

Abby Rezny
English 101
Koree Schueler
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An Analysis of ‘Til You Can’t, A Song By Cody Johnson

‘Til You Can’t, sung by Cody Johnson has been climbing the charts of country music. Johnson’s album *Human* gives individuals hope and promise for the years to come. For many fans, their connection with the song depend once they gained a better understanding of the meaning behind the song, how Cody Johnson got his idea for the song, how many other people relate to the song, and some reviews from viewers.

‘Til You Can’t was released this year by Cody Johnson. For Cody Johnson his takeaway from the song is “If you've got a dream, chase it. Live every day. Don’t wait on tomorrow” (Johnson, 2020). As Johnson stated in his interview, not only should you follow your dreams but seize every opportunity because at some point you won’t be able to anymore. The lyrics describe events that us individuals put off for days to come, and shows how important those things in our lives are. For example, the song states “So take that phone call from your momma and just talk away ‘cause you’ll know how bad you wanna ‘til you can’t someday” (Johnson, 2021). Those lyrics give a great example of how something so small can mean so much. A person never knows how important those little things are until they are gone. But Johnson explains how hard it is to actually do. “The message in this song is something so simple yet so hard to put into action every day of your life” (Johnson, 2021). Little things like phone calls don’t seem like a big deal so many people just push it off, including myself. It’s so much easier to say I will or later than yes

or than just doing it. The video shows how fast something bad can happen to someone so don't take a minute for granted.

'Til You Can't was originally written by Matt Rogers and Ben Stennis and sung by Cody Johnson. Johnson stated "I chose to record *'Til You Can't* first because of the positivity in the message of the song. In our world today, we could use more positivity" (Johnson, 2021). With the COVID-19 pandemic spreading widely across the country, so many people have lost loved ones. It has been very hard dealing with this disease for everyone, and Johnson's hope was to send this message and give people some hope and positivity for the days to come.

Although Cody Johnson didn't write the lyrics, it is clear that the song's lesson applies to his life and so many others. Johnson realized this after his near-death experience last summer. Johnson was on an airplane headed to a NASCAR event when the pilot announced that the plane was "going down". Johnson states in an interview "I'm thinking about things I regret. I'm thinking about things I could've done. Why did I tell my little girls I was too busy to get on the floor and play? Why didn't I make that phone call and apologize to that person? Why didn't I tell that person, 'Hey, it's OK to be Christian and not be perfect'? All those opportunities that I didn't seize, and even my wife — why don't I do these things?" (Johnson, 2021) Johnson just kept telling himself why he had so many chances in life and so many things that he wanted to do. Johnson had so many regrets, and they all flooded back when he thought he was going to die in the plane crash. The video shows how important it is to spend time with the people that you love so you won't regret saying no once they are gone.

Not only does Cody Johnson relate to this song but anyone can. For many people, this song has changed their point of view in life. As stated before, one reason Johnson chose this song was because of the positivity within the song. This past year we have dealt with many

challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. Johnson explains how this song can uplift our country saying “After the year we’ve all been through, there’s a division in this country. But songs like this one have the ability to unite us all. We can all relate to the fact that life starts and it ends. All we’re given is time. Every day, every minute and every second is valuable. I always point to my guitar when I sing the line ‘cause a dream won’t chase you back.’ We are only here for a short time.” (Johnson, 2021) With songs like these it makes hard times seem a little easier for people. It gives everyone hope that someday everything will be okay and back to the way it was. This song also made us realize how important it is to cherish our moments with the people we love, especially with the pandemic many people have lost loved ones.

Lastly, for this analysis I decided to ask a few of my friends for their reviews on the song. My friend Jill said that the song made her want to cherish every moment in life because God knows when it’s her time to come. Others said that it gave them goosebumps and made them want to scream it at the top of their lungs. I also decided to look at some reviews on YouTube. Someone expressed their thoughts by saying “The song is BEAUTIFUL and MEANINGFUL. When it combines with the video, man..., it’s just TOUCHING and POWERFUL. LOVE it!”, another one stated “This. This right here is country. Crying. Keep it up Cody!!” I totally agree with both of these statements.

So take that opportunity, set your dreams high, and never take a moment for granted. By looking at the meaning behind the song, how Cody Johnson got his idea for the song, and how many other people relate to the song as well, it is clear that this song does belong at the top of the country music charts and that everyone can relate to the song in some way.

Words Cited

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