

Back to Her Roots

By Jessica Loobey

Back To Her Roots is a song that encompasses my world and experiences nearly perfectly. This song is a representation of who I am through and through. I grew up on a family owned cattle ranch that saw nothing short of hard work, core values, and staying true to yourself above all. There is something to be said for experiencing an upbringing in that setting that could never be replicated in any other lifestyle. As much as I love the city life, I will never leave or lose sight of the simplicity and beauty of the life God gifted me in the country. The story of this song is a reminder of how easily the foundation of what makes us who we are can be lost, but its always there in your heart. Although I didn't have much involvement in the lyrics, the final cut turned out to be one of the most relatable songs of my second album.

When I was first introduced to this song, it was part of a catalog from writers JD Dohnal and Jimmy Bilbrey. This song had initially been demoed by a male artist, but still sung from the perspective of watching a female chase her dreams. At the time, it was very much a Brad Paisley style song, up-tempo with his traditional guitar licks and witty vibe. When I heard it, I knew that it was going to be a hit for me, and easily believable to my audience. I had lived this already-being from South Dakota and going back and forth to Nashville a couple times a year to work on my career. Multiple times, I had been in the big city life and then back home again to my small town and family ranch.



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When it came time to bring this song to life, my producer Grady Saxman asked me what kind of style and vision I had for my album as a whole. Who were my influences and what kind of artistry did I want to portray in this project? My answer was to keep it traditional with a sassy flair, much like some of my favorite artists, Shania Twain, Terri Clark, and Miranda Lambert. I also mentioned that I really loved and appreciated the strength of the style of Little Big Town as a more modern element to keep it on track with today's hits.

After some discussion of how to make it fit authentically to me, we ultimately decided to take it a completely different direction and give it a simplified back porch feel. We narrowed down a key and melody, and had it tracked in less than an hour. Back To Her Roots has since become the most popular song on the album, and continues to be a hit across the Midwest.

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