

NUMBER 1 HIT
by
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1

EXT. PLAYGROUND-HUNTER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-RENO, NEVADA- 1
AFTERNOON

CASSANDRA, five-years-old, a Filipino and Spanish girl is playing in the sand box, with her friend STARLET, also five-years-old, with curly dark hair. Together they are building a sand castle.

CASSANDRA

What do you want to be when you
grow up?

STARLET

I want to be famous like Madonna.

CASSANDRA

Me too.

STARLET

You can't be famous like Madonna,
you have to be famous like Joni
Mitchell.

Pause.

STARLET (CONT'D)

My dad once played with Joni

Mitchell.

CASSANDRA

Yeah well my mom dated Ringo Starr,
he's a Beatle.

The girls start laughing.

STARLET

A beetle...that's funny.

CUT TO

2

INT. STARLETS PARENTS HOME, RENO, NEVADA-DAY

2

STARLET at age ten, is playing the piano, Bach sonata in G-minor, she plays it over and over again. Her mother, ALAYNE at age 40, a pretty woman with shoulder length hair is baking a cake in the kitchen.

ALAYNE

(she hollers from the
kitchen)

Now Beethoven. And not the fast
one, play the slow one.

(CONTINUED)

2. 2

2 CONTINUED: 2

STARLET begins to play, Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor.

CUT TO

3 INT. MAYTAN MUSIC STORE-RENO, NEVADA-DAY 3

Cassandra at age 10, is playing a classical guitar.

CUT TO

4 INT. RENO HIGH SCHOOL-RENO, NEVADA-DAY 4

CASSANDRA and STARLET are now 14. They are playing in their High School talent show. Cassandra is playing an electric guitar and Starlet is playing the key boards. They play an original instrumental song.

CUT TO

5 EXT. MAYTAN MUSIC STORE-RENO, NEVADA-DAY 5

There is a HUGE sign out front that reads YEAR END BLOWOUT SALE, YAMAHA, STEINWAY AND SONS, BALDWIN, SAVE UP TO 50%. The building is a large, older, stand-alone, two story building with brown wood shingles and slightly run-down. Snow lines the streets as cars drive by and people bundled up in winter coats enter the store.

CUT TO

6 INT. MAYTAN MUSIC STORE-RENO, NEVADA-DAY 6

Superimpose "Winter 1997"

STARLET at age 17 , is a natural beauty in her own right with high cheek bones, full lips, dark brown, curly long hair tied back in a pony-tail and has braces with pink rubber bands: is working the cash register, ALAYNE is upstairs teaching a voice class, CASSANDRA at age 17 and is your typical girl-next-door type. She has a dark tan and is ethnic looking with soft features, medium build and is shorter than her friend STARLET. CASSANDRA is down the hall teaching guitar to a group of 8-year-olds and JOE is downstairs showing customers pianos. STARLET is doodling on a piece of composition paper and humming to herself. JOE comes towards STARLET.

JOE

I think Mrs. Jones is going to buy the Steinway for her son. At this rate we will be able to make room for the new shipment coming the week after next.

(CONTINUED)

STARLET

Good deal dad. Keep up the good work.

JOE

You too, kiddo.

JOE and STARLET high-five one-another. JOE walks back to take care of his customers trying out pianos. The mailman comes in through the front door holding a large stack of mail. He makes a b-line for STARLET.

STARLET

Afternoon, anything good?

The mailman hands STARLET the stack of mail and has her sign a certified letter form.

MAILMAN

Might be what you'd been waiting for.

STARLET grins with excitement. She takes the letter and looks over the return address, it reads *U-C-L-A HERB ALPERT School of Music, 2539 Schoenberg Music Bldg Los Angeles, CA 90095-0001*.

STARLET

Yes, in deed!

MAILMAN

Good luck!

The mailman exits.

CUT TO

INT. STARLETS PARENTS HOME, RENO, NEVADA-DAY

FLASH BACK STARLET at age five, is sitting on a piano bench next to her father, JOE. JOE carefully places STARLETS hands on the keys.

JOE

Just like that. Good.

STARLET

(looking at JOE sweetly)
Like this daddy?

JOE smiles and kisses her forehead.

Cut to

STARLET looks around for a second to see if anyone is looking her direction, she sees the coast is clear so she opens the envelope and holds her breath. The LETTER reads, *We are please to inform you that you have been accepted for the upcoming fall 1997 semester. We are happy to award you a full scholarship on behalf of the music department president. We look forward to meeting you very soon.*

STARLET
(reading aloud quietly)
We are please to inform you...

STARLET stuffs the letter back into the envelope and kisses the envelope and quickly places the letter in her jeans pocket. Just then CASSANDRA enters from the stair case, she makes her way over to STARLET. CASSANDRA leans into the counter on the opposite side of STARLET. STARLET is trying to hide her emotions and cover up her smile.

CASSANDRA
What's going on?

STARLET
Nothing.

CASSANDRA
Not nothing, I know that look all too well. Spill!

STARLET
I got a letter today. That's all.

CASSANDRA
(with her hand out)
Let me see.

STARLET
No. Not here, not now.

CASSANDRA
Oh my god, you didn't?

STARLET pulls the letter out of her pocket and grips it in her hand.

STARLET
But you can't tell a single soul!
Promise me!

CASSANDRA offers up her pinky finger to STARLET.

CASSANDRA
I'll do you one better.

The two of them pinky-swear.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
On my mother.

STARLET passes CASSANDRA the letter by sliding it across the counter. CASSANDRA reads the letter to herself with a quickness.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
(excited)
OH MY GOD!

STARLET
Sh-h-h-h-h-h!

CASSANDRA
This means you and I are...

STARLET
Keep it down, he'll hear you!

CASSANDRA
(in a whisper)
Going to HOLLYWOOD BABY!

STARLET
That is only if THEY are okay with it.

CASSANDRA
Come on, it will be alright, you're nearly eighteen. By the time we blow this joint...who gives a damn what they say!

STARLET
I guess.

CASSANDRA
It's going to be great, just you wait and see.

CASSANDRA slides the letter back to STARLET and STARLET puts the letter back in her pants pocket.

STARLET
We'll see.

CASSANDRA begins to turn and walks away.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

CASSANDRA
(with concern)
Promise me you'll tell them.

STARLET
(frustrated)
I promise.

Cut to

9 INT. STARLETS PARENTS HOME-RENO, NEVADA-NIGHT

9

JOE and ALAYNE are in the kitchen making dinner. STARLET is exiting her room upstairs and begins to walk down the staircase. The letter from U-C-L-A is in her hands.

ALAYNE
I just think it's her decision,
that's all.

JOE
To think she didn't even tell us
she applied.

STARLET hears them talking about her as she comes down the stairs. She reaches the bottom step and freezes to listen more.

ALAYNE
She will tell us in due time, trust
her.

JOE
I don't understand why U-C-L-A! Why
not just stay here and go to U-N-R
like her brother.

ALAYNE
She's a willful young woman, just
like her father.

JOE
I just don't want her living in Los
Angeles...it's dangerous. It's not
like it was years ago when we lived
there, there's so much violence
now, and all the gangs.

ALAYNE
It's not like she's going to live
in the ghetto, Joe. It's Westwood.
Practicality Beverly Hills.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

JOE

I'm against it, Alayne, one hundred percent! I won't support it.

Hearing all she can bare STARLET races back up the stairs and bolts her for room. She enters her room and slams the door. It gets her parents attention. They look at one another for a beat.

ALAYNE

(hollers towards the stairs)

Starlet! Are you alright?

STARLET begins to play her key board behind closed doors.

CUT TO

10 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT 10

STARLET is playing the piano and singing to herself. She sings an original song, *Roll the Dice*.

STARLET's POV, looking out the window at the stars. (camera POV) Looking inside through the window. The room morphs into a jail cell.

CUT TO

11 EXT. TROPICAL CLIFF 11

STARLET jumping off a cliff into a deep body of water.

Cut to

12 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT(JAIL CELL) 12

CUT TO

13 EXT. LARGE OPEN PASTURE 13

Horses running in a pack, one horse breaks free from the pack and takes the lead leaving the others in the dust.

CUT TO

14 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT(JAIL CELL) 14

CUT TO

15 INT. CASINO 15
 STARLET rolling the dice at a casino craps table.
 CUT TO

16 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT(JAIL CELL) 16
 CUT TO

17 EXT. BRIDGE 17
 STARLET bungee jumping.

18 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT(JAIL CELL) 18
 CUT TO

19 EXT. RENO NEVADA-IN FRONT OF STARLET'S PARENT'S HOME-1997 19
 STARLET kissing and hugging her parents good bye.
 CUT TO

20 EXT. LARGE OPEN PASTURE 20
 STARLET riding a horse, running at full speed, the wind in her hair and excitement on her face.
 CUT TO

21 EXT. STREET 21
 STARLET running a race and crossing the finish line.
 CUT TO

22 EXT. HOLLYWOOD-NIGHT 22
 The hollywood sign is lit up.

STARLET
*I want to be free from it all, be
 the one that breaks out, separate
 myself from the pack, be done with
 here and never look back.
 Where would I be if I never left
 here, what would I do if I succumb
 to my fear, it's time to let down
 my hair. Jump in with both feet in,
 don't think twice just roll the
 dice.*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

STARLET (CONT'D)

I've taken many gambles with my heart. Far too many times sacrificed my life. I put my dreams on hold, and wasted too much time. Where would I be if I never left here, what would I do if I succumb to my fear, it's time to let down my hair. Jump in with both feet in, don't think twice just roll the dice.

I paid the price for my foolish deeds, for so long I ignored my needs. I held back when I should have given it my all. So afraid I'd fail, so afraid I'd fall.

Where would I be if I never left here, what would I do if I succumb to my fear, it's time to let down my hair. Jump in with both feet in, don't think twice just roll the dice.

CUT TO

23 INT. STARLETS BEDROOM-RENO, NEVADA NIGHT(JAIL CELL) 23

The room then morphs back to its original state. She sits there, silent and frustrated for a beat.

CUT TO

24 EXT. STARLET'S PARENT'S HOME-RENO, NEVADA-JUNE-BEFORE DAWN 24

SUPERIMPOSE "six months later"

CASSANDRA helps STARLET with her bags. CASSANDRA is now 18, STARLET, now also 18. The two load the bags into Starlet's car. They close the trunk and high-five each other.

CASSANDRA

Right on! It's finally time to get out of this hell hole.

STARLET

I've been waiting my entire life to stroll down the Walk of Fame.

CASSANDRA

Dude, we're not going to just WALK it, we're going to BE it!

CUT TO

25

INT. STARLETS PARENTS HOME-RENO, NEVADA-EARLY MORNING

25

ALAYNE - now in her 50's, is walking to the front door with a small cooler in one hand and an envelope in another.

ALAYNE

(to Joe, bluntly)

I guess I can't ask you to come and
say good bye to the girls.

She exits.

JOE- now in his 50's stands by the front window looking out at the girls.

ALAYNE rushes out of the house to give STARLET a hug and kiss. She hands her a thermos and cooler with food in it. STARLET sees her father, JOE watching, then he turns and walks out of view.

STARLET

Thanks, Mom.

ALAYNE

I didn't want you girls to go
hungry. After all, it is a long
drive.

CASSANDRA

Don't worry, Mrs. Johannes. We'll
be fine and I'll look after
Starlet.

Alayne gives both the girls a hug and both Starlet and Cassandra get in the car. "LA OR BUST" is written on the rear windshield along with CLASS OF 1997. There's a RENO HIGH SCHOOL bumper sticker on the car and the school mascot, and a HUSKY with 1997 tassel hangs off the rear view mirror. Both girls wear HUSKIES T-shirts.

ALAYNE

I'm so proud of you girls.
(playfully, dramatically)
If I was any younger I'd ditch your
dad and drive out to Hollywood with
you. I always wanted to be a famous
actress like Katherine Hepburn or
Marilyn Monroe.

ALAYNE flips her hair with one hand, STARLET and CASSANDRA giggle in unison.

ALAYNE (CONT'D)

No. Seriously. I really am proud of
you. Just graduated high school,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)