



### Lana Del Rey, the internet sensation who will break your heart

Lana Del Rey is a name you're going to hear a lot of over the next few months. She's the internet sensation whose debut song Video Games is already the 'Single Of The Year' pre-release, having attracted almost a million and a half page views on YouTube. Her first UK show this month sold out in about 30 seconds.

Interest in the artist—who has only two songs to her name—is propelled by the charge against her: that she is a big fat phoney. Let me explain. The 24-year-old New Yorker is actually called Lizzy Grant—she admits the name Lana Del Rey was made up by a series of managers and lawyers. She tried to make it

as a mainstream artist in 2009, releasing a three-track EP. This failed, so she went away, wrote some more songs and returned transformed. Bigger hair, bigger eyes, bigger lips, bigger tunes.

Music blogs hiss and froth about her "authenticity". There are rumours she is a puppet controlled by a group of wealthy, clever producers. That her father is a multi-squillionaire although she claims she lived on a trailer park. There's mention of cosmetic surgery. The vanishing of her old music online in place of the new has led writers to call her the "Frankenstein of indie".

The problem with Del Rey is this: her songs are actually bloody good. Music bloggers agree almost unanimously: the voice, lyrics, arrangements, melody—it's all there. Video Games is an earworm which will surely top both mainstream charts and trendy bloggers' top tens this year. This leaves us in a conundrum. Becoming a fan of an artist is like embarking on a relationship. We commit to them, they comfort and support us. We open our wallets, they're there for the dancing and the tears. We overlook their bad habits or



But is there anything so wrong with pop stars self-embellishing? Bob Dylan created his own back story after all. Pop doesn't do 'keeping it real'. It never has. It never will. The lives of artists don't detract from the quality of their art. We don't even really know who wrote Shakespeare's plays, but it doesn't lessen our enjoyment of them. David Bowie dressed up as all sorts of lunatic and we adored him for it.

All we know for sure is this: the song is good, and she's much more than just a pretty face.

### INSTANT IDEAS

**Lana Del Rey - Video Games**

Swinging in the backyard  
 Pull up in your fast car  
 Whistling my name  
 Open up a beer  
 And you say get over here  
 And play a video game  
 I'm in his favorite sundress  
 Watching me get undressed  
 Take that body downtown  
 I say you the bestest  
 Lean in for a big kiss  
 Put his favorite perfume on  
 Go play a video game  
 It's you, it's you, it's all for you  
 Everything I do  
 I tell you all the time  
 Heaven is a place on earth with you  
 Tell me all the things you want to do  
 I heard that you like the bad girls  
 Honey, is that true?  
 It's better than I ever even knew  
 They say that the world was built for two

Only worth living if somebody is loving you  
 Baby now you do  
 Singing in the old bars  
 Swinging with the old stars  
 Living for the fame  
 Kissing in the blue dark  
 Playing pool and wild darts  
 Video games  
 He holds me in his big arms  
 Drunk and I am seeing stars  
 This is all I think of  
 Watching all our friends fall  
 In and out of Old Paul's  
 This is my idea of fun  
 Playing video games  
 It's you, it's you, it's all for you  
 Everything I do  
 I tell you all the time  
 Heaven is a place on earth with you  
 Tell me all the things you want to do  
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 Only worth living if somebody is loving you  
 Baby now you do  
 Now you do