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SEPTEMBER 2018

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Maddie
Poppe



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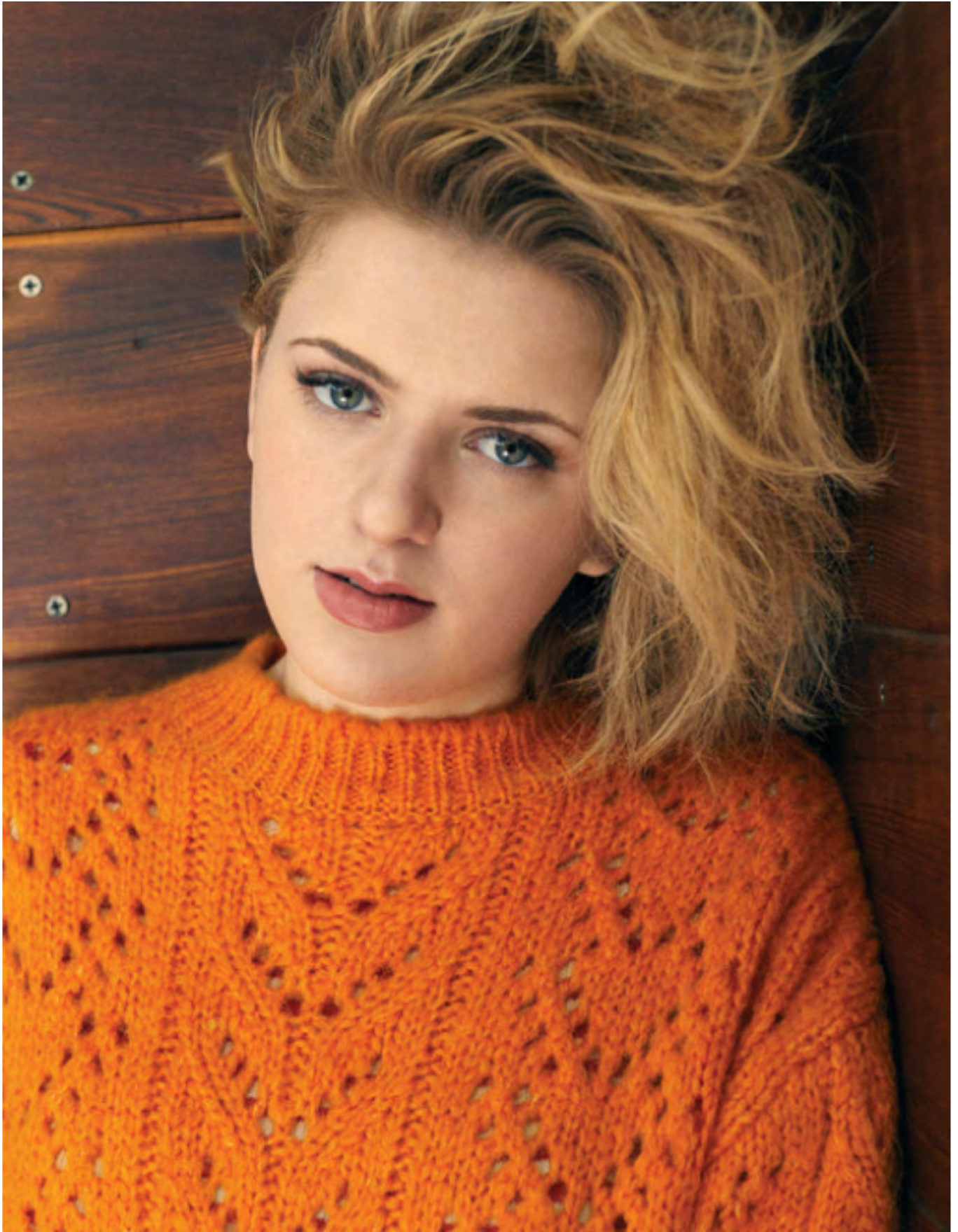
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MADDIE POPPE

IS EVERYTHING AMERICAN IDOL NEEDED

WRITTEN BY ZACK TREMBLAY | PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL SCHWARTZ







American Idol has changed the lives of many over the past decade. From Kelly Clarkson to Carrie Underwood, and even other successful alums including Chris Daughtry, Katharine McPhee, Jennifer Hudson + many more. Idol made a return this year with a new network, ABC, changing the life of reigning Idol, Maddie Poppe. Maddie recalls her dad calling her telling her that the series was starting back up again. The news interested Maddie revealing, "My audition experience was everything I could have ever dreamed of, from getting great feedback from the judges to getting the golden ticket, I couldn't have asked for more. It was truly the best day of my life."

America quickly fell in love with Poppe as she graced us with performances of "Homeward Bound", "Landslide", and "God Only Knows". Maddie admits that some of her favorite moments from the series were not televised. "The cast had such a fun time behind-the-scenes and since we were all living together, we were always having the best of times together. As for the show, I would have to say my favorite moment, besides winning, was when I performed "God Only Knows" for Mother's Day. It was nice to have an intimate moment where I could simply stand in front of a microphone and not worry about any instruments other than my voice. I hadn't had any moments like that up until that point on the show, so it was nice to show the audience a different side of me."

With America on Maddie's side, the "Going Going Gone" singer won the series in May performing her debut single written by Julia Michaels. Maddie admits that Julia is such an incredible artist who not only sounds great in studio but is phenomenal live as well. "I was in shock when they told me I could have the chance to record a song written by her. She's already taken the music industry by storm and I'm sure she's a name that we'll be seeing so much more from in the future. As for a collaboration, personally I think I need to grow a bit more as an artist before getting the chance to collaborate with such a well-known musician, however until that time comes, I would be honored to work with her again in any capacity." Following Maddie's American Idol win, she signed with Hollywood Records. Maddie reveals that Hollywood has been incredible since her win. "We've been working on listening to songs and recording a few as well. Later this year I have a few writing sessions scheduled that I'm very much looking forward to. The label has been the perfect fit for me and I truly couldn't have asked for a better team."

Maddie is currently on the road with the rest of her Idol alums for the American Idol Live Tour. Maddie shares, "It's been such a great experience so far, the seven of us have such a special friendship and it has been so much fun being together on the road. Being away from my family had been difficult, but knowing that I'm sharing this first time experience with everyone else makes it easier knowing they're all going through the same thing." While Maddie admits that it is difficult being away from family while on the road, she shares that each of the contestants always have their phones on them to keep in

touch with their loved ones back home. Maddie reveals that the her fellow Idol contestants are closer than she could have ever imagined, coming from a reality competition show. "We truly love and care about each other so much and we get along so well. I can honestly say I've found many of my life long best friends through this show."

Going on tour comes with a lot of free time as you drive from city to city. Luckily the top seven keep busy as they travel. Maddie shares, "We play a lot of games on the bus, a lot of which we make up ourselves, also there's so much snacking going on. As for myself, I shop way too much but I can't help wanting to explore each new city we visit every day, I just wind up spending too much money in them." One of the most heartwarming things was finding out that Maddie and the rest of the contestants love to play guitar and sing together after a show. "I think the most important thing is that we have each other, I'm not sure I could go through all of this alone."

While Maddie has worked very hard to get where she is as our reigning American Idol, she admits that the perks of winning the show has been the most rewarding part. "Just all of the different performing opportunities I've gotten since the show, and all the people I've gotten to meet, who before Idol I would have never even dreamed of meeting. The doors that have opened for me are endless and I'm so grateful for everything." Since winning the show, Maddie has had the opportunity to perform on shows such as Live! with Kelly & Ryan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, and the 2018 Radio Disney Music Awards.

A competition series like American Idol truly flexes your muscles in a way you never knew was possible. You learn so much about yourself as an artist and for Maddie, she reveals that American Idol has shown her who she is, more than anything. "It has taught me to stand up for myself and what I believe in, and it has tested me in many ways. Meeting so many new people and taking on advice they've given me has definitely sharpened my abilities and skills; I've learned so much from so many incredible people in this industry."

Maddie has gained the knowledge and resources to power through and continue on a lasting career in the music industry. Maddie will be on the American Idol Live tour through September, but she shares that her first goal once the tour wraps is to spend time with her family. "I know that doesn't seem like too aspiring of a goal or anything, but I really feel like I owe it to them, and I really need that in my life right now. Not having them around has been very hard for me and I think I just need some time away from all of this madness to settle down and have some time with my favorite people in the world." That right there is why Maddie Poppe is truly the best representation of what an American Idol is.

For more information on the American Idol Live Tour visit americaindollive.com and you can now listen to Maddie Poppe's debut single "Going Going Gone" on all streaming services.



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