



LeAnn loves life's simple things, such as Christmas Day with her husband and stepkids (left).



IN A NEW CHAPTER OF HER LIFE, THE SINGER REFLECTS ON WHY SHE'S HAD TO START OVER...

With a career spanning more than two decades, LeAnn Rimes cemented her status as country music's reigning queen after selling more than 42 million records, becoming the youngest recipient of a Grammy Award and notching up a slew of top 10 hits across the globe.

When *New Idea* sat down with the country music megastar, it's clear the humble performer shies away from accolades.

'I still blush when I hear those things,' she grins coyly. 'I don't really think of myself that way. I used to keep my Grammys in my closet!'

Catapulted to stardom at age 13, LeAnn became one of the youngest country music stars in history. 'Sometimes I feel like I'm 75!' she giggles. 'I'm now in an interesting place few can relate to — to have all these years under my belt and still be making music. I sometimes wonder how in the hell I did it.'

'I'm 33 and in a new chapter of my life. It's like wiping the slate clean and starting over, but now I have a better outlook on everything,' she adds.

While she has done a lot in her career, LeAnn still has some creative goals to kick: 'I'd love to do more acting. I get offers, but it usually doesn't fit into my schedule.'

Occupying her time instead is the release of her festive album *Today Is Christmas*. Unsurprisingly, the American beauty is a big fan of the holiday.

'I really love Christmas. I'm the one waking everyone up at 5am shouting: "It's Christmas!"'

While LeAnn and her actor husband, 42-year-old Eddie Cibrian, are yet to have their own children, the singer is stepmum to Eddie's two boys from his previous marriage to Brandi Glanville.

'We have the kids [12-year-old Mason and eight-year-old Jake] every other Christmas. If it's Eddie and me, it's breakfast in bed and chilling out. But with the boys, there's paper flying everywhere at 6.30am,' she says laughing. 'When it comes to gifts, my husband always does a really good job. Last year, he got me these one-of-a-kind boots, which I would never think to get myself!'

By Paul Ewart **NI**



Today Is Christmas is out now.

LeAnn Rimes

'I've wiped the slate clean'