

# ALL HAIL THE QUEEN

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I WAS JUST A KID WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT SOUND

MY MOTHER & HER FRIENDS WOULD DANCE & DRINK WITH 1 HAND FREE  
TO SWAP THEIR FINGERS, THEY'D SHOUT "SAY THAT!" OR ONE WOULD SAY "SANG THAT SONG, GIRL!" LIKE  
THEY NEEDED TO INSTRUCT THE GREATEST SINGER OF ALL TIME TO DO WHAT SHE CAME TO EARTH FOR.

THAT VOICE IS ONE OF MY EARLIEST MEMORIES. SUCH POWER & EMOTION, IT MOVED ME BEYOND  
MY ABILITY TO KNOW WHAT BEING MOVED WAS. AND EVEN HEARING THE NAME "ARETHA FRANKLIN"  
WOULD REGISTER IN MY MEDULLA OBLONGATA AS IF I WERE ABOUT TO BE TREATED TO MY FAVORITE  
FLAVOR OF BASKIN & ROBBINS' 31 FLAVORS ICE CREAM, GERMAN CHOCOLATE OR CHOCOLATE  
CHEESECAKE.

HER VOICE TAUGHT ME WHAT MUSIC WAS.

THEN THERE WERE OTHER DAYS: WHEN MAMA SAT ON THE FLOOR, DRUNK, IN FRONT OF THE  
RECORD-PLAYER, WITH RECORDS SPREAD-OUT IN FRONT OF HER, CRYING HER EYES OUT, PLAYING  
ARETHA. SOMETIMES THE SAME SONG OVER & OVER. WE COULDN'T SOOTHE HER OR CHANGE A THING.  
IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS A GROWN DRUNK MYSELF THAT I REALIZED HOW MUCH OF A GOOD-  
TIME DRINKIN' & CRYIN' IS.

ARETHA CAN MAKE YOU FEEL IT ALL

WITH JUST A SOFT MOAN OR A WHIMPER, SHE GRABS YOUR SOUL,  
SHE'LL TAKE YOU TO CHURCH, THE JUKE-JOINT, DISCO OR THE CLUB  
JUST BECAUSE SHE CAN - SHE'S ARETHA!

THE QUEEN OF THE MUSIC NICKNAMED AFTER THE PART OF YOU  
THAT UNITES YOUR MIND & YOUR EMOTIONS WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

SO LONG TO THE QUEEN, TO THE 1 & ONLY QUEEN OF SOUL  
HER LEGACY OF MUSIC WILL CONTINUE TO TOUCH NOW & FUTURE GENERATIONS  
OF MUSIC FANS, INSPIRING US ALL TO GREATNESS.