

# Us WEEKLY

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## THIS MINUTE

You Want to Know About ...

### Carrie's Big Win

**E**VEN SIMON COWELL HAD TO SMILE WHEN COUNTRY CUTIE **Carrie Underwood**, 22, became the newest American Idol on May 25. After all, from day one, the surly judge had predicted the Checotah, Oklahoma, farm girl's win — voted on by a record 500 million over the course of the season. "It was obvious to me," he told *Us* at the Hollywood finale. "After the thousands of people we saw [audition], I could only remember her name and I thought, she'll win the competition!" After scoring the Idol title, the bubbly blonde — who nabbed a \$1 million record contract with J Records, a red Ford Mustang and the use of Marquis Jet's private fleet — celebrated with *Us*:

#### How did it feel to hear your name?

It took me a while to realize it. Then I thought, "Oh, man, I gotta sing now!"

**Will you stick to country?** Definitely. Maybe I'll do some crossover like **Shania Twain** or **Faith Hill**, but [country music] is where my heart is.

#### What's it like going back to Checotah?

It's fun to lead a double life right now, [but] that's where I want to end up. I never want to forget that those are the people who stood behind me all the way, even when I was a just little girl singing in county fairs.

AIMEE AGRESTI



When Underwood won, runner-up **Bo Bice** whispered, "You deserve it!"



She's rumored to be dating fellow *Idol*-er **Anthony Fedorov**, but Underwood insists, "I don't have time for a boyfriend right now."