It’s so refreshing to hear the brutal truth. Forget the posturing, pretense, and politeness. Somebody has to tell it like it is.

Enter Toni Romiti. Armed with a mouth that’d make Sharon Stone in *Casino* blush, a powerhouse voice that takes no prisoners, and attitude for days, the Chicago-born and Los Angeles-based songstress serves up raw, raucous, and real R&B fueled by hip-hop attitude and pop palatability on her 2017 major label debut EP, *Tomboy* [Romiti Records/RCA Records].

“I want girls to know it’s okay to be arrogant, feel dominant, and have a fucking opinion that matters,” she exclaims. “Women aren’t supposed to be loud. Women aren’t supposed to say the raunchy things that men do. I’m loud, and I say that shit. I want to redefine what a *Tomboy* is. You can dabble in so many different things as a girl. I grew up around men, so I know what guys think about girls. I have two sisters, so I know what girls think about guys. I’m a *Tomboy*. I’m unapologetically myself. I’d rather people dislike me for me than like me for something that I’m not.”

The vocalist discovered who she is at just six-years-old. Born to an Italian-American musician dad and African-American mom, Toni went from singing along to The Temptations, Michael Jackson, and The Beatles to obsessing over Britney Spears and Chris Brown. Between developing her skills on the basketball court, she started uploading covers to Soundcloud and YouTube. Before senior year, her father tragically passed as big sis took over custody of the younger siblings. Fulfilling pop’s wish to play one more season, Toni achieved a full basketball scholarship for South Carolina Upstate as her independent single “Nothin On Me” went haywire online—amassing over 80 million streams to date.

However, the budding talent landed at a crossroads back in 2014.

“My coach brought me in her office and said, *‘Toni you have to make a choice. Either you’re going to focus on music or you’re going to focus on basketball’*,” she recalls. “I was like, *‘I’m going home.’* I had way more passion for music.”

That passion defined a series of independent albums, namely 2015’s *Lemonade* and the 2016 follow-up *Just Like You*. Among numerous hits, “Switch Up” [feat. Bigrod] would crack the 30 million stream mark with its punchy R&B strut. Meanwhile, Kylie Jenner bumped “Imma Dog Too” on her Snapchat as the song generated 7.7 million Spotify streams, 11.6 million Soundcloud plays, and a staggering 28 million YouTube views in less than year. Beyond earning the fandom of Jordyn Woods and Madison Beer, she garnered acclaim from *Complex*, *The Source*, *Galore*, and more in addition to collaborating with everyone from Famous Dex and Tink to Chicago icon King Louie. The buzz exploded, and RCA signed her during 2017.

Her 2017 single “Options”, powered by resounding piano chords and a sly bounce, sees Toni put an unworthy lover in the crosshairs of her lyrical arsenal and furious freestyling. The track introduces Toni’s *“conversational”* style with no holds-barred or punches pulled.

“I call them, ‘*Arrogant love songs’*,” she goes on. “They’re about love, but on some *fuck-you* type shit. It’s a mesh of vulnerability and the fact I’ll still be good alone. Hooks are my thing. I want people to be surprised at the concepts.”

In the end, Toni is as real as it gets. That’s why she’ll touch everyone who takes a listen.

“When you listen to me, I want you to feel confident and happy—like you’re the shit,” she concludes. “You’re not alone. There are others going through this. There’s no reason to be embarrassed or ashamed if your family is broken. I’ve been through it all. Music is one of the most powerful things in the world. It’s therapeutic. It’s who I am.”