

THE ATLANTAN

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is the central figure. She is wearing a vibrant red, V-neck dress with a draped front. Over her shoulders is a thick, plush purple fur stole. She is adorned with a large, ornate diamond necklace and a matching ring on her left hand. Her right hand is raised near her face, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a backdrop.

INFLUX OF LUXE! *WISH LIST 2011*

ROBIN MEADE GOES COUNTRY

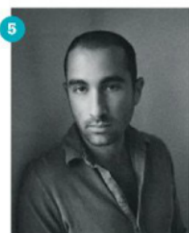
ALAN AVERY ON ARTFUL INVESTING

IT'S TIME: WATCH REPORT

BRIZA, SWAY, OCEAN PRIME—OH MY!

STEPHEN KING HAUNTS THE ALLIANCE

PHOTO FRENZY: FALL'S HAUTEST EVENTS



Contributors

November 2011

1. Katie Kelly Bell is a freelance food and wine writer whose work has appeared in publications ranging from *Delta SKY* to *Southern Living*. This month Bell worked on Food Review "Good Chemistry," on chef Janine Falvo's Briza. "It's always a thrill to enjoy the molecular creativity of a chef like Falvo. Her passion for food and the fun she has with it is contagious," Bell says. In between deadlines for *The Atlantan* and *Men's Book*, Bell shares her wine musings on her blog at salthill.wordpress.com.

2. Accustomed to fixating on structures, writer Wendy Bowman-Littler reveals where all those celebs filming in Atlanta have been staying. In Radar Realty she gives us a peek inside the high residences and penthouses where Jennifer Hudson, Julianne Hough and Woody Harrelson have been holing up. Aside from reporting on real estate, she interviewed Alan Avery about nontraditional portfolio-building for Radar Art. Forgo stocks and bonds and invest in modern art.

3. Senior Editor Nate Chapnick has tested hundreds of cars and SUVs throughout his career covering the automotive industry. This month in Radar Rides "Six Series" he writes about BMW's latest. "I remember the first time I drove a second-generation BMW 6 Series: it was in 2003 and I was in Florida and I wondered how it could ever get better," he says. "Then, I drove the 2012 650i and I had my answer." Chapnick's work also can be seen on yahoo.com, forbesautos.com, msn.com, edmunds.com and in the US Airways in-flight magazines.

4. For years Sarah Dorio's work has been visually wowing *The Atlantan's* readers. This issue she captured the very hip Michael Habachy for our Look Who's Talking profile, dished with Janine Falvo of Briza for our Food Review and mulled around with Alan Avery in his studio. Dorio's work has also appeared in *Men's Book*, *The Source* and *Spin* magazine.

5. While the stunning pieces from Harry Winston, Dior Fine Jewelry and Van Cleef & Arpels take center stage in this month's fashion feature, "Rules of Enchantment," it took the talented eye of photographer **Rony Shram** to bring out the jewelry's true beauty. To that end, Shram ratcheted up the glamour in the moody environs of the Sanctuary Hotel in New York. A graduate of Columbia University, Shram was headed to law school before deciding to make his passion for photography a profession. The true DIY-er attributes his distinct aesthetic to being entirely self-taught.

6. Dana Seith is an award-winning journalist. She is a former CNN producer and *DailyCandy Atlanta* editor who did Radar Music for us this issue on HLN's Robin Meade. "I always find an interview with a journalist to be interesting because they know a simple yes or no answer won't cut it," she says. "I loved Robin's candidness and vulnerability when speaking of the pressures of the industry and the way she lit up when talking about her husband—truly sweet." In addition to contributing to *The Atlantan*, Seith is the Atlanta community manager at MSN's Postbox and is founder of danapop.com.

Gone Country

HLN anchor Robin Meade talks about embracing her strong side, her second career as a singer and airing dirty laundry. | By Dana Hazels Seith | Photography by Zach Arias |

In person, HLN's Robin Meade is just as smart, personable, driven and pretty as she comes across during her six-hour anchoring block each weekday on *Morning Express*. And while reporting the national news is career enough, she's added something else to her already impressive resume: country music singer.

Meade's Nashville-recorded album, *Brand New Day*, might surprise some, but singing was a constant in her life when she was growing up. This former Miss Ohio was a preacher's daughter, "so music was a part of every week at church," she says.

The idea for an album came together a few years ago when Kenny Chesney invited her to sing "When the Sun Goes Down" at his Atlanta concert. Fast-forward through two years of trading vacation days and free weekends to make the trek to Nashville to write and cut her first album with heavy-hitter, producer Victoria Shaw, of Garth Brooks and Lady Antebellum fame. Meade jokes about the juggling act of recording and reporting and says, "What is the saying? Ask the busiest person to get something done because they'll actually get it done."

But it wasn't always this way, with Meade so comfortable in her own skin. During her six-year stint as an anchor in Chicago (prior to Atlanta), she suffered from panic attacks—the trigger pinpointed to a high degree of perfectionism. She remembers, "I used to have the

disease of 'you have to like me,' and if you didn't like me, I looked at it as a problem with myself." She says she's happier now, though she didn't always have such a strong voice. Meade struggled early on with public speaking—it did not come naturally. "Your void becomes your value, and my void was speaking in front of people, so that's what I coveted," she says. "I didn't covet music at the time because that was easier."

Brand New Day is a partnership with Somerset Entertainment, exclusively sold at Target stores and on iTunes, forgoing the traditional label route. Meade certainly is doing things differently from a big-label release timeline too: She just shot her first video—appropriately enough, her interpretation of Don Henley's tongue-in-cheek "Dirty Laundry."

One gets the sense, however, that Meade—who's clearly just as comfortable inside recording and television studios alike—is happiest unplugged, without the coiffed TV hair, makeup and wardrobe. She and her husband of 18 years spend as much time as possible at their cottage on Lake Sinclair. While her HLN job assures her entrée into Atlanta's society scene, Meade prefers sitting on her pontoon boat to big-city nightlife. "There's no better place to me than just being out on this lake [playing music]." Her current boat playlist includes Adele, Kenny Chesney, Kings of Leon and Alison Krauss. *Brand New Day* would fit perfectly into the rotation. **A**

ANCHOR AWAY
Robin Meade steps out from behind the news desk to make a go at a country music career.

