODUCTS. PRODUCTION: FIRST SHOT PRODUCTIONS. SEE PAGE 218 FOR SHOPPING INFORMATION.

COAT,
Libertine.
SHOES, *Sophia
Webster.*
TIGHTS (worn
throughout),
Capezio

INTERVIEW BY
MERLE GINSBERG

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
JAMES WHITE

CAN'T KEEP A GOOD WOMAN DOWN

GWEN STEFANI HAS BEEN THROUGH SOME SHIT. BUT WITH A HIT ALBUM, A HOT BOYFRIEND (OH *HAI*, BLAKE SHELTON), AND HER U.S. SUMMER TOUR NOW IN FULL SWING, SHE'S SERVING UP GRATITUDE WITH HER GLAMOUR.

FASHION DIRECTOR:
AYA KANAI

DRESS, *Alexander Wang*. BAR EARRINGS, *Eddie Borgo*. STUD EARRINGS, *Hearts On Fire*. HAND PIECE, *Jacob & Co.*



BY NOW,

everyone knows the Gwen Stefani story. Or at least they think they do. The gist: SoCal ska-punk girl turns global superstar, first as the lead singer of No Doubt and then as a hit-churning solo artist with a side of lauded fashion (L.A.M.B.) and fragrance (Harajuku Lovers) lines. She spent 13 years married to Gavin Rossdale, the Bush front man with whom she has three boys: Kingston, Zuma, and Apollo. The couple split last August and now share joint custody of the kids. Three months later, Gwen went public with her relationship with Blake Shelton, her costar on NBC's *The Voice* and former husband of singer Miranda Lambert. The country megastars divorced in July 2015.

The exact time line of who, what, when, and how the two Camelot couples of music came undone is murky. Sleuths can mine Gwen's latest album *This Is What the Truth Feels Like* and Blake's *If I'm Honest* (we sense a theme) for tells of what went down. Hear especially their duet "Go Ahead and Break My Heart," which Gwen cowrote with Blake for his album. The rumor is that Gavin cheated with the nanny (heard that one before). But whatever, that was then. This is *Gwen*. On the set of her *Cosmo* cover shoot, the singer—who was raised Roman Catholic—is hyper-spiritualized, giving it up to the power of God, prayer, and blessings at every turn. "It's a journey I've been on," she says of her faith. "I got lost for a while, but I found my way back. So many crazy miracles



**BEAUTY
TIP**

CHANNEL GWEN'S
ROCK-PRINCESS
VIBE WITH A MATTE
PINK LIP. GIORGIO
ARMANI BEAUTY'S
LIP MAGNET IN
MANIA, \$38, IS
EQUAL PARTS EDGY
AND FEMME.



DRESS, *Osman*.
HOT PANTS,
ThePerfext.
SHOES, *Sophia
Webster*

have happened around me, I don't feel that I can be responsible for that."

She's also tremendously happy. A woman transformed not by her usual OTT hair and makeup but by the wonder of the ups and downs and ups of her 46 years. "If you look at all the records I wrote, there were so many disclaimers," she says. "Even a love song, there would be one line that was like, *By the way mother-fucker!* It's so boring and not who I am. I'm positive. I'm full of love. I'm full of hope." For how Gwen's gone from "Don't Speak" to speaking her truth, read on.

COSMO: You've had quite a year!

GWEN: It's been crazy. Blake and I had our song ["Go Ahead and Break My Heart"] come out yesterday, and we were sitting there like, you couldn't write this! So bizarre.

Did you know him at all before you went on *The Voice*?

No. I didn't know anything about who he was or even the show really when I got the call. I remember one of my nannies was hot on him and her telling me, "Oh, yeah, that cowgirl guy...."

You guys looked pretty tight during your second season on the show.

We were laughing our heads off when we saw the blind auditions. I love NBC, but they for sure edited stuff to look like we were flirting. They chose to run with that story before anything was even real. I hardly knew him. But it was like it was in the air—happening before it happened.

And then it happened for real....

The story is so crazy. I performed at the Grammys [in February 2015]. I came home, and the next day, I found out what everybody knows....

About Gavin? No one knows the specifics though.

Nobody except for my parents, the people involved, and whoever they told. Nobody would believe it if I could really say what happened. I went through months and months of torture. I knew I was going to do *The Voice*. I was like, Oh my god, I'm going to get fired if I get a divorce, because it was not who I am to have that happen to me. I had this big secret.

"I HAD TO LOOK BACK AT MY LIFE AND GO, WHY? WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS? BUT WE ALL HAVE A CROSS TO BEAR."

Did you know something was going on?

There's no need to ever answer that. All you have to do is listen to every single song I've ever written and it's all there. It's an ongoing theme that I've had for a long time.

What made you decide to come clean?

When we went back to start filming *The Voice*, Blake was like, "I want everyone to know that by the time this comes out, I'm going to be divorced." This was a Tuesday—he had found out on Saturday about his whole thing.

Which was?

Well, we had the exact same stories happening at exactly the same time. I was just looking down at him in shock that he wasn't scared to say it because I didn't know what was going to happen with me at that point. I was trying to work it out.

JACKET, Gucci



What was that process?

I had to look back at my life and go, *Why? What did I do to deserve this?* I felt sorry for myself, but I also felt like we all have a cross to bear in this life. There has to be a reason for this. My girlfriend [director] Sophie Muller helped me. But I felt so embarrassed in front of her. I didn't want to sit there and go, *Why me?* Like, if I can turn this into art somehow, then she's going to think I'm cool.

You were actually worried about your cool factor?!

It wasn't cool! But I didn't want to be defeated by it. It didn't seem right. So I picked myself up, and I went to the studio. It was hard because I was already insecure about songwriting without the problems going on. I drove down Santa Monica Boulevard crying, like, *What am I doing? I'm in the eye of the storm, and now I'm going to torture myself more?* The stuff that was going down that day is crazy. You wouldn't even believe it. But I wrote a song called "You Don't Know Me," and it was a little spark of hope. It felt so good to get it out. I didn't know if I'd ever be healed, but I know I needed to do that. That was what was going to heal me.

Were you afraid of revealing too much?

No, I knew if I could channel everything that happened to me and share it that it would help people. Everybody has heartache and hard things they go through, and many don't have an outlet. I'm lucky. I have music. The only place I felt any kind of comfort was in the studio. At the time, not only did my family fall apart, but my kids were taken away half the time. That's not fair. I didn't do anything wrong. It was devastating. The only thing I could do was say, "This is part of God's plan." If I didn't have that time, I wouldn't have written the record. I wouldn't have healed. I had already lost so much of my confidence even before all the tragedy. You don't understand how far gone I was.

What do you mean?

There was a time when I was desperate to write. You have a long career, and you don't want it to end. You

COAT, Victoria, Victoria Beckham.
SUNGLASSES, L.A.M.B.
HAIR: Danilo for Pantene at The Wall Group. MAKEUP: Gregory Arlt for Exclusive Artists Management using MAC Cosmetics.
MANICURE: Shelly H for Sparkles Nail Products.
PRODUCTION: First Shot Productions. See page 218 for shopping information.



start to become competitive with what you've done before and competitive with things people have done after you that are like you. So many times I've gone into the studio and people are excited about me being there yet don't have the confidence that I can do anything anymore. I had been praying that I would find something. For this album, I had the right team. Once the songs started coming through me, I felt like I was chosen. God was in that room. I sound like a crazy born-again, but this record was a miracle. When I wrote "Used to Love You," that was a huge turning point.

How did the subject of that song feel about it?

I don't know. I didn't talk to him about it. But everything switched at that point, because I started falling in love, which was completely unexpected. I still can't believe it.

Now you have a song with Blake, which you never did with Gavin.

All it is is just being real. It happened really early on. We were both having trust issues, as you would if you were us. It was like, *I have so many problems. How can I now be getting into another potentially huge problem? What am I doing?* Blake wrote the song and sent it to me. He was like, "Help me finish it." I wrote a verse and sent it to him, but he was gone because he doesn't live in L.A. He didn't have Wi-Fi, so he wasn't answering me back! As soon as he came back to town, he brought his guitar over. We were like, "We wrote a song together! This is crazy!"

You've talked a lot about always wanting to have babies.

I always wanted to have four. My mom had four, and I wanted to be my mom. But it just never happened.

Well, it's not over—

No, no, it's over! ■