

26th August, 2001

A SONG BIRD – MORE THAN A WOMAN

DEAR DIARY, the singer *Aaliyah* died today. She died in a horrific plane crash along with the pilot and all the passengers which means there are many more lives to be mourned in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

It's always a bit of a shock and sad and unwelcome news when a star, someone famous, someone admired for their art and craft, someone who has brought personal pleasure, dies. I know it sounds crazy, but if I died, it wouldn't make the news. There'd be no documentary; it wouldn't make much of a dent in this world of ours. In terms of *Aaliyah*, in some circles, she's a household name. So in that respect, her death is a shock considering she's young, beautiful and talented. Not to say that young, beautiful and talented people don't die all the time – unexpected death in your prime is tragic. What I'm saying is if a Jack the Ripper type person died in a plane crash, it wouldn't be met with much sorrow.

It's too early to know the ins and outs of what happened. News reports mention something to do with the plane being overloaded. Her plane crashed in the Bahamas after filming the video for *Rock the Boat*.

Aaliyah's demise has saddened me. Unfortunately, it will serve as a reminder for me to be grateful for each new day and appreciate the people I love. This sentiment always seems to be short-lived, but today, I will try to make *Aaliyah*'s death count for something, albeit, selfishly for me. I need right now to count my blessings and I hope that her short life will count for something special.

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