

THE ONE AND ONLY



ELYSSA PLAZA

24

TORONTO, CANADA

HT: TORONTO, CANADA

RETAIL ASSOCIATE

DATING / NO KIDS

TRIVIA: 16/20

GENRE: R&B/ALT

INSTRUMENTS: GUITAR

 @elyssaplaza

ABOUT

Elyssa was born in Toronto and grew up in a household that always had music playing. Whether it was her brother playing the piano or her dad playing Carole King, Elyssa was surrounded by tunes and it led to her falling in love with music right away. She has never wanted to pursue a "safe career" path, instead choosing what she loves knowing that the journey is the reward. To make ends meet, she works a retail job by day and is crooning for audiences at night. Elyssa hopes one day she can turn a lifelong dream into something that also pays the bills.



THE DETAILS

- 1 Elyssa was born and raised in Toronto after her family immigrated from the Philippines for a better life. She was shy growing up, and remembers holding onto her mom and crying every day before going to school. However, she slowly broke out of her shell through music.
- 2 She first picked up an instrument when she started learning the piano as a kid. Her older brother was taking lessons and Elyssa was so interested that his teacher started to teach her as well. Elyssa also learned both acoustic and electric guitar and still remembers how intoxicating the sound of the strings were, even back then.
- 3 She currently works at Aritzia, and only views it as a job to pay the bills. She despises working in retail, but has had even more grueling jobs in the past – the worst being McDonald's. It was so busy that she had to work on both Christmas and New Year's Eve, which thankfully she doesn't do now.
- 4 Her music taste is informed by what her parents listened to in the house back in the day. Her dad passed his love of music down to her and would play the Bee Gees, Carole King and Air Supply nearly every single day.
- 5 While her parents are generally supportive, they still hold out hopes that she's going to get a job in the real world. Her brother is a successful professional in the finance industry, and her parents view that track as more conducive to success – but Elyssa knows her heart lies with music.
- 6 With the winnings, Elyssa would immediately quit her retail job. She is tired of the long and demanding hours while she daydreams of stardom, and cannot wait until she can sing full-time.

