

Life as I know it

# Lewis Capaldi

Singer-songwriter Lewis, 22, lives at home with his parents in Whitburn, West Lothian, Scotland Words by Nick McGrath

**Not a lot of people know this, but I'm very good at...** drinking alcohol. My tippie of choice would be a Buckfast, which is fortified wine made in Devon by monks. I would thoroughly recommend it.

**My best friend is...** a roofer/DJ from Scotland called Connor Lachlan. He's one of my seven or eight best friends and he's also my go-to person for testing out my songs. All the songs that have done best he's said, "That's a banger, release it," so I trust his musical judgment.

**The bravest thing I've ever done was...** After a killer night out I shy away from every opportunity to DJ. I'm not a very brave man.

**My nickname is...** My dad calls me Luigi because he likes to hang on to his already very thin connection to his Italian roots.

**My favourite TV show is...** *Peaky Blinders* or *Big Mouth* on Netflix.

**My perfect evening is...** I'd go to the pub for a bit, I'd have a couple of pints, come home, order a takeaway, then have a big bag of crisps and just sit and watch YouTube videos.

**I'd like to say sorry to...** the playground lady when I was in primary school. I shook up a bottle of fizzy juice and gave it to her and she opened it and it exploded all over her and she was absolutely furious. To this day I still wake up in cold sweats thinking about how I covered her.

**My first kiss was...** a girl named Kristen at a party in Fauldhouse near where I'm from.

I was a bit of a late bloomer when it came to kissing ladies on the mouth and I remember all my friends were like, "You've gotta do it," and she was like, "Come on, I'll give you a kiss," and I was like, "No, no, no, I don't want to." I was so nervous. Everyone was watching and it was really awkward, and then I kissed her in front of everyone. There was no second kiss with her, though. It was a one-time deal.

**The one thing I'd change about myself is...** the collapsed arches on my feet. So I have to wear insoles, but they ruin shoes, so I can't wear the big trainers that I'd like to wear, because my feet just look really flat in them.

**The best thing my parents taught me was...** to be cynical of other people and their motives, which sounds a lot worse than it is. Question things rather than taking things at face value.

**The last time I cried was...** probably at a death in *Peaky Blinders*. I do enjoy a good cry every now and then. I'm very susceptible to a few tears on a Sunday night.

**The first record I ever bought was...** a red Bob Dylan compilation CD when I was 10 or 11, which just says *Dylan* on the front in some black writing. I bought it because I thought I was being cool. I didn't listen to it for another year but when I eventually did, I was a big fan.

**My greatest weakness is...** my knees. It's probably a knock on from my flat feet but my knees are very weak and get very sore,

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ALEXANDRA GAVILLET



particularly onstage, which can affect some of my choreography, especially the aerial stuff where I'm up on poles and thrusting my hips.

**If I could pass any law I'd...** ban people from wearing flip-flops in airports. Or open-toe sandals. I hate feet. I don't like looking at them. Go to Clarks and get a pair of sensible shoes.

**I drive...** my mum's teal Ford Fiesta. It's disgusting and I think she chose that colour deliberately to spite me, as I don't have my own car.

**The shop I can't walk past is...** KP Fresh Fish in Glasgow. I just love fish. I love being there, I love the smell of it and the food they serve is terrific. And it's also my dad's shop.

**The most expensive thing I've ever splashed out on is...** a pair of Ray-Bans when I got to number one with *Someone You Loved*. I've only worn them twice so far, but they've been an absolute delight.

**In a film I'd play...** Meatloaf. And he'd have to play me.

**The worst job I've ever done...** I lasted one day selling ice cream in a shopping centre. I had to entice children passing by but I kept thinking, "What could be weirder than a man in a hairnet saying to children, 'Do you want to try some ice cream?'" My heart wasn't in it and the boss let me go just one hour into my five-hour shift.

**My perfect Sunday is...** maybe go out for dinner – maybe to a Toby Carvery for a roast and a pint. Then I'd come home and play on my PlayStation.

**My favourite place in Britain is...** sunny Glasgow, just because I like it and I like the people there. And that's where I'm from.

**My last holiday was...** Magaluf last summer. It was terrible. I left after a day and a half.

**I'm currently reading...** nothing. The last book I read was *Horrid Henry* at school. I'm not a big reader. I don't have the attention span for it.

**The best day of my life was...** getting to number one with *Someone You Loved*. The last gig I played in a pub was only two and a half years ago, so to think it's all happened this quickly is pretty mental.

**If I had half an hour left on Earth I'd...** find a bridge somewhere in Copenhagen, stand on it, look out at the sea and the wind farms, and just take it all in. Or I'd just get drunk. ☹

Lewis's debut album *Divinely Uninspired To A Hellish Extent* is released on May 17 on Virgin.