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Life on the bus with Lady Antebellum

Country hottie Hillary Scott reveals her rock star crush—and inner nerd

By Wade Tatangelo
Special to Metromix



Credit: David Johnson

Lady Antebellum have nimbly charmed their way to the upper ranks of the country music world. A band and a songwriting team—a rarity in mainstream country—the trio consists of co-lead singers Hillary Scott and Charles Kelley and multi-instrumentalist Dave Haywood. Their 2008 self-titled debut disc features such hit singles as the stirring breakup ballad “Love Don’t Live Here,” the rollicking hook-up number “Lookin’ for a Good Time” and the endearingly poppy romance “I Run to You.” The album topped the country chart and crossed over to No. 4 on the *Billboard* 200. Lady Antebellum earned “Top New Group” honors at the 2008 Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards, the 2008 Country Music Association (CMA) Awards and two Grammy nominations. Not bad for a rookie year.

Scott turned 23—not 25, she says, as some media outlets have reported—on April Fool’s Day. She’s the daughter of Grammy Award-winning country singer Linda Davis. As a child, the Music City brat wanted to be “a vet, a nurse, a chef, a ton of different things.” By the time Scott hit high school, though, she knew music was her calling.

Just before starting a tour with Kenny Chesney and Miranda Lambert, the Lady Antebellum front-

woman chatted with us via phone from the band’s cramped, testosterone-heavy tour bus.

Rather than taking it as a band name, do people assume you are “Lady Antebellum?”

Oh, yeah! They’re like, “Look, there’s the ‘Lady’ in Lady Antebellum.” I’m very proud of Charles and Dave. It takes a man who is very comfortable

with his masculinity to be in a band called “Lady Antebellum.”

What’s life like as the only woman on the tour bus?

Well, I have a girlfriend who sells merchandise for us. She’s awesome. So I’m not the only girl, but we are definitely outnumbered on the bus. And the bus is full. There are 11 to 12 people on here, but we really have a great time. We respect each other’s space as much as you can in such a confined area. The guys are doing a pretty good job at keeping the toilet seat down—and bathing daily!

Is everyone single?

No. There are a handful of guys married or engaged on the bus, but I’m single. Out of the three of us in the band, Dave and I are single. Charles is engaged.

Do you shoot dirty looks at female groupies if they make it on the tour bus?

The ladies love Dave. But we have a “no girls on the bus” rule. With 11 and 12 people on here, there would be literally no room to move. It gets a bit claustrophobic.

Do you ever bring male groupies back?

[Laughs] No. Oh my gosh, I don’t know if there are any!

Come on...

If so, I have yet to see them.

No? Why do you think that is?

Guys are just different than girls, from what I can tell. Girls will wait around and try and meet someone. Guys act like they’re too cool for that.

Maybe guys are intimidated by you.

Great, they think I’m scary?!

No, no, because you’re this beautiful star...

I don’t know. I’m just a big nerd once everyone gets to know me.

What’s your nerdiest quality?

Well, my Easter present from my parents was a Nintendo DS. I’m addicted to it.

Yeah, that’s kind of nerdy. Have you ever been star struck?

Oh my gosh, yes! At the Grammys. From where I was sitting, I could have literally thrown a rock at Paul McCartney and hit him in the head! To be that close to a Beatle was just amazing. Ne-Yo and Jennifer Hudson were right by us and Katy Perry was across the aisle. I was definitely star struck. Another funny one is about Caleb Followill, the singer of Kings of Leon. I absolutely love their album “Only by the Night.” I saw him at the Nashville airport. But I couldn’t get the nerve up to go and say “hi.”

You could have had yourself a date.

I know! But I never introduced myself. I think he’s completely hot, by the way. It would have been great, but I chickened out.

Have you met your tour-mates, Kenny Chesney and Miranda Lambert?

Yes, we just saw them out in Las Vegas at the ACMs [Academy of Country Music Awards]. And Dave and Charles have actually written songs with Miranda and [her boyfriend] Blake Shelton. I’m so excited to have another girl on the road! Every conversation I’ve had with her, she has seemed so down to earth and so cool. And Kenny is so solid. He takes care of his camp and has such a good reputation. I can’t express in words how excited I am. It’s going to be awesome!