



A Conversation with Kim Cameron.

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Those of you who read my articles on this site may recognize Kim Cameron's name, as I've had the pleasure of reviewing two of her more recent singles ("Let's Fall and Love" and "Forever") for publication on The New Fury. After doing so, and keeping in contact with Kim's manager, I decided to sit down and interview this wonderful new pop artist whose music I had become so enamored with. The result was an interesting conversation with a dedicated songwriter, collaborator, and children's book author who is just as charming and personable as she is talented. I have taken excerpts from the interview for your reading pleasure. Please enjoy!

-Andrew Oliver

On the songwriting process and her involvement therein:

Some of them I write in the entirety. It depends on the song. "Forever" was co-written with my guitar player out in California, and typically what happens is I'll have an idea, and you know, I kind of play around with the keyboards, but I'm not a keyboard player at all – I'm more of like a chord player. So I'll have an idea and melody line and lyrics, and then he'll fill in the rest. Then we sort of collaborate and go back and forth. We do lots of songs together that way.

On creativity and mixing things up:

You know, I'm a big believer in...if you do the same things, with the same people, then you just get stale, and I know people say, "well, that's not true," but in the arts I just think that is true especially with music – you just have to keep mixing it up to bring out more...something different, something new, something fresh, something more creative than what you did yesterday, and so, we just spent the last month together, and we were just on a roll. When songs come out that easy, you just know they feel right.

On collaboration:

Oh, I love collaborating! I mean, I think you get the best out of that. It's kind of, I guess, because I'm a trained journalist, and I'm used to being edited, and so I always see myself as the ideas person, but I always need an editor. That's where I see that second songwriter coming in, and it's really being that editor and making it beautiful.

On her new (unreleased) EP:

It's kinda funny because in the summer I had pretty much told myself I was gonna stop writing for a while, and then I – well, I think I'm addicted to music. I'm probably addicted to songwriting, so I probably need help on that one, but these (tracks) just came out after I sat down with this guy, and we wanted them to all fit together without sounding the same so they could stay on an EP. So what we were kinda doing is: what would you normally not hear in sort of an EDM package? So we simplified it a lot. There's not as many layers, which, you know, we wanted to drop that back down. It's nice to sort of strip that stuff back without losing that sort of vibe that you want.



On which of her albums to listen to first:

You know, you're going to hear a huge diversity, which might just be interesting. My songwriting has definitely, in my mind, improved – as it should! So in a way, I'm like, "oh, do I want you to hear anything (early material)?" But the other sense is that it does show growth, so the first album, which is "Contradictions," is very much on the pop rock side, and that's primarily because my co-writer and collaborator for that was a heavy metal dude, and so everything kept going towards that, you know, huge rock flavor, and the producer I used was also a big rock guy. So that's gonna feel very rock-centric.

On tracks breaking the Billboard top forty and Billboard success in general:

Oh, it's always surprising! Every time I get, you know, a radio station that adds me to their playlist I'm thrilled because, let's face it, there's like, a zillion songs out there! And now, with the internet, and youtube – I can't keep up with all the new stuff out there! I can't keep up with all the new artists that I am dying to hear. So, just being able to be pulled out in the clutter is, to me, amazing.

On becoming a children's book author:

It happened on tour. When I was in the Caribbean, during one of our breaks, this little girl – she must have been like, 12 years old – came up to me, and we started talking, and she was so cute, and she says to me something about how she had this love of octopus. And I was like, you love...octopus? Who loves octopus? I don't even know what that is! That's so odd! So we sort of teased her all night about it, and we inserted the word octopus in almost every song we sang for the rest of the night. Then, the next day, on the beach, my guitar player and I were playing around with a little children's song called "Mr. Octopus." So we decided to record it, and we recorded it down there, actually – just like a scratch recording, and then he goes, "you know, Kim, what we should do is – we should do something with the song. You should write a story around it." And it got me thinking. So, lo and behold, I wrote a story around the song. Well we decided, "let's make it into an audio book!" So we created this kind of tropical, fun kids' audio book with the story, and the song is inserted at the end.

And it started a series! And so now I just finished my fourth book in the series and signed a really large deal with a resort who's actually putting together this very large shop that will feature my books down there.

On the risk of leaving corporate America to pursue her dreams:

You know, I'm a Sagittarius. We're a determined people, and we just don't believe in the word "no." So I think I would have found a way to make it work somehow.