

Rihanna's

Revolutionary race to recognition

Everything about Rihanna is revealed, including her turbulent relationship with Chris Brown, her early childhood and music career.

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From her irresistible natural brown locks and glowing skin, to her bright red hair and eccentric style, Rihanna's unique and every changing look seems to have the world on the edge of their seats. Robyn Rihanna Fenty is one of the biggest selling Hip-hop and R&B singers to ascend into the music industry. Born on the 20th February 1988 in Barbados to mother, Monica and father Ronald, Rihanna began selling clothes in a market stall in her hometown. Who knew she would now be selling millions of records worldwide? It wasn't all fun and games for Rihanna, as she had a tough childhood growing up. Her mother and father divorced when she was only 14 years old, due to her father's drug and alcohol addiction, but with all that she continued her passion with music and carried on singing in school and even forming her own band! The Barbadian beauty was introduced to Evan Rodgers through mutual friends, where she sang her take on songs such as 'Hero' and 'Emotion'. Little did she know what was to come! She got the chance to audition for Def Jam records where Jay Z signed her for not only one album but six. No big deal. Rihanna soon debuted her first single in August 2005 called 'Pon De Replay' which charted tremendously high on the charts. Her triumphant album 'The Music Of The Sun' in 2005 sold over 2 million copies worldwide and she had only just got started!

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Rihanna didn't stop there. Eight months after her first album she went on to make her second album called "Girl like me" in April 2006 which was another huge hit with her fans. Her lead single 'SOS' smashed the charts coming in at number 1 in the US and Australia! Not bad at all. This is when Rihanna's career really took off, she had her first headlining tour; Rihanna: Live in Concert and also supported the world renowned Pussycat Dolls in their tour 'PCD World Tour' then, Jay Z and NeYo on their Rock Tha Block Tour. And it didn't stop there. Rihanna also achieved her first acting role where she made a cameo in Bring it on: All or Nothing released in August of that year. Talk about a jammed packed year! "Rhi" as she likes to be called, released her third studio album in 2007 "Good Girl Gone Bad" featuring songs like "Umbrella", "Shut up and Drive" and "Don't stop the music". With this album she had her "Good Girl Gone Bad tour" which included 80 shows in the US, Canada and Europe! Rihanna also released another version of this album "Good Girl Gone Bad

reloaded" in June 2008, including 3 additional songs "Disturbia", "Take a Bow" and "If I Never See Your Face Again" featuring Maroon 5. Rihanna wasn't just a role model to millions of girls and women around the world, she also became a cause célèbre due to the shocking experience that occurred on February 8th 2009. On the outside Rihanna and Chris Brown's relationship looked perfect, no one could have prepared for the what was about to happen. It was on the day of the 51st Grammy Awards.

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Rihanna was expected to attend and perform but was later cancelled without a reason. It was soon known to the world that she was assaulted by ex-boyfriend Brown that night and to make matters worse a shocking picture emerged online on TMZ.com of the injuries she sustained, including a swollen eye and bruised face. It was claimed by Rihanna that they were on their way home with Brown in the car and saw his phone which contained a text from an ex-girlfriend of his "I caught him in a lie, and he wouldn't tell the truth, so I wouldn't drop it, I wouldn't drop it, I kept saying that I couldn't take that he was lying to me and he couldn't take that I wouldn't drop it." Rihanna exclaimed in her first interview in months to Diane Sawyer. "So...it escalated to him being violent towards me and... it was ugly." Rihanna continued angrily. In an interview with Oprah more recently Rihanna stated "I lost my best friend... everything I knew switched - switched in a night. And I couldn't control that. I had to deal with that. It's not easy for me to understand and it's not easy to interpret on camera, not with the world watching." She continued "I felt like the only person they hate right now is him. It was a weird, confusing space to be in because as angry as I was, as angry and hurt and betrayed - I just felt like he made that mistake because he needed help. And who's going to help him? Nobody's going to say he needs help everybody's going to say he's a monster, without looking at the source. And I was more concerned about him." Following the incident with Brown Rihanna then went on to produce yet another hit album "Rated R" which was released in November

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2009, including hit singles such as Run this town featuring Jay Z and Kanye, Russian Roulette, Rude boy and Hard featuring young Jeezy. Most singers would sing about their down fall and bad experiences in life, but Rihanna came into the scene like a brand new woman. As the Caribbean goddess' fan base grew and her style evolved. Her hair, style and attitude did a complete three sixty which is demonstrated through her album artwork for this album. Rihanna continued her long string of albums. She released "Loud" in November of 2010 which featured singles such like "Only girl in the world", "What's my name" featuring Drake, "Love the way you lie" featuring Eminem, becoming number one in 20 different countries! She then also released "Talk that talk" in November of 2011 including hit singles such as "We Found Love" featuring Calvin Harris, "You da One" and a controversial "Birthday Cake" which featured her infamous ex Chris Brown which got mixed reviews as rumours surfaced that Brown and Rihanna has apparently reconciled and put their differences aside. Rihanna spoke in an interview with Vogue magazine regarding this duet stating "I didn't think it could be anything detrimental to my career. I was on a tour bus ride between two cities, listening to my album, thinking, Oooh, maybe I should make this into a duet. And I started coming up with a bunch of people, and his name crossed my mind. I thought, we hadn't made a song in so long together...it could be a little shocking!" And if you think, party animal Rihanna stopped there, then you're wrong! She produced her latest album called Unapologetic which include fan favourites such as "Diamonds" "Pour it up" and "Numb" featuring Eminem. Last but not least "Nobody's business" which was yet another controversial track with both the fan bases of Rihanna and Chris Brown. The track could be closely related to the pairs relationship as it includes lyrics such as "You'll always be mine, sing it to the world, always be my boy, I'll always be your girl" Rihanna is seen as an inspiration to many through her music and her experiences in life. With nearly 28 million followers Rihanna's every growing "navy" will never falter in supporting her through everything she does.

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Model Martina Weekes as
Rihanna