



I Am... Beyoncé

By: Varinia Pereira

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> She had her first standing ovation at age 7 after singing John Lennon's "Imagine" in a talent show. Now many years later, with countless other standing ovations, movies, songs and awards, she has become a household name – Beyoncé is definitely here to stay.

She dedicated her childhood to practicing singing, dancing and performing. Getting her love for music from singing in her church choir, she began to shine at a young age. Her father discovered her talents early on and decided to become her manager, and to form a girl's group with Beyoncé, LaTavia Robertson, LeToya Luckett and Beyoncé's cousin Kelly Rowland. The girls preformed on Star Search but did not win first place, little did they know that a few years after that disappointment, they would be winning the biggest award in music – a Grammy.

In 1997 Destiny's Child won two Grammy's for their world famous song "Say my Name."

Beyoncé's dream had come true. But along with joy, came turmoil for the young group.

LaTavia and LeToya decided to leave the hit group because of management struggles. Beyoncé and Kelly refused to give up on their passion and after overcoming numer-

ous legal battles, asked Michelle Williams to join Destiny's Child. This new version of Destiny's Child earned a Grammy for "Survivor."

After such success, the girls decided to pursue solo careers despite the risk involved in disbanding such a successful group. Destiny certainly has a way of stepping in at the right time for Beyoncé. For her debut solo album she collaborated with rap superstar Jay-Z on "Crazy in Love" which won her more Grammy's in 2004. But more than just a career boost came from collaborating with Jay-Z, rumors began to circle that they were 'crazy in love' in real life as well.

In the following years, she also decided to take on the big screen, starring in "Austin Powers Goldmember," "Dreamgirls," "Cadillac Records" and most recently, "Obsessed." Her part in the films proved to everyone that she had more than just a pretty voice.

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She also tied with Lauryn Hill for record-setting Grammy nominations in 2009, ten to be exact. These nominations come on the heels of her record breaking album "I

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Tony Braxton
Album: Pulse
Release Date: 2/2/10



K.D. Lang
Album: Recollection
Release Date: 2/2/10



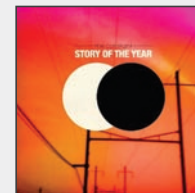
Sade
Album: Soldier of Love
Release Date: 2/8/10



Young Jeezy
Album: Thug Motivation 103
Release Date: 2/9/10



The Watson Twins
Album: Talking To You, Talking To Me
Release Date: 2/9/10



Story of the Year
Album: The Constant
Release Date: 2/16/10