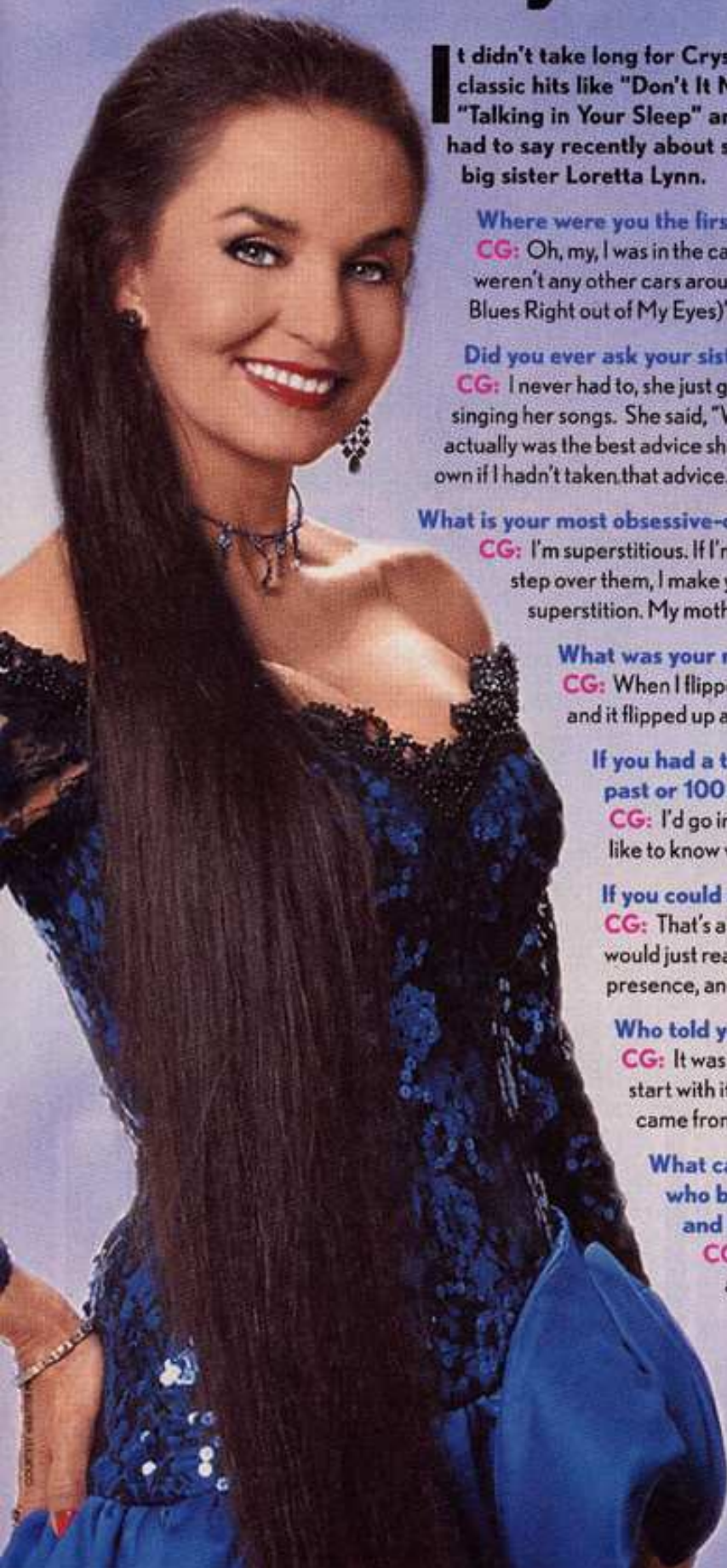


CATCHING UP WITH

Q&A: Crystal Gayle



It didn't take long for Crystal Gayle to make her mark in country music with classic hits like "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue," "The Sound of Goodbye," "Talking in Your Sleep" and other great records. Here's some of what Crystal had to say recently about superstitions, embarrassing moments and advice from big sister Loretta Lynn.

Where were you the first time you heard your first single on the radio?

CG: Oh, my, I was in the car driving down the road and, actually, it was good that there weren't any other cars around [laughs]. I might have wrecked. It was "I've Cried (the Blues Right out of My Eyes)" in 1970.

Did you ever ask your sister Loretta Lynn for career advice?

CG: I never had to, she just gave it to me [laughs]. Her best advice to me was to quit singing her songs. She said, "We have one Loretta Lynn, we do not need another." And it actually was the best advice she ever gave me, because I would never have made it on my own if I hadn't taken that advice.

What is your most obsessive-compulsive habit?

CG: I'm superstitious. If I'm sitting and my legs [are in a certain position] and you step over them, I make you go back, and then I move my legs so you can walk. It's a superstition. My mother was very superstitious.

What was your most embarrassing moment on a date?

CG: When I flipped my steak onto my dress at my prom. I was trying to cut it and it flipped up and went down on my white dress.

If you had a time machine, would you rather go 100 years into the past or 100 years into the future for one week?

CG: I'd go into the future. We read and know a lot about the past, so I'd like to know what's going to be happening in the future.

If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?

CG: That's a hard one because I think the Bible says, "Do not question." It would just really be great just to talk to Him... just to be there in His presence, and, hopefully, one day I will be.

Who told you about the birds and the bees?

CG: It was in health education class in school. That's where you would start with it, but then, of course, sisters tell you things [laughs]. Mom came from that time period where you didn't talk about those things.

What career or personal advice would you give to singers who become successful at a young age, such as Taylor Swift and Miley Cyrus?

CG: Be true to yourself. Don't let people try to change who you are. If you don't really want to sing a song, tell them. Don't just let them mold you. It's you that's out there.

If you could be one age forever, what age would you pick?

CG: I think 39 sounds nice. That's a good age. It's not old, and it's not real young. It's right in between.

— PAT GALLAGHER