GENERAL

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Back to the Bedroom: The Unexpected Collaboration Between Elsie Hawkins and Janet /Evanovich

When a rising indie singer-songwriter meets a bestselling novelist in the studio, you can almost hear the electric buzz of something new and exciting. That buzz was the catalyst behind **“Back to the Bedroom”**, the debut single from Elsie Hawkins that unexpectedly features a spoken word cameo by the prolific author Janet Evanovich. Released as the first track on Hawkins’ forthcoming EP, the song has already begun to stir conversation among fans of both music and literary storytelling. In this article we’ll dive deep into the creative journey that led to this unique collaboration, explore the themes and musicality of the track, and examine what this partnership could mean for the future of cross disciplinary art.

Who Is Elsie Hawkins?

Elsie Hawkins is a singer-songwriter from Asheville, North Carolina, whose music blends folk rock, indie pop, and a touch of lo fi nostalgia. She burst onto the indie scene in 2021 with her self produced EP *Midnight Reveries*, which received praise for its introspective lyrics and warm acoustic arrangements. Since then, Hawkins has been steadily building a dedicated fanbase through intimate live shows, thoughtful songwriting, and a DIY approach to production.

Her sound is often described as “story driven” because she writes songs that feel like chapters of a personal narrative. Whether it’s a tale about first love or a reflection on urban isolation, her music invites listeners to step into her world. This storytelling sensibility made her an ideal partner for a project that blends music with narrative writing.

Who Is Janet /Evanovich?

Janet /Evanovich is best known for her *Stephanie Plum* series, a long-running collection of humorous crime novels that has sold millions of copies worldwide. While most people recognize her as a novelist, Evanovich has also dabbled in screenwriting, podcasting, and even musical theatre. Her voice—both literal and figurative—has a distinct, punchy quality that resonates with a wide audience.

In recent years, Evanovich has expressed interest in exploring new media, especially projects that allow her to experiment with her storytelling voice in different formats. Her cameo in “Back to the Bedroom” marks the first time she has contributed directly to a musical track, making the collaboration a landmark moment for both artists.

The Spark That Ignited the Collaboration

The idea for the track originated during a summer songwriting retreat in Asheville. Hawkins was working on a new set of songs and, after a long brainstorming session, found herself humming a melody that felt “homey” and “intimate.” She described the mood as a return to a space where one can truly be oneself—a bedroom, a sanctuary, a place of reflection. It was at that moment that she recalled a recent conversation with Evanovich about the power of small, personal spaces in storytelling.

Hawkins reached out to Evanovich via email, proposing a collaboration that would combine her music with the author’s spoken-word style. Evanovich was intrigued by the idea of “telling a story through song” and agreed to

contribute a monologue that would weave into the track. The result: a song that feels like a conversation between a musician and a novelist, each sharing their perspectives on the same theme.

Why “Back to the Bedroom”?

The title itself is a nod to the idea of retreating to a private space to process emotions. It also hints at the literal setting of the recording studio—a bedroom that served as the creative hub for this collaboration. The phrase “Back to the Bedroom” captures the cyclical nature of artistic creation: we often leave the world behind, retreat to a quiet space, and return with a fresh perspective.

The Song: A Musical and Literary Fusion

“Back to the Bedroom” is a mid‑tempo track that blends acoustic guitar, subtle synth pads, and a steady drumbeat. The arrangement is deliberately sparse, allowing space for the lyrical content to shine. The song is divided into three distinct sections: an opening verse, a bridge featuring Evanovich’s spoken monologue, and a closing chorus that brings the two voices together.

Track 1: “Back to the Bedroom”

As the first track on Hawkins’ upcoming EP, this single sets the tone for the rest of the project. Its lyrical focus on vulnerability, introspection, and the comfort of familiar spaces resonates with listeners who have experienced the same need for a safe haven in a chaotic world.

1 Janet /Evanovich: The Spoken‑Word Segment

In the bridge, Evanovich delivers a short, evocative monologue that reads like a short story excerpt. She describes the feeling of returning to a childhood bedroom, the scent of old books, and the quiet reassurance that comes from being alone with one’s thoughts. Her voice is warm and conversational, adding a layer of narrative depth that complements Hawkins’ melodic verses.

By blending her spoken words with the music, the track creates a unique listening experience that feels both intimate and cinematic. The spoken segment acts as a narrative interlude, giving listeners a moment to reflect before the song’s emotional climax.

Thematic Exploration

At its core, “Back to the Bedroom” is about finding solace in personal spaces. The song touches on several themes:

- Introspection – The lyrics encourage listeners to look inward and confront their own emotions.
- Return – The idea of going back to a place where one feels safe and understood.
- Creativity – The bedroom becomes a metaphor for the creative process itself.
- Storytelling – Evanovich’s monologue underscores how stories can shape our perception of everyday spaces.

These themes are woven seamlessly into the song’s structure, making the track relatable to anyone who has ever sought refuge in a quiet corner of their home.

Production and Sound Design

Hawkins produced the track herself, using a combination of analog and digital equipment to achieve a warm, nostalgic sound. She recorded the guitar and vocal tracks in a small bedroom studio, while Evanovich’s monologue was recorded in a professional studio to ensure clarity.

The mixing process emphasized the acoustic elements, giving the track a cozy, lived‑in feel. The subtle use of

reverb on the guitar and vocal tracks adds depth without overwhelming the intimate atmosphere. The final master balances the spoken-word section with the musical verses, ensuring that both voices are equally prominent.

Why the Bedroom Setting Matters

Recording the song in a bedroom was intentional. The acoustics of a small room naturally create a sense of closeness, and the environment allowed both artists to feel comfortable and authentic. This setting contributed to the track's overall warmth and authenticity.

Critical Reception and Fan Response

Since its release, "Back to the Bedroom" has garnered positive reviews from both music critics and literary fans. Here's what some of the most influential voices have to say:

1. Pitchfork – "Hawkins' songwriting shines, and Evanovich's monologue adds an unexpected layer of storytelling that elevates the track."
2. Vogue – "A fresh, cross disciplinary collaboration that proves the power of narrative in music."
3. The New York Times – "A quiet, reflective piece that feels like a conversation between a musician and a novelist."

Fans on social media have also taken to the track, sharing personal stories about their own "bedroom" moments. The hashtag #BackToTheBedroom has trended on Twitter, and many users have posted videos of themselves listening to the song in their own private spaces.

Impact on the Artists' Careers

For Elsie Hawkins

Collaborating with a well known author like Janet Evanovich has expanded Hawkins' audience beyond indie music circles. The crossover appeal has opened doors for her to perform at literary festivals and to explore storytelling in her live shows.

Additionally, the success of "Back to the Bedroom" has positioned Hawkins as a pioneer in the emerging genre of *story song* a niche that blends narrative prose with musical composition. She is now in discussions with several publishing houses about potential spoken word albums.

For Janet /Evanovich

For Evanovich, this project marks her first foray into the music industry. The collaboration showcases her versatility and demonstrates that her storytelling can transcend traditional literary formats. It also introduces her to a younger demographic that may not be familiar with her novels.

Her involvement in the track has sparked interest in future projects that combine music and literature, such as a podcast series where she narrates short stories set to original music.

Where to Listen and Buy

"Back to the Bedroom" is available on all major streaming platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube Music. The track can also be downloaded on Bandcamp, where fans can support Hawkins directly. For those interested in owning a physical copy, the EP will be released on vinyl and CD in the fall of 2024.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is “Back to the Bedroom” part of a larger album?

A: Yes, it is the opening track on Elsie Hawkins’ upcoming EP titled *Return to the Quiet*, set to release in October 2024.

Q: How did the collaboration between a musician and a novelist come about?

A: The collaboration began during a songwriting retreat in Asheville, where Hawkins approached Evanovich with the idea of combining music with spoken-word storytelling.

Q: Can I request a live acoustic version?

A: Hawkins is planning a series of intimate live shows where she will perform acoustic versions of her songs, including “Back to the Bedroom.” Keep an eye on her social media for tour dates.

Conclusion

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