

TAKE THAT RIDE by Meg Benjamin

EXCERPT

Lexi propped herself against the doorway watching the band slide into the complete number. After a moment, Deirdre stepped up behind her. Lexi didn't recognize the music the band was playing, but it must be one of their regulars, given the easy way they seemed to be moving through the verse. As if they felt comfortable with what they were doing. After they'd played a few minutes that were strictly instrumental, Coy stepped to the microphone and began to sing.

The words weren't familiar, but she found herself listening closely. Something about a couple that had broken up but still had feelings for each other. The man in the song missed the way they'd been together, even though he didn't exactly miss the woman herself. It was a complicated kind of lyric, a lot more complex than she might have expected.

Lexi wasn't sure if she'd heard Coy sing before or not. The last time she'd heard them rehearse, she hadn't paid much attention. She was fairly certain now she'd never really heard him sing. His voice was deep and resonant, but not exactly a bass. More like baritone. Something about the way Coy sang those complicated lyrics began to reach deep into her senses. He wasn't really living the song, but he made her feel as if the feelings he described weren't totally unfamiliar. As if he knew how to make her feel them, too.

A shiver traveled up her backbone, and her arms seemed to tingle. She checked to see if she had gooseflesh.