

News from the Nest

Ole 60. Smokestack Town

by Addelyn Warner

Ole 60. Sound familiar? You may have heard their music on the radio, stumbled across them online, or seen someone share them on social media. Ole 60, a small town band from Missouri, has been making quiet strides towards building a big reputation in the country-rock world, and their new album, *Smokestack Town*, proves they're ready for the spotlight. Released in October 2025, this album has been praised for its raw emotions, storytelling, and the hint of country and rock influences.

For those who aren't familiar with Ole 60, it's time to pay attention. What sets Ole 60 apart from others is that they don't try too hard; instead, they stick to what they know - small-town stories, heartbreak, and the hard truths of growing up and moving on. From their first single to this latest drop, their music captures the struggles, hopes, and emotions of ordinary people in a way everyone understands. Their lyrics paint a vivid picture of swinging on an old porch swing, driving on the highway alone at night, or facing memories of a past relationship.

The album opens with the song "Smokestack Town", which sets the tone for the rest of the album. This song is the perfect introduction to who Ole 60 is: honest, grounded, humble, and proud of where they came from. "Smokestack Town" reflects on the freeing feeling of chasing your dreams while still feeling connected to your roots. The vocals carry enough grit to make it relatable, while the guitar work sounds like something you'd hear echoing around town and a warm, humid summer night.

"Let You Down" is definitely a gut punch. From the first few seconds, you feel the heaviness. This song is heartbreak stripped all the way down; it's a song full of regret, guilt, and the kind of pain you can't apologize your way out of. These vocals are raw and at points even shaky, but these imperfections make the song hit even harder. It's not just another sad song; it's an admission of failure and hurt. The slow tempo pulls you in, and by the time the bridge hits, you're feeling every lyric. All you'll feel like doing is lying on your bed, staring at the ceiling, dreaming about being with someone who "didn't seem like such a chore". Let You Down is easily one of the most emotional songs on the album. This song itself proves that Ole 60 doesn't just write about the feelings, they experience and live them too.

If "Let You Down" is the heartbreak, then "Nancy Ave." is the lingering memories. This song feels like it's straight

out of a movie scene with the lyrics "Wished it'd never end I'd have stayed there forever", speeding down the highway, windows down, and those deep gut feelings for someone you can't stop thinking about. "When I think of you, And what you put me through. Nancy Avenue, I'd do it over." These lyrics tell the story of heartbreak and loss that feel so personal, yet are genuinely universal. Throughout the album, Ole 60 hits every step of a relationship, the connection, the loss, the regret, and the reflection on it. What makes "Nancy Ave." shine is the storytelling. You can picture every detail: the streetlights, the conversations, and the goodbye that didn't feel final. It's haunting in the best way possible.

"Really Wanna Know" is the next song that really stood out to me. It's still emotional, but there's a slight hint of frustration, a sense of needing answers that will probably never come. The rhythm of this song has a bit more of an edge to it, giving it that southern rock twang Ole 60 does so well. These lyrics sound like they're coming straight from someone trying to read between the lines of mixed signals and only half-truths. It's not angry, it's more of a feeling of unease, which shines through clearly. "Really Wanna Know" is just one of those songs that captures that middle stage of knowing the relationship is over, but the questions haven't stopped.

These songs are just a snippet of why the album *Smokestack Town* works so well. Ole 60 doesn't rely on dramatic production tricks or the ever-changing trends; they just tell a story. And this could be the common tie throughout the album that sets the tone. The rising action shines through the songs *Nancy Avenue* or *Let You Down*, both reflective songs causing emotional buildup. The climax appears in the moments of clarity, when feelings begin to soften, and truths come out portrayed through the songs "Watching Me Bleed" and "Really Wanna Know". From there the falling action is found through the quieter tracks that focus on the acceptance, growth, and starting over through the songs like "Watching Scary Movies with the Volume Down." Whether it's heartbreak, starting over, or just trying to understand someone you love, these songs hit so close to home because they're based on genuine feelings.

Smokestack Town may be Ole 60's debut album, but it already sounds like the band knows who they are and the impression they want to leave. In a world where so much country music seems artificial, Ole 60 brings the genuine music back. These songs don't just sound good; they mean something.