

# RollingStone

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## 10 NEW COUNTRY ARTISTS YOU NEED TO KNOW: JULY 2018



### Caylee Hammack

**Sounds Like:** Gretchen Wilson’s unapologetic scruff with Martina McBride’s unapologetic belt

**For Fans of:** Maren Morris, Chris Stapleton, and Pistol Annies – solo or together

**Why You Should Pay Attention:** If overcoming hardship is a cornerstone of country songwriting, then Hammack’s got material aplenty: at 16, a cancer scare and surgery derailed an athletic scholarship and, just last year, her house caught on fire while the Georgia native was out of town on a writing retreat. But Hammack, who moved to Nashville five years ago with nothing but a few trash bags of clothes and “a high school diploma and a fake ID,” has a way of turning tragedy into creative fuel. A frequent face at Lower Broadway’s Honkytonk Central, Hammack went through the Music Row ringer – a potential manager once told

her “we don’t want your songs, we just want your voice” – and came out with a publishing deal, label interest and songs filled with smart, shit-kicking energy. It’s true, Hammack’s got a voice to move mountains, but it’s her frank and clever storytelling that keeps it all in motion.

**She Says:** “I want my music to be seen as a salsa – very chunky textures with some pineapple in it, that has has flavor. That’s something I can chew on.” Mixed in will be plenty of life experience. “Have your house burn down,” she says with a laugh. “It seems to do wonders for your career.”

**Hear for Yourself:** This snippet of “Redhead” is a look into what Hammack has cooking with co-producer Mickey Reaves – and it’s as badass and unique as a fiery head of hair. *M.M.*