

Ella & Jean

Written by:
Mercedes Rodriguez

INT. JAZZ CLUB-FRONT OF STAGE

A little girl, ELLA stands at the very front of the stage. A singer, JEAN, and her band are performing. The set is almost over. Jean winks at Ella from the stage. Ella's heart melts as she smiles big. The final song ends and Jean and her band make their way off stage. Ella is waiting for Jean towards the end of the stage.

JEAN

Why hello little one!

ELLA

He-hello.

JEAN

What might your name be?

ELLA

I-I'm Ella. Ella Fitzgerald.

JEAN

Hello Ella Fitzgerald. I'm Jean Fla-

ELLA

Flatt!

Jean laughs.

JEAN

Yes, I'm Jean Flatt. Nice to meet you.

ELLA

Nice to meet you too.

JEAN

Say Ella, what are you doing here so late? Where are your parents?

Ella looks down at her shoes, trying to hide her face.

ELLA

Um, well you see, I might have snuck out.

JEAN

Oh, you snuck out did you?

Ella nods.

JEAN (CON'T)

Well that's not very good of you is it?

ELLA

No, I suppose not but, I just really wanted to see you sing.

JEAN

That's very kind of you, but you should have asked your parents first. Now they'll be worried about you.

ELLA

They would have said no. They always say no.

JEAN

Maybe it's for good reason.

ELLA

My reason is good too. I want to be a singer just like you. I want to perform at night at places like these and sing songs like yours.

JEAN

Hmm. That is a good reason. I guess one more song couldn't hurt. I mean, afterall, you're already here.

Jean calls her band back and they make their way back on stage. Jean gets in position with the microphone but then stops.

JEAN (CON'T)

Well c'mon. I can't sing this one without you.

Ella runs up on stage and is blinded by the spotlight. Stage fright can be seen on her face.

ELLA

I-I can't do this. They're all watching me.

JEAN

That's what they're there for. How do you expect to be a singer if you can't sing in front of a few people?

ELLA

But what if I'm not good enough?

JEAN

Practice.

ELLA

Practice?

JEAN

Just practice and you can grow and get better. I didn't start off like this. I once had a dream like you and now look where I am. Let this be your first practice session.

ELLA

How am I supposed to practice when everyone's looking at me?

JEAN

Just breathe. This might be your only chance that you get to sing up here so don't waste it because of nerves.

ELLA

I'll try.

JEAN

That's my girl. Hit it!

The band begins to play and Jean takes the lead. She motions for Ella to jump in but it takes her a while. Finally, Ella begins

to sing and the crowd cheers. Ella's nerves visibly shake off as she now takes the lead. Jean backs her up along with the band and the crowd continues to cheer and scream. The song ends and Jean and Ella get off stage.

JEAN

That was amazing! I knew you could do it.
Consider that your very first practice. You're
going places.

ELLA

That was so wonderful! Thank you so much for this
opportunity.

JEAN

No, thank you for showering all of us with your
talent. Now it's time to take you home. Let's go,
my car's outback. I'll tell the driver that we're
dropping you off first.

Jean and Ella leave the club and head for the back door. Jean's
car can be seen peeking through the ajar door. They exit.

END.



Mia Pilotte's *Jazzflower* (Also known as *Noot Noot*)