



RYAKO
fangirl



01

MY GREAT ESCAPE

I have never been the winner or the best
Knew that all my life I was different from the rest
Knew I had a fire that was burning in my chest
Waiting for the moment, prayed that I would pass the test

Wondered why if there was a God, why'd he let me down?
Why'd he take away my father when I needed him around?
Why'd he let them surround me, let them almost drown me
Let them suffocate my spirit so I couldn't find me?

And I, I kept my head down and I kept silent
Make too much noise and they would become violent
Make too much noise and I'd pay with my tears
Knew that no one would believe me after all these years

And I looked for a way out and I found it in the stars
If I looked beyond this world, then I wouldn't see the scars
On my body, in my heart, in my soul torn apart
Science fiction put me back together, let me hit restart

CHORUS

You can never keep me down
'Cause I will run far away
As long as I am sheltered
I am sheltered by my great escape
Think you can hurt me now?
'Cause I am no longer afraid
As long as I am sheltered
I am sheltered by my great escape
And this is my great escape

Raise my eyes to the future, hoped that it'd be better
Was an overachiever, yeah, a real go-getter
If I pushed myself harder, maybe I'd become stronger
Maybe I would form a shield, feel the pain no longer

But I can't forget the way it seemed
How everybody looked at me
It wasn't just my family

Like I was an anomaly
Too fat, too Asian, bipolar, you don't know me
Underneath this skin of mine lies a certain kind of beauty

And I believed, I believed that I would go
From an ugly duck into a swan, and yeah, I'd fly
I'd freakin' soar
And as each day would pass, I'd love myself a little more
And I would be a little less broken than before

But they kept hatin' me, continuously beratin' me
When secretly inside, they was wishin' they was datin' me
I know I can't change the past or my memories
But I won't let that keep me from my dreams

CHORUS

BRIDGE (X2)

All those books, all those films, they're an inspiration
Taught me that I could live through my own creations
That one day, I'd achieve all my aspirations
That my life was my own
This is my narration

CHORUS

And this is my great escape

This is the story of a fangirl...



Who the big damn heroes? We the big damn heroes!
Who the big damn heroes?

Welcome to Serenity
Taken from Serenity Valley, baby
Fought against Alliance
Independence fought so valiantly
May have been on the losing side
But we know we were in the right
A million browncoats died
Me and Zoe stayed alive and thrived

We've done the impossible
And that makes us mighty
We are warriors
You can't take the sky from me
Renegades, outlaws
Fugitives on the run
Scraping by from job to job
With only our wits
And our guns

PRE-CHORUS (X2)
Who the big damn heroes?
We the big damn heroes!

CHORUS (X2)
With our brown coats on
With our guns out blazin'
Oh, we're too pretty to die
Sail on, Firefly

Fire, fire, fire, fire
Fire, fire, fly, fly
Fire, fire, fire, fire
fly, fly, fly (x2)

My name is Mal
I'm the captain of this motley crew

Zoe is my right-hand gal
Mess with Jayne and he will cut you
Wash is the pilot
Kaylee looks after the moving parts
Simon is the doctor
River makes crazy into an art
Shepherd Book's the preacher
But he's so badass to the core
Inara Sera's our ambassador
But she ain't your whore
Mid-bulk transport
Standard radion-accelerator core
Firefly classcode 03-K64

PRE-CHORUS


CHORUS (X2)

BRIDGE
Don't you act like you know me
You could never control me
You can't stop the signal (x2)
Who the big damn heroes?
We the big damn heroes! (x2)
With our brown coats on
With our guns out blazin' (x2)

I aim to misbehave
No power in the 'Verse can stop me!

CHORUS (X4)

Fire, fire, fire, fire
Fire, fire, fly, fly
Fire, fire, fire, fire
fly, fly, fly (x4)



Life in the stars, life in the ocean
Born under pressure
I was raised in commotion
Running down the streets in my blue dress
Heaving chest
Red shoe in my right hand
I'm no man
Understand?

Back to the wall and the kaiju keeps on chasin'
Callin' for my mama, but it's death that I'm facin'
I'm too young to be a predator, so I'm prayin'
For Stacker Pentecost in a jaeger
And he's slayin'

PRE-CHORUS

I won't stand back 'cause I will fight
For a purpose that is right
I'm the hunter, not the hunted
At the end of the night
For my family, I vowed
This time vengeance is allowed
Look into my eyes
Tell me who's the monster now
Face the creatures at our door
I ain't hidin' anymore
We are canceling the apocalypse
Prepare for war
For my family, I vowed
And I'm gonna make 'em proud
Look into my eyes
Tell me who's the monster now

CHORUS (X2)

Live on my knees or die on my feet
Never ever will I admit defeat
I'm a ragin' Asian
Stop the invasion
I'm a fearless ranger

In Gypsy Danger

They'll never take my home in the Shatterdome
Raleigh got my back and I got his
I won't fight alone
Never had a first kiss
But a neural handshake
I don't need to rush this
I ain't makin' no mistake

This might be the end of the world
I ain't lyin'
Are you gonna stand up?
You gonna sit there cryin'?
Are you gonna let them knock you down?
Fight against the hurricane
Imma come back swingin'
They ain't gonna knock me down again

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X2)

BRIDGE (X4)

Dear Lord, I will sacrifice
Everything I have just to make it through this mess alive
Everything I love just to save all the human lives
If it be your will, grant me strength so that I survive

Clear a path for the lady
I'll always be here for you
You can always find me
You can find me in the drift

CHORUS (X4)



Egypt 1914
Three planets in eclipse
Toast to the discovery
With grappa on your lips
Consecrate the battleground
For evil versus good
Save us with the perfect being
Man's survival guaranteed
Mondoshawans, what a fright!
Professor shouts, "Aziz, light!"
Elemental stones, a sarcophagus
They take flight
Trust the priests, protect the key
War is coming, we decree
Three hundred years and we shall see
Evil return, and so shall we

CHORUS (X2)

We on a mission to save the world
Protect us from evil and kiss the girl
Earth, air, fire, water (x3)
Love (love)

It's the fifth element that fell in your lap
It's the fifth element that tore up your cab
It's Corbin Dallas and he's ditchin' the police
Vito Cornelius and David are the priests
Her name is Leeloominai
Lekatariba Lamina-Tchai
Ekbat De Sebat
Supreme being
Apipoulai!

Bound for Fhloston Paradise
A real vacation would be nice
Retrieve the stones and do the hula
Get them from Plava Laguna

CHORUS (X2)

Terror in the opera house
Everybody starts to shout
Where the hell's the exit route?
Ruby Rod is freakin' out
Diva's dyin', cryin' blue tears
Blue blood down her face
It's a war
Mangalors and Zorg
Shootin' up the place
Leeloo? Where is Leeloo?
Have you seen her?
She in trouble?
In the ceiling, she is bleeding
Gotta fly back on the double
Fhloston Paradise exploding
Pleasure cruise no longer floating
Hope the priest knows where he's going
Fear that will die is growing

Match the symbol to the stone
Fire's burned, wind is blown
I can't do this alone
And despite what you've been shown
Leeloo, there is more to this life than all the violence
As we wait here, it becomes clear how I need you
in this silence
There is beauty, there is magic
And to lose it would be tragic
Let the world end
I don't want to live without you
'Cause I love you
'Cause I love you

CHORUS (X4)

Earth, air, fire, water (x3)
Love, love (x2)

Love



House Atreides
I am the son
I am the moon
I am the heir
I am the one

Planet Arrakis
Ruled by my hand
Come for the violence
Stay for the spice
Plans within plans

I see the path before me and it's golden
Heighliners float above me, space unfoldin'
Blue within blue, my eyes are finally open
Walk without rhythm, don't know where I'm goin'

CHORUS

(And there's no turning back now)
And I feel like I am losing all control
What will I become if I let myself go?
And the sleeper must awaken
Dune

Fall of my father
Fall of my name
Fall of my family
Losing at Kanly
Losing the game
Into the desert
Mother and I
Fight in a stillsuit
Fight with the Fremen
Fight 'til I die

We teach the weirding way of Benegesserit
We ride the worm, we ride or die, we conquer it
Promise I'll keep on going until my last breath
I am a mouse, a Muad'dib, my name is death

CHORUS

Drink of the water
Drink of the life
Live for the people
Live for the battle
Die by the knife
Mind like a mentat
Strong in a fight

Hand in the box
Saudukar lost
Fremen unite

Get on your knees, for I am the Messiah
I have no fear, a killer, I'm on fire
I am your Savior, I'm the Kwisatz Haderach
Look into darkness and you'll find me staring back
Staring back

And I feel like I am losing all control
What will I become if I let myself go? (x4)
(And there's no turning back now)
And the sleeper must awaken
Dune



06

MONSTER OF THE WEEK

You fell from the sky
UFO crash landing
Like a contagion
Fox, not an alien
Suit and a tie
Photographic memory
Look me in the FBI
Come and protect me

PRE-CHORUS

I'll be the Scully to your Mulder
Grin and make you smolder
Legs upon your shoulders
Hot when I get older
Let you have a peek
I'm the evidence you seek
I'm the Monster of the Week

CHORUS (X2)

I want to believe it, want to believe it
If I believe it, maybe I can see it
Maybe I can feel you
Wanting to be near you
I want to believe you
Want to believe you

Don't care if you're colorblind
Go ahead and watch me
Show me why you weird them out
Why they call you Spooky
The truth is out there
Deceive, inveigle, obfuscate
I want you now, don't hesitate
Seven seasons made me wait

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X2)

BRIDGE

Baby, you're special, extraterrestrial
You can be the angel, and I can be the devil (x4)

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X3)

I want to believe



07

STARFLEET BOYS

I get so hot by a man in uniform
Can't help but make me warm
Cheeks go blushin', blood starts rushin'
Every time I see that form
Slick hair, slick style
Oh my god, I think he smiled
With four pips on the collar
That captain drives me wild

PRE-CHORUS

Get out your phasers and set them all to stunning
Love dem boys from Starfleet
Set my heartbeat running
Get out your tricorders
You're so fine it hurts me
Transport me to Sickbay
I just might need surgery

CHORUS (X2)

I like dem boys in the black and the blue
In the black and the gold
In the black and the red

Love dem big ships, Galaxy class
Make me wanna shake my ass
Quarter impulse, warp drive
Baby, make me come alive
Stop me, I wanna cling on
To this Klingon with that metal thing on (Qapla'!)
Sing battle songs, drink bloodwine
Then we gonna get it on

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X4)

I'll let you boldly go where ya never been before
I'll shut my systems down, let you see my warp core
Don't need a universal translator to understand, player

I just wanna get down on a Holodeck floor

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X4)

I need some tea, earl grey, hot



I heard you like an adventure
You got the spirit of a warrior
You got the arms of a slayer
You got the moves of a player
You got the fingers of a thief
High in diplomacy
+4 Move Silently
Lawful Good as alignment
Living for the quest
Complete this assignment

I am the night, I am the enemy
I am the uncharted territory
I got a 10 in Strength
But what I lack in Strength
I make up for with Dexterity
Can you Handle Animal?
How's your Constitution?
Can you handle me?
I got a problem with aggression
Scratch you with my talons
Here be dragons

CHORUS

Baby, I'll light you on fire
You'll never slay me
Just entertain me
You think your armor protects you
But it's your sword that betrays you
You wanna step into my lair?
Teach you a lesson
Welcome to my dungeon

D-U-N-G-E-O-N
D-U-N-G-E-O-N
D-U-N-G-E-O-N
D-U-N-G-E-O-N
O-N-N-N-N-N-N
N-N-N

You're a champion of the citizens
And defender of the denizens
You've seen your share of action
Head of the Lord's Alliance faction
Everybody knows your name
Everybody worships you
For the money, for the fame
And now you wanna steal my treasure
Kill me in my sleep
And they'll love you forever

You're just a man to me
And every man has his weakness
If I can find that pressure point
Then you'll divulge every secret
Don't you know you have no power here?
I'm completely being sincere
You better roll for Initiative
Scratch you with my talons
Here be dragons

CHORUS (X2)

BRIDGE (X2)

And now you're deep inside
There's nowhere left to hide
I can make you feel good
Do you wanna know death
Or do you want to feel alive?

CHORUS (X2)

D-U-N-G-E-O-N (x8)
O-N-N-N-N-N-N
N-N-N



The first time I laid my eyes on your face
The timing, the lighting, the fighting, the place
The battle dress I wore to keep you guessin'
Looks so criminal, I'm worth arrestin'

Ooh, I could cut my hand slappin' that cheek
Ooh, I could fall in love all in a week
Ooh, I could hang on your every word as you speak
You speak to me

PRE-CHORUS

With that voice, with that style
With that body, with that smile
It's a chemical reaction
Haven't felt in a while
With my heart beating faster
I don't know how long I'll last here
It's a goddamn disaster
Dominate me
You're the master
I'm the woman, you're the man
You're the pawn, I'm the plan
And you played into my hands
Baby, catch me if you can
If you want me, don't pretend
That you won't see me again
'Cause we both play the game
That will burn me in the end

CHORUS (X2)

Don't you know what you do to me?
Is it all in my fantasy?
Drive me crazy
You get to me
I am Sherlocked
It's elementary

My pupils dilated, you touched my wrist
Took my pulse, took my pressure

You just couldn't resist
Showing off, showing something
So revealing, so appealing
It's your heart you revealed to me
Your genius that appealed to me

Ooh, I think I'm losing all control
Ooh, I think I'm almost letting go
Ooh, I think you see inside my soul
I'm too sentimental
So please be gentle

PRE-CHORUS**CHORUS (X4)**

We can run away together
Baby, you and me forever
We can run away together
Baby, you and me forever

PRE-CHORUS**CHORUS (X4)**

We can run away together
Baby, you and me forever
We can run away together
Baby, you and me forever

Forever

I am Sherlocked
It's elementary



LA, California, 2019
Living in eternal darkness
The acid rain's green
Tyrell Corporation
Their god reigns supreme
With their science and their money
And their servitude and greed
Perched high atop the city
Lookin' down on these peons
Replicants, rebels
Roy, Pris, Zhora, Leon
Runnin' for their lives
Blade Runner right behind them
Hands shake when you kill 'em
Hope you don't find 'em

PRE-CHORUS

Show me the differences between you and me
If you prick me, if you cut me
Tell me, do I not bleed?
Though my eyes are engineered
Tell me, do they not see?
Though my lungs are manufactured
Tell me, do they not breathe?
With these ears, do I not hear?
Do I not speak with this mouth of mine?
Do I not need to believe
That the god who made you
Is the god who made me?
Do I not have a right
As a man to breathe free?

CHORUS (X2)

Hey Deckard
Can you take that Voigt Kampff test too?
Tell me what you're gonna do
When you discover that you're not like the others
More human than human
You are Blade Runner

I was birthed off-world
Near the Tannhauser gate
With the starlights flickering
C-beams glittering
Ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion
Four-year lifespan
Now I lay here dyin'
What is it that makes us human?
Are we to be born into slavery?
What about these memories?
What about the times I have loved
And I've lost?
And I've cried and I've hurt?
Haven't I paid the cost?

PRE-CHORUS**CHORUS (X2)**

Shatter my illusions
Make a girl cry
Thoughts that don't belong to me
They were all lies
Up in that apartment
On the 97th floor
Changed my life
Now everything is harder than before
Don't give me that drink
Don't you tell me that I'm not real
Don't I think?
Dream of electric sheep?
Don't I feel?
Don't I know love in the same way that I know pain?
Moments lost in time like tears in the rain

PRE-CHORUS**CHORUS (X4)**

More human than human
You are Blade Runner (x4)



11

GHOST

208 in progress
Section 9, Newport City
Motoko, shut it down
Get down to the nitty gritty
I catch the hackers hacking ghosts
Like assassins, I fire rounds
Heads explode, magic happens
They never see me comin'
I thermoptic camouflage it
You got a secret meeting?
No, you don't
I sabotaged it
You try to see me
But your vision goes clear
Move my hand down my face
And I disappear

PRE-CHORUS

And I dream 'bout my design
Wondering what I left behind
When my body went robotic
Did I lose my mind?
If I look into the mirror
Will I fear what I find?
Do my cyborg eyes see a soul
Or am I blind?
I keep thinkin'
That I'm sinkin'
That I'm drowning in the water
Swallow fear and anxiety
There's hope to be found here
From the darkness, I shall rise
I shall break through the surface
And I know that it's calling me
My destiny, my purpose

CHORUS (X2)

(Ni-go-zero-ichi)
Ghost in the shell, ghost in the machine

Phantasms that haunt me, haunt me in my dreams
Complicate my thoughts so that nothing's what it seems
I can hear the ghosts, but can they hear me?

I got static in my brain
But I blame it on PMS
Might be on my period
But I'm cool under stress
Might be half-machine
But look good in a dress
Fierce on the outside
But inside, I'm a mess
I see some dark dealings
Lies and manipulations
Section 6
Megatech Body Corporation
Top players can't control
Project 2501
They're the puppets
He's the master
Evolution has begun

PRE-CHORUS

CHORUS (X2)

BRIDGE (X2)

(Ni-go-zero-ichi)
I was born in the sea of information (x2)
If I merge, what will I become? (x3)

Ni-go-zero-ichi
Dive

CHORUS (X4)

For now, we see through a glass darkly



12

FULL OF STARS

In Africa, it all began
With the dawn of man
Hominids, monolith
Our evolution was at hand
A bone became a tool
Became a weapon
Became power
Kill the leopard
Kill the leader
Make the other men cower
Fast forward to the future
On the Clavius base
Past the Sea of Tranquility
In darkest space
With the earthlight shining
Stars aligning
Intelligent designing
High-pitched whining

18 months later and they're sending us to Jupiter
Half our crew's in stasis
But we'll wake 'em when we get there
Feels like something's watchin' me
2001 Space Odyssey
H-A-L-9000 series
Could he be the enemy?
Red light, red light
Computer says no
It's the all-seeing eye
And he won't let me go
HAL's behavior is suspicious
Personality capricious
Who'd have thought him so malicious?
Killing Frank was too damn vicious

CHORUS (X2)

Oh my god, oh my god
It's full of stars, full of stars
And it goes on forever (x2)

Read my lips, I'm gonna shut you down
Risk exposure to vacuum
I'll come around
Don't you beg me for forgiveness
You're infected with a sickness
Paranoia, you're so twisted
Murderer, and I'm the witness
What the hell you doin'?
Why you singin' Daisy?
Got me wonderin' what's wrong with you
You actin' crazy
It was all for a mission
It was all for a vision
It was my evolution
End of line, no transmission

CHORUS (X2)

I look in the face of infinity
What do I see staring back at me?
It is a vortex of light
Of colors, of space
Strange phenomena
Strange landscapes
Suddenly old
And suddenly dying
Who am I watching?
Where am I lying?
I am reborn
There's no denying
I have become the Starchild

CHORUS (X4)

LINER NOTES

I began working on this album a few years ago, but never quite managed to release it until now. There was a lot going on in my life—distractions, a failed attempt to get into a music school, an unfortunate struggle with meningitis, marriage, and lots more—so I've been hanging onto this music, waiting for the right time to just let go of it. It's my first album, my first attempt at Nerdcore, certainly, but I've been producing music for almost 11 years. I've also been an active participant on FAWM, which is February Album Writing Month (fawm.org) for the last 5 years. And it took me this long to even get something out there, which is embarrassing, truth be told. I never imagined it would take this long. Even though the songs are old (to my ears), I'm still proud to have made them and I'm so glad I can share them with you, finally.

I started producing music in 2007 when I was living and working in Seoul. A student of mine had given me his sister's old acoustic guitar, which I began playing very, very poorly. I had messed about with an acoustic guitar before, but I was never (and am still not) a good guitarist. My hands are tiny and even making simple chords was a struggle. I wrote songs on legal pads and notebooks, then started recording songs through my laptop mic and producing in Garageband on my iBook. The fruits of my labour were terrible and, at best, mediocre, though, at the time, I thought they were wonderful. I felt a kind of exhilaration by being able to make songs that were in my head, but I was foolish enough to try and share them with everyone and subject people to my self-made noise pollution. Thankfully, most people were kind enough to not break my heart

and crush my dreams, which proves that miracles do, indeed, happen.

After a couple of years in Korea, I moved to Belgium to pursue a relationship with my now-husband. I continued to make music on my iBook as I waited for updates on my visa status. I went through a difficult, lengthy process, and, when I had finally received a residence card, my savings had run out. Not only that, but my poor iBook was beginning to falter as I began to create more layered, complex songs. So, I swallowed my pride and took cleaning jobs so that I could earn enough money to buy myself a new laptop that could run Ableton Live.

Music was my priority, at first, but then I became lost, somehow, in the daily grind of work. I stopped writing and producing because I had no time. Producing was (and still remains) one of the few things that makes me feel alive and fulfilled. I was so busy that it fell by the wayside, as did my feeling of self-worth. Luckily, I was laid off, so I could finally go back to making music until I figured out my next move. Over the course of a year and a half, I went back to language school, tried and failed to get into a music conservatory (which was a blessing in disguise), and took some production lessons so that I could upgrade my skills. (Thanks, Mucky. You were a great teacher.)

It all began as an assignment. I was supposed to write lyrics that were not meant to be sung. I had always used singing as a kind of crutch and I hated myself for that. My reasoning when I was starting out was that, if I sang well, then lyrics and production wouldn't matter as much. But, I didn't want that. I wanted to produce music and be satisfied with every aspect of a song. I didn't

want to be just a singer. So, I tried for days to write something, but nothing sounded right because nothing sounded genuine or real. Then I had an epiphany of sorts. I turned inward, fully embracing the awkward geek inside, and I wrote "Starfleet Boys". That was the beginning of "Fangirl".

I could tell you each and every thing I love about each fandom, all the little details I appreciate, all the wisdom I've gleaned from them, but that would take a very long time. Plus, there was only so much I could distill and pack into a 4-minute song. But, if you're ever curious, ask me questions later and I'll be happy to answer them. We can nerd out together!

This album is, in a way, my love letter to some of my most beloved fandoms which have shaped me tremendously. They gave me a safe space to inhabit, one where my imagination could run wild without constraints or fear. They taught me lessons I would have never learned in a classroom and challenged me to be more courageous. They comforted me when I felt friendless and misunderstood, inspired me when I felt that all the magic and wonder from life was used up. They allowed me to hope for a better future where I wouldn't feel so disgusting and worthless all the time.

Please understand that I was the weird, fat ugly girl in school, the one with the thick glasses and shiny braces. That was me, the one with no fashion sense and bad skin, the one with the unflatteringly-permed and triangular-shaped hairstyle. I was the mentally-ill, socially-awkward mess, a walking open sore with low self-esteem and the inability to accept kindness without wondering if there were ulterior motives. But then

I looked into the black abyss of space and I saw light where I thought none had existed. In finding science fiction, I found myself.

CREDITS & THANKS

All tracks written, performed, recorded, and produced by **Mel Ciriaco**

Mastering by **Dimitri Andreas**
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Photos and booklet design by **David Alliet**,
concepts and cosplay by **Mel Ciriaco**

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For more of my crazy, check out:

WWW.RYAKOMUSIC.COM

- 01 **MY GREAT ESCAPE** 04:36
- 02 **BIG DAMN HEROES** 04:12
- 03 **MAKO MORI** 04:51
- 04 **ELEMENTS** 04:52
- 05 **AWAKEN** 03:34
- 06 **MONSTER OF THE WEEK** 03:37
- 07 **STARFLEET BOYS** 03:00
- 08 **DND** 05:46
- 09 **I AM SHERLOCKED** 05:21
- 10 **HEY DECKARD** 04:30
- 11 **GHOST** 05:20
- 12 **FULL OF STARS** 03:39

