

FLAMING ARROWS - CARMEN JUSTICE



Carmen Justice has been a front-woman in Dove nominated girl band 1 Girl Nation for the past five years, and this year, she is stepping out on her own as announced by CCM Magazine exclusively this morning. Her single "Flaming Arrows" marks Carmen's first release as a solo artist as she moves into the next chapter of her music evolution and will be available on all digital platforms on January 20.

Writing the song from a place of uncertainty and doubt, the pop/alternative song's driving rhythms give way to explosive melodies in an anthem about overcoming fear. The song was written days after 1 Girl Nation split giving her the creative freedom to explore new sounds and a stylistic tone that is genuine to her artistry while exploring the raw and vulnerable emotions Carmen felt during a time of peers expressing doubt about her career, extreme financial uncertainty and still dealing with past broken relationships.

"I was haunted by the bad experiences I had gone through as an artist, as a woman, and it was starting to control my mind," explains Carmen. "I got so burned by people in my life and the entertainment industry that I didn't know how much longer I could take it." She continues, "I was always living in fear...fear of not making enough money, fear of failure, fear of people knowing my mistakes I've made in my life...the list could go on ... but I was comforted by Ephesians 6:16 that says 'take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.' With the faith I have in Jesus, I can overcome all of these voices of fear in my head."

The pop star's desire is for this song to empower those who are struggling with their own ghosts, whether it be bullying, addiction, anxiety, shame, doubt and help them take control of their fears, face them and put them in the past.

Carmen Justice is a critically acclaimed pop star, recognized as one of three vocalists in the Dove Award nominated girl group, 1 Girl Nation (1GN). She has shared the stage with mega artists including TobyMac, Sidewalk Prophets, NF, and Andy Mineo. But after five years being a part of a group, Carmen is stepping out on her own as a solo artist, revealing a more edgy pop/alternative sound paired with honest lyrics. The Nashville native is preparing to release her first single "Flaming Arrows" in January 2017, with an EP to follow later in the year. Carmen's hope is to empower listeners to overcome their fears and love those around you.

Information from: http://www.newreleasetoday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=5412

LYRICS

Breathe, paranoia crawls under my skin
Run, if they catch up to me then they'll win

Pre-chorus:

A shot, a cold, almost an overdose
A fix, a remedy, drowning in overflow
There isn't enough medicine to cure my shadow
My shadow

Chorus:

All these voices make my heart beat, beat take flight
Fear won't win in the dead of the night
Flaming arrows, feel the heat, but they know
I'm not running from my ghosts, running from my ghosts
All these voices make my heart beat, beat take flight
Fear won't win in the dead of the night
Flaming arrows, feel the heat, but they know
I'm not running from my ghosts, running from my ghosts

Time, it's moving and I can't escape, can't escape it
Fight, no the haunting won't make me insane
I have to rise above, I can't be afraid of the heights
I know there's a battle, between the dark and the light, the
dark and the light

Pre-chorus

Chorus

Fight 'em off, fight 'em off
They won't win, they won't win
They won't win, fight 'em off
They won't win, no they won't win

Chorus

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2 Corinthians 5:16-21, New International Version (NIV)

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. What parts of the song can you relate to?
2. According to the song, what is Carmen Justice not running from anymore? What does she mean by that?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16. What does the phrase "worldly point of view" mean?
4. Read verse 17. Why can we abandon the "worldly point of view? What does this mean for us?
5. What does it mean that Christians are "new creations"? What does this knowledge do for us?
6. According to verse 18, how did this happen?
7. What does "reconciliation" mean?
8. Looking at verses 20-21, what should our job be?
9. What do you need to do to better accomplish that job?