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## Halsey: The Dark Soul that Came to Rescue Us

### The Girl before the Name

Halsey wasn't always a legendary pop artist. Her climb to the top wasn't easy in the slightest. In an interview with Complex Music, Halsey talked about her life before fame.

Coming from the small town of Clark, New Jersey, a girl named Ashley Frangipane was not always adored by all. In the 2015 interview, Halsey explained that although she did want to be liked by her peers in high school, she didn't have the motivation to even try to be. While the other 16 year old's were picking out prom

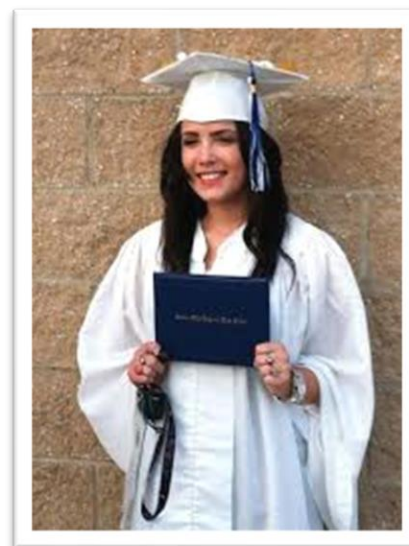


Image taken from Pinterest

addresses and attending their school's football games, Halsey was hanging out with older kids in Brooklyn and experimenting with drugs. She even attempted suicide at age 17. She always knew she didn't possess the ability to be a normal, cookie cutter type of girl; she's a deep and dark soul that possesses the ability to see the world through a different lens, arguably the way the world truly is.

Just before fame, Ashley Frangipane was a community college dropout who considered herself homeless after being kicked out of her childhood home. Although she was accepted into the Rhode Island School of Design, she couldn't afford to attend. Instead, she settled for community college which she decided was a waste of her time. So, the young Frangipane couch surfed in Jersey and the Lower East Side, entertaining herself with the company of tatted up "degenerate stoners." In an interview with Rolling Stone, Halsey said, "I remember one time I had \$9 in my bank account," she says later, "and bought a four-pack of Red Bull and used it to stay up overnight over the course of two or three days, because it was less dangerous to not sleep than it was to sleep somewhere random and maybe get raped or kidnapped," (rollingstone.com).

Long (and beautifully inspiring) story short, one night in 2014, she got invited to a hotel party where she met a music guy who introduced her to another music guy; he invited her to record her first song "Ghost." Halsey uploaded it to SoundCloud, not really thinking it would lead to anything. Nevertheless, by the next morning her song had hit the charts and record labels were contacting her (5 to be exact), and the rest is history. In the span of one year's time Halsey went from singing to a crowd of 100 people to signing a record label, collaborating with MAC Cosmetics, and even doing a duet with

Justin Bieber. This is when she went from being “Ashley” to the legendary “Halsey,” (rollingstone.com)

### Making a Name with *Badlands*

The American singer and songwriter blew up the charts in 2015 when she released her album titled *Badlands*. The album quickly rose in ranks to No. 2 on the Billboard 200, putting 20 year old Halsey in the center of the spotlight (billboard.com). *Badlands* is an album carefully constructed by the legendary



Image taken from Genius

artist, meant to construct an image of the dystopian wasteland of her own life. The *Badlands* album features iconic songs such as “New Americana” and “Gasoline,” which help provide the imagery of the desolate happenings Halsey has endured in both the music industry and her own life, and what goes on in the darkness of her mind.

*“You can't wake up, this is not a dream*

*You're part of a machine, you are not a human being*

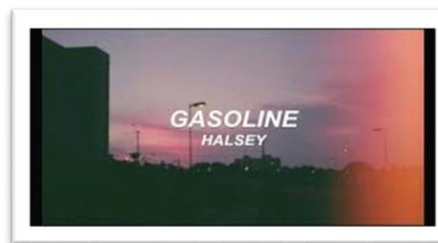


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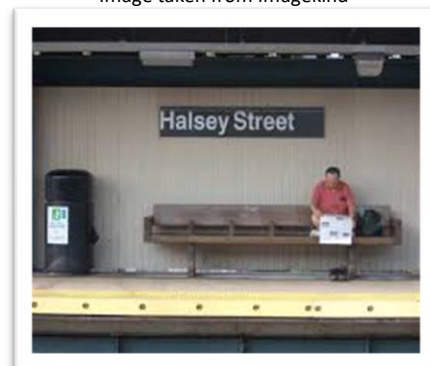
*With your face all made up, living on a screen*

*Low on self esteem, so you run on gasoline*

### **“Hurricane” and a Former Lover**

Halsey got her pseudonym from a street in Brooklyn, NY, Halsey Street. When she was 18 she was seeing an older guy named Zach, who lived on Halsey Street. What’s even more unique about her name, “Halsey” is her real name, but with the letters rearranged. The fifth song on the *Badlands* album, “Hurricane” is about her friend Zach (complex.com). Zach made an impression on Halsey’s young life, and in the song she sings, “And I found myself reminded to keep you far away from me,” and “And there’s a storm you’re starting now... don’t belong to no city, don’t belong to no man. I’m the violence in the pouring rain, I’m a hurricane.” This song tells the story of Halsey falling for a guy who hurt her, but she came back with a response of, “You know what, I don’t belong to anyone but myself.” This is why Halsey is a powerful role model: she doesn’t let anyone control her, but she lets everyone know it.

Image taken from Imagekind



## ***Hopeless Fountain Kingdom* and the Continuing Darkness**



Image taken from Genius

In June 2017 Halsey released the *Hopeless Fountain Kingdom* album. The album, just like *Badlands*, intertwines stories into the songs like chapters in a book. In an interview with iHeart Radio, Halsey stated, "For me, *Hopeless Fountain Kingdom* is a story about two people who want to be in love so badly they're willing to change themselves for their love and in doing so they let the

real versions of themselves die, so it's a Romeo and Juliet story," (halsey.fandom.com). However, it isn't a classical Romeo and Juliet story that Halsey has created. No, it is one that switches between both male and female pronouns to highlight the fact that Halsey has had relationships with both men and women who have inspired her writing. The album includes popular songs such as "Now or Never" and "Bad at Love," which further create the Romeo and Juliet imagery within Halsey's lyrics. And again, Zach was a big influence for Halsey in this album; she said that he talked about the hopeless fountain kingdom as a sort of afterlife. But, of course, Halsey made it clear in her album that this is her kingdom.

*"Sitting on the concrete in your basement*

*But I don't have no time for conversation*

*Said, "this ain't what you usually do, and a girl like me*

*is new for you"*

*And I can tell you mean it 'cause you're shaking"*



Image taken from Wattpad

## **Halsey as a Hero**

Since Halsey began recording music she has had a great deal of supporters, but since 2015, and *Badlands* especially, she has become an idol to many. Halsey has not been secretive in her love interests and has come out to her fans and the world as a proud and independent bisexual female. In her 2017 Love Letter to the LGBTQ+ community she writes, *"I feel it to my core in memories of the first time I kissed a girl. It trembles in my nervous lips. I see it in her shiny red hair and it burst forth from every freckle across her nose,"* (billboard). As a major supporter of the LGBTQ+ movement, Halsey has continued to inspire her fans to be courageous in their love and to never hide who they really are. Several of her songs allude to her relationships with women, including *Hopeless Fountain Kingdom's* song titled "Strangers."

In an interview with MTV News, Halsey explained that this was the first song where she openly used female pronouns to describe a love affair. After revealing she is bisexual in 2017, Halsey has undeniably inspired many teens and young adults to follow their hearts on the path to love. Again, in her love letter she writes, *“And so I shout it. As loud as I can. In my lyrics. In my art. In a rainbow flag waving across thousands of pixels across my stage. I shout it in the faces of the oppressors and I shout it hand in hand with both my beautiful young fans, and the queer folk that I look up to everyday,”* (billboard). Halsey makes it known that anyone can love anyone, regardless of gender in her songs, her performances, her writings, and in her own life.

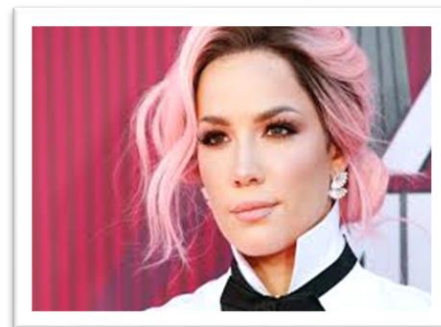


Image taken from Rolling Stone

*“She doesn't call me on the phone anymore*

*She's never listening, she says it's innocent*

*She doesn't let me have control anymore*

*I must've crossed a line, I must've lost my mind”*



Image taken from YouTube



## Halsey is a Legend and a Savior

Her fans surround themselves in her lyrics and her simple existence, almost as if she is a god of sorts. She has the gift of writing deep and meaningful lyrics that resonate with her listeners on a profound level; although she is considered a pop artist, she is no ordinary pop star. With the raw and vulnerable words she sings, Halsey shows her fans who she truly is, and is able to connect with them on immeasurable lengths. However, although she is adored by her fans, she always reminds them that she would not be where she is without them, and she means it. Halsey tells her fans that although they need her songs, she needs them just as much; they are her crutch for getting through the darkness's of life. The talented singer and song writer Halsey is a one of a kind; she is legendary.

*"I'm not just some fucking martyr who's trying to make all of these lost, misfit kids feel better; I need them to help me feel normal too." -Halsey*

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