

EPISODE 4 OF 64 BARS

Written by

Alicia Garbutt

Based on, If Any

Address  
Phone Number

INT. RADIO STATION - MORNING

Brianna sits next to Roc in front of a mic at a table. Dom sits across from both of them with a mic as well.

DOM

Alright Bri, I'm gonna introduce you, then play the track. Just do your thing.

BRIANNA

Got it.

DOM

And we're live in 3..2..1. Good morning New York! What it do, what it do, what it do! I am here with up and coming artist Debri.

BRIANNA

Yuuurrrrrrr!!

DOM

And she is going to show us what she's got. We did an online poll to select this week's track. So ladies and gentlemen, here is Debri, spitting hot bars on the winning track. Take it away.

A hiphop beat plays. Brianna bobs her head. She opens her mouth and nothing comes out. She looks around nervously. Roc and Dom look at each other questioningly.

Brianna catches the beat and opens her mouth again. Nothing. She tries again and again but no sound exits. Dom bursts out laughing, Roc joins.

DOM (CONT'D)

Y'all, we got a choker.

ROC

More like a joker.

DOM

Fronting like you got it. We all know you're a poser.

ROC

Ask em who's Debri, and don't nobody know her.

Their criticisms fall on beat with the track.

DOM

Chains are probably fake, I don't  
know nobody broke.

ROC

Give her to the game, it'd probably  
roll her up and smoke her.

DOM

Call in Dr. Suess cuz her bars are  
mediocre.

ROC

There's nowhere to hide and your  
doubts are getting closer.

Brianna opens her mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIANNA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Brianna jolts up in her bed. She wipes her face and sighs.  
She checks the time and swipes past a "GAME DAY" Reminder.

She opens instagram and scrolls the feed, she chuckles  
occasionally. The Apollo's instagram account pops up. Brianna  
swipes through their recap of Saturday's performances.

She lands on a picture of her and likes the image. She swipes  
and stumbles upon Amaya. She swipes away from the post.

LATER

Brianna walks out the bathroom in grey sweats and a black t-  
shirt. She tosses her towel on her bed and pulls on a hoodie.

She walks to the living room and sits at her computer desk.  
She goes live on Instagram.

BRIANNA

Good morning and happy Sunday to  
all of you.

Comments, and likes flow from Brianna's screen.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)

Special shoutout to the Apollo for  
letting me bless their stage last  
night.

Comments flow asking about the Apollo.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
I'll be sure to let you all know  
the next time I'm there. All the  
support is appreciated.

Brianna notices a comment asking for advice on lyrics.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
I'd be happy to look over your  
lyrics for you. Just shoot me a DM  
and I'll get back to you as soon as  
I can.

More people offer to send Brianna their lyrics.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
Speaking of lyrics...

Brianna plays a trap hip-hop beat.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
It's time for the Sunday Song Sesh.

Hearts fill the screen. Just as the beat picks up, Brianna's  
phone rings. She freezes at Roc's name. She grabs her phone.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
Unfortunately this song sesh has to  
be cut short. But snippets will be  
posted later tonight!

Brianna ends the live and answers the phone.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

ROC  
Yo Bri, I just word a good friend  
of mine from another label is gonna  
be at that mixer Dom told you  
about. I wanna introduce you so  
make sure you bring your A-game

BRIANNA  
Sounds dope.

ROC  
Cool, I'll see you at 3.

BRIANNA  
(winces)  
3? Today?

ROC  
Yes, 3pm today. Did you forget?

BRIANNA  
No, no...I mean. I have a  
just..also have a game at 3-

ROC  
Look, whatever else you got going  
on is your business. But this is  
the MUSIC business and either you  
in or you out. Now whether or not I  
see you there, is on you. But I for  
the sake of your career, I really  
hope I do.

The call ends.

BRIANNA  
Fuuccckkkk.

INT. AMAYA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

AMAYA  
Fuuuuccckkkk!

The Mario Kart "end of race" music plays. Amaya sucks her  
teeth while Mikayla jumps up from the blow up bed and  
celebratory dances.

AMAYA (CONT'D)  
I was RIGHT behind you.

MIKAYLA  
Right behind, or left behind?

AMAYA  
Rude!

MIKAYLA  
Man, I gotta come over here more  
often. You are the only person I  
know that still has a functional  
Wii.

AMAYA  
Absolutely. This thing is gonna be  
worth millions one day.

MIKAYLA

Maybe then you can pay someone to teach you to play Mario Kart better.

AMAYA

You know what, rematch! One more game. Right now.

MIKAYLA

Alright but I don't wanna see any tears.

The game starts. Immediately Mikayla is in the lead. Amaya trails behind. Amaya uses a power-up and gets right in front of Mikayla.

RINGGGGGGG RINGGGGGGG

Mikayla pauses the game and picks up her phone.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)

Hello?

AMAYA

Come on! I was finally in the front. You-

Mikayla shushes and waves Amaya away.

MIKAYLA

Yea...ok...3pm?...Sheet Records Studio? Yea I've been there before....no, no, I'll be there. Thank you! Ok, bye!

AMAYA

Sheet Records Studio. Isn't that-

MIKAYLA

The place I dropped you off and picked you up from? Yes. Remember when I told you I was in cahoots with some people who work with Ice Spice?

AMAYA

Of course.

MIKAYLA

Well, there's gonna be a mixer today for up and coming artists, and producers.

(MORE)

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)

They just told me they have an extra invite and want me to meet some people.

AMAYA

That's amazing! Oh man, what are you gonna wear?

MIKAYLA

Fuck I didn't think about that! I gotta go pick something out. I gotta go shower. I just..gotta go.

AMAYA

What if Ice Spice herself is there?

MIKAYLA

I can't think about that right now. I'll get too nervous.

AMAYA

Alright, there's no need for that. It sounds like it's just a chill networking event.

MIKAYLA

That could jumpstart my career!

AMAYA

Which is true. But you gotta walk in there like your career has already started. Make people be BEGGING to work with you. I already am.

Amaya drops to her knees.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

Got me on my knees and everything.

Mikayla chuckles and pulls Amaya up.

MIKAYLA

I wish you could come.

AMAYA

Me too! I want to sip on some fancy champagne and deeply discuss the intricacies that is "lyricism."

MIKAYLA

You'll make it into the room where it happens.

AMAYA

I'm sure of it. But right now, you gotta get ready for your grand entrance.

The two embrace tightly, then release.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

You got this.

MIKAYLA

Thank you.

Mikayla gathers her items and heads to the door.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)

I'll tell you all about it when it's over! Byeee.

Amaya sighs and looks down. She plops onto the air mattress. She grabs her Wii remote and unpauses the game. Amaya's character speeds away while Mikayla's stays. Amaya snickers.

INT. BASKETBALL GYM - 2:30PM

Brianna walks into the gym with a bag of basketballs and a duffle bag hanging off her shoulder. She rocks her gater cap.

On one half of the court girls in green uniform do layups and rebounds. On the other half girls in red jerseys practice free throws. Brianna approaches the head coach.

BRIANNA

Hey coach, can I talk to you?

COACH

Brianna! Just in time. Can you lead the girls in a zone practice.

BRIANNA

Yea, I gotchu. But- before I do. I uh, do you think I could maybe..miss this game?

COACH

Miss it? You're already here. Why would you miss it?

BRIANNA

There's this music thing. A mixer. An important one, for networking. You know. A real chance to meet with execs and other artists and-



COACH

Look, that sounds cool and all, but today is Game Day. The girls need you and you have a job to do. When the game's over you can head on over to your network mixer or whatever. But until then you are Assistant Coach.

Brianna sighs and walks away. She checks the time. 2:35pm.

LATER

A loud and long whistle blows. A referee throws a basketball in the air. Green and Red jerseys jump for it, then scatter across the floor.

Brianna checks the time, 3:02pm. She clicks her phone off and focuses on the game.

BRIANNA

Let's go! Zone up, zone up. Find your person.

The red team shoots and misses. The green team takes the ball up the court, they shoot and score.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)

Yesss!

She looks at the time, 3:05pm. The ref blows a whistle.

REFERREE

Time Out! Red!

Brianna's team jogs to the head coach. Brianna looks between the exit and her team. She takes one final look at her team then bolts for the door.

The whistle blows, the teams run back on the court, just as Brianna slips out the door. Her coach holds her clipboard over her head.

INT. MUSIC STUDIO - DAY

Brianna enters the building. She takes the elevator to the 17th floor. The doors open to a SPACIOUS room. Tables have drinks and finger foods.

The floor is littered with all types of artists and execs. Brianna scopes the scene. Someone snaps her out of her stupor with a bump. She walks deeper into the room.

ROC

Bri! Bri!

Brianna turns left and sees Roc waving her down. Brianna approaches him.

ROC (CONT'D)

You made it. Late, but I'm glad you're here. At 4:15 you're gonna have an "impromptu" performance. I got Probation queued up for you.

BRIANNA

Performance?! What if I didn't show up?

ROC

I knew you would.

Roc pats Brianna on her shoulder and walks away. Brianna sighs and grabs a drink. Her phone buzzes, she takes it out.

COACH: MY OFFICE TOMORROW, 1PM.

She clicks her phone off and plasters on a smile.

LATER

The elevator door opens and Mikayla steps out. She looks around in awe.

MIKAYLA

Amaya would flip!

She passes the refreshments table and grabs a drink. She nods and smiles to each person she passes. She ogles the chandelier above and bumps into-

TONY

Woah.

MIKAYLA

Omg, I'm sorry I was just looking at the-

TONY

Chandelier. It got me too. I'm Tony.

He puts his hand out. Mikayla shakes it.

MIKAYLA

I'm Mikayla.

TONY

So Mikayla, which district do you belong to?

MIKAYLA

District?

TONY

Yea, you know. Artist, engineer, songwriter, executive?

MIKAYLA

I wish I was an executive. I'm a producer though. And you?

TONY

Certified lyricist and a master on the mic, stick around with T and you might hear something you like.

MIKAYLA

Nice. You should try that over one of my beats.

TONY

If you're offering up beats I met a couple people here who are pretty dope. If you're interested in meeting them?

MIKAYLA

Isn't that the whole point of this thing?

TONY

Follow me.

LATER

Mikayla stands in a circle with Tony and 3 other people. They laugh with champagne glasses and tiny plates in hand.

MIKAYLA

Ok y'all. I started this track 2 days ago. It's nowhere near complete so not too much on me. But I'm looking for a melody for the chorus, maybe some fresh ears could help?

ARTIST #1

Yesss, let's start a cypher!

The others agree. Mikayla holds her phone out and everyone huddles closer together. As Mikayla hits play, "Probation" blasts from the room speakers.

Everyone looks around in confusion, Mikayla's face fails to hide her disbelief. The lights click off, a spotlight lands on Brianna.

BRIANNA

They keep tryna put me on  
Probation, they hatin.

Tony leans over to Mikayla.

TONY

I didn't know we were allowed to  
perform, I would've sent in my own  
track.

The others nod and murmur in agreement and slight disdain.

MIKAYLA

I'll be right back.

Mikayla storms off.

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM

Mikayla enters and paces angrily. She stops in front of a sink and leans on it, eyeing herself in the mirror. She turns the water on and splashes her face. She breathes out.

She dries her face, then hastily takes her phone out and scrolls to Amaya's contact. She pauses, looks at herself again, and puts the phone away. She exits.

INT. MUSIC STUDIO MIXER

Mikayla enters and looks around. Everyone is focused on Brianna. Mikayla weaves through the crowd and spots the dj booth. He's unoccupied.

MIKAYLA

Hey, after this performance can you  
play a song for me?

DJ

Sorry, I don't take requests.

MIKAYLA

Do you take 20's?

Mikayla pulls out a bill, the dj hesitates, but takes it.  
Mikayla whispers in his ear, he nods.

BRIANNA

No way man, you bitches are testing  
my patience, you making/Me step out  
of my face I hate complaining, it's  
draining/Unlike my drip this water  
you can't wade in you straining/To  
keep up with me it's entertaining,  
not playing/Y'all ain't ready for  
my revelation.

The crowd applauds. Brianna waves and bows.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)

I go by DeBri, and that was  
Probation. Check it out if you  
haven't already. Thank you.

Mikayla rejoins Tony and the artists.

MIKAYLA

Sorry about that. How was the  
performance?

TONY

It was cool. She had some sick  
lines in there.

MIKAYLA

(under her breath)  
I bet.

DJ

Alright y'all give it up for her  
one more time.

Holds for applause.

DJ (CONT'D)

Let's get back to the function.

Debut by Amaya plays from the speakers.

TONY

Nicee, I heard this song recently.  
She's really good too.

MIKAYLA

You know, this is my track. And  
that's my friend Amaya on there.

TONY

What!? How did I not recognize your name?

MIKAYLA

I have a different producer name. I like to keep my two personas separate.

TONY

I should've thought of that before making Tony my stage name.

Mikayla laughs.

TONY (CONT'D)

Wait, how come Amaya isn't here? I'd love to ask her how she came up with that "minstrel on my menstrual" line.

MIKAYLA

Debut was her..debut. But yea, I wish she was here too. She deserves it. More than some people.

TONY

I agree. Take my instagram and pass it along to Amaya. I'd love to get in the booth with her.

MIKAYLA

Oh man, she'd love that.

MEANWHILE

Brianna storms up to the dj.

BRIANNA

Yo man, change this shit.

DJ

Sorry, I don't take requests.

BRIANNA

You take punches-

ROC

Bri! Come over here.

Brianna lowers her fist and side-eyes the dj. She walks over to Roc. He stands next to a light-skinned bald man in a suit.

ROC (CONT'D)

This is Liam. He's worked with some real hot artist and is always looking for new talent. He just helped put out Ice Spice.

BRIANNA

Wow, that's amazing.

LIAM

What was amazing was that song. I got a group of potential artists, producers, engineers, writers, you name it. I'm building a whole team from scratch basically. Some of my people are here now. I want you to meet them, if you haven't already. I think you'd be a good fit.

BRIANNA

A group? Like N.W.A? Wu-Tang? And what about you, Roc? I thought I'd be working with you and Dom.

ROC

Another lesson about the industry, everyone knows everyone. If all goes well, when you do group projects, you'll work with Liam. Any solo projects go through me.

LIAM

And don't think of it as a rap group. Think of it like a mini record label. Everyone in the group is a part of the label. And not everyone in the group is a rapper. But you all work together.

Liam looks around.

LIAM (CONT'D)

There's one of my artists now. Follow me.

Roc, Brianna and Liam walk over to Tony and Mikayla.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Tony.

Liam turns around and everyone looks in Liam's direction. Mikayla and Brianna lock eyes.

TONY

Liam! Good to see you.

LIAM

Good to see you as well. This is Brianna and Roc.

Brianna and Mikayla size each other up.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I was telling Roc that I think Brianna would be a good fit for the group.

TONY

I'm actually glad you brought that up. Because I think Mikayla would also be a great addition. She's a producer and her beats are tight.

LIAM

Oh, I'm well aware. My partners have showed me some of your work. It's nice to put a face to the name.

MIKAYLA

I didn't know you all were working on a group.

TONY

It's more like a cohort. A mix of writers, performers, producers, and engineers. All working together on a variety of projects.

MIKAYLA

Like a Wu-Tang thing.

LIAM

Hey, she said the same thing! I guess you guys have the same taste.

Liam points to Brianna. Mikayla scowls.

BRIANNA

I wouldn't be so sure.

MIKAYLA

Yea, I don't know if this group would be right for me. Not everyone works well together. And not everyone is deserving of my beats.



Brianna rolls her eyes.

LIAM

I hear you. But take some time to think about it. You too Brianna. Tony, try to convince them, will you?

TONY

On it.

Liam walks away. Roc leaves in the other direction and Brianna follows.

BRIANNA

Yo, we never said anything about a group. I'm a solo act.

ROC

And you can still be a solo act. This is a win-win.

BRIANNA

For who? You and Liam? Cause the only way I see it, is you both profit off of me from whatever I do.

ROC

And you profit as well.

BRIANNA

But why do we need the group part? If I can be solo while in a group then why can't I just be solo?

ROC

Think of it this way. You join the group, you get a writer. You also get a producer. All you'll have to do is rap.

BRIANNA

But I can write-

ROC

Just think about it.

BRIANNA

And what if I say no to the group.

Beat.

ROC  
Think about it.

Roc leaves. Brianna grabs another drink and looks Mikayla's way. She gulps the drink. She makes her way to the exit but is stopped.

GABBY  
Debri!

Brianna turns and sees a brownskin girl in a plaid skirt and soccer jersey approach her.

BRIANNA  
You can just call me Brianna.

GABBY  
Ok, Brianna. I just wanted to say that you're performance was really good.

BRIANNA  
Oh, thank you-

GABBY  
Gabby.

She sticks her hand out. Brianna shakes it.

BRIANNA  
Uh, so Gabby. What do you do?

GABBY  
I'm an artist.

BRIANNA  
Rap, sing, scat?

GABBY  
I kind of do a little bit of everything.

BRIANNA  
That's pretty cool. Care to show me some of your stuff?

GABBY  
Of course.

The two huddle close to Gabby's phone.

## ACROSS THE ROOM

MIKAYLA

I don't know Tony.

TONY

Is it because of Brianna?

MIKAYLA

(sighs)

How'd you know.

TONY

You two were stabbing each other with your eyes. And look, I don't know what happened between you two. Lovers to enemies-

MIKAYLA

NO WAY!

TONY

Alright. Not that. But my point is, whatever happened, it can't stop you. This group is really dope. I've only been in for about a month, but the other artists there are really cool. Everyone has a different sound, but we all contribute to each others project. There's also a steady flow of work. There's always an artist to make a beat for, and you're not stuck in one genre. And who knows, Briana may not even make it in for sure. Liam is still looking for other artists.

Mikayla looks at Liam. He daps up Roc.

MIKAYLA

Looks like a done deal to me. I appreciate this Tony. But I need some time.

TONY

Alright. But in the end, if you choose another path. I think we should still work together some day.

MIKAYLA

Of course.

Mikayla leaves.

EXT. OUTSIDE MUSIC STUDIO - DAY

Mikayla storms out of the building.

INT. AMAYA'S DORM ROOM - LATER

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Amaya walks to the door.

AMAYA

Finally. I thought it'd never get here.

Amaya opens the door to Mikayla holding a bag of food.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

Mikayla!

MIKAYLA

Somehow I always end up being the one bringing the food. I ran into the very confused delivery guy and grabbed the bags. You owe me \$2 for the tip.

Mikayla walks inside and sets the food on Amaya's desk.

AMAYA

You owe yourself \$2. I tipped him already online.

MIKAYLA

Well today's his lucky day then.

AMAYA

I didn't know you were coming back over today.

Amaya takes the boxes out of the bag. She grabs two plates and divides the food. She hands a plate to Mikayla.

MIKAYLA

So you know that big executive meeting I had today? The one where I thought I was finally gonna get my big break.

AMAYA

Oh, we getting right into it. Ok.  
Yea. What about it?

Mikayla shovels rice into her mouth.

MIKAYLA

They had the nerve- wow this is  
really good.

She spoons more rice.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)

They had the nerve to have Brianna  
all up in there! And get this. My  
guy on the inside, knows whoever  
she's working with. They said our  
sounds were practically made for  
each other.

AMAYA

Well of course they were. All her  
old songs were made by you.

MIKAYLA

And all her lyrics were made by  
YOU. If anything it's OUR sounds  
that are perfect for each other.  
Brianna doesn't even have a sound.

Mikayla stands up, peeved, food still in hand. Amaya sets her  
food down and moves to Mikayla. She takes the plate from her.

AMAYA

Hey. This is still your chance. An  
opportunity to get your foot in the  
door.

MIKAYLA

That's just it. It was supposed to  
be MY chance!

Mikayla sobs.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)

Now I have to share it with her?!  
Not even share it. I would  
basically be helping her continue  
her lie. Keep her afloat when she  
clearly doesn't deserve it. I don't  
know how she even made it into the  
room. I just-

AMAYA

Listen to me. YOU made it into the room. On your own. Off of talent alone. You deserve it.

Amaya wipes a tear from Mikayla's cheek.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

Look. No matter what you do, I'll be proud of you. But. I really think you should stick with it.

MIKAYLA

Amaya, I don't know-

AMAYA

I know. I wish I could've been there. Whether Brianna was there or not.

MIKAYLA

Oh, Amaya-

AMAYA

It's ok. I'm still starting out so I know it won't come immediately. But it's here for you, and I would hate to see you pass it up. Because..you inspire me, Mikayla.

A tear falls from Mikayla's eye.

AMAYA (CONT'D)

Ending things with Brianna was hard. Starting all over was-is scary. But having you with me, and seeing what you do. It makes me feel like I can do it too. So it doesn't matter who else is in the room with you. Because you're always gonna be the best there...especially in this room.

Mikayla giggles. She wipes her eyes, then looks up at Amaya.

MIKAYLA

That's not true. You're in here too.

The women stare at each other longingly. They start to lean in, hesitate, Amaya pulls away. She looks down and walks away. She leans on her bed.

AMAYA

The point is. Don't doubt yourself,  
and don't run away. Especially from  
something you love. And if you  
don't do it for you, do it for your  
biggest fan.

Amaya looks away shyly. Mikayla walks over to Amaya. She  
turns Amaya's face to hers.

MIKAYLA

You don't run away either.

She leans in and kisses Amaya, then moves back. The two stare  
in shock. Amaya pulls Mikayla in and passionately kisses her.  
The kiss intensifies. Mikayla unzips Amaya's sweater.

Mikayla moves her hand under Amaya's shirt. Amaya stops her  
hand. They stare intently at each other.

Amaya softens. She pulls Mikayla back in. Mikayla wraps her  
hands around Amaya's neck. Amaya picks Mikayla up and sets  
her on the bed. She takes her sweater off.

**END OF EPISODE**