

IMPROBABLE CONVERSATIONS: DOLLY PARTON AND BRITNEY SPEARS

Written by

CJ Cylinder

DOLLY

Why hello Ms. Spears! Good of you to join me!

BRITNEY

It's an honor. When they said we'd be talkin, I couldn't believe it.

DOLLY

Well you've had quite a career already. You started performing at a young age. I did too. And we're both from the south.

BRITNEY

Yes ma'am. I started performing young, at talent shows and those sorta things. It was fun. When I was younger, I could really sing... I always thought it was amazing how good of a songwriter you are.

DOLLY

Thank you! That means a lot. I started writing songs before I could even write, I imagine. I'd go insane if I didn't have a place to get it all out.

BRITNEY

Who do you think of when you're writing?

DOLLY

I write for myself as well as for other women who can't write and you see those things happen but there'll always be the tough women, there's always be the vulnerable women, there'll always be the hurt whether its male or female. We'll always be hurt if the person we love breaks our heart or goes off with someone else, I just think that's the way of it.

BRITNEY

I've tried it, but I'm just not a natural like you.

(laughs)

We sing about pretty different things!

DOLLY

When it comes down to it, we're just singing about feelings that all of us have, right? You pick a feeling, and get a melody going, and then a story comes from that. I'm sure you've got some songs inside of you ready to burst.

BRITNEY

I definitely have a lot that's happened that I get inspiration from. I was watching a YouTube video of you giving an interview when you were younger, about thirty. And you were telling Barbara about wanting to be a crossover artist.

DOLLY

(Hoots)

I do remember that light as day!

BRITNEY

You said, why make thousands when you can, and deserve, to make millions. I like that.

DOLLY

Glad you agree! It used to be the music, but now, it's everything. Just look at all the perfumes out there-- not just you, but nearly every singer.

BRITNEY

There's a lot of opportunity. There are a lot of crossover singers now. Do you like Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood and all those pop-country girls?

DOLLY

I've met some of them and they're all sweet girls. To be honest, I'm so busy making my own music I don't really have time to listen to theirs. But they're all talented.

(pauses)

What's the biggest misconception about you?

BRITNEY

(thinking)

Geez that's hard. I guess that I'm a redneck, or that I don't care what people say. It's hard; I do. You know what? I need to create my own magazine. These people ... I mean they want stories to sell and they're very good ... I need to come up with my own magazine and say the real deal. Or anytime they talk about my parenting.

DOLLY

Kiddos are off limits! I have a lot of nieces and nephews you know and they're like my kids. Raised half of 'em. Family's off limits in my book.

BRITNEY

I think with anybody who's doing well in the public eye or whatever, there's always gonna be a shift because people don't wanna see somebody happy all the time. And they're gonna try to take shots at people.... I think that's just cruel, you know? I think that's cruelty when you judge people.

(pauses)

I think you do a good job with the media. I admire that. You keep your personal life private. Everyone's always in my business. I can't really hide.

DOLLY

I'm pretty boring when it comes down to it. I like making music. I like being with my husband. People don't want to hear that. I'd rather be rocky road than vanilla. I don't care what people say about me. Would rather them think the worst without knowing the whole truth. So I like to kid, that's more fun, and if people want to believe that as the truth, well as long as they're entertained by it, that beats boring in my book!

BRITNEY

How's it having a normal marriage?

DOLLY

I don't know if you can call any marriage normal. But it's good. I'm patient. He's patient. It works. At this point it better be workin!

BRITNEY

There's just so much pressure. It's always a weird feeling to be so famous and so lonely. I'm glad we're talking cause there's not many people in this world that live in a fishbowl like us.

DOLLY

Ain't that the truth! I often think how much more can I give? What would be enough? Seems like at times it can be insatiable.

BRITNEY

You're so positive. People want to be around that. They want to be your friend.

DOLLY

And for you, men want you and women want to look like you. I'm kinda a creation. A costume. Maybe I seem like a mystical creature!

BRITNEY

Are you ever going to slow down or retire?

DOLLY

Making music is like being retired. I wouldn't do anything else. There's so much to see and do and make, and not enough time!

(pauses)

I just wanna be the the best whatever age i am. The best 50, the best 60, the best 70, the best 100 if I live that long and I will always try to be as good as I can and look as good as I can at whatever age. Everybody should care that much about themselves.

Whatever that is.

BRITNEY

I've slowed down, a bit, to spend time with my boys. There's always so much pressure with looking good so as soon I have have shows, it's back to the rehearsals and dieting!

DOLLY

I guess since I never stop, it's easier in that sense to stay active and all that. You know I've never left my house without makeup. No one wants to see that!

BRITNEY

We are like cartoons or creations. That can scary. I don't look the same as that sixteen year old in the plaid skirt.

DOLLY

Honey you made it this far, you're here to stay. We are entertainers. That's what matters. You just give it your all every time.