

Untitled by Emily Evans

Holy hot rock star judgement panel. The guys facing them ranged from hot to hotter. If she were Snow White, she'd cast them as broody, dreamy, charismatic and temperamental. Too much man to handle but perfect fantasy material. Perfect.

Professor Gretchen pointed at her. "And Cassie, why should you be chosen to travel with the rock band and maintain their social media presence?"

She shouldn't be. She had no interest in travel. She'd never heard of *Rain Spin*. Her competitors were better qualified. "Because I'd maintain an effective online presence." lame. She was so getting stuck with the yarn shop internship. If she could remember her Lamb's wool fiber from her Merino.

The rock stars were all in lounge chairs, but the lead was the only one sitting upright. He sneered. It was the right response. Cassie smiled weakly and rubbed her face. Icelandic, Shetland, Kashmir.

"If you could only ask the band one question, what would that question be?" Gretchen spoke from directly in front of her, double-breasted suit buttons at eye-level close. And, from Gretchen's frown, the other candidates had already given their answers. And the questions they'd chosen were no doubt, musically brilliant. The three of them were squashed around the dining table in this rock star trailer like they guests, but there was nothing relaxed about this interview.

Cassie's mind flashed to breakfast where her sister had bet her that mom would walk in to breakfast at 8:04. Her sister had won, and now Cassie had to get an autograph from the band. But somehow, *Can I have your autograph?* seemed a bad choice.

Professor Gretchen tapped her foot. The trailer was carpeted so the sound didn't carry.

Cassie toyed with the loose thread on her knit sweater. She wasn't cold, but she'd worn it to suck up to the yarn shop where they were going next. She tucked the strand into the widening hole on the sleeve. OMG. What if the yarn shop asked her what her sweater was made out of?

Professor Gretchen made a hurry-up noise, a sound unique to professors.

"I'd ask two questions."

"You only get one."

The lead rock star sneered. They must teach them that in rock star camp because it was cliché poster material. From the looks of this guy, he sold a lot of posters. Dark hair she wanted to put her hands in. Blue purple eyes with inky lashes. And his hands. What did he play? No she couldn't ask that.

She could ask about his musical influences. Or his favorite thing to do on a date. Why kind of girls he liked. Or just about anything but what she was going to ask. She'd lost the bet, it had to be done. Cassie dug through her overlarge tote for a gold sparkle pen and her notebook pad that

contained scrapbook paper. Half her crap fell out along the way. A stray lipstick landed by the toe of Gretchen's pump. But from the quicker taps emanating from Gretchen's shoe, she'd frown if Cassie took the time to retrieve her stuff.

Cassie scooted out of the booth. The other two potential interns stared at her with fake pleasant expressions. At least the lead's sneer was honest. His gaze was on her spilled possessions. She took the pen and pad over to him. "If I could only ask one question, I'd ask ...

SYTYCW Editor Critique:

Thank you for letting us read your first page! I like Cassie a lot—her internal dialogue is wry and funny, and I can't wait to see whether she's able to let that aspect of her personality shine when she talks to the band.

I'm a bit confused about how Cassie came to be in this situation; why would she have applied to be an intern for Rain Spin, given her lack of interest in travel/the band? I'm intrigued by Cassie and I want to know what drives her—I'd suggest adding in a hint of personal motivation so that we know Cassie has a goal and cares about whether she gets this interview or not. If she is in an interview, I'd suggest having her already know the lead singer's name; would she have had the opportunity to do a research ahead of time?

I'd suggest cutting the mention of the breakfast bet with her sister; the interview question is a stronger motivation than the bet, and while the family relationships are important, they aren't a hook in the same way that the band/lead singer is, so details on that can come later.

Keep an eye out for repeated gestures; instead of having the lead singer sneer twice, for example, consider having him speak up and ask Cassie something. I definitely want to know more about him, and having them either butt heads or have an irresistible connection right off the bat would certainly keep me turning the pages.

Thanks again and best of luck with this story!