

AN: In order to add to the effect of this story I have created an MP3 file with song sample from all 6 songs presented in this story. The lyrics sampled in the file are **bolded in the story. You can listen to the file [here](#). A list of the songs in the file is at the end of this story.*

PRWC 35- “Almost Famous”

*“Fame
I'm gonna live forever
I'm gonna learn how to fly high
I feel it coming together
People will see me and cry
Fame
I'm gonna make it to heaven
Light up the sky like a flame
Fame
I'm gonna live forever
Baby remember my name”
~ “Fame” Irene Cara*

I took a deep breath. This would be the first time I had ever sung in public and I knew there were a lot of people who would be comparing me to my mom when they heard me. I had to remind myself that didn't matter. All that mattered were my reasons for doing this in the first place. I hadn't told anyone, except for a few select people, about this. My parents, all three, were on the long list of people I hadn't told. Mom would make a much bigger deal of my singing than needed to be made of it. I didn't wanna hear it.

“Har? Are you ready?” Josh asked walking up behind me.

“Yeah, sure am, let's go.” I said following him to the car. We went to Cyberspace and met up with Noah. “Thank you so much for doing this with me guys.”

“Anytime Har.” Noah said.

“Yeah, anytime.” Josh echoed.

“So what's the performance order?” I asked.

“Let's go ask Savannah, she's running the contest.” Noah said.

“Um, I'll go ask, you guys can set up.” Josh said.

“Ok, will do.” I said as I started working on tuning my guitar.

“Ok, you're up first Har.” Josh said coming back.

“Awesome, good to get it over with.” I said.

Anna

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“Ok guys, there's gonna be some tough competition but we can do this. Just play you best and I'm sure we'll win it.” I said. I was trying to get my band pumped.

“You didn't mention Harley Bradley was going to be in the contest.” Maggie, my bassist, said.

“So? Does it matter?” I asked.

“It's just, well she's Michelle Morris's daughter.” Peg, my drummer, said.

“And?” I asked.

“And Michelle Morris is a living legend.” Maggie said.

I sighed, “So? Michelle is the legend, not Harley. Harley has never stepped foot on stage before. We have years of experience on her.”

“Then why Josh working with her instead of us?” Maggie asked.

“Because he's got a thing for her.” I said.

“And Noah?” Peg asked.

“Noah is too nice for his own good. Harley asked and he couldn't say no. Now can we please focus on our own

performance here? We're going second, remember your parts and stay calm. Just pretend it's like any other Cyberspace performance." I said.

"Anna, that's easier said than done." Maggie said.

"Just focus." I commanded. I really needed a new band.

Harley

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"OK, it's time. Savannah is about to announce us." I said.

"Just take a deep breath, you'll be fine." Josh said.

"Yeah, you are really good Har. Just go and do your thing." Noah said.

"Thank you everyone for coming to the 1st annual Cyberspace Talent Search. The winner today gets a prize check of \$5000 dollars. I'm Savannah James, your hostess for the show, so let's get it going. Please welcome our first contestant, Harley Bradley."

I walked out on stage and strapped on my guitar. "Hey there Reefsides! Thank you everyone for coming out this afternoon. This song is one for all the stupid guys out there!" I announced, causing a massive female applause. I took a breath and Josh started the song off. I started playing my part and then started with the vocals:

*"Every time you go away
It actually kinda makes my day
Every time you leave you slam the door
You pick your words so carefully
You hate to think you're hurting me
You leave me laughing on the floor*

*Cause I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?
You know
I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?
You know
I'm not gonna cry
About some stupid guy
A guy who thinks he's all that*

*I thought we were just hanging out
So why'd you kiss me on the mouth?
You thought the way you taste would get me high
You went to all your friends to brag
Guys are always such a drag
Don't you know the reason that I kissed you was to say goodbye*

*Cause I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?
You know
I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?*

***You know
I'm not gonna cry
About some stupid guy
A guy who thinks he's all that***

*Hanging, hanging out
I am simply hanging, hanging out
I am simply hanging
So why'd you kiss me on the mouth?
Don't you know that I...*

*I don't give a damn about you
I won't give it up
Not for you
I don't give a damn about you
I won't give it up
Not for you
I'm not gonna cry
About some stupid guy
A guy who thinks he's all that*

*I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?
You know
I don't give it up
I don't give a damn
What you say about that?"*

Anna

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Harley was good. I admit it...ok she was very good. When she got off stage Savannah took the stage again.

“Thank you Harley, next please welcome a Cyberspace favorite, Anna McKnight and her band Sky High!”

We went on stage like every other time we performed here. “Hey Cyberspace, are you ready to rock?” the crowd cheered, “That’s what I like to hear! Let’s do it!” Peg counted us off and we went into our song, which happened to be one of my favorites because I wrote it about Aaron, obviously by the lyrics:

***“You're the kind of friend  
Who always bends when I'm broken  
But remember when  
You took my heart and put it back together again  
I've been wasting time with ruinous guys  
But now it's over  
Let me tell you why I'm through  
I've got someone new  
Who's just like you***

***You're it  
You're the ultimate  
It's automatic***

*I'm sure of it  
No lie  
So don't even try  
To tell me that you're not the guy  
Cause I've been waiting all my life  
For someone just like you  
But you're it  
You're the ultimate  
You*

*You're the kind of guy  
Whose hand in mine  
Sends shivers up and down my spine  
You took my heart and put it back together again  
You're the kind of guy  
That knows my mind  
But now it's my turn  
You've been right in front of me  
Everything I need  
Why didn't I see*

*You're it  
You're the ultimate  
It's automatic  
I'm sure of it  
No lie  
So don't even try  
To tell me that you're not the guy  
Cause I've been waiting all my life  
For someone just like you  
But you're it  
You're the ultimate  
You*

*You're it  
You're the ultimate  
It's automatic  
I'm sure of it  
No lie  
So don't even try  
To tell me that you're not the guy*

*You're it  
You're the ultimate  
It's automatic  
I'm sure of it  
No lie  
So don't even try  
To tell me that you're not the guy  
Cause I've been waiting all my life  
For someone just like you  
But you're it  
You're the ultimate  
You*

*You're it  
You're the ultimate  
You"*

I was pleased with our over all performance. It would have gone better, but we did very well. When we finished I stepped off the stage. Nothing could have prepared me for the next performer. I could tell by Harley and Josh's faces that they were in even more shock than me.

"Thank you Anna. Our next performer is..." Savannah paused and looked at the name again, "...um...our next performer is...Arisa...Bradley?"

Arisa

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OK, close your mouth. It's not that shocking is it? OK maybe it is. Maybe I should explain myself here...first of all I needed a last name and most Earthlings take their father's right? Well that made sense to me. As for why I entered the contest to begin with? I was sick of looking for that damn Gem and I needed some fun. What's more fun than freaking out your new sister by showing up where she least expects it then not even attacking? Plus I really was a musician of sorts. I had written poems for quite some time, then one day I just began to set them to music...that is all a song is right? Anyway, the entire thing was worth it when I saw the looks on Josh, Anna, Savannah and Harley's faces.

After Savannah announced me, which it looked almost painful for her to do, I took the stage with the house band. I didn't bother to talk to the crowd before I started. That was lame. I just started playing my guitar and went into the song. It was one I wrote a couple of weeks ago after a battle. I was having a particularly depressing night.

*"I wish there was a photograph
That showed me here with you
And I could kiss the photograph
And make my wish come true
I wish I was a humming dove
So I could sing so sweet
I wish that I could steal the moon
And kiss it with my feet
I wish I was a remedy
That you were meant to take
A product of a recipe
That no one had to bake
I wish I could forget that day
The hurting in my heart
And wash our mouths with listerine
To make a brand new start*

*Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain
Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain fall down*

*I wish there was a fairytale
That turned into my life
So I could kiss prince charming
And be his princess wife*

*I wish the voices in my head
Would leave my ears alone
So my eyes would stop there water bleeding
And I could find a home
I wish there was a ruby rose
Where I spread my wings with you
So I could inhale the perfume
And be the morning dew
I wish the raindrops on the glass
Would let me join their dance
I'd spin and twirl and laugh with them
And drown my thoughts per chance*

*Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain
Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain fall*

*Lalala I kinda like it
Lalala I kinda like it this way*

*Watching the rain
Watching the rain*

*Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain
Watching the rain fall down
Watching the rain
Watching the rain
Watching the rain
Watching the rain"*

Harley

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OK, much as it pains me to admit it, Arissa was really good. What bothered me is what she was doing there in the first place. After she got off stage I went over to her.

"Nice work...now what the hell are you doing her?" I asked.

"Same as you Sis. Partaking in the contest fun." She said.

"I'm not your sister, get that through your head...and you better only be here for the contest cause if you stir up any trouble I'll take you out myself."

"Yeah, like that'll happen. You've had so much luck defeating me so far."

"I'm serious Arissa. You best behave." I said walking away. I went back and sat down. I didn't hear Savannah announce the next singer but I took notice when she started to sing. She was really good...but her song...it was...suggestive. I hadn't seen this girl before...at least not that I could remember. She seemed to have some serious issues though, as evident in her lyrics:

*"You can dress me up in diamonds  
You can dress me up in dirt  
You can throw me like a lineman*

*I like it better when it hurts  
Oh, I have waited here for you  
I have waited*

*You make me wanna lala in the kitchen on the floor  
I'll be your French maid where I meet you at the door  
I'm like an alley cat  
Drink the milk up I want more  
You make me wanna  
You make me wanna scream*

*You can meet me on an airplane  
Or in the back of the bus  
You can throw me like a boomerang  
I'll come back and beat you up  
Oh, I have waited here for you  
Don't keep me waiting*

*You make me wanna lala in the kitchen on the floor  
I'll be your French maid where I meet you at the door  
I'm like an alley cat  
Drink the milk up I want more  
You make me wanna*

*You make me wanna lala in the kitchen on the floor  
I'll be your French maid where I meet you at the door  
I'm like an alley cat  
Drink the milk up I want more  
You make me wanna  
You make me wanna scream*

*I feel safe with you  
I can be myself tonight  
It's alright with you  
Cause you hold my secrets tight  
You do, you do*

*You make me wanna lala lalala lalala lalalala lala  
You make me wanna lala lalala*

*You make me wanna lala in the kitchen on the floor  
I'll be your French maid where I meet you at the door  
I'm like an alley cat  
Drink the milk up I want more  
You make me wanna*

*You make me wanna lala in the kitchen on the floor  
I'll be your French maid where I meet you at the door  
I'm like an alley cat  
Drink the milk up I want more  
You make me wanna  
You make me wanna scream*

*You make me wanna lala lalala lalala lalala lala*

*You make me wanna lala lalala lalala lalala lala*  
*You make me wanna lala lalala lalala lalala lala”*

See what I mean? Slightly suggestive, no? After she finished I asked around, no one seemed to know who the mysterious girl was. I turned to ask Josh about her but he was gone.

“Where did Josh go?” I asked Noah.

“I don’t know, but he said to make sure you stay put.” Noah said.

“Um...ok.” I said staying where I was. What was Josh up to?

Josh

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After kissing Harley I knew my feelings for her were still there and very real. I also knew I could never tell her how I felt in words. I was a musician and music was the only way I could do this. I wasn’t in the contest for the money, if I happened to win I’d give the money to April too, I was in it cause it was the easiest was to make Harley listen to me.

“Our final contestant is Josh McKnight.” Savannah said.

I took the stage behind my keyboard and adjusted my mic. I caught a glimpse of Harley, she seems shocked I was doing this solo. “This song is for a very special moto girl out there, she knows who she is.” I said looking directly at Harley. I began to play and sing:

“You know me, you know my every step
Since you I feel like no one understands
I know this; I tangled with your lips
Since you the sun has gone into eclipse

Close our eyes realize were running circles in the sun
I'm feeling fine just losing time and knowing you're the one
So come with me come with me
I can't wait till we run away cause we need no reasons
Run away cause we love the night

You know me, you know my every step
Since you I feel like no one understands
I know this; I tangled with your lips
Since you the sun has gone into eclipse

Through the dark make a start and we'll leave this all behind
Lose the time free our mind and we'll build a paradise

Come with me come with me
I can't wait till we run away cause we need no reasons
Run away cause we love the night

Oh, oh, oh, I wanna run away
Oh oh run away with you...

You know me, you know my every step
Since you I feel like no one understands
I know this; I tangled with your lips
Since you the sun has gone into eclipse”

After the song was over I got off the stage and walked over to Harley.

“That was for me?” she asked.

“Who else?” I asked.

“Was that your way of asking me out?”

“Yeah...do you accept?”

She smiled, “I think a question in a song deserves an answer in a song.”

“What?” I asked.

She ran up to the stage.

“That last song was so beautiful wasn’t it? Well, while we wait for the judges to judge the contest I think that maybe a short reply is in order since the moto girl in question happened to write a song for the piano playing singer that she was too scared to sing until now.” Harley said as she started to play her guitar and started to sing again.

*“I coulda been the one you noticed
I coulda been all over you
I coulda been like all the others
Is that what I'm supposed to do?*

*It woulda been really stupid,
If I woulda went home with you
To give you everything you wanted
It woulda been way too soon*

*I try to be sensitive
I try to be tough
I try to walk away...
I try to be innocent
I try to be rough
But I just wanna play*

*You're my daydream, you know that I've been thinking about you... lately
And everytime I look at you
I can't explain I feel insane, I can't get away
You're my daydream*

*If I tell you what I'm thinking,
If I let myself trust you
Can you give me what I'm missing
Can you make my dreams come true*

*I try to be sensitive
I try to be tough
I try to walk away,
I try to be innocent
I try to be rough
But I just wanna play*

*You're my daydream, you know that I've been thinking about you... lately
And everytime I look at you
I can't explain how I feel insane, I can't get away
You're my daydream, yeah*

*And you know, and you know, and you know, and you know,
You're making me insane*

*And you know, and you know, and you know, and you know,
You're doing it again
And you know, and you know, and you know, and you know,
You're making me insane
And you know, and you know, and you know,
You're doing it again"*

I smiled when she finished. It sounded like a 'yes' to me. I walked over to the stage and she jumped off into my arms. I caught her and held her.

"Was that your way of saying 'yes'?" I asked.

"Very good. Now let's make it official." She said smiling.

I moved my face to her's and we kissed for the longest time, suddenly we realized everyone in Cyberspace was clapping. It was like one of those big scenes in a movie. We broke the kiss and looked around.

"I think they got a pretty good show." Harley said.

"More than they bargained for." I said laughing.

"About damn time you two." Anna said walking over.

"Shut up Anna." I said hugging Harley tighter.

Arisa

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I sighed, so sweet. My sister took my boyfriend. Ok so he wasn't really my boyfriend anymore...but still...I was sort of quietly fuming about this when DJ McKnight walked over to me.

"Hey." He said.

"You again...hey." I replied.

"You were really awesome on stage."

"Thanks."

"You have plans after the contest?"

"Why?"

"Cause I was thinking, maybe we could catch a movie or something."

Ok, good chance to get revenge on Harley. She got my ex, I could take her's...except she wouldn't actually care. She didn't like DJ at all anymore and I had to focus on finding those other two Gem shards. "Sorry, no can do. It just so happens I do have things to do after the contest. World domination is a full time job."

"Arisa, come on, I know you like me."

"Sorry DJ, not gonna happen." I said walking away.

Harley

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I was still hugging on Josh when I noticed Derek's Uncle Derrick...how weird does that sound? Anyway I went over to him.

"Hi, Derrick? I'm Harley Bradley, I work with your nephew Derek at Starlight." I said.

"Oh, yes, we met at the courthouse, I remember." Derrick said.

"Right...so what brings you to Cyberspace?" I asked.

"My daughter was in the contest." He said.

"Oh? Who's your daughter?" I asked.

"Sweetheart, come here." Derrick called to his daughter. She walked over. It was the mysterious singer! "This is my daughter, Melanie Holmes. Melanie this is Harley, she works with your cousin at Starlight."

"Nice to meet you Melanie." I said.

"Yeah, sure." She said walking away.

"Sorry...she isn't the most social person in the world." Derrick said.

"It's ok. Neither was Derek at first. By the way, I really admire what you did for Derek." I said.

"I did what I had to." He said.

“How long are you gonna be in town?” I asked.
“We’re leaving right after the contest. Melanie needs to get back for school.”
“Well it was great meeting you.”
“Likewise, and congratulations on your new boyfriend.”
I smiled, “Thank you.”

I went back to Josh.
“You ok?” he asked.
“Yeah...there’s something about Melanie...I don’t know what it is...something that I find intriguing.” I said as Savannah took the stage again.

“Our judges have finished voting. The winner of the 1st Cyberspace Talent Search and the \$5000 dollars is...Harley Bradley!” Savannah announced.

My jaw dropped, “Did I just win?” I asked.
“Yes you did! Congratulations!” Josh said spinning me around.
“Oh my god!” I cried. I ran on stage and collected the check from Savannah, I was so excited I even gave her a hug.
“Congratulations Harley, you really were good.” Anna said.
“Thanks Anna.” I said.

After the celebration died down Josh took me back to the Academy. We went to the office and found my parents.
“Mom, Dad...I have so much to tell you.” I said.
“What? What is it?” Mom asked.
“Ok, well first of all Josh and I are an official couple now.” I said.
“You are?” Mom asked.
“That’s great, it’s about time.” Dad said.
“I know, I know...anyway, the other thing, I entered the talent search at Cyberspace, save the lectures about me not telling you I just didn’t want to be compared to Mom or for a big deal to be made about it. Either way I won the \$5000 dollar prize and I’d like to donate it to April if she is able to stay here.” I said.
“Are you serious? That’s very generous.” Dad said.
“I’m sure. April is one of my Wildcats and I will protect her from suffering again. Just don’t tell her where the money came from. Tell her it’s a scholarship or something.” I said.
“Ok, I’ll call her mom right now.” Dad said.

Dad did call and after a lot of talking Mrs. Smith agreed to let April stay, however she said she would still be visiting to assess if Starlight was the best place for her. I decided to go tell April the good news.

The Wildcats were all in the lodge studying for finals.
“Hey, April, can I talk to you for a second?” I asked.
“Sure.” She said.
We went off to a corner, “I have some good news for you.”
“Oh?”
“My dad talked to your mom about you staying here on scholarship and she agreed.” I said.
“Are you serious?” she asked.
“Yeah...your mom is still coming for a visit, but when she leaves she’ll be leaving without you. You’re stuck with us.” I said.
“That’s great news! Thank you Harley!” April cried hugging me, then she ran to the other Wildcats and filled them in. Derek hugged her for the longest time. I smiled and went to find Josh. He was at the lake.

“Hey you.” I said.
“Har...hey.” He said putting his arm around me. I leaned on him, “You did a great thing for April.”
I smiled, “Yeah, well on top of her still needing help it’s not right to separate her and Derek. He’s her rock and everyone needs a rock.”

“You have a rock?” he asked.

I nodded. “Yeah...just took me a little while to realize he was right in front of me this whole time.”

The songs presented in this story and the aforementioned sound clip are:

“I Don’t Give” by Avril Lavigne (AKA “Harley Bradley”)

“Ultimate” by Lindsey Lohan (AKA “Anna McKnight”)

“Watching the Rain Fall” by Katy Rose (AKA “Arisa Bradley”)

“La La” by Ashlee Simpson (AKA “Melanie Holmes”)

“Every Step” by Ben Jelen (AKA “Josh McKnight”)

“Daydream” by Avril Lavigne (AKA “Harley Bradley”)