CHILDHOOD & FAMILY

Demri Lara Parrott was born on February 22, 1969 at 3:50 in the morning at Harrison Memorial Hospital[1], to Steven Parrott and Kathleen Austin (February 16, 1950 – June 12, 2023), who were twenty-two and nineteen years old at the time and had met through mutual friends. [1]



Demri's mother - Kathleen Austin (on the left)
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Austin originally planned to name her *Erin Lynn Austin* (she liked the sound of it), but after she and Parrott got married, the name changed. Her husband didn't like the name Erin, but he did like Lara. Austin thought she had heard the name Demery somewhere and suggested it. He asked her to write it down, and she spelled it Demri, adding Lara next to it. Parrott liked it, and when Demri was born the next day, the name stuck.

Years later, Demri would jokingly tell people that when her mother was in labor, the doctors had given her a shot of *Demerol* for the pain and she liked it so much, she named her daughter after it. Demri didn't like her name at first, because people would mispronounce or mishear it. At the age of two, she had a strong enough sense of self to tell people her name and how to spell it. Demri pronounced her surname *Puh-row*, not like the exotic bird. [1]



Demri's biological father - Dennis Wayne Dougherty

Demri could communicate and socialize beyond her years. As a three-year-old, Demri was tested by experts at the University of Washington, who told her parents she had the vocabulary of a high school senior, but her exceptional language skills weren't

[1] From Demri's birth certificate purchased and shared by *@/demrilparrott*.

always well received by adults or other children.

When she was two, her grandmother had made her an angel costume for Halloween with a gold halo that went above her head. Kathleen Austin and her mother were taking Demri to her great-grandmother's house so she could see Demri in her costume. During the car ride, Demri was tugging at the halo. *"Demri, you're going to mess up your hair, honey,"* her grandmother told her. *"But, grandma, the goddamn halo won't stay up!"* Demri's grandmother almost drove the car off the road. [1]



Demri in the early 70's
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Kathleen Austin: *"She was definitely entertaining as a child. She never knew a stranger. Would approach anyone, anytime, anywhere at two years old. Her social interaction at that age was dominated by young adults. She is in my college yearbook, I am not.*
When she was two years old, when we were at my parents' house, she would disappear into my parents' bedroom. My mother has a full length mirror on her closet door. Demri would stand in front of the mirror, take whatever she could reach off the dresser and do commercials. 'You need to buy this 'cause it really-really works!', etc. It was hilarious, and she would do it for hours if allowed. She was the first grandchild, and I won't say spoiled, just well loved. My mom was 40 when she was born which I realize now was young, however it is so. At the time my dad had a special relationship with Demri, they were close. I'm happy they're together now."

Demri's parents' marriage did not last long. Austin later married a Child Protective Services caseworker and gave birth to their son, *Devin Remme*, on June 20, 1974 (passed away on October 19, 2010). That marriage ended in 1976, and Austin would later marry Dennis Murphy, with whom she would have two children: *Derek Murphy*, born November 15, 1980 (passed away in a car crush on February 15, 2002), and *David Murphy*, born on June 12, 1982 (passed away in his sleep on November 7, 2022). According to her mother, Demri was closest to Devin and Derek – the oldest two of her siblings. Like Layne, Demri used her stepfather's surname – going by Demri Murphy while growing up but never legally changed her birth name. [1]

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri really loved her brothers so much. She couldn't talk about how much enough. If they were coming over we'd go get flowers, incense and treats to make the place look nice because they really looked up to and loved her, and she wanted to be a good and fun big sister. She loved her little sister*[2] *too.*

Demri has the best, sweetest, cutest brothers. I loved Devin like my own little brother, he meant the world to me. Derek and David would come to Layne and Demri's on Eastlake, and she planned with presents she made and smother them with love and kisses. They were everything to her and vice versa."



Arlington, WA, 1983
L to R: David, Devin, Derek
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Moya Grubbs: *"I knew her as Demri Murphy. She had a brother Devin. The last time I saw her, she came to visit me and my son after he was born. She couldn't get over how much my son looked like my brother. She asked me, 'If I have a kid, would it look like Devin?' I only hope he has a daughter that is like her! What an incredible soul."*



Demri & Devin, 70's
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Kathleen Austin: *"Derek loved Dem so much and nothing she did would ever change that. He spoke at her funeral, 'If my sister got on the ferry in Seattle, she knew everyone on the boat by the time it reached Bremerton'."*

[2] Daughter of Demri's biological father Dennis Wayne Dougherty – *Crista Dougherty* (born in 1990). Demri didn't meet her biological father and half sister until she was an adult.

SCHOOL & YOUTH

The family moved to Arlington, a town about an hour north of Seattle.

When Demri was in grade school, her friend Nanci Hubbard-Mills says she was *"boisterous, not afraid to speak her mind"*. In an art class, the teacher had assigned them to make pumpkins and fruit out of clay. As a joke, Demri ignored the instructions and made a head with an arrow in it.



Demri, 70's
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Karie Pfeiffer-Simmons met Demri when she was in fifth grade and Demri was a year ahead of her at Post Middle School and the two became friends about a year later.

"She was very outgoing, very well-liked. Just petite, beautiful. She just lit up the room. She liked to be a class clown, get attention, and joke around. She would sneak out through the windows of the classroom and skip class. She was always doing funny things or charming the teachers so that she would get good grades that way." [1]

Mona: *"My favorite memory of Demri would be sitting next to her in class in High School. The funny things she'd say... Then here came that great big smile of hers, her eyes would light up and she'd laugh. It was contagious for sure. I loved her light and energy. Such a sweetheart."* [3]

In eighth grade, she ran for student body president. She won by a landslide – the teachers stopped counting the ballots after she was leading her closest competitor by more than three hundred votes. After a few months, she was removed from the position by the faculty because she had fallen behind on her schoolwork. [1]

In May of 1983, Demri was one of twelve students to represent Arlington at *Western Washington Cultural Fair*. She was mentioned as one of the participants in *The Arlington Times* newspaper.

"On Thursday afternoon at the Seattle Center will be held the first ever Western Washington Cultural Fair, and Arlington will be represented in more ways than one. Twelve students, the best from Arlington annual Cultural Fair held last fall, will represent this community at the state event. These middle school students are Adina Beckworth, Demri Murphy […]."

Demri won a state prize for a project about alcohol and drugs that she had put together for a cultural fair at the middle school. For source material, she approached her mother, who had been a practicing counselor working in the addiction field since 1976. Demri borrowed a display case from Austin's office, which had fake samples of different types of drugs and a film. In retrospect, Austin said, *"If anybody had ever told me that my daughter would become a heroin addict, I wouldn't have believed it."*



Arlington TIMES - Wed., May 4, 1983

COMMENT

Arlington has reason for pride in state cultural fair

On Thursday afternoon at the Seattle Center will be held the first ever Western Washington Cultural Fair, and Arlington will be represented in more ways than one.

Twelve students, the best from Arlington annual Cultural Fair held last fall, will represent this community at the state event. These middle school students are Adina Beckworth, Demri Murphy, Toby Cohen, Bill Johnson, Jake Krause, Tami Miller, Shannon Chrisman, Debbie Holly, Lisa Barough, Donna Dobbins, Teresa Klein and Cindy Case.

All told there will be some 200 cultural displays from 20 middle schools and junior high schools in 10 school districts.

The Cultural Fair is just one part of the comprehensive Project Reach program that was developed in the Arlington School District. It is an innovative project designed to expose young students to the richly diverse heritage of America's major ethnic groups.

Students in middle class rural and suburban communities rarely have the opportunity to learn about this country's Black, Indian, Asian and Mexican cultures in their educational experience. But once out in the "real" world these same students must interact with all the peoples that make up the united character of this nation -- and that adjustment is sometimes not smooth.

Project Reach was started here in Arlington in answer to the need to properly prepare our children to share in the American experience. Under the direction of instructor Gary Howard, the eighth grade course was designed and the texts written. The program's success here quickly resulted in its export to other western Washington school districts. In fact, the entire cost of Arlington's program is now borne by fees paid by these other districts for the instructional materials and teacher training offered by Howard.

The Cultural Fair is an opportunity for students to discover their own ethnic backgrounds. The format is similar to the old fashioned science fair many of us grew up with, but the personal involvement of both student and family is unmatched.

Arlington takes great pride in this innovative program and the scholastic leadership of our school district. There may be 10 districts involved in Thursday's event, but it will be Arlington's leadership which will be most prominently on display.

The Western Washington Cultural Fair will be held in the Centerhouse from 2 to 8 p.m. Plan to be there. We will be. --fcb

The Arlington Times, May 4, 1983

Hubbard-Mills remembers that exhibit, saying Demri had put it together for the cultural fair at the middle school. It was so well received that it was eventually shown at the high school. *"This is when Demri was happy, would hang out for lunch. This is when she thought people doing drugs would die."* She and other friends from Arlington say Demri had tried marijuana and mushrooms by the time she was in high school. [1]

Demri's interests and ambitions at the time were in the arts. *"I know that she wanted to be in acting and I know that she wanted to be an actress and be in movies"*, Pfeiffer-Simmons said. *"She had to be in the limelight."* Lyle Forde, Demri's high school choir teacher, said, *"She really did love music and the performing arts. She definitely had the bent toward the performing arts and was very social. Some students, they don't really go up and talk to teachers. They kind*

of hang with their friends. She was social with other students and their teachers. She was a competent singer, but I think she also was a dancer." [1]

Demri tried out for soccer but was too small for her age, she did plays (played *Tin Man*), and was in a choir.

Anonymous: *"I went to High School with her. She was friendly with people, very kind. She had her own style of clothes. Sometimes she would bring molding clay to school and sculpt small pieces of jewlery with sculpting tools during our lunch hour."*

Jacque Nakken: *"She was my next door neighbor, one of my first true friends and the introduction of another perspective which I'll always be thankful for. I hated the fact that she diverted my father's love because she lacked that input but in the same breath made me appreciate what I had which I didn't realize or appreciate until years later. I miss her so completely now because I know her reality and knowledge was so logical and intelligent and came from an honest place of love and acception that it takes most people years to attain.*



Demri in 8th grade

No matter how you knew her she wanted everyone to be happy. I can't think of anything more precious to man than that. I loved her for the purity she embodied. I learned from her and I can't think of anything more important than that. I have a real appreciation for her and I miss that contribution to my life."

Anonymous: *"I grew up with my mom's parents and I would visit Demri often even though she moved a lot. A couple summers I visited her when she lived in the Arlington-Lake Stevens area and I hung out with her and other kids in the neighborhood, but mostly Demri. I was around 12 or 13 and she was 11 or 12. We would hang out in a treehouse at the top of the street and talk about kid stuff. Once my mom left me with a babysitter a couple years older and we played 30 seconds in the closet and I got a smooch from Demri. It was all innocent fun and I never realized who she*

'became' until I put it together a few years ago. It was sad to hear how it went down.

I remember a cemetery in the neighborhood where we would play in the open space, soccer mostly. I was quiet, she was outgoing and full of energy. We would feed my mom's chickens and check for eggs. The most fun was hanging out in the treehouse with just her." [4]

David Christopher Kuhlman: *"My friend and I brought her a birthday cake to school and gave it to her at lunch in the cafeteria. We were baked, and baked her a cake the night before. I think we all had a crush on her. She was really surprised and wrote me a handmade card, and colored it in crayon with little hearts.*

We sang Beatles songs all night at the Thunderbird Drive In. I had never met anyone that knew all the words till Demri. Great memory. She was so hilarious!"



April of 1985
📸 cr.: Kaytie Lee

Damon Burns: *"Dem was always a bit of a wild child. We spent many days and nights just being typical 80's teens. We grew up in a small town north of Seattle, so we did a lot of cruising our little Main Street, spending the few hot days at the river. There were a couple bridges that we'd all jump off of into the river. I had a little band that would practice in my garage (I was the drummer) and we'd all drink wine coolers and hang out in my fort. It was truly small town life. I have lots of fond memories from that time. She was fun, bubbly, beautiful and sweet. One of my first kisses during truth or dare in my backyard tree fort. It was kinda infamous for a teen make out spot."*

Dana: *"She was absolutely wonderful. Always smiling. Quick with a joke to make you laugh. I talked to her while she was with Layne. She was very much in love with him. It's no secret that drugs change people, and while she was in Arlington, she was absolutely wonderful. This much I am certain of."*

Melissa Bumgarner: *"Demri was an absolute angel and not one mean bone in her body. She always was smiling and never had anything bad to say about anyone ever. Heart of gold. She was a gift, a friend and a true sister. I miss our days in her garage in Arlington that she turned into her own little stage with boxes and boxes of clothes props and of course that camera she never let down. We were always roleplaying. We would do Saturday Night Live skits. We were the same size and we both had the same cute little butt in our 501 Levi's jeans."*

Moya Grubbs: *"Thanks for the great memories, fun bus rides home from school and countless hours of hanging in your room/garage being teenagers with dreams! We lived close to each other and went to high school together. We spent a lot of time together after school. She was a vibrant soul. Quirky and funny. We even had a fight once at school and I slapped her in the face in front of a bunch of our classmates. We remained friends tho. We were crazy girls full of life, love and hormones."*



1984-85
📸 cr.: Shannon D.

David Christopher Kuhlman: *"Funny story. So I ended up crashing in Demri's room one late night in high school. In the morning she said, 'You wanna see a picture of my new boyfriend?'. She unrolled this Bon Jovi poster and had this same look on her face! Maybe I took this photo!"*

Carolyn Hart Gutierrez: *"She was one of the most amazingly trusting, compassionate, openhearted persons I've ever known, albeit briefly. We went to the same high school, and she was a friend of my younger sister. I have often thought about her over the years. It broke my heart to hear that she was gone from this Earth. I always imagined that she grew up and became a happy little momma who would teach her children to believe in magic and that if you wish on a star your wish will come true, and to dance in the rain. That's what I believe. Demri may be gone, but she is never forgotten."*

Christina L. Franchuk-Rio: *"I was so close with her in her younger years. She was beyond outgoing and truly interested in others. A selfless being."*

Maria Gonzales: *"I knew Demri in high school. I always will admire her beauty, spunky attitude and effervescence."*

Rhonda Lundquist: *"I had the pleasure of meeting Demri when she was in high school, we became instant friends. I was very sad when she moved to Seattle to pursue a modeling career, but she was the most beautiful girl ever and the world deserved to see such beauty! She had such a majestic soul."*

Karie Pfeiffer-Simmons: *"l was one of Demri Murphy's best friends until she dropped out of high school her junior year. We went to Arlington High School. She was very tiny. Petite, not over 5 ft. Dark hair, very fair skin. Her eyes were a really cool blueish color and would change colors when she cried. She wore very light make-up all through school. She was sexually active early in age and would give us girls lessons on 'how to'. She loved to be center stage, could make herself cry instantly, just as an act. We would sing songs and put on shows pretending we were on stage, and dress up a lot. There is a song I remember always singing. It was 'Leather and Lace.' I would sing the girl role and she would sing the guy. She was funny. Loved to make things up and freak our teachers out to distract them, class clown! We were both latchkey kids. Our parents always worked late. She lived with her mom and brother across the street from Arlington High School. We would go over there and skip classes. Once she took her mom's cooking basil I remember trying to smoke it in 7th grade, she was in 8th, it was funny! Everything she did was with a smile and light-hearted. We would make up little phrases and sayings that no one else knew what it ment. She was always about teasing and the shock factor.*



1984-85
📸 cr.: Shannon D.

. . .

I want people to know she was a beautiful light, she had a sparkle in her eyes always and a vibrant smile. We loved to sing, dance, dress up, she rode my horse, I would ride her on my bike handlebars – she was always short and little, she fit perfectly on them. We snuck out of classes & would walk down to 7-Eleven and get burritos for lunch and cruise around with the older boys. Her and I both dated older guys who had cars. Went to a bunch of bonfire parties.

Demri had a sweet voice, her laugh was contagious. We had this silly call we would yell down to the school hallway to let each other know we were there before classes. It was so silly.

She showed me how to give head demonstrating on a carrot, in 8th grade. She had gone to a summer camp and met some guy so she was telling me all about it. There's so many fond memories together. Sneaking out of my bedroom window at night to go meet boys etc.

It broke my heart when she didn't make it to the 10 year class reunion. We had a group (a pack) that ran around together." [4]



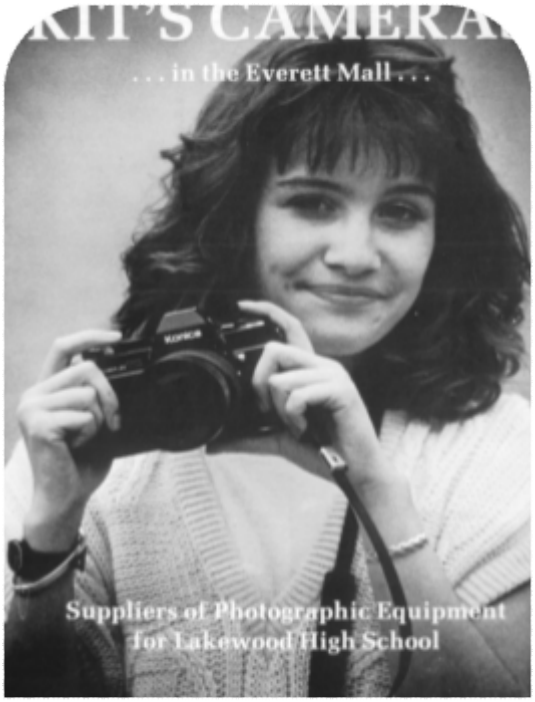
Demri w/ John Baker, 1984

Carolyn Hart Gutierrez: *"This was prom 1984. John Baker and Demri. John was a senior in my class of '84, Demri was a freshman. John and Demri dated for several months, he was very sweet to her and respected her. She adored him. He was very popular, nice and quiet guy, his parents house was a favorite place to gather. Good family. She was as special as you imagine. Very sweet and sparkly girl, one of a kind. We all loved her."*

Melissa Bumgarner: *"She and I were inseparable when her and John were together. I miss those days so very much. He was so crushed when she left and met Layne. He still to this day has a hard time talking about him. She was an absolute angel and not one mean bone in her body. I loved that about her. I was new to a small town and she took me right under her wing. I will never forget that. And her hair was amazing. But her mind, spirit and heart were even more beautiful."*

Anonymous: *"I grew up with and lived by Demri Murphy in Arlington, Washington. She dated one of my best friends and then started dating another one of my close friends for a couple years. They were always together, we always ended up at the same parties, especially at her boyfriend's parents house in Oso, Washington. My girlfriend at the time was close friends with her. She was a tiny sweetheart."*

Jacque Nakken: *"I still remember her honest recollection of her first 'hot and heavy.' She said to the guy, 'You can feel around all you want, ain't nothing on my chest, sweetheart.' She has always been my hero. She was brave and honest, always. She still gives me strength. And always made me laugh when I needed it most. Can't count how many times she made me laugh til my side ached. She may have been even more happy for me and my first kiss than I was, which made it so much more memorable. I don't remember the guy or even his name but her reaction and excitement made it a hallmark moment. Cheers to a beautiful girl and a pure spirit who only wanted to make people happy."*



Lakewood High School yearbook, 1986

Anonymous: *"Demri moved around to different high schools in the 80s. I was friends with her when she briefly attended Lakewood High School in Arlington, WA. She and I were both members of the newspaper and yearbook staff. She enjoyed photography. She loved the music of the Doors and talked often of wishing Jim were alive or that she could have met him – she expressed on multiple occasions how she would have loved to have had sex with Jim. She once told me her mom took her to Woodstock when she was just a baby. She definitely had a flair for the theatrical, so we weren't sure if that story was true."*

When she was about fifteen or sixteen, Demri was one of three hundred prospective students to audition for twenty-five openings at a performing arts school in Jacksonville, Florida. Though the odds were against her, she was admitted. She came home for Christmas break after a few months and, in her

mother's words, *"She blew it"*. She had fallen in love with a young man back home, left the school, and moved back to Washington. [1]



Most likely Christmas '86 or '87
📸 cr.: Keli Lake (posted by @demri_lara_parrott)

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri was a sought-after babysitter in our small Arlington town. Word of mouth between families she engaged with the kids: coloring, playing dolls and helping kids make special pictures for their mom and dad. A family she babysat for often was moving from Arlington to Florida. They came to me and asked if Dem could travel with them to entertain the kids on the road as well as babysit if needed. I believed it to be an incredible opportunity to see our country and agreed to allow her to go. The plan was they would fly her home at summer's end. I received a call that the school [Douglas Anderson School of the Arts] was taking applications and auditions. 25 applicants were selected from 300! Dem was selected and was so excited I let her stay in Florida.*



Jacksonville, FL, 1985
📸 cr.: Austin/Murphy family

We flew her home for Christmas, she met Kent, returned to Florida but didn't stay. She managed to get greyhound bus ticket home – I'm sure she made friends on the bus and anywhere it stopped. There was a short time we didn't know where she was which was scary. Not in Florida and not home, nobody but Kent knew where she was. I threatened to send the police to his house if he didn't tell me what was going on."

Sandra [Douglas Anderson alumni]: *"I loved her so much. She was so empathetic and wise beyond her years. I miss her so much sometimes."*

Kellina [Douglas Anderson alumni]: *"She was a little older than me, 2 years I*

think, so I didn't know her well, but I always thought she was beautiful and kind and so put together. She wouldn't have remembered me but I knew who she was. I always saw her with a smile on her face and friends all around. At least that is what I remember."

Lea Nichols: *"My first time meeting Demri, she and I ditched school to hang out at my house. I did not know her well yet, but I had sex with her boyfriend, Kent Lake. I heard that he was dating some 'model from Florida'. Demri lived there briefly and did some type of model training course. When Demri was at my house, she told me her boyfriend slept with another girl and she was going to find out who it was and wanted my help. I was young and easy prey to cute boys and was caught in this odd secret. She and I trooped to Seattle University Ave and flirted with all the boys that suited our tastes. She had dumped Kent and started working at Everett Mall in a clothes store. A blonde girl also worked there and Demri began to have a crush on her. They dated for a brief time. She said she wanted to meet a rockstar and said her goal in life was that alone. When I knew her, she had not put any drugs in her body besides booze, pot and mushrooms. She was so fun I started skipping high school class to a degree that caused my grades to suffer!"* [4]



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts yearbook, 1987

Marianne: *"I was just sitting here thinking and I just kept coming back to the funny girl who worked at 'Saturdays' in the Everett Mall. All was good and she smiled like sun rays!"*

Kerry: *"I used to party with Demri in the late 80s before she met Layne. She was so cheerful and happy back then, I really enjoyed being around her. I went to a Mötley Crüe concert with her at Tacoma Dome, October 1987, 'Girls Girls Girls' tour. She disappeared into the crowd and I found out later she managed to get backstage. One of the last times I seen her was at my place around 1988, she said she was angry with her boyfriend Kent, never seen her again till mid 90s."*

A few months before meeting Layne, Demri went to a mall to audition in front of an audience for a singing part in a musical called Cinderella Rock. *"She starts this song and then she stops and says, "Obviously, you can all tell that I can't sing"*, Austin said. *"Then she just played the crowd — it was amazing."* There were three or four agents at the audition who were impressed enough that they gave her their business cards. [1]

Keli Lake: *"She hated it [Glamour Shots picture]! Demri, even during big hair glam shit, did not like to be made up. She was working at Everett Mall and dating my brother. Glam Shots gave her the pictures for free as she was entering a talent show and because she was most social person ever, everyone at the mall loved her and knew her."*



Glamour Shots, Everett, WA, 1988
Taken not long before she met Layne
📸 cr.: Austin/Murphy family

Mike V.: *"I knew Demri before she was with Layne, she was a good friend. I always thought she was going to be famous, but not like this. She should have been a photographer or in the theater. We talked a lot about leaving our little school and doing cool things. Looking for words here, I am so sad. I seen her one more time when she got back from art school, then it was my time to leave. I always thought we would see each other again and would share some great stories, not this. It wasn't neat or cool, it's heartbreaking.*

I did not know 'Layne and Demri', but I did know Demri Murphy. I went to school with her. I was in 8th grade and she was a Junior, yes our school was small. Even though the age gap, we still became good friends. Living in a very conservative town/area we both stuck out like sore thumbs, and naturally gravitated to each other. I loved her, and she loved that I loved her. I knew I was too young for anything serious and just enjoyed our friendship. She was so kind to me and never disrespected my love for her. She told me that I wouldn't be little forever, so of course I thought I was going to grow up and be with Demri one day. Our conversations are a bit fuzzy for me to remember now, but a lot of them were about leaving this small town, exploring the world and doing some cool shit. She was an artist rocker/hippy chick, and I was a

confused hippy/deadhead dude. She made some crazy sculptures and paintings in art class, but what I remember most was her camera. She always had her camera and was the talent behind our high school yearbook. She was also involved in theater, not at school but in a drama club or something like that. She wanted me to go to one of her plays, but I wasn't able to make it. She did get accepted to an art school in Florida where she went for a year or so. She did come back on Christmas break and attended my wrestling match. We had a brief connection before being mobbed by her other friends, she was well liked.

I only saw her one more time in 1988 in Everett, she came running out a building calling my name, ran over to me and gave me a big hug. Her hair grew longer and she was even more beautiful than before. We talked for a few minutes, something like she wasn't going to the art school anymore and was just trying to figure things out and what to do next. I was like, I have to get out of that town before I slip into an unrecoverable depression. So she told me to be free and get out of that place, that I didn't fit in there, like her. She told me that I wasn't so little anymore, so at that time I figured I only had about two more years left before she would become my girlfriend, haha.

But I never saw her again, the next year I did get out of that place and moved to Seattle, then went on tour with the Grateful Dead for the next five years and finally found the love of my life. I am sure you know what happened to Demri. I don't know much about her after 1988, but the stories I heard, and her death breaks my heart. In some ways I wish they never met, maybe she would still be alive, maybe an art or drama teacher, or a photographer. Or maybe she has no regrets and was happy to live and experience 'her' life. I did not know Layne, or much about him except he had excellent taste in women, that we had in common. But this story is not about Layne, it's about Demri and I wanted you to know what a wonderful, creative and special person she was. There is a reason Layne loved her so much. Still loving you Demri, be free."

Bernard: *"I got to spend time with her in 1988. She was the kindest, most wonderful person. She changed my life actually. I was alone at a concert, living on the road without a place to stay. She emerged out of the crowd like an angel and introduced herself. We spent the whole evening together and she invited me to stay with her in Everett."*

Lester: *"I used to love hanging out at her apartment on Hewitt Ave in Everett just listening to music and smoking pot all night and into the morning. This would've been 1989-1990, none of us really knew about Layne, and grunge hadn't happened yet. I would add that all of us guys had a huge crush on her. She had this personality that just drew you in and you wanted to be near her. She was an amazingly human human. Despite the fact that her*

apartment had no furniture, there was a tiny couch. Otherwise you were sitting on the floor juggling CDs and what to play next. I will always remember my 19th and 20th year so very fondly for hanging out at her apartment."

Gato: *"I will always remember Demri in her little apartment on Hewitt in Everett. She was friendly, smart and quick-witted."*

Christopher Gray: *"I immediately fell in love with Demri, she was a shining star. Hanging out at her apartment on Hewitt Ave in Everett, listening to music (that was 1990, I couldn't possibly remember what we were listening to, probably a lot of Jane's Addiction and Pixies) and chatting with others until dawn. Her apartment was small! It was a single room studio in an old building with a manual elevator with a copper screen door. It didn't always stop evenly on the floor. Very cozy, welcoming place with all sorts of art on the walls and a big throw rug and comfy couch."*



Demri in Mara's bedroom, late 80's
📸 **cr.: Jena Schrier Sigfrinius**

Leyenda DeLeona: *"Being very insecure and competitive at that time in my life (1987), I wanted to hate her. She was so pretty. But she had this kindness about her, and this attractive personality that I was won over. I couldn't help but like her.*

At the time we were just hanging around in downtown Everett. I met her through Mara. She was a free spirit. Always dancing and bouncing around with no self-consciousness. I think they had a room in a building on Hewitt Ave (or it was a friend's place). She did a Tarot reading for me. She talked about a boyfriend in a band in Seattle and eventually I didn't see her in town anymore. I ran into Mara around 1995, she worked at a bar on Aurora Ave. The timeline isn't right, and my memory is questionable, but I thought she told me Demri had passed. Maybe she was just expressing concern about Demri's drug abuse.

A few years ago I had a session with a medium. Demri came through. She was still sweet and bubbly, and she said that she was fine. We didn't hang

out a whole lot back in the day, but she will always hold a special place in my heart."

Jenn A Jacobsen: *"Demri was my friend. She lived in apartment №1 and I was in apartment №4 down in Everett, back in 1989. Layne was actually there as well at times during some of her parties. That is until she was kicked out for all the parties. I ended up living in her apartment for three years after that. She was the one that got me to do acid for the first time. Drugs were always a part of the parties, but not the hardcore stuff. That didn't happen till the band became famous. She had such a beautiful soul. I miss her everyday. Because of Dem I still have my best friend today. Long live the Hewitt apartments in Everett."*

PERSONALITY

Kathleen Austin: *"She didn't want to dress or look like anyone but Demri. She called me once at work, probably 1988, and asked what I was doing for lunch. I asked her, 'Why?' and she said she wanted to come have lunch with me. I said, 'Okay but dress decent.' I was afraid she would show up in men's boxers. As soon as I hung up I thought, 'WTF? I should be happy she wants to come have lunch with me!' I immediately called her back and told her, 'I don't care what you wear, I'm happy you're coming.' It was such a 'freeing' moment for me – the recognition she was not a reflection of me but her own person."*

Demri used to call her mom *"butterfly"*.



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Jacque: *"She was friends with everyone and wasn't afraid of anyone. She didn't tattoo or pierce because she wanted to be different than everyone else. She thought the punks were conforming through their unconformity."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was an artist herself, a model and someone who could always make you laugh. She was the type of person who when she entered a room full of people all eyes would be on her. She sucked the energy from the room and then blasted it back out at you and made you laugh and smile. She was so different than everyone else and everyone knew it who met her. Geeky, funny, caring, talented and unique girl who could have owned the world if she had not got caught up in what was going on around her. She was a star in her own right."* [5]

Amber Ferrano: *"She didn't like her name shortened, she loved the unique name of Demri. I mess up and say it but also it was to motivate her, to add a little fuel under her butt and remember she had a purpose for being*

here. I remember her correcting people who did say Dem, not Demri, even me. If it was shortened by her she would call herself little D."



Fabiola Gonzalez: *"It was hard to keep up with her. She lived a lot in her short life here with us. One day we were walking in Wallingford to her uncle Chuck, and there was a little boy playing basketball alone in his driveway with his hoop. Demri stopped to talk with him and started playing hoops with him. Didn't know him, just sensed his loneliness and missing her three brothers. If there was a little old man or woman slowly walking down the street she would take notice and say hello, flash that beautiful smile of hers. Would make their day. Even her small kind gestures were big and sincere. That's why she and Layne were two peas in a pod."*

Angela Maynard: *"She was so much fun! She was wild! She had a huge heart and was generous. So cool and nice to everybody! She was friends with everyone – from the clerk at the corner liquor store to all of the homeless people. She didn't worry about who you were, she would make it her duty to make you smile or laugh. Super silly! She had Layne's practice tapes, like his warm up vocals, and she would crank them super loud to clown on him. A funny one she was! Oh and super creative!"*

Amber Ferrano: *"Day in and day out Demri lived an honest honorable life. She may have had to do things she did not enjoy because of her addiction but Demri had a heavy conscience, she was always thinking of a way to make it up to you. I can't even recall her calling someone a mean name and we did have a couple of arguments. She'd get a tone but that was about it. Maybe she didn't repay you with money but those of us who really knew her knew what those beautiful gifts she gave were. Unlike a materialistic person, she knew that giving of herself was all she had so she did it and maybe it was only a smile and a kind word but it's 100% more than others in that same situation did or even thought of doing. It made me realize that a homemade card was far better than a store bought one or a sweet*

letter was better than a $20 bill. As you go through your day and see a particular person at the store and judge them in the way human beings do, think about one thing – that was the one person that no matter how bad Demri felt, no matter how sick she was, she would make a point of going over and making that person feel like they mattered and were special. If you may not have been the most attractive person, if you were a junkie and thought your family hated you and didn't want you back, if you just seemed out of place, you felt good about yourself when she left you."

One aspect of Demri's personality, according to Austin [Demri's mom], was her inability to handle guilt. In Austin's words, *"If she offended you, and you didn't have a cell phone or anything, she would start calling your house, waiting for you to get home to apologize."* [1]



Mudhoney show, LA, 1991
📸 cr.: Krista Kay

Chay Wilkerson Moore: *"Demri was like a beautiful flower stuck in a tornado. She was very sweet, most of the time. Always yelled my name and hugged me, made me feel special, like she did most people. Very strong spirit, very bent on destruction, I don't know why. Sometimes it's just the way it is. She was a very open person.*
Her voice and her spirit were just as beautiful. And her hugs were even better. The very first time I met her, I was struck by how original she was. The most powerful pretty little thing, with this profound sense of vulnerability that she seemed surrounded by. A princess in distress. I immediately felt the need to protect her in a brotherly way. I always loved her and always will."

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She was constantly on the run. Not sure it was running scared but running for sure. Maybe she was afraid of missing out or just looking for the next thing to stimulate her. I have no clue what it was but I definitely could not keep up with her and whenever I tried or whoever tried we all would end up just as sick, lost and confused and most of us would tap out. She never tapped out it seemed, no matter how horrible the circumstances got she could deal with it. Crazy. I wouldn't call her suicidal but definitely*

self-destructive. Poor girl. Such a sad story. Demri always and forever a wild wood pixie." [5]

Shaari S.: *"She was the sweetest little elf. Always trying to get me to run away from home."*

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri loved everyone. And was loved in return. It was her nature. She was always that way, even as a toddler. When fame touched Layne Demri's loving nature was taken advantage of.*

Dem had gifts, she was not tortured, she was a very old soul. She did not come here to learn any lessons, she came to teach. She taught unconditional love and from what I can tell she continues to do so.

She was fun to be around, she was hilarious at times. Aglow with love for everyone around her. Her concern for others was far beyond her concern for herself.



Seattle, October of 1993
📸 cr.: sooopy - flickr.com

Demri was totally uninhibited. She would approach strangers, 'Hi, I'm Demri, what's your name?'. We thought alike in many ways, could communicate with our eyes, no words needed. However I was never as free or confident. As my dad said, 'She was one of a kind.'

She always loved old folks, children and people most would find a little off-center. Demri's ability to leave people she encountered feeling special was one of her gifts.

Demri was allergic to cats. But she wouldn't care, she loved cats. She would cuddle with them until her eyes would swell shut."

Anonymous: *"My friends that knew her say she was this bright beautiful fluttering light. She would make you feel like the center of the world. One of my friends remembers first meeting her – my friend laying on the couch nursing a hangover, when Demri bursts into the room, takes one look at my friend and says, 'Oh my God, who are you! You're beautiful, I need to know you!', and continued to pummel her with questions 'where are you from, what is your story'. I've heard stories, seen grown men cry about her. Definitely a bright light."*

Amber Ferrano: *"I can think of dozens of late nights at home and in the hospital but early mornings. She liked to get her chore list done before a show. She had house cleaning – she liked things tidy and clean, making her and Layne food, figuring out her outfit and making what she needed to, to go with it."* [6]



📸 cr.: Katherine Carter

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She didn't hate groupies. I'd say she hated annoying people but not groupies in general. Demri loved people and she would make friends with everyone she met."* [5]

George Hoffman: *"I did not know her well but we had mutual friends and so we were around the same scene. My memories are of a beautiful person, inside and out, her laughter was for everyone, she loved people, as if she existed to love; it shined from her. The end was so tragic, so young, still breaks my heart."*

Amber Ferrano: *"The reason I don't claim to be her best friend is because she was a best friend to everyone. You could pour your heart out to her and she would not only remember and pick up where you last left off but between those times she gave it a lot of thought. It wasn't in one ear and out the other. She cared for people deeply. Demri would say we all need to think positive things about ourselves. If you were mean to her it rolled right off her back. I promise you we fought, she wasn't perfect but I look back and laugh because it was like fighting with a kitten but she was as passionate as a lioness."*

Kathleen Austin: *"It must've been 1989, early summer. I was driving in the Wallingford neighborhood, most likely giving Dem a ride home when she was living with my cousin Chuck. She was 20 and in the front passenger seat. Derek, 8 y.o., and David, 7 y.o., were in the back seat. Dem says, 'Mom stop! Stop!'. I stopped, she jumped out and next thing she said, 'This is my friend, we need to give him a ride, he's not going far. He is an elf.' His skin was green, his ears were pointed! Derek got in the front seat and Dem and the elf got in the back. They proceeded to squeak and chirp at each other. Derek*

looked at me smiling, poor Dave looked terrified in the back. I drove about three blocks and Dem says, 'Okay mom, stop, this is where he needs to get out.' As he left my car I noticed he was wearing pointed elf shoes. Just another normal afternoon with Demri that if you hadn't been there you would never believe it."



Demri w/ Paul Uhlir, the Vogue, early 90's
📸 cr.: Nicole Beck Colomara

Shawna Murphy: *"Back in about 1989 or so, some bands were playing where I worked – a little boutique on Broadway, and that's when I met Demri. She wore one of those mexican square neck blouses with the embroidered flowers and she came up to me and said, 'You look like you bake really good cookies.' The first time I met her she was probably the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. So fresh faced and genuine. Radiated freedom. She was maybe a year or two older than me but she looked like a kid. I was 18 or 19 at the time. She was tiny! And she was always kind of hitting on you. Like pretty much flirting with everyone. She dated my friend Paul Uhlir and also my friend Matt Kasin.*

The last time I think I saw her was at a New Year's Eve party at Hunan Harbor, or somewhere like that over on Lake Union. I think it would've been around 1996. I remember like it was yesterday, it was very-very sad." [6]

Johnny Bacolas: *"I recall many nights when I was living with Layne, Demri would come to the house and I'd go to bed, she would just open my door, sit at the edge of my bed with a bag full of potato chips, chew really loud, and just talk. It didn't matter if I was exhausted. She didn't ask me, she didn't care. 'So anyways, yesterday I ran into so-and-so and blah blah blah. Did you hear this new record by this band?'. And I loved it. I thought it was so cute."* [7]



Xana's Hollywood apartment
📸 cr.: Xana La Fuente

Jack Plasky: *"People always ask me what was Demri like. One day she came by the studio, and we were just hanging out when she picks up a stack of 8x10s and starts flipping them like tarot cards and asks me on every print, 'Did you fuck her? Did you fuck her?' And I finally said, 'I don't fuck the models' – then she let out a big laugh, and said, 'Only the ones that let you!' That's Demri's personalized humor."*

Joanna Bell: *"She was a beautiful young woman. She was kind and caring. It was always a kick to talk with her. She was awesome. Lost way too soon."*

Solomon Naman: *"Demri and Layne used to come to the underground nightclub on the ave on rock nights and she'd come kick it with me on rare occasions on dance night. Super sweet beautiful girl and always had dirty feet."*

Terri Brannon: *"She was a sweet, quirky soul with a great laugh. Talented and beautiful and loved by everyone she touched. She would come over to my house in Kirkland and we would relax in my hot tub. It was quiet and peaceful, and I think she liked that because it was so different from her life. When I moved back to Arkansas, we lost touch. I made a point to go by Carolina Court and say goodbye and get hugs from my friends, April and Demri. Layne was there. He was sitting in a car out front, fresh off of a tour and he told me he was headed for treatment. I wished him well, said goodbye and headed up to find Demri and April. We promised to keep in touch, and we did for a short time. I imagine we would have kept in touch if internet had been a thing back then. Lives change, people change. Life happens and things just change. I'm glad that Demri and I were friends, if only for a short time. She truly was a beautiful person, inside and out. So full of life is what I remember about her the most. Always laughing and happy, or so it seemed."*



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Jason Buttino: *"Dem was and will be a one of a kind. She had that Marilyn Monroe style when she walked into a room."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was a tiny, hilarious, charismatic goofball who liked to shock people and make people laugh and she did both really well. She was beautiful and extremely charming and reminded me of a little hurricane. She had the ability to capture your attention and hold it for as long as she decided and from anyone she wanted. If she wanted you to fall in love with her – you would. Period. I've never met anyone like her to be straight up honest. I'm not saying these are all good attributes. She knew how to use her charm to get what she wanted and what she wanted wasn't always good. Let's just say she was a powerful little girl.*

Demri was a true nudist at heart. She was proud of her body and was not at all ashamed or embarrassed by nudity. In fact I don't think she had a shy bone in her body, and if she did… Well, she never showed it." [5]

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri did not hold grudges 'cause she got that humans aren't perfect. Demri had a huge heart, a huge conscience and a soul. If she hurt you in any way, I promise you, she did feel bad and was thinking of a way to make it up to you. She knew she wasn't perfect. She thought once she made it big as an actress she would make everything right. She would have done anything for a friend or a family member or a stranger even if it was bad for her.*



Demri's apartment, 1991
📸 cr.: Fabiola Gonzalez

I remember seeing her and getting a big hug and her saying, 'Oh my gawd, I have been looking all over for you, you won't believe what happened, I've been wanting to tell you for soooo long!'. It was her little hook, she reeled you in but she actually did want to tell you and someone too. I wish she was still around to have made up for those shortcomings and be proud of those that made it out of that vicious world because there was no bigger cheerleader other than family that a person could than Demri.

Demri could spin a tale. She'd walk into a room, put her hands on her hips and exclaim, 'You won't believe what just happened!'.

She was just happy, kind and thoughtful. She always gave a Thank You note, picture, poem or a kiss print and said she loved you and always gave a hug.

I'm sure Demri didn't go more than 1-2 days without checking in with her mom, family member or a close friend. She always had a happy tone and she always ended her call with 'I love you'. She appreciated people. If she took, she gave back with friendship and love. If she had no money to pay you for the money she borrowed she'd get you into a show, take you backstage, bring you something from backstage or write a note about how much she loved and appreciated you. Does that sound like an awful person?"

CF Fox: *"A firecracker. Bright, unpretentious, always stoking merriment and laughter. Vivacious, a flirt. I can still hear her scratchy voice."*



Joshua Tree, 1992
📸 photogr.: Alison Dyer

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"The beautiful soul of Demri is that she never had an ounce of hate in her heart. She loved everyone. She was so unconditional even when she was judged and even faulted on her own self-love. She was a good person. Better to others than she was to herself."*

Stacey Gunn: *"Demri was an angel. I remember meeting her through my girlfriend Kami at the time – boy did she light up wherever she was! She was such a breath of fresh air. Funny and beautiful, bright eyed and happy. She had a smile that would light up your entire being and you never wanted her to stop. Her laugh was intoxicating! She left such a big impression on me even after only getting to meet her that one night. I'll never forget Kami coming home after going to Seattle with Demri and bragging about Demri's boyfriend and how much I was going to love their music. Sad I never got to meet Layne, they sounded like two peas in a pod."*

Dean Summers: *"She told me once, 'I always liked guys that look like Jesus'. She was spunkie, short and sexy."*

Tracy Johnson: *"She did not want to be known as the girlfriend of a rock star and did whatever the hell she pleased but was friendly and personable to everyone she met. She wanted to be a model, that's why there are so many pictures of her posing. One thing that was funny. We were in Canada (Canvouver, as we called it) and Dem couldn't find Layne and was*

drunk and pissed off. But she had to pee, so we stopped and she walked in this alley, many people were around, and she just squatted and peed, then pulled up her long johns with her tutu tucked in the back of it and started to walk away. She was gonna find him come hell or high water, even with the whole backside of her tutu tucked into her long johns and wearing converse, of course."

Darin Lamb: *"Demri, my 'sweet soul sister'. I took care of Demri when Layne was on tour. Yeah, right… I tried. Demri is one of my angels and she showed me that what you're doing right now is all that matters and being brutally honest is the only way to be. Demri was the strongest and the most brutally honest person I've ever met."* [5]

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Brutally honest is a perfect descriptive word for Demri. I also think she liked to shock people with her honesty because she knew sometimes even if it was the truth people are not used to people, especially women, being so honest. If Dem thought a girl was hot she'd say some pretty vulgar things to them that would make anyone blush but I still think she loved that. She loved to make people blush and to think way outside of the box and that also included the way she dressed."* [5]

Donald John: *"She had a sparkle to her. And you could talk to her and she would listen and she would share with you her deepest thoughts and secrets. She was a loving person and very kind but very honest and blunt."*

Krista Kay: *"Demri was fearless. Brash and confident. She said exactly what she thought. Demri was incredibly charismatic and funny. When she focused on you she had this intense gaze, made more mesmerizing because she was just so utterly beautiful. She also had some rough times and went down a heartbreaking road. She was beautiful, and complicated, and unforgettable, and human."*

Khristopher: *"One night at The Central, she grabbed me by the arm and dragged me outside. She said, 'I've got cramps and I need some weed!' My girlfriend was like, 'Who's this, and why is she taking you outside?' I have so much love for her, and I miss her so much."* [3]

Reed Hutchinson: *"Before Layne was going out with Demri, I got to know her through my girlfriend Angela. Demri was super-funny and very forward. I was probably 18 and super-shy and I remember her asking me super-direct questions like, 'So, how's the sex between you and Angela?', and I was like, 'Oh my God, you can't talk about this!'."* [7]

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was bisexual so she loved everyone and judged no one. I remember a few times [in gay clubs] when guys in full drag with gloves on, mind you, put their hands out to shake and pulled back saying they had AIDS. Demri would go in for a kiss and hug. People would make negative comments that she had AIDS or HEP from drugs. She didn't understand why people were so mean. If she were here today, she'd be on the frontline along with Layne.*

[Lois Jones] was the manager at The Vogue and dressed as a woman, we all loved him dearly. He and Demri adored one another. That was our №1 place to go." [4]

Lois Jones: *"She was very innocent and childlike in many ways. She made sure that I felt loved."*

Tiffani Jones: *"She was the sweetest little thing you would ever meet. When I first moved to Seattle, she had come to my house party and she looked at me with those sad eyes and asked me if it was okay she was there. I nearly cried and told her of course it was."*



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Emily Kyle: *"Demri was a beautiful creature that was the epitome of femininity. We knew each other at a very dark time, yet she still always managed to bring love, light and open hearted generosity. Even while homeless she would give away or share what little she had. Rather than the drugs people say claimed her, those of us that loved her have always said she died because her heart became too big for her body."*

Xana La Fuente: *"'Innocent yet provocative'. That's how Andrew [Wood] described Demri when he first saw her. She kind of reminded me of Brooke Shields in the movie Pretty Baby. Young, but very sexy. She was really frisky; she was all over everybody. But not in a slutty way."* [7]

Amber Ferrano: *"'Innocent'. She fooled us all. She was wiser than all of us put together."*

Rebecca Maynardo: *"She was beautiful on the outside but she was funny as fuck! We used to laugh so hard and we were total dorks (and proud!).*

I am so grateful that I got to know and love her. She was one of the few people that didn't care about being cool or any of that. She was real and she was a very intelligent and creative person."



Jacksonville, FL, 1986
📸 cr.: Austin/Murphy family

Terri Mclaury: *"I met Demri in Seattle and gave her that hat she's wearing*[3]*. I had a hat exactly like that down in Seattle when I first met her in the 90's. She was in the bar, Alice In Chains on stage practicing. I remember her smile when I put it on her head. I actually got the hat as a gift because I always wanted one but my head and hair is too big for sailor hats. She was the sweetest, kindest, open and friendly to me – a stranger that just walked into the club. Wanted to be my friend. I only knew her briefly but she was very nice."*

Rob Meiser: *"I met Demri in the early 90's at a bar called the Off Ramp. She was at the bar and another good friend of mine Luke, who's no longer with me, was there as well, and there was some banter between them. I inserted myself, talked some mad smack to her and she talked some mad smack back and we became good friends from that point on. She was a good person with a big heart but she was fighting demons like most of us. There are probably a lot of other people that knew her much better than me, I knew her for about 3 years. She was a fierce friend, and a fun, partying person, and a super free spirit. She wasn't the closest friend in the world to me but she is someone I miss and think of often."*



Off Ramp, Seattle, 1993
📸 photogr.: Bettina Ellsworth

📹 Video: A glimpse of Demri at the Off Ramp (February 1st, 1991)

Resia Lynne Jackson: *"Besides unconditional love this shining soul asked me one time who I would like to*

[3] A similar one most likely, since this photo was taken in Jacksonville, FL in 1986.

meet most in the world. Of course Ozzy was first word outta my mouth. She then asked if I had a second choice, and outta my mouth flew the wife from the movie 'Gift' with Perry Farrell. Months go by and one day I get a knock on my door at the Dover. I peek through the hole and there is Dem with a friend. I open the door and let her in, and she introduced me to her friend. We start to smoke a little marijuana and Dem says, 'You do not know who this is, do you?' She said the girl's name again and I realized at that moment she brought me Casey [Niccoli] from the movie and I started to cry, she just gave me a hug. She had a way of touching a heart in a way one never forgets.

I remember Demri at Dick's right before she left us. I always bought her a cheeseburger 'cause I loved her."



Van Halen F.U.C.K. tour, 1991
📸 cr.: Charlene Juergens

Jack Plasky: *"She was the First Lady of the era who never associated herself with grunge or any group or any person but with love, and who wanted to stand on her own accomplishments – not with Layne or grunge – in fact she never once mentioned Layne or dropped names to me ever. She was as real and true as the day is long, and is why she is so loved today after all these years. She was fiercely independent, proud and open. No light could shine brighter."*

Cindy Reframe: *"I always described her as being this petite thing but when she opened her mouth she spoke like a sixty-year-old man as I noticed that big time when I spoke to her at parties and around. It was like shocking, she was such a trip. To me it represented there was 'another' soul of much different personality inside than what was displayed in that pint-sized female body."*

Teina Richardson: *"Demri was so amazing. Super happy and outgoing. She loved potpourri and made flowers out of it and hung it up all over my apartment. When we were out, she was always talking to everyone. She never met a stranger. She was truly a special person."*

Kami Marie Robinson: *"I knew her well. She was always writing. Her smile and amazing personality lit up any room she was in. She was one of the*

most loving and demonstrative people I've ever known. Always hugging and kissing."

Karen Sheeba Sykes: *"I don't think she cared about being famous, really. She was a normal type person with a big personality. Such a sweet little girl."*

Elsa: *"I grew up in Seattle and partied with Demri and Layne a few times in the early 90's via mutual friends. I remember she was a cool sweet person, a natural beauty, petite, and kinda loud. Despite her short stature she was photogenic and actually was a model for a few local photographers. I remember she was a Pisces – not musically but more fashion-conscious, sensitive, and artistically creative in her own right. What stood out most about Demri is that she was a TRIP – the shocking things that would come flying out of her mouth! We hung out once more after their break up. She was a little ball of energy, and sadly on a constant search to score hard drugs that day. We ended up going to the Weathered Wall club I recall. Years later, I did meet some of her family at the memorial after she passed, including her mom. It's all very sad but Demri was certainly loved but just so out of control nobody could help her. Her loss is still felt by many regardless of all this heartache.*



Demri in Mara's arms
📸 photogr.: Randy E Hall

. . .

She was a riot, really funny. The things that came flying out of her mouth would shock but she was petite so it was cute. I recall some raunchy things [Demri would say] I won't repeat, but I remember something funny. Demri said she was at some bar or club with Layne and Mike Starr and went into the ladies room. A girl was at the mirror with hairspray so Demri asked her if she could use some too. The girl looked at her and said all snotty: 'I don't share my TOILETRIES'. So Demri goes: 'Ohhh, I didn't know you used it on your PUBIC HAIRRRR!' Then the same girl tried to come up and talk to Mike afterwards so Demri told him what she'd said and he basically told the girl to take a hike!"

Scott Spivey: *"She could mesmerize you with just a glance, and if she turned her full attention on you it was a great moment to be in.*

She had a huge presence when she walked into a room and would flash one of the most beautiful genuine smiles I have ever known. I still remember her having a heart-to-heart conversation with me cross-legged on the floor at her dad's after the Soundgarden show in Bremerton. She used to come into the Green Lake Tavern when I tended bar there. I miss her so. Always kindness even when she struggled so hard with her demons."

James Stine: *"I would see her at Music Bank with another girl. She had the most awesome personality. Very outgoing (not a lot of that from that scene), you definitely knew she was in the room, usually with this one girl, laughing and smiling. Like a lot of people in Seattle at the time she was struggling with issues."*



Demri's apartment, early 90s
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Christopher Stipcich: *"I remember a Halloween night at the Off Ramp. I had on a baby diaper with a Raggedy Andy doll. Demri walked in wearing a trenchcoat. When she dropped that coat other than her boots she was wrapped head to toe in Saran Wrap, from wrist to ankle and everywhere inbetween. She had 'Special of the Day' stickers on her nipples and plastered on her crotch naked skin, and sparkling eyes. Truly a kindred soul."*

Walter Brown: *"She was always hanging out at the Off Ramp. She would always talk to me, say things to make me feel better if I was down. Knew when something was bothering me, and always had words or phrases that made me feel better. Loved her! There was no one I've ever met more genuine than her."*

Sage Viniconis: *"I met her on my third night working at the Off Ramp, she blew past me while I was working the back door/coat check/beer station and hung a left into the broom and mop closet. There was a tremendous clammer and when I looked she was all caught up in brooms and mop buckets. I untangled her and she was repeatedly apologetic and I recall telling her how beautiful her eyes were. She called me an Angel and believed I was sent to help her, and then asked me if I had any dope, I mentioned pot and she wanted*

heroin. I told her she was too beautiful to ruin her life with that and she kissed me on the lips and bolted out the door and down the street."

Chay Wilkerson Moore: *"My first year in Seattle, 1988 or 89, Bumbershoot Festival. I walked into the main food building in the park, went in to grab a chocolate-covered banana. When I walked out, I heard a girl screaming my name. I looked over to see that it was Dem, she was laying on Layne, on the grass. She motions me to hurry her way. I hustle over thinking they need me for something important, and she says simply, 'Give me a bite of your banana!'."*



Pony Maurice's apartment, late 80's
📸 cr.: Pony Maurice

Kevin: *"My favorite memory of Demri is her always jumping on my back for a piggyback ride. She was always wanting to do that, everytime. She was a sweet kid, fun and loyal friend. A great little buddy."*

Anonymous: *"Oh my God, those tights! The day I met Demri she was wearing them, along with cut-off jeans, and a cardigan she'd had since gradeschool. Alice in Chains was playing a show one night at an old fire station in Redmond. Layne introduced me and my friends to Demri, and I'll never forget my first impression of her – she was this angelic looking little thing with the biggest, most genuine smile. She took my hand in both of hers, and told me what a pleasure it was to meet me. I was 15 at the time, and clearly fan-girling over her boyfriend''s band but she didn't give off even the slightest hint of rudeness, or jealousy, or possessiveness. She was just honestly sweet and kind to literally everyone around her. We talked about how we knew that Alice in Chains was going to be the biggest band in the world, and she insisted that I tell Layne that, because he didn't believe it coming from his girlfriend."*

Anonymous: *"We lived in the same apartment building as he [Layne] and Demri in 1990-91, and it was a mellow building, Eastlake at Fairview back then.*

The day I met him, I had been invited down by Demri, I walked in and he'd just gotten back from the first European tour. He was polite and very soft spoken. We exchanged pleasantries and then I said, 'Your singing voice is phenomenal, but you're a quiet kinda guy, huh? I can't believe that voice come out of you. It's nice to meet you.' He handed me a demo of Facelift and I didn't think to ask him at the time for his autograph. I carried that tape around for probably five years, hoping to run into him for that reason.



Xana's apartment
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Long story short, my then 10-year-old daughter had been friends with Demri. I met her around October 1990, when we moved into that building. My daughter would get home from school around 3:30 or so and Demri would let her into the building.

My daughter was very excited one day when I got home from work: 'Mom, Demri wants to meet you! Can we go down there?' I dropped my bag and we wandered down there. I met a beautiful sylph-like brunette, who said her name was Demri. She said she'd been wanting to meet me and I told her that she is all my daughter has been talking about: how cool she was, how cute her apartment was, etc., and that I was glad to meet her finally. She gave me a tour of the apartment, and while my daughter was prattling on about all of the dried flower bouquets pinned to the walls, Demri gave me the downlow word that she doesn't use drugs when she knows the girl is going to be around.

I thanked her for that, and replied that I appreciated her looking after my girl and letting her in to the building after school. Demri goes 'Well, I don't want you to think that we're all just laying around here with needless hanging out of our arms.' 'That's good,' I'm thinking. I said if she could promise me that if anyone I haven't met comes over, please send her home, and then she and my daughter could be friends.

Demri and I went out to Harry's bar once in the year that followed, and then I ran into her at the Catwalk one Saturday night down near Pioneer Square – years later, about 3 months before she died.

She and Layne were both very nice people, but the drug life got its hold into both of them, and because I had a kid to raise I couldn't hang with that crowd.

Thursday nights were their after hours parties, with people entering and leaving their apartment via the front window; they got noisy sometimes, but no fighting or being jerks, and mostly cool people. 1989 to 1994 was a special time in Seattle.

My daughter still has all the photos that Demri gave her – some of her and Layne, and several from some pro photoshoots that Demri did."

Demri's Voice

Amber Ferrano: *"Parker Posey reminds me of Demri, her mannerisms and her voice, without the cynicism. Parker was flippant, where Demri was sweet and loveable in the way Drew Barrymore is. Her laugh was big and she'd have this huge grin on her face. There was a bit of hoarseness to her voice when she was sick."*

Xana: *"Demri had a raspy voice, like an old Hollywood starlet, like Betty Davis or Lauren Bacall."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She had a voice that carried and it was a little raspy, and a cute laugh."*

Krista Kay: *"Husky and a little deep for such a tiny girl. Sometimes smooth and velvety but she could also get very loud."*

Elsa: *"I used to have an audio tape of Demri reciting her poetry that someone gave me. I think she was playing her bongos on it too. When I knew her I didn't think her voice was that deep – feminine but not high-pitched."*

Chay Wilkerson Moore: *"She was usually quite loud. But angelicly loud."*

Simone: *"Her voice was soft and at times quite animated but she wasn't shy. She struck me to be nymph-like in her demeanor, tiny, a little quirky but still grounded. Small, fragile and full of mischief."*

Jena Schrier Sigfrinius: *"She had the most amazing laugh, and that laugh took your breath away. It was infectious. It filled the entire room with joy."*

Demri had *"kind of that Demi Moore voice"*, according to Randy Hauser[4].

[4] Alice in Chains' first manager.

FRIENDSHIPS

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri went to school with my cousin so I met her first when they were in Junior High, then we ran into each other at a club. We might have seen each other before because I had been at Diamond Lie shows but I was working so I really didn't socialize. Then one time at James Hilborne, Fab, Mike McCready, El Steiner, and Tim Dejulio's house when we were getting out of the car with Son of Man guys and my best friend Jared from college, she decided I was going to be her best friend. She told me if we were going to be I had to accept things about her.*

Demri wasn't special because of Layne's job and I don't think we are ignoring the bad and trying to make her bigger than life, but Fabiola, Barbara and I know how she was. She was sweet, and forgiving, and real, and good to everyone. I don't know, maybe other people have never had a friend like her or a friendship like all of ours. We were never friends, we met and we did become a tribe. Kathleen [Demri's mom] said we were part of something special because of the music and art we were surrounded by but I really think it had to do with the people more than anything. I told Demri that if we were all blind and in a room filled with people we would gravitate towards each other because our souls would direct us to who we were supposed to be with. Demri would say she wasn't just soulmates with Layne but with her friends as well."



Taken outside of the UMC, Las Vegas, 1993
Demri & Amber
📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was like an older sister to me, she looked out for me, we fought and we loved each other. Demri was an amazing creature who I learned so much from, most importantly I learned to love every minute of every day and smile through it all, even the pain. I will always remember her strength.*

I think about her often trying only to focus on the positive experiences we had, like going to the Oregon Country Fair and hanging out at Paul's [Paul Uhlir from Sweet Water], and how silly she was, and how tiny she was, and how she made me feel like an amazon next to her, she was like a well

proportioned china doll. How we kissed at parties to shock the boys who almost fell over in shock, back in '92 it wasn't very often you saw that kinda thing, now they probably would look twice."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"The moment we met each other we knew we were old souls and had crossed paths in another lifetime.*

The night I met them at Aixa's Birthday Party I thought, 'These guys are so elfin and fairy-like!' Sean and Mike were flipping me shit, and Demri helped me flip it back. Complimented my hair in braids. After the party, James Hilborne said, 'You need to meet these really cool people.' There she was again! She and her boyfriend Layne got into the taxi with me and James and we went back to Larry's [Steiner], where James and I had our old milk truck converted into a little apartment that Demri loved, parked in the backyard alley way for the after party.

We, a lot of us, stayed up all night long talking, laughing, and in the morning hours before I left to my apartment (at that time I no longer lived at Larry's) on lower Capitol Hill (just over the overpass close to their Carolina apartment) I french braided Demri's hair like mine, while Layne watched and smiled. We were instant friends. It's like we had past elfin lives together."



Arlington, WA, 1992
Demri & Fabiola Gonzalez
📸 **photogr.: Cliff Feulner**

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Fab was more than a best friend to Demri, she was also like a big sister she never had, and a confidant she could always trust. They had a very special and loving friendship. The kind of friendship that lasts a lifetime."* [5]

Helena: *"'Wally is a beaver' was an inside joke between Demri and Howard [Gonzalez] taken from the TV show 'Leave it to Beaver'. Demri used to wear those long hippie skirts and no underwear. She once came into the room and squatted in front of Howard showing him a huge black bush, she never shaved and was pretty hairy. He tried to be a little discreet so he said, 'Wally is a beaver.' Another time it was Howard that wore shorts without underwear, and when he sat down his whole package popped out of the leg of his shorts, and then it was Demri's time to say 'Wally is a beaver.'*

Once Howard, Demri and Layne were driving somewhere and Demri whispered to Howard that she really needed to fart, Howard told her to just go ahead, and she ripped one so nasty that they had to park the car and run out!"

Jacque Nakken: *"Demri was my best girlfriend I ever really had. We knew each other from 10 (her) and 8 (me) to our 20's, when I lost her. She was the female being I wished to be more like, since she was never in competition with me, just my friend who wanted my happiness. She inspired me to be a supportive woman and not in competition with. My 'best friend' made that clear in college when we noticed a guy watching while we jogged in the indoors track and proclaimed, 'Well, obviously, he's looking at me, not you.' It was innocent but really clarified her intent over Demri's. She always wanted to make others happy, more than herself."*



Demri & Mara Whelan
📸 photogr.: Randy E Hall

Lori Anderson: *"We referred to the girls bathroom as 'Dem's Office'. We would camp out in there, doing each other's makeup, changing, trading clothes, only letting people in if we liked them."*

Steve Alley: *"She was my really good friend. My favorite 'groovy little hippie chick'. We spent many-many hours talking while Layne was in closed practice. She had a very cool perspective on life. I miss her big smile and chipper attitude. The world is less of a place without her."*

Paula B.: *"I moved to Seattle with Demri. Lived with her for a bit before in Everett, she was one of a kind. I met her at the Gorge Amphitheatre where we decided that we were fairy sisters, saw Tracy Chapman in the front row who opened for Bob Dylan [August of 1988] as the sun was setting. Somehow she charmed our way up there without tickets."*

Jenn A Jacobsen: *"I met Dem back in the late summer of 1988. I moved into my apartment which was №4 and she lived in №1. She was such a wonderful friend and someone I still miss so much. When she walked into the room it would just light up. I remember going to her apartment 'cause there was always a killer party going on, that is also where I met Layne and another*

beautiful soul Mara. One night she stayed over at my place and I had a cat named Spaz O Fraz Joker Kitty Meow. I woke up to her screaming and when I went into the other room she was standing on the back of my couch, saying, 'Get that cat away from me! She is just laughing at me!'. I am freaked out. You know how they make that sound when they see a bird? Yeap, she would do that to her."

Kimberly Robinson: *"When I was barely 18 years old Demri, Mara and I packed our 1970 floral slumber party suitcases in Granite Falls, WA. We made a cardboard sign in sharpie – 'LA or bust'. We were three beauties in our Indian gauze hippie skirts hitting the road with thumbs out. We would sing 'Puff the Magic Dragon' at truck stops and get rides in the long haulers. Needless to say we made it to Laguna Beach, California in 6 rides and a little over 24 hours. We made it safely to see Bob Dylan and The Grateful Dead at the Strawberry Fields. We got around like this often. It's who we were. It was freedom and innocence. Honestly, she had the biggest spirit in the tiniest body."*



Demri & Mara, late 80's
📸 cr.: Mara Whelan

Spencer: *"I drove Mara, Kim and Demri to Eugene, Oregon one time. We stopped at Chuck's [Demri's uncle who lived in the Wallingford neighborhood] in Seattle to pick up Demri. Her boyfriend's band had just gotten signed that day and she had his demo tape on hand. We listened to 'Queen of the Rodeo' over and over again."*

Darin Lamb: *"I was 'high' on LSD in the U-District and I ran into a girl named Mara. We talked, I told her I was from Montana and was passing through and was going to follow the Grateful Dead on tour. She wanted to go and then she said maybe her best friend and boyfriend wanted to go. She took me to Wallingford and that's when I met Demri and Layne."* [4]

Angela Maynard: *"Once I was kidnapped, bound with paisley scarfs and forced to listen to Gean Loves Jezebel! My captors were no other than the infamous Sheri Lee, Karen, Demri and Mara – the U-District 4!"*

Mara Whelan: *"My dear soul sister, she extracted the truly beautiful parts of my soul and made me unafraid. She brought light into the depths of darkness from within. She loved all my ugliness and glorified my uniqueness.*

Demri and I lived together, slept together as sister spoons, hitchhiked all up and down the coast and back and forth to Seattle from Everett a million times. We lived in Seattle together in multiple places. When we didn't live together, even when the drugs came into play, we never lost each other.

I have sacred poetry that she has wrote, pictures. I have her beautiful face tattooed on my leg. I have a mermaid on my arm with her face because we were always going to get mermaid tattoos together."

Lea Nichols (Mara's sister): *"Demri was like a pixie and was mostly always kind. She lived on the edge, even before she met Layne, she had always said by 25 she would be gone because we would be old ladies after that. I agreed at the time. I felt 22 was old lady for myself and saw no future. I was 14 years old and she was 17. She lived life like today was almost gone, tomorrow was last day on Earth and to take what the world could offer. She was just so happy and pretty, she was irresistibly welcomed by the ones who we ran around with from adventure to adventure. One time I asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up and she said she wanted to marry a rockstar. In other words she said she didn't want to be famous but marry someone famous in the rock music scene. We used to go to Gas Works Park at night to play drums and drink with her other boyfriend Paul, drummer in a local grunge band.*

My favorite adventure night had a spiritual bond that we always held as only the two could understand. We were in the same matching outfits – white lace shirts, jean shorts, cream-white thigh-high stockings, dark blue dyed riding boots. High and adventurous with dreams to accomplish still hopefully in reach we wandered socially in comfort of each other seeing us as a team of life in female flesh to charm whoever we could and rise into eternal riches more. Anyway, on that trip she wasn't 18 yet, we wanted to pass this strip club that was closing for the evening. She asked if she could look in. We then hung out after hours with the door man playing silly games – truth or dares and innocent challenges like singing a dumb song on stage or jumping from chair to chair up to the stage, only us and him were left in there that night, that place was called Razz-a-ma-Taz. I only remember she was 17 because she got up and tried the stripper pole, the guy asked what she was doing, and she said, 'I'm trying the pole out for when I turn 18'. The night became just her and me as we walked towards where we lived at her uncle's in Wallingford. A 20 minute walk turned into 3 hours. We repeated this feeling by having to do this

over and over again – walking up to every car window we could see a glossy mirrored facial reflection, I'd stare in her eyes, she would stare into mine and we would grip each other's hands getting ready for the moment we both would get butterflies in our stomachs. It was a magical night, every time we got up to the window I'd go, 'Are you ready?', and she'd go, 'Yeah, are you ready?', and I would say, 'Yeah', almost like as if we were going to jump off a cliff together at the same time while holding hands. Getting ready for that twin moment we both would feel the same rush entering the other's eyes as if we switched bodies. It was as if we would transport into the other's head. We must have done this 50 times walking from the U-District all the way up into Wallingford. "

Scott Spivey: *"I was blessed with being a friend of hers in the last year and she was so friendly and naturally charismatic. My favorite memory would be hanging out with her and friends at her father's house in Bremerton and then walking down the street to see Soundgarden at the Fairgrounds [May of 1994]. Great times."*

ACTING, ART & MODELING

Amber Ferrano: *"Her dream job was to be an actress or continue modeling as an adult woman. Due to her size she'd get called for kid ADs. That is why she did some nudes which was still kinda taboo back then, she wanted to break free from jobs where they wanted her to model children's clothes. None of her friends judged her.*

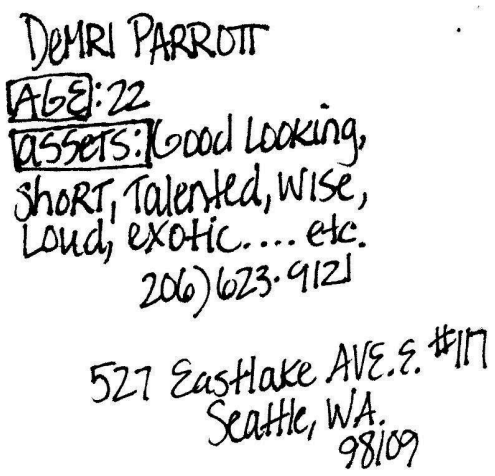


Xana's apartment, late 80s
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

She dreamed of becoming a soap opera actress, and playing twins – evil and good – to be able to show her range. I have to point out she never acted on her friends. No fake crying to get what she wanted."

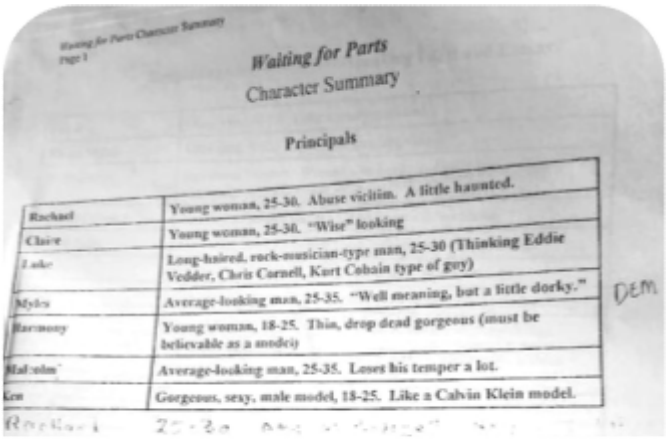
Paula B.: *"She wanted to be an actress and would have been an excellent one. I remember one day she told me there was a movie being filmed in Seattle and was off to audition. Being a free-spirited individual somehow she was sidetracked and ended up breaking a bone. Looking back, I wish I'd had the power to get her safely there, or at least tried. But alas, I was also a free young spirit."*

One night, in 1991, Demri came up to Paul Rachman, who traveled to Seattle to direct Temple of the Dog's video for *"Hunger Strike"*, and told him, *"I'm an actress up here and I'd love to audition or whatever"*. On a napkin, she wrote down what Rachman described as *"a handwritten head shot"* with her name, contact information, and adjectives such as *"good-looking", "short", "loud"* and *"exotic"* to describe herself. Demri told him she was modeling and wanted to do music videos and then movies. *"She really needed to move*



to LA but didn't – she thought she could get gigs with contacts in LA and fly there to work but that doesn't really work", Rachman wrote in an e-mail. Of the note's significance, he wrote, *"That note does give proof of her professional dreams."* [1]

Elsa: *"I saw Demri at the Forced Entry video shoot for 'Never a Know'. She told me they'd let her film something and maybe they'd use it for the video! So she did her little tribal dance but didn't end up using it. After filming she was afraid of the band's girlfriends – they were not happy with her! The first thing she said to me was, 'I don't think those girls like me!' I put my arm around her and was like, 'You'll be fine!'."*



Waiting for Parts
Character Summary

Principals

Rachael	Young woman, 25-30. Abuse victim. A little haunted.
Claire	Young woman, 25-30. "Wise" looking
Luke	Long-haired, rock-musician-type man, 25-30 (Thinking Eddie Vedder, Chris Cornell, Kurt Cobain type of guy)
Myles	Average-looking man, 25-35. "Well meaning, but a little dorky."
Harmony	Young woman, 18-25. Thin, drop dead gorgeous (must be believable as a model)
Malcolm	Average-looking man, 25-35. Loses his temper a lot.
Leo	Gorgeous, sexy, male model, 18-25. Like a Calvin Klein model.

DEM

📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Amber Ferrano: *"Movie script for Demri back in the day. They wanted her for the part of Harmony [young woman, 18-25; thin, drop dead gorgeous – must be believable as a model]. She did a read over the phone. They loved her look, her personality and her read so she was promised the part but she had to get clean."*

Lea Nichols: *"Next time I saw Demri was on the set of 'Singles' movie in a location not far from where I'd last seen her the night of Nirvana show. She was there with Alice in Chains guys, and Sonic Youth was hanging out too. Nancy Wilson from Heart and her husband Cameron Crowe, the director, were on set. Demri was much strung out on drugs and obviously shooting them. I was very shocked that they didn't want her in the movie but Cameron and his wife said they wished that she could be healthy enough to participate but they weren't going to be having her at that time due to circumstances that were obviously the talk of the set. It was sad. We all knew it wasn't going*



📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

to be long after that because she went so quickly into the stages of obvious drug addiction."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"When 'Singles' was filmed she actually had a part in the movie at a plastic surgeon's office to get a breast augmentation with the lead [Bridget Fonda], but Cameron [Crowe] cut it out and it made it to the editors floor. Talk about deflation! She was a sweet lil' lady, authentically herself and we know why Layne loved her so much, no matter what anyone had to say."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was in the movie 'Singles' but Cameron cut her parts because she looked loaded or greyish. Can't remember, but she was really hurt. They cut Demri's scene getting a boob job with Bridget Fonda. I'd try to reach out [to get the footage], all he can say is 'No'. Demri and I tried so she could have it for her acting reel but he insisted it was bad."*



Barbara Dearaujo: *"She loved to create crafts like paper collages, and decoupage, which is where she'd cut out Victorian styled angels and fairies, and flowers. Usually from real pretty wrapping paper, wallpaper or whatever she could find. And then she'd use decoupage glue and glue them all to boxes, antique makeup totes and carry cases. She loved to surround herself with art and pictures. She'd also cut out pictures and then plaster the walls in her apartment and then later in her hospital room with all kinds of art collages and hanging dried flowers. She loved dried flowers and incense."* [5]



Demri's handmade collage
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri wrote poetry, made greeting cards, she bought 1950's overnight cases and decoupaged them in Victorian themes. She was definitely a comedian and she loved to make those around her feel special."*

Lea Nichols: *"Demri and her art… She could take an old odd piece of luggage and antique pictures of pretty girls etc., paper lacquer and collage onto an old item that*

looked like it should just be thrown away and make it look so perfect and something you'd pay a lot of money for. I don't know if she ever sold these things and she never made me one but I always thought about them, how talented she was for making them and I was kind of envious and wanted to do it myself. She had a really good eye for picking out prints and wrapping paper to make patterns that by the end were very expensive looking. She did it for her own fun though so I don't think she ever did sell them, if somebody liked one she would just give it away, that's how Demri was. Although she could have made a good living creating decorated luggage, it was just a hobby as an artist."



Dom Pérignon box Demri decoupaged
📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Linda Ode: *"She was one of the sweetest people – to me – but I was a kid at the time and lived in the same building as her. She would have me over and was always creating or beautifying or decorating things. She got me a journal for my birthday, made me a little wooden box with a puff paint sun on it, and gave me one of her modeling photos. She had the best smile and an open heart."*



Wooden box with a puff paint sun on it made by Demri
📸 cr.: Linda Ode

Sage Viniconis: *"Demri was a wild and gentle spirit, marvelous artist. She did some physical human body forms, life drawing, and flowers. I had a massive newsprint paper pad with India ink she would often paint on, her brush strokes were marvelous. One day I hope to unearth some of her work as that part of my life has been packed away for decades. I also don't believe you will find any of her art online as this was at a time before the Internet, like 1991-1993."*

Demri and her close friend Mara shared a love of *Brian Froud's* artwork. Froud was also the conceptual designer for *"Labyrinth"* – one of Layne and Demri's favorite movies.

Brent Scott Berry: *"She was a presence that anyone noticed. A smart alertness, a welcoming smile, a witty attitude. I saw some of her earliest modeling pictures and was amazed at the plasticity of her beauty. She seemed to be an old soul even in her early teens."*

Moya Grubbs: *"She was the most bubbly person! She was so outgoing. She modeled for JCPenney (or Sears) while we were young and she went straight out on stage and modeled an outfit, stopped in the middle of the runway and said, 'Yes! I got this in the children's section!'. Everyone laughed at her confidence and humor. I loved her for that."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"She was raised all along Washington, Bremerton included. It was her who brought us to this location for a shoot [the farm photoshoot]. She wanted farmlands and horses, and piggies, and dirt roads aligned with wild flowers. Her vision totally. Her memories of her childhood."*



Arlington, WA, 1992
Demri & Fabiola Gonzalez
📸 photogr.: Cliff Feulner

Jack Plasky: *"Demri was beautiful, and proud of her body. Once she created (lightning fast) her little set to work in, those clothes came flying off. I tried asking her questions like what movies she likes, the books she reads, where she likes to hang out, her favorite espresso shop, but I could not get the words out, and grabbed my camera and started shooting.*

When we shot, we never talked about what we wanted to achieve, but at the end we both got what we wanted. We were one.

We became friends and loved working together. It was very inspirational for both of us. She would sometimes just pop into my studio and hang out. It was like an oasis for her – a comfort zone.

Demri and I worked really great together, and always seemed to be on the same page. She loved to create a miniature set, and make it hers. My job



Jack's studio, early 90s
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

was to make sure I got the shot in that millisecond. She seemed to have an innate sense of her beauty and grace, and was able to project it without ever thinking about it. We never talked when we worked. When I wanted to make slight changes in a shoot, I would just use efficient body language to communicate – it worked beautifully for me. When we did speak, Demri would go into a humorous mode, and would almost laugh as she would do her thing. She never whined or complained or talked about people. People loved her so much because of the humor that was so much a part of her.

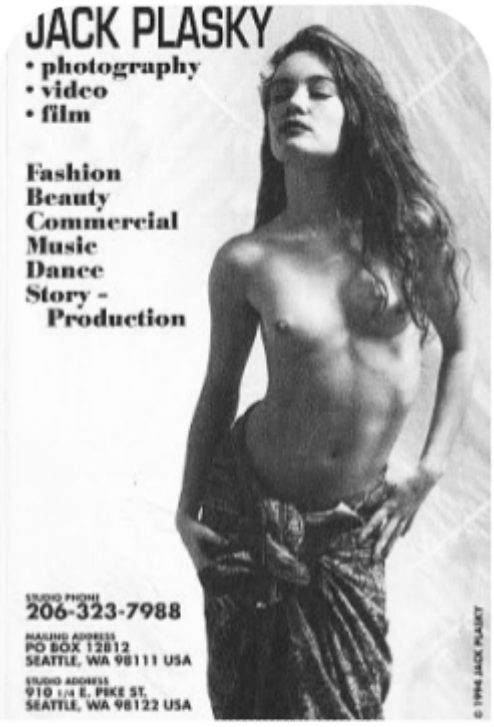
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This was the original postcard I used with Demri on it. She loved it so much that she kept coming back and getting more stacks of them to pass out. This was a pretty racy card for the time, and we both loved being on the edge.

This photo of Demri changed so many girls, women's lives. They felt really unattractive because they had small breasts, and after seeing Demri looking so beautiful with small breasts, they left my studio with a whole new attitude about their body.

. . .

It was pretty spontaneous, but Demri excitedly did most of the set-ups, then it was up to me to get the job done. I think the styling on not only Demri, but with everyone I shot had nothing to do with the era. I never had anyone come in and do hair and makeup, except on some commercial shoots. I had the girls just use foundation, mascara, lipstick, and just a hint or no eyeliner. Never hairspray. I usually had them shake their hair for a very natural look."



Postcard
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Doug Wilkerson: *"I hung out with Demri for about a year and a half. The first time I met her I was working at a laundromat. She came up to me and showed me a bunch of naked photos from a modeling shoot she had done. I asked if that was really her and she took her shirt off right at my work to prove it was her. We had a strange but awesome non-relationship. Poor Demri was so brilliant and beautiful. There was a light everywhere she went."*

Demri has been featured in multiple issues of *'Penthouse'* and *'Hustler'* magazine:



Penthouse US, 1997
📸 photogr.: Cliff Feulner

- ☆ *Hustler US, 1991 (October)*
- ☆ *Penthouse Spain, 1992 (January)*
- ☆ *Penthouse Spain, 1994 (March, June, October)*
- ☆ *Penthouse US, 1994 (June)*
- ☆ *Penthouse US, 1995 (February)*
- ☆ *Penthouse Germany, 1996 (April)*
- ☆ *Penthouse US, 1997* (*February*) – this specific issue of Penthouse appeared in the original *"Final Destination"* movie.

Shawn Torren of ***War Babies***: *"My favorite memory of her is when I was on a flight home from Los Angeles and she just happened to be on the same flight. I was at the back of the plane and she was up front. After we got airborne, she stands on her seat and screams, 'Hey Shawn! I just did a shoot for Hustler! Wanna see?'. Then she unfolds this 24x36 nude shot and the plane gasp! The stewardess yelling, 'Miss! Please! We have children on this flight!'. She was the epitome of the term 'firecracker'. One of a kind."*

Gary Olson: *"I was hanging out with Demri constantly for about 3 years. One time, when I was checking out to get gas, she threw a Penthouse magazine up on the counter and said, 'Gee, buy this.' I said, 'Why?' and she said, 'Because I'm in it', and she opened it and there she was."*

Angela Maynard: *"Demri was super-duper tiny! Like 80 lbs [36 kg] soaking wet! She was our little waif! She was a little fairy. One way she supported herself was by doing photoshoots with photographers who published stuff in Europe, as they are more open-minded and not so sexually*

prudish. Anyway, she was a baldy, and her photographer said he would get in trouble because people would think she was underage. Anywho, she got the idea to cut off Duane Bodenheimer's pubes and glue them onto herself so she could get the job! She was a total nut and she made everyone laugh!

I don't know any of the names of the publications. I only know when she would go to meet up with the creepy photographer and then she would come back with a chunk of change and then we would party! I'm sure she would use a different name for those jobs."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Demri introduced me to Cliff [Feulner], and he worked with quite a few girls from Seattle. Layne wanted Demri to make her own money, have a job. This is what she chose. $200 an hour. Only once a week. But at least he paid, unlike Jack Plasky who charged the girls. The sad thing is he had to stop working with Demri because she had track marks. Cliff also didn't want the money he paid to Demri to go to heroin. She wasn't very happy about that."*

Demri's Poetry

*"**Y**ou sparkle don't forget,*
never look back and don't regret.
Each day a lesson is learned,
your kindness and warmth,
all the friends you have earned.
Please use my ears, and my shoulder
in times of tears.
Because you are special to me,
and we need to remember
that our eyes truly see.
All we can be, all we can be,
our eyes are so free,
you're special to me.
They may look at us in a daze,
puzzled by judgment
and eyes clouded by haze.
They are weak, never the truth do they speak.
They don't know, stunted don't grow.
We live here in our pain –



in this corrupted city of rain –
yet people try to steal
our friendship and love we feel.
But I want you and I to always be friends –
forever and always –
till the end.
Can we walk on the beach one day?
Grow some wings and fly away?
I wish that we could smile
laughing and joking all the while.
I want all your dreams to come true –
'cause there's only one sweet special you!"

{Demri wrote this poem for her friend Deborah in 1991}

***

*"**T**he happy years were few*
and time as brief as a drop
of dew – you are Eternity."

***

*"**C**haos queens*
Whisper and stare
I walk by, watch them glare
So much makeup, hair spray hair
Bitchy stare
Gossip flies off their tongues
Lies and exaggerated words
Chaos queens
Their God a magazine
Stupid fucking chaos queens."

***

*"**Y**ou are my sunshine fairy*
my pretty lil flower.
A kind warm blanket of love,
a soft sweet spirit from heaven above.
You guide me through rough weather,
making the bad times light as a feather.
I treasure our laughter,
love you more each day.
My special sunshine fairy,

true friend til the end,
these words are just
for you,
all my love I send."

{Demri wrote this poem for her friend Fabiola Gonzalez – July 7, 1992}

***

*"**M**y friend so true,*
Without you I feel blue,
Can I marry you?
What do I do? What do I do?
Can't stand it missing you!
Talk to ya on the phone,
But still you're gone, I'm alone.
Love your body and brains,
And without you
I'm totally insane!"

{Demri wrote this poem for Xana}

***

In one of her poems Demri called herself
"an alien waiting for a ride home."

***

Demri jotted down a few lines from
Marjorie Pizer's poem *"**Paradox**"* in her diary:

"None are one and yet all are one.
Do not be trapped by despair
For out of despair many
a new flowering may be born."

HOBBIES & STYLE

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri always had an individual style. When you move out earlier than your peers and have all the responsibilities your peers don't, and don't come from a family that hands you a car or a credit card or pays your bills, you have to figure out how to make it work, like sewing your own clothes and making clothes out of pieces of other things, especially when you're petite*[5] *and can't find age appropriate clothes that fit you. One of the reasons Demri decided to do Nude Modeling is to break free from jobs where they wanted her to model children's clothes. Demri tried to get on the Roster through the owner Bill, who loved her, but there was a zero market for petite women models then, especially those that didn't want to dress like a mom, grandmother or kid. Now their Roster has every shape, color, hair style, etc. that you would have never seen, except on a girl like Demri walking down the street.*



Demri searched for clothing in vintage stores and Goodwill because that's all they could afford, and people's closets.

When you came over she was often sitting on the couch with needle and thread making/altering clothes, especially if Layne had an upcoming show."



One of Demri's last projects – a pair of jeans
📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Xana: *"One day, when I had to go to work, I left her sleeping. Something told me not to wake her up. She had a slight smile on her face like she was having a good dream. I covered her with a quilt. Once she woke up, she said, 'Want to see what I did all day?' I was like, 'Besides make dinner?' To my*

[5] According to her mother, Demri was barely five feet tall [150 cm] and never weighed more than a hundred pounds [45 kg].

surprise she had taken my sewing kits and hand stitched and repaired all the holes and tears in the quilt. She said, 'I had a dream about this blanket.' I said, 'That's a weird thing to dream about. Were you flying around on it like a magic carpet?' She laughed and said, 'No, I just woke up and looked through one of the big holes in it and that's when my dream came back to me. I knew I had to fix it.' She did a great job. She added ribbon and cut up squares of other fabric to cover the squares that had holes."



📸 photogr.: Krista Kay
Seattle, 1990

Amber Ferrano: *"Layne eventually was able to figure out his own style path and was good at it, in the beginning – not so much. You can see when he met Demri by what he is wearing or tell when they moved in together by his style. When you see Layne and Demri wearing similar clothes it's because he raided her closet, hence the androgyny photoshoot he wanted to do with her. When he was bored and her and I were doing something, he'd often play in her closet. I remember him coming out in the living room in a tutu. Another woman might have freaked but Demri was like, 'Oh my God, you need to wear leggings, combat boots, an open shirt and a cool necklace'. Just boom, boom, boom and we were like, 'Damn, that's really cool.' If someone else was there, they were like, 'Do me next!' Demri had your clothes at her house and vice versa because people loved her style and wanted to play dress up with her. They'd ask her to 'make me look cooler' and sometimes it meant taking the clothes off her back and trading with you and no-one minded, so Demri's clothes were all over Seattle and vice versa. Sometimes you'd see a shirt you switched out at her house on someone else and you'd say, 'Dang, how did you ever think to turn that boring thing into that?' Then you kinda wanted it back but she'd just make you something newer and cooler. This is why I credit her as being*



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

responsible for part of the start of Grunge Clothes. Even in the hospital she'd tell people to bring by a bunch of clothes and she'd figure out something in the blink of an eye. The nurses were like, 'This is a hospital, not a clothing store' but the younger ones were like, 'Do me next!'. That's why Layne had plans to set her up in a clothing store – she already had the clientele."



Demri's accessories
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Ryan Kalsbeck: *"Layne and Dem had that full on vintage clothing styles mixed with a hippie, new grunge rock twist. Homemade glass beaded long necklaces and bracelets, funky hats, hair sticks. Dem had pink lace and satin knickers that were real and from the 1900s."*

One of Layne and Demri's favorite places for shopping was a used vintage clothing store called *"**Buffalo Exchange**"* on Haight street in San Francisco.

Beverly: *"She was a handful for sure. I miss her raiding my closet for outfits when I wasn't home. I don't miss her leaving her dirty clothes on my floor, but I take the good with the bad. Love always to my dirty bird."*

Kathleen Austin: *"Someone once told me she would show up at a club in an outfit and the next night there would be several girls copying it. She could pull articles of clothing that no one would think to combine and she would look adorable. She once designed a skirt from boxer shorts. I saw it on paper. As far as I know, it never came to fruition."* [6]



Demri loved stopping at thrift stores. Tapestries, hats and hippie dresses were her favorite finds.

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was a fashion nut. She loved everything vintage. Victorian style dresses, 70's stuff, overalls and combat boots. She wore things no one else could even try to pull off without looking like a weirdo*

but she always seemed to make the weirdest things look cute and cool. I'm pretty sure Demri was one of the girls who started the so-called 'Seattle Grunge Look', for girls at least. Demri was not a rocker chick, she totally had her very own style going on that we all secretly wanted to emulate.



Demri w/ Stormy
📸 cr.: Stormy Lee Rollins

She had some of the funkiest outfits for back then. I honestly think Demri was the one everyone copied when it came to the grunge scene for girls. Combat boots and hippy skirt or better yet a tutu. Remember the article in Vogue called 'Heroin Chic', I think Kate Moss was in it. Anyway, I remember me and Demri thinking it was so lame and that they were biting off of the Seattle fashion scene but at that time everyone was biting off of Seattle when it came to fashion and music.

In the early 90's she dressed in all kinds of crazy yet cute clothes, anything retro or vintage. She loved long dresses, skirts, tutus, overalls and Doc Martens, hand-made clothes, she never really wore jeans and t-shirts, it was always something you'd never think of wearing but looked great on her and made you wish you would thought of this type of thing but even if you had it probably wouldn't have looked as cool on you. She had that tiny little body that looks great in clothes.

She always wore her hair really long, like to her butt or longer, and she had thick wavy auburn hair. It was usually knotted and dred locked here and there but knotted or not it always looked cool. She wore black nail polish and when she wore makeup she used maybe some black mascara and red lips but she didn't usually wear a lot of makeup, maybe except for lipstick when she went out. She was also the first girl I met who used her lipstick to add blush to her cheeks." [5]



Backstage at Van Halen show, December of 1991
📸 cr.: Lori Ann Walbring

Amber Ferrano: *"I remember Demri doing her nails, she could get them pretty long, for sure longer than me. She loved my mom's*

fancy nails. I bought a pencil box and a bunch of 'Wet N Wild' polish for $1 so she had a carry around kit for the hospital. She liked the fun colors.



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

I remember Demri dressing Layne up, putting makeup on him, doing his hair for him, buying his clothes, setting up the photoshoots, etc. Demri was the best at finding the coolest clothing and fabrics. She would often take something like a vintage pin and make a necklace out of it."

Cindy Reframe: *"I remember seeing her at house parties and also would see her fully headbanging good and proper in the front row at Alice In Chains gigs, like gigs at the Off Ramp where she would be wearing the Levi's cutoffs with tights, flannel shirt, combat boots and black leather jacket, long-long light brown kind of loose curls in her hair and dark plum lipstick. Other than that I think she would sometimes wear kind of like babydoll dresses with combat boots or something like that."*

James Stine: *"Demri did have different looks when she came to Music Bank, usually with her friend. One day – black leather motorcycle jacket, next time – total bohemian."*

Sherri: *"She would always wear the rolled up overalls with black tights. She was so cute and original. Biggest smile, she always lit up the room. Heart of gold."*

Jacque: *"As to her clothing style, it was kind of hippy chick but distinctively Demri."*

Tracy Johnson: *"A lot of things she wore didn't go together, like long johns with big baggy overall shorts and a frilly blouse with cowboy boots. It doesn't make a lot of sense but you would have to know Demri to understand."* [6]



Demri wearing her mother's choker from the 60s, it had purple beads
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay
Seattle, 1990

Kathleen Austin: *"She wore 3½ or 4 size shoes which were not easily found in the style she wanted to wear. So it was common to find her in shoes a little big."*



Last shoes Demri was wearing, on top of her dress
📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Tye M.: *"I just remember Demri had short purple suede boots she was so proud of, and a big beautiful smile."*

Shawna Murphy: *"I had one of her necklaces 'Forever'. It was like black cut glass stones, three strands with a gold clasp. She wore a lot of old-timey costume jewelry."* [6]

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"I made all the guys beaded necklaces. I used African trading beads, Tibetan skull beads, bone, Thai silver, wood, glass, natural types strung on leather cord. Demri and I would bead together. She made me a necklace."*

Lea Nichols: *"She always wore my bracelet I had made in high school out of some silverware and scribed my name in it. She has it on in most photos. It curves and wraps around in abnormal shape. She told me every time I saw her how much she loved it."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She wore patchouli and lavender oils and oil perfumes. It smelled good on her and she definitely had a very distinct smell. After she left the room you knew Dem had been there. Her whole house smelled like her, her clothes, and if she stayed at my house – my house smelled like her too. It was not a bad smell, not at all, just uniquely Demri."* [5]



A bottle with scented salts inside made by Demri
📸 cr.: Amber Ferrano

Kathleen Austin: *"There is or was a store on Broadway in Seattle called 'Vajra' that sold oils. Dem had a special blend of patchouli and musk they would create for her."*

Keli Lake: *"She always used patchouli and added other florals. Gardenia, rose and jasmine were some."*

Angela Maynard: *"Their place [on Eastlake] was very small and very old-school Seattle. It had one of those old radiator heaters and a three-way window with a little seat so you could chill out and do whatever... You know we were far from being angelic! The place always smelled so good, like tea, incense, and weed. She would wash their clothes with that ylang-ylang hippie oil, so they always smelled so yummy and cool!"*

Kathleen Austin: *"Most folks know Dem loved flowers, didn't matter if they were dead or alive. When she was in the hospital, if someone was discharged and left flowers behind, the nurses would bring them to her. She was known to scavenge the dumpster at a wholesale florist a block from the Carolina Court apartment. Her love of flowers was ever present as a toddler. She would plead to stop at a cemetery we passed so she 'could see the pretty flowers'."*



Demri w/ hydrangeas in her apartment
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Demri loved potpourri, and used to hang *hydrangeas* upside down and dry them, she knew how to keep their color. They were all over her and Layne's apartment.

Elsa: *"I was there once [Demri's Eastlake apartment] after a show. Among other things, I remember Demri cutting out the cover to Prong's '**Beg to Differ**' CD and hanging it up on the living room wall. That, and the bouquets of flowers drying upside down. I do that still to this day."*

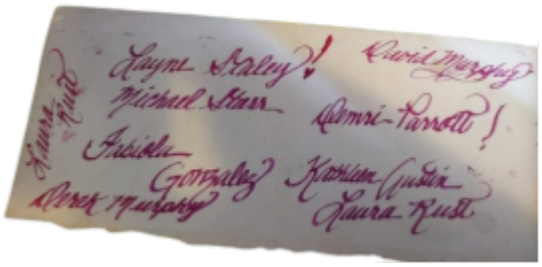
Jeanine: *"I remember her apartment pre-Layne had a fairy switch plate or fairies painted on the wall or something like that, and I always thought of her as a fairy after that."*

Mara Whelan: *"We have a moon that my kids know as a 'Demri Moon' – when it's just a sliver of a fingernail of a crescent. That was her favorite time of the moon."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Demri had a way with leaving little notes of love. One of the sweetest things about her and friendship were her handwritten letters, poems and notes. A rarity these days. I know all her friends and family*

got one from her. Demri loved writing letters to her friends and decorating them. She practiced calligraphy and wrote beautifully."

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was an amazing artist. She made all kinds of cool artistic creations, all the cool decoupage art she created with those old school valentine angels, she'd cut them out and then plaster them onto old make-up boxes from the 50s. They were really cool. She was a model and she played guitar. She was a performing artist and her photographs were her art. I remember this one set of pictures of her in a tutu and boots, no shirt, they were kinda freaky morbid but really amazing. It's very hard to explain like most art is. You'd have to see them. I swear she was the first one wearing long dresses with long johns and combat boots in Seattle, sounds funny but she was only 5 feet tall and she always looked really cool in everything she wore. And she also wore all these Victorian style dresses with her dark hair in knots all the way down to her ass, all 5 feet of her. Oh and she loved pink tutus! People copied her. I think they coined the term Grunge after her. I remember when Vogue came out with a layout called 'Heroin Chic', we all thought that was so stupid but it was Demri's style all over the pages, we laughed. She was very unique and people took notice of, and no matter who her boyfriend was, Demri was amazing all by herself."*



Demri practicing calligraphy
📸 cr.: Fabiola Gonzalez



📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Xana: *"I gave Demri my copy of 'Little Birds'. I used to give Demri Anaïs Nin books. She always had it with her when I saw her after that. She appeared to be using it for an address book/notebook. She had little poems of her own written on the side like annotations. I can't speak on her feelings about Anaïs Nin, I wouldn't say she was the type of person to copy anyone or be obsessed over any particular writer, artist, or model."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was interested in a lot of things. Being in the hospital a lot she liked to read and watch a channel called AMC that was black and white movies from the beginning through the 60's. I think she was one of the ones wanting to get her GED. I had a library card and she was there. She loved the idea of getting a degree.*

It's so hard to narrow things down because she liked everything and if you bought it for her she would read it or if you told her she'd look into it. She loved lyrics from songs as poetry but Layne wasn't that confident for a long while about that so she was more into books at that time. 'The Prophet' was a book I bought them, Maya Angelou, Emily Dickinson. She'd watch Oprah and get ideas from shows and book clubs. I'd try to get the latest books. She wasn't a reader from beginning to end, she had a short attention span, but if I was there and had paperwork I'd say, 'Read your book while I finish this up'. I don't remember her reading poetry out loud unless she was writing it and reading it back to me. But maybe did that with others. Her and Layne did read to each other her poems and his which were his lyrics."



📸 cr.: Nancy McCallum

Demri played the tambourine, washboard, and guitar; she did sing until her and Layne got together. She also had a conga drum and loved drum circles.

Kevin K.: *"I only met her once, at a party in U-District. She was a friend of a friend who was having the party. Demri was easy to talk to and gave off a wild child vibe. She told me she was a percussionist and that her boyfriend was Layne."*

Favorite Music & Movies

Amber Ferrano: *"She liked all music, and Seattle bands were her favorite, like Bam Bam, War Babies, Mother Love Bone, Son of Man, Love*

Battery, Sky Cries Mary, etc. And bands like Fugazi, The Cult, Blind Melon, Maggie's Dream, Mazzy Star and The Smashing Pumpkins. She was a Deadhead, and toured with the Grateful Dead. I know she loved all those types of bands. She had music on in the house during the day, listened to local band shows on the various radio stations. At night she watched old movies from 40's to 60's on AMC.

We usually listened to Seattle bands because they were my friends. If she hung out at my office she'd go through demos with me and had her favorites. In my car I listened to Jazz, Country, etc., because I represented all Pacific Northwest bands at Music Conventions. I worked at a Label so she loved going to shows, even Michael Jackson. She loved Tal Goettling, TAD, Gruntruck, My Sister's Machine, Kristen Barry and Soundgarden."

Krista Kay: *"She loved Alice in Chains! She liked 70's classic rock. She loved all kinds of music. From rowdy, rough and loud to ethereal music like Cocteau Twins. She was soft and romantic but also wild."*

Demri was personal friends with *Perry Farrell* from *Jane's Addiction,* and was a huge *Cocteau Twins* fan.

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri used to listen to Cocteau Twins and turned me onto them."*

Demri loved *The Police, U2, Stevie Nicks* and *Cyndi Lauper,* according to her mother.

"Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac was one of Demri's favorite songs, she taped herself singing this song over her mother's favorite Jackson Browne tape. Demri loved *Tracy Chapman, "Fast Car"* was one of her favorite songs. *"Bang a Gong (Get It On)" by T. Rex* was also one of Demri's favorites.

Other artists she liked: *Berlin, Billy Idol, Blondie, Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, Jackson Browne, James Hilborne, Mötley Crüe, Pink Floyd, Sweet Water* (from Seattle)*, The Beatles, The Cure, The Doors, Violent Femmes.*

Demri loved watching classic old movies with actors like *Fred Astaire*, *Humphrey Bogart*, and the like. One of Demri's favorite movies was *"Drop Dead Fred"*, and both Layne and Demri loved *"Labyrinth", "Willow"* and *"Wizard of Oz"*. Demri loved *Shirley Temple* and *"Our Gang"* series, according to her mother. She loved to talk in a *Mae West* accent.

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"They [Layne & Demri] loved all movies. 'Willow' was one of my fondest memories of them and watching it with them, and their love and reaction to it, when they lived with Damon Stewart on Queen Ann Hill. They absolutely loved to watch the oldies and goodies in black and white! All the classics."*

Amber Ferrano: *"She loved movies from 20's–50's but funny current ones like Ace Ventura."* Demri also enjoyed Pauly Shore's movies, *"Layne and Demri would want to not only go to see Pauly's movie but stay and rewatch it all day long at the theater, they adored him. They all had the same sense of humor."*

Additional info for those who were wondering what Demri's favorite food was:

Fast Food, scampi tacos, pad thai, smoked green chile chicken enchiladas, fettuccine. She loved the pepper pot soup that was served at Charlie's on Broadway, according to her mother.

Ice-cream cones, malted milk balls (Maltesers), Red Vines, candy bars; Dr. Pepper, chocolate and strawberry milkshakes, fancy coffee drinks and juices (Amber thinks grape juice was her favorite but she's not sure).

Amber Ferrano: *"Both Layne and Demri had a major sweet tooth and loved their candy. I knew their favorites but there wasn't one they didn't like. One of the places we'd go was this candy store in Pioneer Square where we could get current and retro candy, and jokester candies and gimmicks. They loved stuff that burned your mouth or turned it a funny color or exploded, an extra surprise factor, so they could get a good laugh."*

Owen Wright: *"Layne showed me this little tip about pizza back in 1984 – any kind of pizza, preferably pepperoni with extra pepperoni, and then sour cream and Tabasco on top, it will blow you away!"*

LAYNE, ALICE IN CHAINS & MUSIC INDUSTRY

There are two stories of how Layne and Demri met. Although there are a few slight differences in the two versions, they do not necessarily contradict each other. According to Kathleen Austin, *"She met Layne in 1989. She was working at the mall, and there was a girl working in the store with her, and the girl invited her to a party. And the girl was from the Seattle area. Dem told me later that on the way to this party, the girl turned and looked at her and said, 'I just made the biggest mistake of my life.' And Demri said, 'What?' And she said, 'Bringing you to this party. I know my boyfriend's going to fall in love with you.' That was Layne, and the rest is history," she said. "I think it was love at first sight."*



Seattle, 1988
📸 cr.: Randy Hauser

The only detail that can be corrected in this account is the date. Evidence shows that they met in 1988. Demri's signature appears several times in the guest sign-in notebook kept at the Music Bank, which closed its doors for good in February or March 1989. There are also photos of her and Layne together in Randy Hauser's Polaroid collection from this early period in the band's history.

The other story of how they met comes from Layne's friend Sally Pricer Portillo, who says she was the one who introduced them. Pricer Portillo was at a party the first time she met Demri. Pricer Portillo isn't certain, but she thinks Demri knew about her friendship with Layne. *"My feeling on it – I mean, I can't say for sure – is that she knew that we palled around together: I was always with him, he was always with me, I was always at Music Bank."* Demri asked her, *"Tell me a little bit about Layne. Will you introduce me to Layne?"* Another time, Pricer Portillo and Demri were out in Pioneer Square, when Demri asked, *"Will you please invite me to this party, because I know he's gonna be there, and I want to hang out."* Pricer Portillo agreed to bring her along. At the time, Layne was twenty-one or had just turned twenty-one.

Demri would have been eighteen or nineteen – too young to get into bars, as Pricer Portillo recalled. Based on Layne's age and birth date of August 22, this would have happened in the late summer or early fall of 1988, but Demri may have already been in the picture before that. Regarding the women Layne had been with or dated before, Pricer Portillo says, *"No one ever was serious until it came to Demri, and then when it came to Demri, it was all about Demri, which I was happy about because that got rid of some of the riffraff."* [1]

"The two of them together, before drugs, were always laughing. They were always happy," Austin says of this period. *"They'd go to clubs. They would go see their friends."* Though they didn't have much in terms of money or possessions, both of them were generous. During Thanksgiving of 1988, David Ballenger said several girls showed up and brought Layne a huge dinner, but that nobody had brought him anything. Layne and Demri shared their dinner with him. [1]



NAF Warehouse, Demri w/ Layne, Damon Stewart, Debbie & Laura Murphy
📸 cr.: Laura Murphy

David Ballenger: *"I knew Layne very well. We were really close actually. Many nights at the Music Bank when we would talk late. I would always give him advice; playing Machiavelli. I ran the place, we worked there. We, about 5 of us, lived there on the clandestine because it was actually illegal to live there. Only it was a great thing if you wanted to play and be in the middle of music 24 hours. No real money to speak of.*

I would like to say that he was one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. A caring person with a great sense of humor. He would go out of his way to get a laugh or a smile out of you.

I knew Demri. Cutest young thing. How kind they would be to me when I would be in some funk of depression over some issue or another about the place."

Amber Ferrano: *"They had to give you a hug and a kiss when you left and it had to be on the lips – male and female friends and family. It was their thing."*

High School friend: *"She was working at the Everett Mall in Everett, WA in 1988 where and when she introduced me and a friend to Layne. I can't remember how she told us they met, since I remember being a little taken aback by this tall, lanky, long haired rocker guy with tiny beautiful Demri. I remember her looking at him in complete adoration as she introduced us to him and told us he was going to be a huge rock star someday. She constantly smiled and had something to laugh about."*

Rich Henry: *"I met Demri in 1985-86, when I first moved to the Seattle area from Scappoose, Oregon. Demri was the sweetest, most innocent girl living in the 'podunk' town of Arlington. I lived in Lake Stevens, and the band I was in at the time rehearsed way out in Oso. I forgot the exact circumstances, but we most likely met while I was out-and-about in the town of Arlington. We ended up talking on the phone for hours and hours, but she was involved with a long-term boyfriend so it didn't go anywhere. We somehow kept in touch and by 1988 she had finally ditched her long-term boyfriend. At that time I was closer with the Alice in Chains guys than the dudes in my own band, and thought it would be great to invite her along to a private party we all would be at. She ended up far more enamored with Layne by the end of the night. So it made for the most uncomfortable drive dropping her off back to Arlington all the way from where the party was in North Seattle, to be sure!"*



AiC crew apartment on Dexter Ave, Seattle, 1990
📸 cr.: Chay Wilkerson Moore

Jeff Hubbard: *"I gave Layne a ride to the show the night he met Demri. Alice played at the Central Tavern on a Friday night. I had to work Saturday morning and after I had stuffed my car full of band equipment I said 'Let's go', and Layne said he would see me later and that he had a ride. No big deal and off I went. The next day after work I went straight to the Music Bank to unload the gear in my car and by surprise woke them both up from Layne's sleeping loft area in the band room. Demri was a sweetheart! Miss them and have a lot of great memories! One time she switched my coca-cola with ice cubes to a glass of nasty coffee with ice cubes, I spewed it out!"*

Kelly Moll: *"I met Demri at the Music Bank, when Layne was in Alice N' Chains then, pre Jerry, and Layne was chasing her around saying, 'But I'm in a band!' and she would say, 'Your band sucks!'. She was a firecracker."*

Carrie Montgomery: "*Demri and I used to tease Layne about Diamond Lie all the time. We thought it was hilarious, he did not."*

Lisa W.: *"I remember the house parties and the jam room [at the Music Bank]. Layne's girlfriend at the time wanted a threesome. Scared me. I didn't know her or her name but she looked like Demri. Came and hauled me in the back room. I was more interested in the hot senior from my high school."*

CF Fox: *"When we heard the demos (Dirt album) at the Music Bank, we were amazed at their next-next-next-level artistic growth. I love those demos. Raw and darker than the album mixes, ferocious and harrowing. Demri couldn't get over how much Layne had grown."*

Kree Brown: *"Layne was friends with my high school pal Jena, who had left Palm Desert and gone to Seattle to live. This was in the start of the grunge era of Seattle. I came out to meet my newborn niece and also got to go to Seattle from Tacoma. And this night happened. The band played a show, we all took this picture outside the club. Layne leans into me and says, 'Keep that photo. We're going to be famous one day.' I replied, 'Yeah, right'. And they became so very famous just after this! This picture is so iconic for so many reasons.*



Seattle, 1988-89
L to R: Demri, Layne, Jason, Jena, Kree Brown
📸 photogr.: Mara Whelan

The whole night was so memorable but I just had no idea that band was going to become so famous or that Demri would be so famous. So I didn't pay much attention. I remember hearing my friends say that Demri was bisexual, and that she had been on a break from her boyfriend, but they were working things out and he was going to sing a song for her that night, and she was bringing him purple iris flowers which are in the photo. That's about all I remember of her."

🔊 Video: Layne gives Demri a shoutout on stage (February 1st, 1991)

Demri saw Layne's talent immediately and did not hesitate to say so. *"Mom, Layne's going to be a star,"* she told Austin. Austin was skeptical, although she didn't say it out loud. *"I've known a lot of musicians who were going to be stars, and just a few who actually made it."* She humored her daughter: *'Well, that'd be nice,' 'I hope he is',* things like that. [1]

The first time Austin ever saw Layne perform was at the Pain in the Grass concert at Seattle Center in 1990. Austin brought along Demri's brothers, who were sixteen, ten, and eight at the time, and they wound up becoming part of the show. *"Layne took them up onstage, and they were so thrilled." "They loved their sister and they loved Layne. These boys were little, he's giving them piggyback rides, they're playing. Layne was a funny guy. He was a sweetheart."* [1]

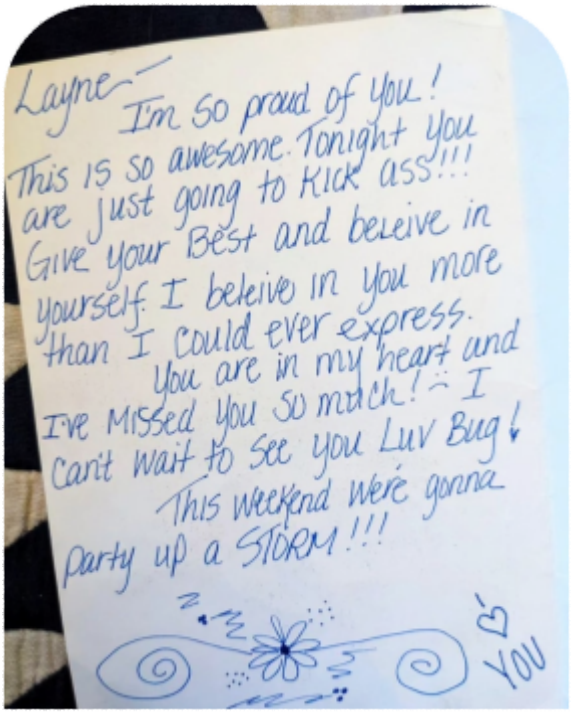
Amber Ferrano: *"When Layne was asked about siblings he always included Demri's brothers as his siblings, always. They doted on them and loved them to the moon and back."*

Dave Murphy (Demri's youngest brother): *"Demri and Layne were super goofy and witty. They were meant to be together. They used to crack me up as a kid."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"She helped Layne transgress from butt-rocker to 'Let's go to the thrift store and find cool vintage stuff to wear!'."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was a fun, supportive, encouraging, loving person to be around. As stated before – I am not oblivious to her drug habit but that wasn't what we were about or focused on. I wasn't one participating in her demise but in her sobriety and the same with Layne. Once Layne met her his music style changed, what he wore, his writing abilities, his drawing abilities, etc. That is history and easy to see. Demri encouraged him. Nobody doing it for the first time does it the best ever. Demri bought/traded out for art supplies, journals, music equipment, clothes, jewelry, etc. For him. He could wear her tutu and instead of calling him feminine in the negative way people did back then she was like, 'Omg that's so cool! Here, wear it with this, this and that.' What was a joke he was playing on us was encouraged and taken seriously by her. She saw the potential and where it could go. The same with his drawing. She never said it looked bad and in the beginning it really wasn't that great but she hung them on the fridge, then the walls. Demri was as proud of his failures as she was of his successes because she loved him unconditionally. There was no 'Alice in Chains Layne' without Demri. To vilify her is ridiculous, especially when band, crew and touring bands all used*

with him and had a choice not to, and no-one brings that up? He tried because those closest to him were telling him, 'Demri would want you to go on', but as people found out he could not, he was miserable. If they were broken up, like people not there say, then he would have gone on just fine. He was a rockstar, he could have dated, married and moved on with anyone. They had an open relationship and dated other people because it's what you do in your 20s, it's what clear in their love for each other, logical, fun-loving, confident, non-jealous people do. Maybe not for everyone but perfect for them. They were a part of each other's lives since the first time they met and again – it's a fact.



Demri's card for Layne, August 11, 1988
📸 cr.: Melinda Starr (@mikestarrforever)

In the summer of 1990, 'We Die Young' was getting local airplay and it was a big deal and we'd call people up and tell them to turn on the radio. That in itself made all of us feel they made it. We were all glued to our radios once a Seattle band we had supported and loved were signed and their first song on album was released just to see if they were going to play them. I remember Layne turning on the radio and just grinning from ear to ear but all cool about it while Demri was so proud of him and making a big deal about it when we first heard it on KISW. She helped him with the clothes for the 'We Die Young' music video."

Lea Nichols: *"Layne was probably the sweetest guy I've ever known. When he was with Demri he was humble and with her he would smile and let her be the star in his life. She would be silly and entertaining and adorable in her days with off touring time spent together."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was Layne's biggest fan, and she went on tour in the beginning, until it became an issue. She rocked out to their music."* [5]

Charlene Juergens: *"Alice in Chains opened for Van Halen [1991-92]. Billy Idol showed up backstage. Demri and I went on tour. San Jose,*

Sacramento, New Jersey, Long Island, Hawaii, then I went to Cabo, and Demri went back to Seattle. She was full of personality! The Van Halen crew, Zeke (Sammy Hagar's guitar technician) and I adored her. Loved seeing her at every show, soundcheck, backstage party, dinner and the ladies room."



Demri w/ Zeke and Charlene
Van Halen tour, California, 1991

Joe R. Santiago: *"I was supposed to do an interview with Layne Staley when they were touring with Van Halen. Ended up hanging out with Demri all day. We had a mutual friend from Wichita, Kansas so we had jokes. She was a beautiful person!"*

Darral Ward: *"The first time I went to Layne's house I met his girlfriend Dem, she was really cool. She brought out photo albums that contained pictures from music awards that they had recently attended. They had taken pictures with Robert Plant, Billy Idol, just to name a few. She was a really good host."*

Jeff McCormick: *"I actually knew Demri by her birthday before I knew her name! Before she turned twenty-one she used to try and rush the door when Alice In Chains was playing at a club I was working and we'd laugh afterwards because she just couldn't quite ever pull it off! Then she'd tell me that February 22nd was her birthday and that got to be what I called her."*



Demri w/ Billy Idol
Van Halen show, 1991

Elizabeth Campbell: *"Layne used to smuggle Demri into shows inside speaker cases. She was so little she could fit in there and that's how he'd bring her in."*

Tracy Johnson: *"They snuck her in the speaker boxes, etc. before they got big. That was at local shows like the Central Tavern, the Off Ramp, etc. Because she wasn't twenty-one yet."*

Hope Cornetta: *"Paramount Theater, Seattle, 1993. We were three teenagers attending a Screaming Trees show on a school night. Some cool 'grown ups' handed us their backstage passes and we headed up to, more than likely, our first party ever.*



"You guys really put on a great party! (for a bunch of kids!) Demri Staley"
📸 cr.: Hope Cornetta

The three of us were walking around backstage just starstruck, got our shirts signed by their corresponding lead singers, mine was Mudhoney, and just sat on the stairs to watch everyone. This SUPER nice lady came over and started visiting with us. At one point she hinted that she and her boyfriend needed a ride home. He was out looking for their car and couldn't find it. We said sure. She was cool so her boyfriend must be as well. A moment later up walks Layne and holds and kisses her. She introduced us to her boyfriend and we about died. 'We are giving Layne Staley a ride?!' They were living at his dads at the time because their house was being built/fixed.
This was just before their Lollapalooza tour and we got to give them our feedback on merch designs. We said we had tickets and he said he'd love to see us at the show (the Gorge parking lot dust fest).

Layne chose the backseat with his feet on the hump. We talked about band dynamics, Lollapalooza, and then Demri asked if we had any friends who were in love with Layne. I was squished on his right side and immediately and instinctively raised my hand and shouted 'I am!' From that point on she called me his girlfriend. I got a peck on the cheek from him when we said our goodbyes. They were oh, so sweet.

We had no clue where we were (Kirkland, maybe?) or how to get home to the South Sound. Layne was so sweet. Drew us a map but went through about 4 versions until it was perfect. We said our goodbyes, and we got hugs, and we headed out. Nobody at school the next day believed us.

We spotted Layne at Lollapalooza but couldn't get his attention."

Amber Ferrano: *"Layne and Demri were always the pranksters. We'd shop at Archie McPhee in Seattle for prankster items. Both Layne and Demri had a major sweet tooth and loved their candy. I knew their favorites but there*

wasn't one they didn't like. One of the places we'd go was this candy store in Pioneer Square where we could get current and retro candy, and jokester candies and gimmicks. They loved stuff that burned your mouth or turned it a funny color or exploded extra suprise factor so they could get a good laugh."

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri and Layne loved to shock people. Get a reaction out of someone wether it be laughter or shock. Both of them were pretty hilarious, together they were pretty funny too, and cute."* [5]

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"I loved their sense of humor and 'geekiness'. So immature and childlike but deeper than the ocean."*



Joshua Tree, CA, 1992
📸 photogr.: Alison Dyer

Paula B.: *"Something very unique between Layne and Demri was their way of communicating with each other. They were both very attuned vocally, keyed into sound, they would say abstract things to each other in weird funny voices and crack up, like they had their own secret language."*

Amber Ferrano: *"I remember Layne and Demri mimicking others perfectly and each other. She used to do this one thing singing out loud that became a signature thing Layne always did. She called him out on it, he had no idea. Then I realized we all kinda did it without knowing. Not only do families and couples start sharing mannerisms, friends do to."*

Justin Moon: *"In 1990, I was a seventeen-year-old senior in high school. Alice in Chains had just released Facelift. One of my best friends at the time got kicked out of school and with his newfound freedom, he basically became a male groupie and somehow managed to ingratiate himself into the local rock scene.*

Through all of that, we met a woman named Demri Parrott. If you've seen 'Almost Famous', she was our own Miss Penny Lane, and she also happened to be the girlfriend of Layne Staley, the lead singer for Alice in Chains. Demri epitomized everything that was cool in the Seattle rock scene; her taste in music was impeccable, she was a great artist and she had this infectious smile and personality that attracted people to her. She was a firefly. She was also older and cooler than us, but for whatever reason, she seemed to

have a soft spot in her heart for our little crew of rock boys. As a result, we ended up spending a bit of time at the apartment she shared with Layne; so much time that her couch quickly turned into a crash bed for one of my friends who decided that it was more to stay with Demri and Layne than it was to go home to Mom and Dad. So, after another late night at their garden apartment near the old Lobo Inn, I headed home in my Volkswagen Van (nicknamed the 'Shame Train' by Cole from Sweet Water) and just before I leave, my couch crashing buddy asks me to come back in the morning to pick him for school. A few short hours later, I'm back at Demri's apartment to pick him up. I push the buzzer button next to her name. Nothing. I push it again. Nothing. Hmm. Figuring they all must be passed out and without giving it much thought, I reach into my wallet for my bank card and just like you've seen in the movies and on TV a hundred times, I pull out my card and begin to slide it into the door slot. To my utter shock and disbelief, the door opens. A short flight of stairs later, I'm at her apartment door. I knock. Nothing. Another knock. Nothing. Without thinking twice, I pull out my card again and of course, it works again. Now I'm inside and the glamour of the night before has faded. Shades half drawn, my buddy is face down on the couch, fully clothed and snoring. Half empty beers and cigarette butts stubbed into ashtrays clutter the coffee table beside him. We're running late now, so I shake him and tell him we need to go. Now. As we shuffle out, I steal a quick glance past the open bedroom door and see Demri and Layne sleeping peacefully. 15 minutes later, me and my buddy are sitting in English class, daydreaming of the night before and the adventures that lie ahead."



Joshua Tree, CA, 1992
📸 photogr.: Alison Dyer



Joshua Tree, CA, 1992
📸 photogr.: Alison Dyer

Angela Maynard: *"Demri and Layne would give my boyfriend at the time their bed when he got off tour because they would stay up all night*

fighting and then hashing things out. It was a small, street-level apartment on the corner of the same street where a club called the Off Ramp was, so we could stumble home after shows there. They had a closet with just a curtain covering it, and when everyone came over for after-hours partying, I would go to lean against the 'closet door' and fall into the god-danged closet over and over and over!"

Amber Ferrano: *"Layne brought his drawings over to the Gorge when we camped out (Lollapalooza with Beastie Boys, I think). They gave Demri a bag of chips the exact size of her body, it was so funny. She was like la-di-da and just opened them and started eating them on the way back to our tent handing them out to people. It's the first time any of us saw them and he was so unsure. I remember the look on his face was like a kid getting a gold star. He really started drawing a lot after that. The Art Supply store was a favorite thing to do, then up to Dick's on Capitol Hill like taking my kids for ice-cream.*

Layne was very thoughtful and fun. I was used to always paying, pay for gas, pay for food, pay instead of free tickets, etc. I remember when Layne gave Demri money to go get the three of us food. I said, "No, that's okay, I'll get mine". His first money, I didn't want him to use it up on me, 5 whole dollars if that. On the way there Demri made me realize he was so excited to be able to do it because Demri felt the same as me at first. We got Burger King food and came back and instead of sitting on the couch we set the coffee table like a dining table. He didn't really have stuff yet but Demri found a pretty cloth and some flowers from outside and put them in a vase, i.e. plastic cup, and we had plastic utensils and packets of salt and pepper, etc. Demri and I really wanted to make it look like a real meal, his special meal for us had him leave the room until it was all done. I just remember how proud he felt."

Cole: *"Met Layne and Demri a few times in the 90s Seattle music scene. Layne was well then, funny, easily accessible guy, and Demri was a beautiful livewire of a girl. They contrasted each other perfectly. Both very clever and great company. The one thing I remember about Demri is her beautiful teeth and she laughed with her mouth wide open. She was a real great looking girl that stood out in a crowd on her own and not just because she was Layne's girlfriend."*

John Brott: *"She was tiny with a lot of energy. Smiles with more smiles. A smoker and a toker. She calmed down everybody at times to help Layne. She was his companion in life."*

Amber Ferrano: *"When Layne found love and acceptance, which he missed out on before Demri (she was the glue for all his friends especially when he would go into his shell), she had to teach him to embrace it and that he deserved it (fame/recognition). He battled that. We all know where the core of that starts. Any positive influence he had that helped people through a dark time he cherished and envied as it was what he wanted. He cried when he read his first fan letter with me and Demri where someone said how his music helped them. He was so touched. It was right after about three letters that said they started using because of him. It devastated him. Demri and I knew every letter could not be bad. He quit reading them after the first good one. Demri went through and sorted them. When people told him they were able to kick because of him he lit up. Reading fan-mail that said it he would save in a special place. I told him, 'When you are down read those'. He loved getting gifts. He'd be like, 'Amber, look what someone in Michigan sent me, isn't this the coolest?'."*



Seattle, 1990
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Tania Beauchamp: *"Demri was with Layne when my sister and I met him in '91. They were holding hands and picking a movie to rent in the hotel lobby. I remember thinking she had beautiful hair. We asked Layne for his autograph. He was very happy to do so. I don't remember exactly what was said as I was so excited! I was 13 and my sister and I just loved Facelift. Demri smiled at us while we adored Layne."*

Terri Brannon: *"When Layne was on tour, Demri would come out to my house in Kirkland and stay sometimes. There wasn't any heroin out there. I didn't do it. The most I did was smoke a little weed every once in a while. We'd relax in the hot tub and talk and she would stay and watch TV or go to bed, sleep – normal everyday life. I left in 1991 and kept in touch with her for a while. I know that they loved each other very much. And I believe that they still loved each other even though they weren't together in the years before her death. I know that they loved each other. They were kindred spirits. I'm sure that they both did things that they regretted. I just wish that they could have been together. I know that he did a*

lot to try and help her but you can't get help if you don't want help. And we all see what has happened to most of the people that we know and love that got involved with heroin. It's a sad tale that repeats itself constantly. I do know that she did love Layne deeply and I feel that he loved her too. It's just a shame, that's all it is. Demri was a beautiful girl. Full of life and could have done anything she wanted to do. The camera loved her. She was funny, too… and lots of fun to be around. She was quite a bit younger than me, but we could relate to each other well. I'm just saying don't knock the girl. We all have our demons. And we know what happens when you fall deep into that dark space and you'll do anything just to get well. I'm not condoning her behavior if she did that. I'm just saying it is what it is. It's her business not ours."

Marcia Elston: *"Layne rented our upstairs apartment on Queen Anne for almost four years. Demri would follow me around the garden like a beautiful little fairy, I would make her chicken soup. I loved them both."*

Faye Mills: *"I love them both very much. They used to babysit my son for me when we all lived on Eastlake at Carolina Court apartments. I remember when Demri passed it was one of the saddest days ever."*

Amber Ferrano: *"There was no one prouder of him. Demri would always say, 'Look what Layne drew; listen to what Layne did', as she did with all her friends and family, she bragged about you to other friends. She would support you in your dreams and give you fuel to believe in them and go after them. One of the reasons for their 'forever love' is that he could go out in the world and play rockstar and date models or actresses but he knew that no one would love him unconditionally, rockstar or dirt poor, like Demri did.*

. . .

They were in love and soulmates, they had a somewhat open relationship, two adventurous people. She was bisexual but the bottom line was there was no one in the world like her so she wasn't replaceable. He knew no one would ever love him like she did because she loved him before he was famous and, as we joked, when he was still a butt-rocker. His artistry really developed and took off when he met her because she nourished it like she did in everyone she knew. She deserves credit for a lot of Seattle Musical Artists that she hasn't gotten."

Jacque: *"Demri was one of a kind, that is for sure. 4'11 [150 cm] and probably 95 lbs [43 kg], but nevertheless always the largest presence in the room. But it seemed like everywhere she went, eveyone was always saying,*

'There's Layne's girlfriend'. People were always trying to get close to her, to try and get close to Layne. It really pissed her off, because she was a star in her own right. If some girl or guy were chatting her up and it became apparent they were big fans of Layne, she'd ditch them fast. I think that's what she liked about me. I'd been talking to her somewhat unsuccessfully, when someone came up and said, 'You know she's Layne Staley's girlfriend?'. I said, 'Layne? Who is Layne?', 'You know, the lead singer of Alice in Chains?', 'Never heard of them', I said. They thought I was joking, but I was a bit late to the grunge scene. Anyway, she loved the fact I was talking to her and I didn't even know who she was. We became friends after that."

Amber Ferrano: *"Before Alice was 'signed', everyone referred to Layne as Demri's boyfriend. She was the one that knew everybody, and I mean every-body. You could not go anywhere from Vancouver to Los Angeles that she did not run into someone she knew. It bugged Layne a little, he said, because he wanted to be successful but he was also proud of it too because he loved Demri.*

When Alice was 'signed', it was flipped. Demri would not have minded so much, except it happened by people close to them that new them prior, intentional or not. She was her own person but it seemed to be said in a derogatory way as if she had latched on to him when she was there supporting him and helping him realize his dream. That was back in what was called The Butt Rock Days. Labels were not coming to Seattle to sign bands so it was not even a reality that he would ever realize that dream.

Demri needed money desperately for rehab or a roof over her head and would never ask Layne for a penny. She was proud that way. She wanted to be the moneymaker and support him, her friends, her family and strangers. She would give someone she did not know the last penny she had because she knew she could finagle it easier than they could or could find a bed or a meal that someone living on the streets could not. Sometimes things were not pretty but when you are young, you do dumb things."

Kathleen Austin: *"She never wanted to be known as 'Layne's girlfriend' and would correct people who referred to her in that manner. With a smile and 'I am Demri', proudly and confidently. I witnessed this many-many times."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"She never hated anyone or anything. Her soul was pure no matter what came at her, even when stuff clouded around her and Layne. Their spirits were bright and vulnerable to other forces. She didn't 'hate' being known as Layne's girlfriend at all. She loved Layne and he loved*



MTV Video Music Awards,
September 5th, 1991

her. But Dem had her own personality and journey, she was a 'star' on her own. She didn't like being introduced as, 'This is Layne's girlfriend', she preferred, 'This is Demri Parrott.' Basically, Layne didn't 'define' her and her talents."

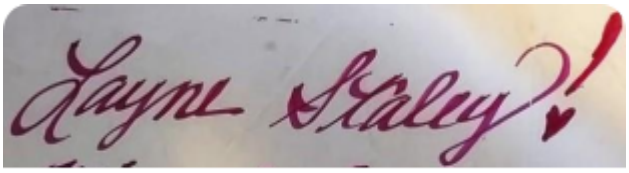
Rhonda Lundquist: *"I knew Demri since we were kids and I know in my heart she told me many times Layne was the love of her life. She was the most beautiful and amazing friend I have ever been blessed to have. She came out of the womb a star and she always shines bright on me."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Lenny Kravitz noticed her at an MTV Video Music Awards [1991]! She wore a black dress with a big star on it. He told her she had the most beautiful dress on, and that she's the most beautiful girl with curls! Of course she was hard NOT to notice with all her beauty inside that shined out through her eyes and smile."*



Demri wearing the star dress
MTV VMAs, September 5th, 1991
📸 cr.: shared on Reddit

John Palmer: *"Demri was a beautiful and free spirit, very loving with whom she knew. Such a beautiful soul, they both really were. Had many encounters with both in Washington state in Arlington, at the yearly Garlic festival. Many from grunge bands would show up there, met almost all of them. Never to perform but to chill. Lots of weedsmoking and just hanging. Celebrity status wasn't shown by them, and they were being themselves. Demri and Layne were so cool, and great people."*



Demri practicing calligraphy with purple ink
📸 cr.: Fabiola Gonzalez

Khari C Robinson: *"One night at the Off Ramp she asked to borrow my pen. It wrote with purple ink. She asked if she could keep it, so I said 'Sure'. A few days later she called me to ask if I could get her another pen like that because she*

had used all the ink in it writing a letter to Layne. I worked at an art supply store, so I ordered her a whole box of the purple ink pens. When I gave them to her she was so happy and surprised, you would think she had won the lottery!"

Amber Ferrano: *"When Demri invited me over for dinner (that meant I was the cook and there was virtually nothing in the house) and to watch the 'Again' he had just got the footage of, she was telling me everything that was his idea in it. He was shy about it as if not sure it was any good. He was one of the most talented people I ever met and the most humble about it. After we watched it he and Demri went in to jump up and down on the bed of his first 'grown up place' while I figured out dinner."*

Coulter Michele Theresa: *"I met Layne once*[6]*. I was working in a store he and his girlfriend came in. She was trying on boots and I laced them up for her. She was very beautiful, she favored Julia Roberts with wild hair and big smile. Layne smelled so good, like woods after rain. They were both very nice. I did not realize who he was until after they left the store."*

Chay Wilkerson Moore: *"The first time I met Demri and Layne, they came to our apartment for coffee, weed and video games. They lived in the apartment next to ours [Alice in Chains tech crew]. From that point in 1989, we would end up spending lots of time as friends, co-workers. What great memories they left me. She was as sweet and loving as you could imagine, Layne was always cynical, soft-spoken and polite. We would smoke and laugh a lot.*

Demri and Layne were family to me. They were two of my first Seattle friends. We went to the lake and took a music break as often as we could. In those times it was difficult to find time, we were very busy with music and work. Layne and Demri tried very hard to spend time together, but the music industry, friends and fans also wanted their time. Layne and Demri loved the sun, the water, and the mountains. I remember them always at Green Lake, Alki beach, or Lake Washington, they really loved the water. I've got a few Layne and Dem stories and most of them were relaxing in the sun together. And they loved each other very much.. That is a fact."

Anonymous: *"It was so fun hearing Kathleen recount memories of Demri and Layne hanging out on her couch playing video games, laughing, teasing each other, stealing an occasional kiss between bursts of laughter and*

[6] She met them in Tulsa around 1994-95. Someone told her they were in a rehab at *Laurette Clinic*.

the giggles of young love. Kathleen internally began illuminating as she spoke of the two. The joy and happiness once again became palatable and one could not help but smile at the innocent visions of Layne and Demri playing 'keep away' with the remote, or Layne's competitiveness with video games."

Nancy McCallum: *"Layne and Demri loved each other dearly. They wanted to be clean and sober. I think they met at a party. She was seventeen and he nineteen – about that. He was very shy, and she was a bright, shining little star flitting about. As time went on, she was part of the family.*

Demri's mom and I take solace in knowing that our children experienced great love from one another, and that they are no longer suffering." [8]

Kathleen Austin: *"I am always taken somewhat aback when people reference them as 'broke up'. Although they weren't 'together' their bond was always strong. People don't know or remember Demri was in the hospital the majority of 1994-1996, and Layne was always there. He would ride his Harley to my apartment, a block from the hospital, and I would take him inside (the hospital) where he would spend the night. I worked there and had a badge to gain access after visiting hours were over."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Sean [Kinney] wanted to pound the 'Yoko Ono' out of her, he loved her too, and he did call her that when we were talking, but it was like The Beatles in a Seattle grunge kind of way."*

Elsa: *"I'd heard Sean had Demri in mind when he wrote 'Love Song' on SAP. I don't know if he didn't like her, but I think the rest of the band had grown weary of her at that point – for various reasons. The way he says 'Go fuck yourself!' sounds like her too, but whatever he dished out, I'm sure she gave it back in return! She was funny and clever too. Layne called the cover for Dirt that came out later that year a 'revenge cover' that he and Demri didn't appreciate."*

From an interview with Alice in Chains producer (*Unplugged, Alice in Chains, Jar of Flies,* etc.) – Toby Wright:

Interviewer: Did Layne ever talk to you about Demri?

Toby: *"Sure did. He loved that woman like crazy."*

Interviewer: I would assume, and from what I've read, her death basically really took a huge toll on him until the end essentially, like he never got over it basically.

Toby: *"I would say that's absolutely accurate."*

David Duet of ***Cat Butt***: *"Alice in Chains didn't know what to think of Cat Butt; no one did at that time. Layne's girlfriend, Demri, was the one who made the connection between our bands. Demri, who was the cutest, most beautiful thing in the world, came up to me one night and lifted up her shirt. She showed me her belly button, and she goes, 'Look, I can make a cat's butt!'."* [7]

Mark Spiders of ***Willard***: *"Demri was a rare gem. Her smile was infectious. She lit up the room when she walked through the door and was the life of the party. I will always miss her as much as Layne."*



Jeff Ament, Eddie Vedder & Dave Abbruzzese

Dave Abbruzzese: *"She was the first person that I met when I arrived in Seattle for my audition. I was going up the stairs to the management office 207 ½ 1st avenue S. And she was coming down. For whatever reason, she socked me in the stomach and we had a laugh. She was free, and like a living pixie every time I witnessed her."*

🔊Video: **Jeff Ament** including Demri in his tribute to Alice in Chains at the MoPOP Founders Award (2020)

Kevin Shuss (Pearl Jam's longtime Videographer and Archivist): *"Was on tour in London with Pearl Jam. Took the phone call in production and got the news [of Demri's death]. Then had to tell the band and crew. Many years ago and I remember it vividly. I hope you found peace, Dem."*

Tom Morello: *"Layne had a sharp wit, great sense of humor and of course an incredible and unique singing voice. We would playfully argue about which of us was 'more metal.' His last recording ever was 'Another Brick In The Wall' which we did with Stephen Perkins and Martyne LeNoble. His longtime girlfriend Demri Parrott was a friend too. She appears on the Mad Season album cover. While Layne was quiet, Demri was wonderfully crazy. She was the concierge hostess for bands passing through Seattle. She knew all the best pinball and late night dining spots and had a wild and sweet soul, a true one of a kind. She passed away a few years before Layne did and I miss them both."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri and Kurt [Cobain] knew each other. Demri knew everyone. Kurt and Courtney [Love] were over one time. Layne and Kurt were talking about what to say or do when someone who made your life a living hell in High School approached them at a show with others around. Courtney wasn't very nice to Demri, she didn't like me at first either but she warmed up to me, don't know if she ever did to Demri. She did give Layne at least one birthday gift that was cool that he showed me after Kurt died. It was in a box. I think it was a heart or something. We did wonder if she had a crush on him. Most people thought Layne and Demri weren't together when they really were.*

. . .

I remember Layne talking to Kurt once about 'How do you react to the person acting like your best friend that used to make your life pure hell when you were in school, then were too nice to tell them to fuck off?'. Instead they'd be nice and let it eat them up inside."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Demri shared with me once that she was over at their house, and Courtney was bitchin' Kurt out, telling him what a terrible father he was."*

Amy: *"I remember that day vividly, sitting in the living room of a shared house with three friends, none of us sure what to do with ourselves as we were reeling over the loss of our mutual friend Andy [Wood]. We swore to each other we'd never try heroin. I was in Burien with Layne, Demri and Mike [Starr], all of us nervously cleaning the house. The fact that all three of them, and several others are dead, sort of feels like being narrowly missed by a bus. I hope they are all together. I'm sure there is laughter."*

Wedding Plans & Kids

At some point during 1990-91, Layne and Demri got engaged. Austin does not know the specifics of when or how this happened but says that Layne bought Demri a *claddagh ring* – an Irish design consisting of two hands clasping a heart, often surmounted by a crown. She recalled that Layne and Demri went to see her at Harborview Medical Center, where she worked, to tell her of their engagement, adding *"and then they had a big engagement dinner, down at the Old Spaghetti Factory."*



Seattle, 1990
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Jim Elmer recalls that the two families went out to dinner to celebrate the engagement. Wedding plans were made, though the engagement was eventually called off. According to Austin, Layne and Demri chose *Kiana Lodge* for the venue, located on Bainbridge Island, a ferry ride away from downtown Seattle. Demri bought a wedding dress from a vintage clothing store in Pioneer Square.



Johnny Bacolas remembers the engagement and thinks it happened in 1991. He recalls one time while working at his father's Greek restaurant in the U-District when Layne, Mike, and Demri came to see him. Layne told him he was engaged. He also recalls Mike taking a shot of whiskey and saying, *"I'm going to be his best man! He's my bro. I'm going to be his best man at the wedding!"* Bacolas assumed this to be true, because he was saying this openly with Layne and Demri right there. In terms of Layne's demeanor, Bacolas said, *"They seemed happy. It just seemed logical because he loved her and that was the next logical step."* Neither Jim Elmer nor Kathleen Austin had ever heard that Mike was to be



Layne, his sister Liz & father Phill, Demri & Johnny, Giorgios restaurant, 1991
📸 cr.: Johnny Bacolas

Layne's best man. *"It never got that far,"* Austin said. *"There wasn't a date. There were colors picked out, and nobody told them to me. But I do know that they were very happy at that time."* [1]

Amber Ferrano: *"I don't know the first time Demri called and told me, and I am not very girly to get caught up in how, although I am sure I probably journaled it. Fabiola knows because they went dress shopping, that might have been the second time he asked her. When she told me, I told her to come up to my mom's wedding dress shop and pick something out (we had Jessica McClintock) which looked vintage but she wanted actual vintage which is what her and Fabiola shopped for. I ended up bringing three dresses from the store and she picked one. At the time Layne was living with Damon [Stewart] and had just broken up with Simone and he had professed how stupid he was for breaking up with her and how much he really loved her and wanted to spend the rest of his life with her. He was being all mushy. Once he saw the dresses though reality set in as she tried one on after the other and he looked like a deer in headlights at first. I think a lot of it had to do with Damon and Howard [Gonzalez] being there. As Demri sat in the tub, I held the dresses as a final decision was made on the dress they liked the best. It wasn't the perfect one, Demri would have to alter it and she did later, taking the appliqué off and the bottom half of the dress, saving the beaded top part. As we talked about it and the possibility of having the wedding at my parents (on 10 acres with 52 landscape gardens), Damon and Howard sat out in the living room listening to the new Alice demo. I remember 'Would' being one of them. I think that was summer of 1992. In the summer of 1993 I don't remember the proposal but we were in Vegas at a house I was living at up at The Lakes. In May of 1994 Demri was in the hospital and Layne was on the phone talking to her. The plan was to do the European tour with Metallica and come home and do the Lollapalooza tour with a surprise wedding after one of the shows. Can't think of which, it would*



Late 80s
📸 photogr.: Randy E. Hall, shared by Linda Ode

seem like the Seattle one but I am thinking it may have been the Bay Area gig. Layne sounded excited and I made notes for him of things that needed to be done and then took him to UMC to see Demri and as far as I knew it was the plan until the bottom fell out over the Metallica thing. It's the last time I saw Layne clean and sober and he looked radiant and beautiful and his hair was a yellow-blond and he was a bit tan from being at rehab in Arizona where he took off to be with Demri the next day. I know at one point they had even talked about coming up to Alaska when I was living there to get married until Layne found out he was going to be on tour for a year without a break. I knew they would be together so it wasn't like a regular sit down and plan it as it could just have easily been a run off some place on a moments notice. In fact I am remembering Cabo being one idea and a beach wedding. I think he also proposed the first night they met."



Seattle, 1990
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"I remember talking with them about their wedding plans. Him in a top hat and tailed tuxedo, and her in a vintage dress, the head piece with draping pearls and pastel beads I was making for Dem to accent her beautiful crown of curls and face. Never finished. I just know that Layne and Demri dreamed of having kids. The dream was marriage, kids and the white picket fence, and part of the dream was a lot of art, expression and unconditional love."*

Kathleen Austin: *"They loved each other deeply, planned a future, wanted children. I spent many days and nights with them, you would have to have been there to understand. They were so much fun to be with. Hilarious communicating in their own special language."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was pregnant. The doctor told her to abort it because Layne and her were using at the time. The plan prior to the appointment was, of course, to get clean and for me to help. They tried to hook me up with Kurt and Courtney to be the nanny for Frances Bean, but I had a business, etc. Kurt was on board hundred percent, but I didn't really know Courtney and it was discussed at Rock in Rio where Mike [Starr] overdosed so*

I didn't take it seriously. Anyway, when I came back to town, it was a done deal with Demri."

Mara Whelan: *"Layne got Sadie as a kitten from me. He always wanted to have a baby girl with Demri and name her Sadie. When Demri found out he had named his kitten that she was furious because that name was supposed to be reserved for the daughter that clearly they would never have. I am glad he didn't wait to use the name."*



Sadie

'Long Gone Day'

Krisha Augerot: *"I worked at Espresso Roma in the University District on the Ave, and she was working there as well. I didn't know her, and then later on, I saw her again – I think she went out with Paul Uhlir from Sweet Water first, and then she started dating Layne. Kind of went back and forth between those two guys a couple of times. She was like the sweetest, cutest, tiny hippie chick – just adorable and gorgeous. Never would I have ever imagined what happened to her happening.*



Lake Washington, 1988-89
📸 cr.: Anna Hrnjak

Alice in Chains – I hung out with that scene in particular one summer. I don't remember exactly what year it was, but I was dating Jerry off and on, and hanging out with Demri. We'd all go to the beach every day during that summer at Magnuson Park, hang out, then have a barbeque at a friend's house. It was this constant party for the summer. It was a very free, loving time.

In the liner notes [of Above], he said something about, 'I'll always remember that summer', which was the summer – whatever year it was – where we all went to the beach and went to barbecues. That really fresh, youthful time that we all had before it was all about drugs. He mentioned a few names in there – I think he mentions my name, Demri, and another girl named Fabiola, who was really good friends with the two of them. I know that meant a lot to him – that whole time period." [9]



Demri w/ Krisha Augerot

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Remembering that summer of '89 when we were young and innocent, and free. Layne, Demri and I walking through the long grasses on the trails of Magnuson Park, heading to meet up with El Steiner, Freedom James, Krisha, Jerry, Betzold, Dmitri and others. Demri carrying her conga drum with a scarf wrapped around it, me with a bottle and a stick. Layne's hair half in dreads and curls with his goatee braided and one of my beads dangling on the end of it. He's wearing ripped up jean shorts and Dem and I in our bikinis. His and Demri's chests bare and golden from the sun, sparkles in our eyes and smiles, lots of smiles. We were going to worship, have a drum circle with our friends on the shores of Lake Washington and swim in its waters on a hot summer day."*

'Love, Hate, Love'

Mike Bobis: *"Layne and I were having a smoke outside of a party. I asked him what made him write the lyrics to "Love, Hate, Love". He simply pointed at Demri as she pulled her pants up after pissing on a bush 10 feet away. She fueled Layne's fire. I knew when she passed he was never going to be the same. They loved each other the way only people who have been together for 50 years do."*

Dean Delray: *[Love, Hate, Love] could be the best song that ever done. I mean, when you watch Love, Hate, Love live at the Moore, it's one of the most brutal performances ever.*

Dave Jerden, record producer: *"Yeah, that had to do with Layne's girlfriend, it was between the two of them, they had this love-hate-love relationship. She was good friends with Casey, Jane's Addiction Perry's girlfriend, all these girls hung out together, and she was from Seattle, this girl got around. But it was about the relationship of Layne and this girl. People would say she's the worst thing for Layne and all that, but I personally got along with her great, I thought she was really cool. She was like a hippie from San Francisco days, one of these free spirits."* [10]

Layne in an interview with ***Ian McFarlane***, 1991:

"That was a song about myself and my girlfriend and I wrote it during a time when I was treating her really badly and didn't know how to break the pattern. It was kind of therapeutic, you know? When you really don't know how to break a sick pattern, then you write it down and sing it and it kind of breaks the pattern."

'Confusion'

Layne for ***Rock Scene Magazine***, 1990:

*"That's about me and my girlfriend going back and forth," says Layne, "in and out of the relationship; her hating me, me hating her. Just always coming back to each other – this really sick cycle. Most of the songs are written like that, 'Confusion,' 'Love Hate Love' – it's like both pretty sick cycles in my relationship with her, but when I wrote them down on paper and got it out through music, the cycles stop right there. It's like I didn't realize what was going on, like I didn't have any idea why everything was so f*cked up and I just didn't stop until the pen did. I kept on writing. After that everything got better. That's why it's therapeutic. It's like I don't know how to f*cking stop it until I put it to music."*

'Sea of Sorrow'

The band was in Salt Lake City, and there they shot their third video: Sea of Sorrow. Known to fans as the 'girlfriends' video, all of the women in the video were local extras. Paul Rachman, who had directed the Man in The Box video, was brought back to work the magic. Rachman explains:

"Some of them wanted their girlfriends in the video, they insisted on that. But not everyone had a partner so we had to do casting in Salt Lake City. My original concept didn't include girlfriends and stuff. At the same time something was going on between Layne and Demri so we couldn't have them there."

Interviewer (David Bronstein): *"Did you know Demri?"*

Paul Rachman: *"Yes, she was very outgoing and fun to be around. A definite rock chick but also so full of life and her own ideas. A sweet woman. I first met her in Seattle when I shot the Temple of the Dog video – Hunger Strike. I still have a napkin that she scribbled on with her phone number and address and her desire to be an actress."*

Layne for ***Rock Scene Magazine***, 1990:

"Sea of Sorrow… That song's pretty simple, but it's twisted in a way. It's basically drawn from two experiences I had about two years apart, but they were exactly the same. I met a girl that was really attractive and I really was into her a lot. I really totally fell in love. They were really cool up to a point, then they started turning totally fucking psycho, and being destructive and abusive, all kinds of shit. That's what that song's about, relationships that started off really good, and they turned fatal attraction. It becomes a real sick

thing, from something that was really cool. That song's just about, 'Look, I had enough of this fucking shit, and I'm walking away. I live tomorrow, I've had enough of this shit. It's gone, it's past history, I'm outta here'."

DIRT Album Cover

Rocky Schenck met with the band on April 27, 1992, to discuss their new album and videos. He went to the studio on May 7, where he got to hear some of the new material for the first time, which he says 'completely blew me away.' They looked through his portfolio and started discussing ideas for the album cover.

"Their idea was to have a nude woman half buried in the desert. She could be either dead or alive," Schenck wrote. They discussed the type of woman the band wanted, and Schenck began casting shortly after.



Mariah O'Brien by Rocky Schenck, 1992

Eventually, Schenck submitted a photo of ***Mariah O'Brien***, a model he had worked with for the cover of Spinal Tap's 'Bitch School' single. The band chose her. [1]

Rocky Schenck for ***Revolver Magazine***, 2011:

"Everyone always asks if that is Demri on the Dirt cover. I think Demri's name might have been mentioned as a possible model once or twice, but it was never a serious consideration."

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri was **not** mad she was not on the cover of 'Dirt'. She was really hurt when they chose a model that looked so much like her that people thought it was her because it put her in a position where people would come up to her and say, 'Oh, wow, I saw you on the cover of Dirt.' And she'd have to say, 'No, no, that's not me.' Sometimes people believed her, and sometimes they didn't believe her. She wouldn't have minded if they got a model that didn't look just like her, but it put her in a really awkward position and it was really hurtful to her."*

Asked if Demri would have posed for the album cover had the band asked her to, Austin said she doesn't know because Layne's fame was overshadowing Demri's identity. *"She was just trying to maintain her own identity, never wanted to be somebody's girlfriend."* [1]

An excerpt from Drew Masters' interview with Layne for ***M.E.A.T Magazine***, 1992:

"This album cover… I like to refer to it as 'revenge'," Staley begins, laughing hysterically. *"The song Dirt was written to a certain person who basically buried my ass, so the woman on the album cover is kinda the portrayal of that person being sucked down into the dirt (laughs), instead of me. The picture is the spitting image of her, and that wasn't even planned. Actually, I was pretty angry about it when I first saw it – she's not happy about it either (laughs). It was real eerie."*



1991
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

ABOVE Album Cover

Amber Ferrano: *"I remember when Layne and Demri were staying with Fabiola she gave him the pen and ink that started him on his path to drawing. I also remember when he reluctantly showed Demri and I his first drawing. He didn't realize he was good. It didn't help that his second drawing was the one of him and Demri. She wondered why he made them look their ugliest instead of their best then used it on an 'Above' album cover. She hated that Layne drew her this way. I reminded Demri she set up the photoshoot which gave him the idea. She laughed. Many of those ideas were hers but the crown of thorns and Jesus' pose were his."*

SEXUALITY

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri was bisexual and she loved to flirt with girls. She also loved to embarrass them if at all possible. She'd whisper something in their ear and you'd see their mouth just drop open and you'd be like, 'Oh my God, Demri, what did you say to her?' It was always something overly sexual and wild and the girl was usually three shades of pink."* [5]



Xana's apartment, late 80s
📸 photogr.: Jack Plasky

Lea Nichols: *"She claimed she liked girls more than she did boys. Her first time with having a real intimate girlfriend was right around the time she first met Layne but was only dating the girl for a couple weeks, they both worked together at the Everett Mall clothing store. I was there for their first kiss and Demri was super nervous."*

Jeanine Barry: *"I totally remember Demri trying to make out with strangers in the girls' bathroom at RKCNDY and they were all like, 'Sure, what the hell!' She was seriously the cutest human being on the planet."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Demri did tell me the stripclubs in Vancouver were awesome, beautiful women, and of course it drove her crazy, and Layne too. Double edged sword for sure. They were both so transparent."*



Elsa: *"There was one time around 1990 when Demri and Layne invited a good looking friend to join them and stay the night, as in 'guest appearance'. Now, I don't know how often they did that, but I wouldn't be surprised if another woman took 'em up on it! Would you? If they're both into it, probably didn't consider it cheating."*

Sometime in 1993, Demri started dating a girl named *Rosheen Raugi* from Laguna Beach, who was 5 years younger than her and whom she met through their mutual friend Barbara Dearaujo.

ROSHEEN RAUGI

Rosheen Nicole Raugi was born on December 17, 1974 to Richard and Tina Raugi. She grew up in Laguna Beach, California, and graduated from Laguna Beach High School in 1993. Rosheen briefly attended Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo, California: *"She was only there for a year but it was the best year",* her high school friend Allison said.



Rosheen
📸 cr.: Barbara Dearaujo

"I went to high school with her in Mission Viejo. We had a brief friendship, we used to smoke pot together and laugh a lot. She was a sweet and sensitive person."

Linda: *"I was close with Rosheen as a freshman in high school. She secretly loved pop music like TLC, Paula Abdul and the B-52s but would never have admitted it! We would dance to those pop songs in secret. I'll always hold those memories of her carefree fun spirit."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She loved all kinds of music! She had pretty eclectic tastes but as a freshman she was always wanting to impress people and just be accepted, I think so. I think it's pretty funny she thought she needed to hide the fact she liked pop music, because I loved pop music too. Especially TLC. In fact, Rosheen reminded me of Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes. Like the spitting image of her swagger. She was Mexican but she had the same attitude as her. Rosheen also liked classic rock a lot, like Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, the Doors and so many others, as well as reggae – Bob Marley, Steel Pulse, Alpha Blondy and so many more. She always had her headphones on, just like me. We were a lot*



Capistrano Valley High School yearbook, 1992

alike in a lot of ways and super different in a lot of ways."

Rosheen was petite just like Demri and, according to her best friend Barbara, was a bit of a tomboy and never wore lipstick. *"Demri and Rosheen were the same size and so alike in some ways but also really different in others. Demri could be pretty selfish in her addiction while Ro was almost too selfless and had very little boundaries but they got along like hand in glove for sure. I'm not talking trash about her either. We all knew our shortcomings and I had the same issues, so no judgment here. We were very young and naive little girls just pretending to be adults."*



Rosheen and friends
Laguna Beach, CA, 1990
📸 **cr.: Lanessa Bustamante**

In the early 90's Rosheen moved to Seattle to be with Barbara. She was introduced to Demri and they started dating.

Barbara: *"Demri embarrassed even me sometimes with her lack of modesty, and boy did she love to make me blush! She would whisper in your ear crazy sexual crap just to watch you squirm. She was an extremely funny and clever girl. Rosheen was very modest but Demri rubbed off on her a little and she did become more daring when she was with her. I wonder what they would have been like as real adults. Sad we never really got to see."*



Laguna Beach High School yearbook

Amber Ferrano: *"I fell in love with Ro instantly and she was adorable, and cute, and cuddly. I am not sure if she was that way before but around Demri they were. It was like being around little cute puppies. When they were good it was great, when they messed up you just forgave them because they were really trying to help each other be and do better, and because they really-really wanted it and you wanted it for them."*

According to Amber, Layne and Demri never fully broke up. *"Demri was with Layne when she was with Rosheen and vice versa, and they both accepted it."* Rosheen once told her friend Lina that her and Layne used to fight like brother and sister.



Seattle, October of 1993
Demri (R) & Rosheen (L)
📸 cr.: sooopy - flickr.com

Rosheen wasn't around Demri and her friends towards the end. She was in town but not doing stuff with them.

In 1997 Rosheen got clean. Two weeks prior to her death she graduated from *Josephine County Drug Court* in Oregon. Drug court is a voluntary, alternative program for drug offenders focusing on treatment. To be eligible, a person must plead guilty and admit an addiction problem. The program can last between 12 months to 18 months or more.

From *Statesman Journal* newspaper, June 2, 1997:

*"After months of counseling and meetings, Rosheen Raugi says she has her criminal record and heroin addiction behind her. She is the first graduate of the Josephine County Drug Court. For the first time in a long time, Raugi, 22, has a driver's license and a job, and she thanks the court for both. '**I look at where I was a year ago and it is amazing where I am today**', she said. '**I have the best job I have ever had in my life. I still can't believe I got it**.' Raugi continues to be an active part of drug court, helping others. She plans to one day get married, have a family and pursue a career in human services."*



Seattle, October of 1993
Demri (R) & Rosheen (L)
📸 cr.: sooopy - flickr.com

Lina Maria Grimm: *"I graduated from Drug Court in 1997. Rosheen and I spent almost every day of that year before her death together. I loved her dearly, enough to give my first daughter her middle name [Nicole] in her memory. We met in Drug Court a little more than a year before my graduation. We spent many days working*

in the Meals on Wheels in Grants Pass, Oregon, doing our community service hours. Her company made the time fly. We had dreams of running away together in her orange Volkswagen Bug when we graduated the year long Drug Court program, we would often spend nights into the morning talking of dreams and plans. She often spoke of Layne and Demri and life in Seattle, she talked of it more whenever I'd sing or write music, she was such a brat sometimes. I remember feeling like a lost puppy and also a bodyguard around her constantly."



6C ★ STATESMAN JOURNAL LOCAL / OBITUARIES ★ MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1997

Drug court lets addicts change their lives without jail time

The programs in Oregon focus on treatment rather than punishment.

The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS — After months of counseling and meetings, Rosheen Raugi says she has her criminal record and heroin addiction behind her. She is the first graduate of the Josephine County Drug Court.

For the first time in a long time, Raugi, 22, has a driver's license and a job, and she thanks the court for both.

"I look at where I was a year ago and it is amazing where I am today," she said. "I have the best job I have ever had in my life. I still can't believe I got it."

Drug court is a voluntary, alternative program for drug offenders focusing on treatment. To be eligible, a person must plead guilty and admit an addiction problem. Some people facing low-level manufacturing or distribution charges may also be eligible.

The court is only 14 months old, but local judicial, law enforcement and rehabilitation officials see it as useful in fighting drug crimes.

Success catches on

Drug courts have sprung up in every state, and Josephine County's is one of five in Oregon.

Judge Gerald Neufeld helped create the court in Grants Pass and has presided over it from the beginning.

It mostly deals with methamphetamine and heroin addicts, said Scott Titzler, deputy district attorney and drug court team member.

Neufeld said nationwide, drug courts have a success rate of between 55 and 65 percent.

Rick Jones, clinical supervisor of Choices, the counseling center that serves drug court, said this statistic holds locally.

There are 54 people enrolled in drug court, but about 110 have participated, if only in the 14-day trial period.

Of those, 23 dropped out after the trial period, while 23 more made it through only to drop out before completing the program.

Drug court consists of four phases of a minimum of 13 weeks each. Time varies from person to person.

"It's tailored to fit the client's needs with the cooperation of the court," Jones said.

Effort counts

Participants must report to court an average of once a month. If they miss meetings, counseling or court, or if they test positive for drugs, they could face community service or jail time.

Neufeld said sometimes jail is the only way to get people off drugs.

Perfection is not expected, and participants are not kicked out unless they are not trying, Jones said.

"The court is understanding that these people are addicts," Jones said.

Dan Durbin, director of the Josephine County Interagency Narcotics Team, emphasized the difficulty and benefits of the program.

"The people who go through the program literally have to make life changes that put them in an environment that lets them break the molds they have been in for years," he said.

Jail for drug offenders has not always worked, and because of a lack of jail space, drug court provides a new solution, Durbin said.

Jones agreed that jail alone does not help addicts, citing a saying common among rehab workers: "Out of the gate by eight, and into the spoon by noon."

Raugi agrees. She has been in jail several times.

Cheaper than jail

Drug court has an annual budget of about $110,000. Per participant, it costs between $4,000 and $6,000.

Jailing someone costs about $25,000 a year, Neufeld said.

Financing comes from local community corrections, the state Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, a federal grant and the Oregon Health Plan.

Participants pay $300.

Raugi continues to be an active part of drug court, helping others.

Raugi plans to one day get married, have a family and pursue a career in human services.

Statesman Journal newspaper, June 2, 1997

Barbara: *"The fact we weren't close was at that time was for the best but I still missed her deeply. It's just we didn't do well together. Together we reminded me of two fireballs – uncontrollable and just too wild! So she had moved to Oregon to be closer to her mom and I stayed in Seattle and got busy getting my life together and having my son. I was super surprised to find out that she had an orange VW Bug the last year of her life! Only because I also had an orange Bug in high school and we were basically inseparable at the time so that Bug gave us both the kinda freedom we both wanted so badly! We wanted to explore the world. We're both Sagittarius, fire signs, and we also both had the absolute worst case of 'FOMO' aka 'fear of missing out'. Boy did we ever! We had so much fun in that little Volkswagen Bug and we called her 'Mo' aka the Magnificent Orange! I'd like to think she bought her own orange Bug in memory of good ole' Mo! We both loved that car. I don't think she ever owned a car before that one. She did have a little moped scooter in high school though, and she drove that thing everywhere no matter if it was super far or not. Hell or high-water could stop Rosheen if she wanted to do something! It was just her size too and she looked so cute on it! It was a perfect little ride for a teenager in Laguna because most any place we ever*

wanted to go was in a 5-15 mile radius and pretty safe but she still made me nervous on that thing because she'd just be zooming around with friends on the back and not always sober either."



Josephine County Judge Gerald Neufeld gives Rosheen her jail mug shots Grants Pass, May 23, 1997

Lina Maria Grimm: *"I was bartending back then and she convinced me to leave town with her to go see and meet her friends in Berkeley, California, without permission from our P.Os. She was supposed to wait for me to get off work that night, and I had a bag packed so we could just go. I was so worried when she stopped answering her phone that evening. I thought something bad happened, or she was arrested, turned out she just left without me to go to California alone. It was 3 days later I found out she overdosed in someone's bedroom in Berkeley, where they gave her a speedball and let her go to bed alone. As can be imagined, I blamed myself for not being with her, not protecting her but I know she did what she wanted. She was incredibly stubborn, maybe more stubborn than me. I miss her everyday. For many months I kept thinking I saw her orange bug around town, I thought maybe she was playing a joke on me. I kept waiting for the phone to ring with her number but it never did. I even held a couple of seances trying to get*

information on her death to make it make sense, it didn't work. Her death has always been weird and traumatizing to me. I loved her and still miss her."

Barbara: *"I wish I could've known her as a true adult woman, maybe with a family of her own. I was so sad she never got to meet my kids. My first baby, my son, was born April 28th 1997, which was only a few months before she died. I remember finding out she passed when my high school friend called me on the phone. I hadn't talked to her since high school so talking to her alone was crazy but then what she had to tell me... completely broke me. I was on my way out the door when she called and I had my baby and my boyfriend with me and I was hysterically crying and I ended up getting into fender-bender because I was so emotional and it was so stupid I was even driving, then just to add the cherry on top, the cops gave me a ticket for 'Driving and Crying'. I miss her so much, and I know I always will. I told her 'Best Friends Forever' and I meant that."*

Rosheen passed away from a drug overdose on June 19, 1997. She was only 22 years old.

Barbara: *"Rosheen lived her life to the fullest while she was here but she was most definitely taken far, far too soon. I remember Rosheen as having a huge heart and being the best, most giving friend in this world, one of the funniest and most dedicated friends I've ever had. She would've ran through fire for me if I'd asked, even if I didn't ask. I will never forget the dedication she showed for the ones she loved."*

Her ashes were scattered over the ocean.

ADDICTION & HEALTH

Demri's mother, Kathleen Austin, points out that she doesn't know when or how Demri first used heroin, because her daughter never told her. *"My daughter told me just about everything. My daughter told me things I didn't want to know. But she never called me and said, 'Hey, mom, guess what? I used heroin last night.' That's something that most people don't want other people to know."* [1]



David Duet: *"Before I left Seattle, Alice in Chains was having their big Bumbershoot show and Facelift was out. I would stay with Layne and Demri sometimes, and I had laid on their floor kicking for a couple of days. They were freaked out by it all and didn't understand it. Then I went back to Houston, where I was working at a nightclub, and the phone rang in the office. This was probably '91. It was Layne and Demri and they had to find me to tell me they started doing dope and how wonderful it was, and right then I knew they were goners. You can just tell when you talk to certain people, especially females. You can tell when they're lifers. Very seldom been wrong."* [7]

Joe: *"I saw them [Layne & Demri] at 'The Class' in Middletown, NY on October 23rd, 1991. Small bar, less than 200 people. Demri asked me for drugs for her 'period pains'. I had none, she wanted pain pills or heroin. So, I'm assuming, they were both using already at this point, but maybe not Layne. I only recently learned it was her. She told my girlfriend at the time,'I'm not flirting with your boyfriend, just trying to find drugs. My boyfriend is the singer'."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"Demri did not get Layne hooked on drugs. It was a mutual deal. Layne was just as addicted as Demri, just like all heroin addicts. It's just the consequences of trying the stuff and having genes that make us sensitive to addiction. Layne's father was a heroin addict and I also knew him and he was still using. It's a very vicious addiction that takes your soul, mind and body. I can say this because I was also addicted to heroin and did drugs with both of them and in fact was with Demri the first time I tried it.*

I don't blame Demri for my addiction though. No one forced me, in fact, she told me not to do it but I was curious. Curiosity is a bad thing sometimes. I know they both tried quitting and they both went to rehab several times during the time I knew them. I think they fed off each other as far as relapsing goes. It's hard being a couple and trying to quit because if one slips you both do. I know it wasn't always Demri who slipped first though. Layne was just as hardcore of an addict as Demri and vice versa. I can say the same thing for myself and my ex-boyfriend who was best friends with Layne [Darin Lamb].

Demri warned me not to try it and I didn't listen. I remember I called her when I tried to quit because I didn't understand why I was getting so sick and I wanted to know how to make it go away because there must be some magic pill to make it stop. She was so mad at me, she said, 'I told you not to do it, I told you not to get strung out', and hung up on me. I was only 19 and very naive. She was about 23-25 I believe at the time, and I looked up to her as an 'older than me' kinda deal. I was young, straight out of a southern California hippy high school who knew little of hard drugs and their evil. But I still got hooked, and very fast. Three days is all it takes to get strung out on heroin, yes. It's easy to kick after only 3 days but you still feel like shit when you try. Who wants to feel like shit when all you have to do is do a little more and you feel all better again? So, I figured out that there was indeed a magic pill that took away the sickness and it was... heroin itself. 'Phew all better... Now I can function again'. Sounds crazy, I know, but you get stuck in this vicious circle."

Lea Nichols: *"She let me take her to Harborview once to get off drugs and they turned her away. She looked at me and said she's gonna call her dealer and after she was done calling him she said to me, 'You know what's so messed up about being dope sick? The fact that I don't feel sick now that I know I'm gonna get some from my dealer.' She knew that it was mental just as much as it was physical.*

She was put in a nursing home and could not go out without permission due to her issue with taking other people's medications and taking advantage of a person in a sick bed. It was the only way to keep observation of her and for her to be in a non-jail hospital setting. She had stolen morphine packs from dying cancer patients at the hospital, that was one example. She would do anything to get the drugs, she had no shame. I was one of the first to stop supporting this kind of act, it was not like her, and so I just could not watch it, and she looked sicker and sicker every time I saw her, and she would get high and act like she wasn't sick, but her head was gigantic, her body was so skinny. It was really sad, it kept getting worse and worse."

Joseph S.: *"I haven't seen her since she was 2 doors down from me at Harborview in 1990s. She had an infection in her heart, I was in there for Cellulitis. She was trying to get me to score dope for her. She saw me jump into a convertible with my IV bag and Mexican friends driving, and said, 'I'm not stupid, I know what you were doing'. It's not like I really got to know her. Well, she talked me into getting her drugs the next day when I scored, again. Looking back on it, it was not cool of me. That was 35 years ago. Afterward she said, 'I should introduce you to my boyfriend Layne.' I wasn't interested because I didn't like Alice in Chains until probably 15 years later. I will say she was tiny, and petite, and beautiful for someone who wasn't sure if she was going to be in the hospital for 3 to 6 months. I gave her the number to the house I stayed at but never heard from her again."*

Anonymous: *"I knew her briefly. When I was selling drugs she came to my home a few times with some other people I knew to score. I honestly was not very fond of her because she was very demanding and felt like everyone should go way out of their way for her, like wanting to come over at 3 in the morning to score even after I said no, and wanting to meet my dealer so she could go above me. From other people I know that knew her better, they say she was a great artist, but I never got to see that side of her."*

Cedar T.: *"Demri was a mess. She was sometimes gracious and other times blew you off. Demri and I hung out a few times, and she told me about dropping in Layne's nose, and she would shoot up. Demri was a lost soul. Sweet, but lost. She took advantage of a lot of situations, like most people with addictive personalities."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"I remember Demri overdosing while she was staying with us while Layne was away. We found her and then me and Darin [Lamb] had to give her CPR until the ambulance got there. They gave her a shot of Narcan and she sat straight up and said, 'My rockstar boyfriend broke up with me!' Huh? Then we got her to Harborview Hospital and I was still in shock over what just happened. Demri is yelling at everyone and they kicked her out of the ER. She was fine and she was ready to move on. I was, once again, in awe."* [4]

Stuart Zarahn: *"I had the honor of driving Demri 3 times a week for several months to her clinic on Airport Way S in Seattle so she could get her Methadone. I drove a cab in those days. They had a house on 9th Ave W in the Queen Anne section just north of downtown. My initial encounter, I got out of the cab and rang the doorbell. Layne answered the door, high as a kite,*

unwashed and sweating. I recognized him right away and said, 'Nice to meet you, Layne.' He smiled and told me to take good care of his woman. After several months of taking Demri, who, by the way, was a sweet, pretty girl, I liked her as a person, she suddenly stopped going. A friend of mine, Ted, knew them for a few years. He told me she died from an overdose."

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri would say, 'Look how much fun we have now – imagine when I'm clean.'"*

Austin made plans to check her into one of three possible clinics, to give Demri some choice in the process. She chose a clinic in Port Angeles, a city in Clallam County on the shores of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Known as the Lodge, it supposedly specialized in treating heroin addiction, Austin said. Demri was going through mood swings during the entire drive. *"She would say things like, 'I'm fucking leaving as soon as I get there. As soon as I get there, I'm going in the front door and out the back door'. And I would respond with, 'Well, Dem, you're going to do what you're going to do. My job is to get you there"*, Austin said. *"I'd wink at Layne. Then she would say, 'Well, hope the food is good.'"*

They checked her in, and Austin and Layne drove back to Seattle. They joked that Demri would somehow get back to Seattle before them. Austin dropped Layne off at his home at around midnight; then she got home about an hour later and went to bed.

Because of her mood on the way to rehab, she felt guilty about it after checking in. Once admitted, she was supposed to be prohibited from receiving phone calls or any type of communication from the outside for a week.

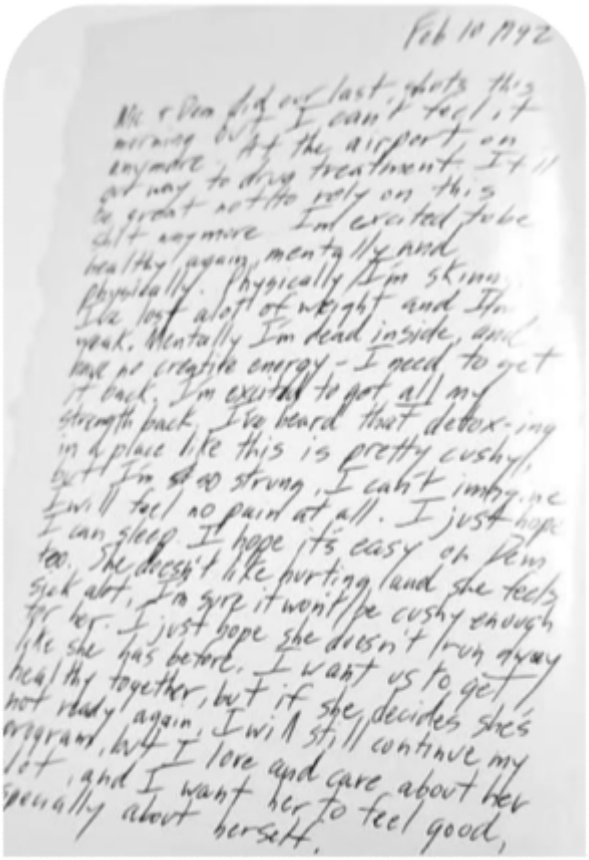
The staff agreed to make an exception and allowed her to call Austin and Layne. *"Her thing was: I've got to apologize to my mom and Layne. I've got to tell them I'm sorry. I've got to tell them that I love them. I'll stay. I'll stay and be a good person, if you just let me say I'm sorry."*

She didn't get through to either of them. Austin's bedroom phone was still disconnected from the intervention, and Layne was probably exhausted from his return trip from Germany. Demri checked herself out after a few hours.

According to Austin, Demri went to rehab two more times, staying the longest at the *Sundown M Ranch*, which she left a few days before graduation. *"She actually got kicked out of there for talking to people,"* Austin said. *"She did well there."* This was the only treatment Austin paid for herself. She said she would not be surprised if the others were paid for either by Layne, his management, or his record label. [1]

Sage Viniconis: *"I was there to help her on two different occasions to kick heroin. I fed her, gave her tons of art supplies to create with, cleaned up her vomit, and held her when she had the shakes. Yeah, it was an ordeal. The only rule I had was she knew if she went out the door of my apartment it would lock behind her, so she'd be locked out."* [4]

The following is an entry from Layne's diary dated February 10, 1991 from *"This Angry Pen of Mine: Recovering the Journals of Layne Staley"* book:


Feb 10 1992
Me & Dem did our last shots this morning but I can't feel it anymore. At the airport on our way to drug treatment. It'll be great not to rely on this shit anymore. I'm excited to be healthy again, mentally and physically. Physically I'm skinny, I've lost alot of weight and I'm weak. Mentally I'm dead inside, and have no creative energy - I need to get it back. I'm excited to get all my strength back. I've heard that detox-ing in a place like this is pretty cushy, but I'm so strung, I can't imagine I will feel no pain at all. I just hope I can sleep. I hope it's easy on Dem too. She doesn't like hurting and she feels sick alot, I'm sure it won't be cushy enough for her. I just hope she doesn't run away like she has before. I want us to get healthy together, but if she decides she's not ready again, I will still continue my program, but I love and care about her alot, and I want her to feel good, especially about herself.

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Tom Hansen: *"She'd always wanted him [Layne] to quit, and he'd always wanted her to quit, and neither of them had ever been able to. I'd seen that before, junkies had lots of good ideas, they just never seemed to be able to use them on themselves."*

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri was also in treatment with Gregg Allman*[7] *in one of the many times she went to rehab. Gregg called her 'little feet'."*

Katie Rawley: *"I remember meeting her for the first time at the Off Ramp one night. She was supposed to be in rehab but took off from there. She came to the Off Ramp that night asking everyone for a quarter. She said, 'I figured if I ask all my friends for a quarter I will get enough money to buy a drink'. I thought she was very pretty, tiny and looked lost."*

April O'Brien: *"I'll never forget the day she looked me straight in the eyes and said, 'Don't ever do heroin, April.' She was always a very nice person to me, very kind."*

Demri's health began taking a turn for the worse around Thanksgiving of 1993. She told her mother she had been having fevers in excess of a hundred degrees. Austin told Demri the next time it happened, she should go to the hospital. The first of many hospitalizations happened shortly after. *"She came in to the hospital for the first time at the end of November of '93. She was in until January of '94. She got out and was back in in March of '94 and at that time put on life support,"* Austin recalled. *"When she would be in, she would come in to the emergency room. They would admit her up into a medicine floor; then she'd go from the medicine floor to the Intensive Care Unit and life support, and then she wouldn't die. So she'd go back to the medicine floor – she'd be on IV and antibiotics for a month. This went on and on and on. She had her lungs operated on twice. She had her heart operated on twice. She suffered miserably."* [1]

Barbara Dearaujo: *"She was in and out of the hospital for months at a time before she actually passed away. I would go visit her and she had all the nurses going crazy. She put up all her drawings and flowers all over the walls and did things she wasn't supposed to do like take off with her IV and go out and smoke. She was a wild child. My heart goes out to her mom. She was a good mother and she tried so hard to help Demri but Demri was her own woman and she lived in the extreme always. She was a broken child. Grasping for something to relieve some deep pain that no one but her knew."* [5]

Simone S.: *"I met Demri at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. I was a cardiology nurse and took care of her during a cardiology procedure. She was beautiful, articulate and really smart. She was modeling up to that*

[7] *Gregory Allman (1947-2017)* was an American musician, singer and songwriter. He was known for performing in the *Allman Brothers Band*.

point. She and I had a therapeutic discussion, she had been offered a line to snort at a party – it was heroin, she got hooked from that moment on. She never wanted to be a heroin addict, then of course she started shooting. I was used to frank discussions that went something like this: 'Heroin will ruin your life, ruin your health, destroy your relationships, and then you will suffer and die young'. This would be followed by an offer to arrange medically assisted treatment if they were ready for rehab. That said, the lifestyle wasn't very healthy. The music well speaks for itself.

She had a childlike innocence while also possessing quite a maturity. She was a bit apathetic, I think that was the influence of her drug of choice. She seemed to know where her road would end, but in the end became victim. Her family was still trying to get her to some successful rehab situation. Her health deteriorated quickly. She made a big impression on me.

She was very intense and also a bit biased at times. She seemed to have been on a track that was healthy, modeling and actually being her own muse. She was very artistic and used her clothes to show her personality. She was a special person."

Alice L.: *"One of my sisters was one of her nurses at Harborview, here in Seattle. I remember seeing her in the hospital. Layne was visiting her then when I first found out. I've met her before she ended up in Harborview, I didn't care for her and the way she treated Layne. She was loud and obnoxious. I kept my back turned and Layne knew that I didn't care for her."*

Amber Ferrano: *"I loved Demri flaws and all. I was there for good and bad. Demri could always reach me and did, and I moved around a lot. I was her cheerleader and saw all her potential just like I do in others. We are here once and what a great thing if we could all reach our goals and follow our dreams. Demri may have had to do some bad things because of addiction but we all have done things here and there but it's certainly not who we are. She was a bit of a problem child but when things happen I always thought she was making me grow in bursting kinds of ways.*

I guess I'm pretty lucky that I had mostly great times with her and all the wonderful people I know from her, like Barbara, even though she wasn't a good influence on her. I know she felt bad about bringing drugs into her relationships. So many times of the doctors not giving her very good odds she did have to sit there and reckon with her choices and she knew she could have done better.

Demri was in the hospital at least 13 times. I was there for months on end so there wasn't a lot of time out of the hospital that she could get in

trouble. She was an addict for many of the years I knew her but I didn't know her as that or see her as that as we did do pretty normal things.

She loved to wake you up by running her fingers through your hair. I remember falling asleep with my head on the hospital bed and waking to her nails on my scalp thanking God she pulled through one more time."

James Burdyshaw: *"Demri had started lookin' kinda ragged for a young person. I knew she was really into dope deep at that point, and one time I saw her on the bus and she pulled up her shirt and showed me her scar from when she was on the hospital table and they had to massage her heart back to life. She almost died from doing a speedball. A month after I saw her on the bus, she was dead."* [7]

Chay Wilkerson Moore: *"I went to visit her at the hospital on Lake City Way, she showed me her big scar on her chest. I was thinking that she was in such pain but her smile and beauty took me past that thought."*

Jacque: *"She was very sick in the end. She'd had open heart surgery and had nerve damage to her feet which were mostly numb. She had no body fat at all, and was cold all the time. Often the car's heater would be on full blast, even on a nice day, everyone would be sweating and she'd be shivering and wearing a sweater."*



🔊 Video: Demri's mother, **Kathleen Austin**, talks about endocarditis (2005)

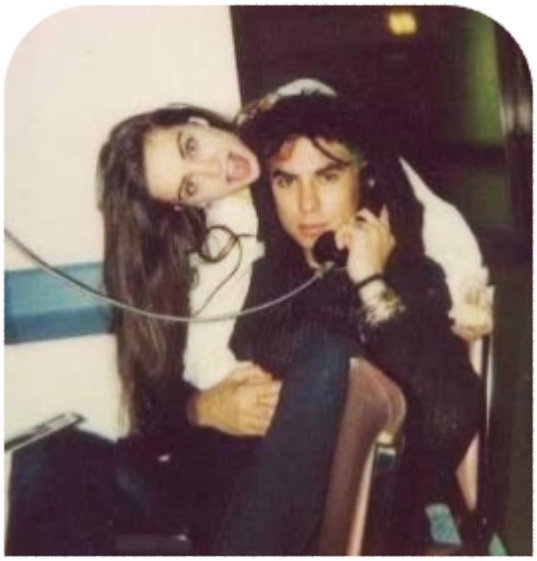
Tom Hansen: *"Demri ended up getting endocarditis, which is an infection of the lining around your heart. It happens a lot to drug addicts. When Demri passed, Layne really took that hard. She was really sweet and really cool."* [7]

Infective endocarditis, also called *bacterial endocarditis*, is an infection caused by bacteria that enter the bloodstream and settle in the heart lining, a heart valve or a blood vessel. IE is uncommon, but people with some heart conditions have a greater risk of developing it. People who inject drugs are also more likely to develop endocarditis.

According to Amber Ferrano, *Dave Navarro* was the one who brought up the endocarditis. They had the doctors check and found it on the back of Demri's heart valve.

Amber Ferrano: *"Dave was the one who brought up the endocarditis, asking if that is what she had. It was the first time we heard of it. All those times in the hospital. They ended up finding it on the back of her heart valve.*

Dave was my go-to person as someone who had kicked to help Layne and Demri when various things came up with them regarding drugs because they had used with him in the past when Jane's Addiction came through town and were now clean. Dave was their inspiration. He was in AA, and though they didn't believe in AA, they loved him; he was non-judgemental and kind. They really wanted to show him they could get clean. Bob Timmins[8] helped too. They thought if lifers could get clean because of him, there was hope. "



Demri with Dave Navarro in a treatment facility

David Aronek: *"I met Layne through Dave Navarro. Dave was newly sober and I was made Layne's original sober coach. Layne had detoxed successfully and was hitting 12 step meetings and was desperate to get his girlfriend Demri detoxified while he went on tour. So I detoxified her while he went on tour."*

While in the ICU, Austin said Demri was conscious but intubated – she had a tube inserted down her throat to help her breathe, which she despised. She would tell her mother, *"I hate being fucking intubated. I can't talk, and these people come and they ask me these fucking questions, and I can't fucking talk, and I feel like a fucking fish in a fucking fishbowl."* She communicated by writing on a small blackboard with a piece of chalk. [1]

Kathleen Austin: *"She became friends with a guy who had blown half his face off. He was from Idaho and had attempted suicide. He spent a lot of time at the hospital for reconstruction surgery. They would watch movies together. Of course this would be when she was out of ICU and receiving IV antibiotics."*

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[8] *Bob Timmins (1947-2008)* was an addiction specialist who is credited with salvaging the lives of a long list of celebrity drug users by steering them onto the path of sobriety and helping them stay there.

Demri visited Bad Animals Studio a few times during the Alice in Chains sessions, Sam Hofstedt recalled. *"She did not look good. She was like so, so, so skinny. And I think at one point during the record, she was actually in the hospital, and she survived, but at one point they said all her organs pretty much shut down for a little while. She was knocking at death's door."* [1]

According to Austin, while Demri and Layne's relationship might have been over, they still cared for each other. *"Demri was sick and dying for those last two and a half years. Layne would come and stay with her in the hospital at night."* Austin worked at Harborview Medical Center, where Demri was a patient, and would let Layne in the building with her pass. He would spend the night and leave the hospital in the anonymity of the early hours of the morning. Susan [Silver] also visited Demri while she was hospitalized. [1]

Despite the multiple hospitalizations and brushes with death, Demri continued using drugs. She had seemingly accepted that her addiction was going to kill her. One weekend, Demri was visiting her mother. After the visit, Austin was driving Demri back to Seattle when another car cut her off on the freeway. *"God, Mom! I hate you driving on this freeway every day. If anything were to happen to you, I don't know what I'd do,"* Demri said after the shock wore off. And then she said, *"I don't know why I said that. I'm going to die before you do."* Austin turned to her and said, *"Oh, okay. You love me so much, you're going to have me bury you? Do you have any idea what that would do to me?"* Demri was silent and then responded, *"Well, never really thought about it that way, but I know that I'll be dead before you. I'll be dead before I'm thirty."* She was right. [1]

Amber Ferrano: *"I brought mortuary books in to Demri at the hospital when Layne got back from New York in April of 1996. I, of course, shocked Demri and said I thought we could go coffin shopping. Of course when Layne got there she told on me. When she first saw them she was balling saying she didn't want to die. Layne talked about all the issues. I said you have to be clean to fix those issues and they get less and less. The thing with them was people waiting outside their home with drugs as a way to befriend them or mailing it to them. It killed Layne when he got letters about people using. He didn't write to glorify it, it was cathartic to work his way through it.*

While in New York doing Letterman and MTV Unplugged [April of 1996], management refused to tell Layne the doctors gave Demri a zero percent chance to pull through as they knew he would leave and not fulfill the contract. Dave [Navarro] was with the Red Hot Chili Peppers at the time and

coming to Seattle. Since Demri was asking people for various fast food I asked if we could delay telling her she was dying. I voted myself to tell her when Juliet [one of Demri's close friends] and I were with Kathleen when given the news. Kathleen was struggling with how to do that and I didn't want her to. They agreed we could wait one day. Lindy Goetz[9] helped get word to Dave, and Juliet picked him up after playing at the Seattle Center. Additionally, like with the opiate issue, now she was on high doses of pain medicines and left the hospital with none. She tried to go without as long as possible. Pills were 20$ bucks a piece. Heroin was free since it was mailed to her and brought to the hospital by fans. She joked that she should marry Dave since Layne had not shown up not knowing why he had not. She even was crying about it but touched he had been such a good friend and made that effort and she made a full recovery. The doctors said they had no explanation as to why she made it except the love of friends and family. Dave would never take any credit for what he did.

The worst thing for Demri was when Layne would go out of town she would rarely hear from anyone and as it was approaching time for him to come home from tour the phone would start ringing. It was very hurtful. Once when she was in the hospital (she had a zero percent chance to live and I believe the 13th time in), all these people showed up at the hospital. She was so happy and excited until she did not understand why they were not coming in the room to see her. They were waiting out in the waiting room. Then she realized they were waiting for Layne to arrive. She was so broken by that. Once Layne came home from New York and they all saw him she was back to being alone in the hospital. It was not until later that she found out she was not expected to make it and then it was like putting salt in the wound that those 'friends' did not care about her. There were always a handful of people there for her good times and bad but to show up at the hospital and ignore her was not cool. It is different from those that stayed away for sobriety reasons or because it was too much to deal with."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"Layne walked into Harborview Hospital the day after the MTV Unplugged performance. We were all there next to Demri's bedside, trying to give her strength and revive that spark in her and relieve the fear. He knew she was hospitalized when he sang this song [Nutshell] that day. You can feel his pain, his heartache, as hers lied broken in that hospital bed. A 3 percent chance of her making it through the weekend. With her million*

[9] *Lindy David Goetz* was a promotion person for record companies, who later became a talent manager in the Los Angeles area. He's notable as the longtime manager of the *Red Hot Chili Peppers.*

dollar smile, the look in her eyes read, 'Oh what have we done?' I jokingly said, 'Nice pink hair Layne.' He dyed it back to blonde the next day. He was always so sensitive. She made it through that weekend and was with us 6 more months."

Kathleen Austin: *"When they told us she had very little time left, Friday I asked for unlimited visitation. Friends took over the waiting room taking turns at her bedside. She was never without someone by her side. Monday morning Juliet and I were at her bedside when a doctor came in. He was thumbing through her medical chart, dropped it on the foot of the bed, looked at me and said, 'I don't know what to tell you. There is no medical explanation, everything has turned around.' Juliet and I looked at each other, then the doctor, and said, 'That's easy, it is love.'"*



Demri's Zed Card hand-colored by Amber
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay & Alison Dyer

Amber Ferrano: *"I made copies of her pictures to inspire her to get better by figuring out a Zed Card so when she got out of the hospital she had a positive goal to look forward to. The ones not the correct size we'd color. She loved to color so I'd bring crayons and coloring books in her care packages. Her way of thanking people was to use these pictures and make a 'thank you' card."*

Jack Plasky: *"One day Dem called me up, and asked me to come by Harborview. When I got there she asked me to carry her into the shower. I think that meant a lot to both of us – that human physical contact with a friend was so important."*

Doug: *"I was at Harborview in the MICU taking care of Demri on the ventilator during the time she died*[10]*. I was her Respiratory Therapist in charge of her breathing support. That was a long time ago now but I still remember it like yesterday. I was overwhelmed by the people touched by her. I knew she was a special person. The effects of drug addiction are well known to those of us in healthcare. I knew she was someone very*

[10] During one of her hospital stays, not when she died, since she died at Evergreen Hospital, not Harborview.

special, with issues that we all face in this life. It was remarkable that someone so young had a physical heart so old. I remember we made every effort to save her, and even though there were so many people there that were associated with the band, we never thought she was anything but special in her own right. I forever remembered her name and how she looked in that fragile state where we are totally supporting all her vital functions. My heart went out to her then, as it does now." [11]

LATER YEARS

Ryan Kalsbeck: *"Demri was staying for a bit with me at my old apartment off 45th and Lake City Way, we had been friends for years by this point but her addiction was sad for me to see. We had long serious conversations about a lot of things. Personal, to say the least. But she always carried her Leather Modeling Portfolio with her everywhere she would go or where she was staying, but she made me promise to please hold on to this portfolio for her and don't let anyone around it or in it and she would eventually have a solid place to bring it to and for safekeeping. I never let one picture wander off into anyone ever. I promised Demri I would guard it and I knew how important this was to her fading life. She was so afraid of loosing this or someone stealing it, probably swiping rare as fuck photos of her and Layne, stacks of the two in different vintage clothing. But I had her portfolio in my possession for at least one year, and one day like normal she left my apartment and I was still sleeping. Said, 'I'll see you at the Off Ramp later tonight.' I wasn't surprised to not run into her that night, and this was one of the last times of her disappearing, no one hearing from her for months at a time. But she always popped up at someone's place eventually. The story is deep, and thick, and personal for me to speak of."*



Demri's suitcase and belongings, 1990
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

One night in *May* or *June 1996*, a group of people came over to Russell's[11] apartment to hang out, Demri being one of them. Demri and Russell hit it off and began hanging out as friends. She eventually asked if she could stay at his place for a while. Russell agreed, and she crashed at his apartment off and on for about six to eight weeks that summer. Demri didn't have much in terms of possessions, only a few small suitcases carrying her

[11] *Russell* – a pseudonym – is a foreign-born musician who came to Seattle in 1996. He overstayed his visa and remained in Seattle, living and working as an undocumented immigrant, doing a variety of jobs to pay his part of the rent on a downtown apartment. He was dealing heroin to make extra money on the side and occasionally used some himself. [1]

clothes and some books. Sometimes she would visit her mother or a friend for a few days and come back.

"A lot of my friends that I sort of knew in Seattle I wasn't hanging around with for various reasons," Russell said of the time he met Demri. *"It was good to have a friend. So we went out to bars and [to see] rock bands – it was good to have a friend to hang out with."*

According to Russell, Demri told Layne *"I'm staying with this guy. He's a musician and he's really nice, blah, blah, blah."* Although Russell was a heroin dealer, Layne was not one of his buyers. Layne was not happy about the arrangement. He called Russell's apartment and left messages on the answering machine with comments like, *"You're not a musician – you're a drug dealer."*

"I didn't have a very good impression of Layne," Russell said. *"Every time I'd sort of say, 'He's an asshole,' she would always stick up for him."* Russell did not recall if Demri ever told him why they broke up. He remembers her saying when Layne got rich and famous, he started hanging around prostitutes, but he doesn't know if this is true or not.

Demri told Russell she was going to Layne's home once a week to clean the place up. Whether Demri was going there to clean or for a tryst or to get high or some combination of the three, Russell doesn't know. He does say that every time she came back from Layne's, she brought cocaine that he had given her. Russell started using cocaine after Demri shared some.

Demri told Russell about her health problems – that she had *bacterial endocarditis* and that her heart valves had been replaced. She showed him the foot-long scar going up the center of her rib cage. Russell was worried about her continued use of cocaine. He told her, *"I don't care about heroin and stuff – I'll give it to you. You don't have to worry about it. But why do you have to do coke? It's bad for your heart."* Russell got the impression that *"she was sort of feeling resigned that it was going to kill her anyway."*

At one point that summer, James Burdyshaw ran into Demri while riding on a bus near Pioneer Square. *"Hey, how's it going?"* Demri asked Burdyshaw, whom she hadn't seen in several years. Burdyshaw was dismayed at the sight of his friend. *"What made her look older was that she was skinny, really skinny. Her face was kind of sunken in. She used to be really fresh-faced, really kind of full-faced."* He could see her bones through her skin. She showed him the scar on her chest, telling him it was from when doctors had to massage her heart and that she almost died. It was the last time Burdyshaw saw her.

Demri had been gone for several days and Russell hadn't heard from her, so he called Austin's home because he was worried and thought she might

be there. She wasn't, Austin told him. When Demri finally came back to Russell's apartment, she was livid. *"What are you doing trying to check up on me? I don't want you ringing my mom's house!"*

Russell was developing a cocaine addiction, which affected his ability to make ends meet. He applied to go to a rehab clinic in California in early August 1996. *"I used to only ever use heroin, and it wasn't until I met Demri that I started using coke, and I think that's what actually drove me to rehab, so it was probably meeting Demri that saved my life,"* he said.

By late August, Russell was getting ready to leave. Demri had left a suitcase in his room, and he unsuccessfully tried to get ahold of her to tell her he was leaving and still had some of her stuff. *"I can only assume she went back and got it once I left. I don't know."* He thinks the last time he saw Demri would have been in August 1996 before he left for California. In retrospect, he said it was a bit upsetting he never had the opportunity to say goodbye to her. [1]

Anthony Magda: *"Cannot say that I knew Demri, however in late 1995 I was in the throes of my heroin addiction, I hung out at a chick's apartment. One day a tiny chick with short-short hair that actually looked like a little boy showed up needing some dope and coke. She told me her name was Demri and she used to date Layne Staley, I didn't doubt her because the gal whose apartment it was knew her and verified it. Anyway, we got some drugs and I got her high, she cried because I hit a tiny vein for her on the inside of the wrist. We laid around and talked, she was very kind and sweet, she showed me her scar from her open heart surgery to install a pig heart valve from her having bacterial endocarditis, she was so frail, this is a very sad, yet very true story. I feel guilty sharing this very intimate interaction with a kind, sick fellow addict near the end of her life. I can't believe that was so many years ago, happily I survived and am currently clean, living North of Seattle in Everett.*

. . .

I can credit both Layne and especially Dem for pushing me towards recovery. In 1995, I had the pleasure of meeting Dem at an apartment on Capitol Hill. She just had an open-heart surgery for her bacterial endocarditis, yet she was still a ball of life. As we spoke she told me about the problems she was having with her boyfriend/former fiancé. We went and met him at Paradiso cafe. Long story short, the conversation came around to our collective addictions. Layne was so sweet, he and I discovered I went to school with Sean Kinney, and that we had some mutual friends. Then he asked me what I planned to do about my 'problem' aka heroin addiction. He asked me if I could excuse him and Dem for a minute, which I did. About five minutes later

he came up to me with a card with a referral to Therapeutic Health Services Summit (which I didn't even know of at the time) and said to call them and give them the card. He and Dem then explained the pros and cons of Methadone Maintenance Treatment. I was obviously not in his position financially, so he said, 'Bro, if you want off this shit (heroin) this is a great first step'. He then went on to say it was not conducive to his lifestyle (touring, doing promotions, etc.) but for a normal dude like me it could, if I gave it a chance, save my life. Anyway, I called THS, set up an intake, and when the question of funding came up my counselor said, 'You have a very caring friend that has paid your intake, and a years worth of fees', which is around four grand. I saw Layne on the ave (U-District) and hugged and thanked him, he gave me that sly smile and said, 'For what?', and winked at me. He told me about a Mad Season show and put me on the VIP list. I asked him if he wanted to go have coffee or a beer, and he said, 'Brother, I love you, and thanks for liking me and Dem for just being us, but we would not be good for you right now! You are still at THS, right?'. I said, 'Yep, three months clean', he hugged me and said, 'Keep it up, you are making Dem and I happy, keep fighting, you can make it!'. He then looked me right in the eyes with those steel blue eyes of his and they were welling up, he then said, 'One of us has to make it out of this shit, make it you', to which he kissed me on the cheek, walked over to his Harley and rode away, Dem died about three months later, and I never saw Layne again. I love and miss both him and Dem everyday of my life because without them I would be dead."

Scott Bickham: *"The last time I saw her I picked her up hitchhiking on Capitol Hill. I gave her a ride to Harborview. She said something was wrong with her pacemaker. She had chopped off all of her hair, so I barely recognized her. She wouldn't let me go into the hospital with her. Never saw her again."*

Not long before her death, Demri had checked out of a hospital and spent about a month in a nursing home, where most of the patients were senior citizens. *"She had these little old people doing tricks for her"*, Austin recalled. While she visited one day, an older woman with no teeth came up to Demri and said something to her. *"Hey, I'm talking to my mom right now. But I'll talk to you after a while. Show my mom one of your tricks"*. At that point, Austin said, *"She took her tongue and stuck it out between her eyes. Dem cracks up, and I cracked up, and this lady cracked up"*.

Another patient, who had been a prominent architect in Seattle decades earlier, took off one night in his motorized wheelchair after taking his medication. He went into a Red Apple supermarket to buy donuts, soda, and potato chips. On his way back, he crashed his wheelchair and broke his

glasses. When they took him in after the accident, he said, *"I'm going to have a party with Demri – leave me alone!"*. [1]

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri would get in trouble walking around Wedgewood topless and the nurses would tell her to put a top on, and she'd say, 'Why? I have no boobs'. There was a 90-year-old guy trying to get busy with the women, and her topless would rile him all up."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"I was about four months along and made the trip from Spokane, we came to town, it was right after Kurt passed, and Demri was sad. We met up with her at the Off Ramp, of all places, me and my small belly in tow. She rubbed my belly and put her ear to it and said, 'Hello in there!'. I had just found out that I was having twin boys. She looked up at me and said, 'Isn't it a trip they're boys!'. She then said she had to get to Kurt's and we all left. Months later we moved back to West Seattle. She was in and out of Harborview and the next time we saw her was there when she had a small percent of survival but then she did hang on and went to Wedgewood outpatient, and we went to visit her, it was the last time I saw her. She had a really cute pixie cut, and she was running down the hallway, 'Fab!'. And I was, 'Oh my God, you're so alive and vibrant and cute!'. A little more time passed and we moved to Lake Stevens. The night of October 28th, we were driving around the lake and there was this big harvest moon rising, and all I could think of is I wonder where Dem is and what's she doing. I'll never forget that moment and the moon."*

Amber Ferrano: *"Her last Birthday Party… Demri wanted to make sure her most special people were there so she invited them to meet at her favorite place (Hamburger Mary's). There was a torrential downpour that lasted for four hours. She knew I probably wouldn't come because of it, but I did. I knew I had to because it could be her last. I can't recall now what I even gave her other than balloons, flowers and a homemade cake. She ordered her favorite, fettuccine with chicken and zucchini and a Dr. Pepper. She was daydreaming of this meal while in the hospital, motivation to get well. She was excited Layne was home to be there. He would not have missed it as they were also still best friends. He sat next to her like couples do and like we knew them to be when we came over or stayed the night with them. No break up, no tension, no being there out of obligation, just two people in love. Demri's wish was for her and Layne to get clean and start their life together as it had been and they had hope and he agreed. She was staying with Kathleen but went home with Layne until he left town again for work."*

Donald John: *"I was very close with Demri Parrott, knew her during her last year of life. I met her at the hospital through a friend and became very close to her. I used to visit her a lot while in the hospital, and we had some very deep spiritual conversations about everything, including her relationship with Layne from the start to the end. She even gave me a pair of sunglasses that was his. I used to read books to her and let her borrow a lot of my books, especially art books, to keep her busy. I used to hold her while she cried and watched her while she slept. I used to go outside with her when she wanted to smoke and when she was feeling better to walk, and met her mother. I even got to check out her mother's home which had a lot of pictures of Demri from her modeling days and stuff. Sometimes on her breaks she would come to my apartment that was like a 5 minute walk away from the hospital. She would come over and we would do heroin together and paint pictures with my art supplies, sitting Indian style on the floor listening to music. Then when she was released from the hospital she stayed with me for a while in my place and even slept in the same bed with me, we never had sexual relations but were deep friends and something more. She and Layne at the time were pretty much over even though he visited her while in the hospital. Sometimes we would cuddle in bed and she was so skinny. When she would leave to do her errands around town she would sometimes come back with gifts, like one time I got a cool wallet from her and a necklace with an angel on it – at the time I had my first tattoo of an angel on my forearm. When me and Demri first met I was just smoking heroin, then I started shooting and when she found out she was very upset. Time had passed and I saw her frequently. Then I found out about her death."*

FINAL DAYS & CAUSE OF DEATH

During her final days, Demri was staying with an older man named Tom, the father of a friend of hers, at his place in Bothell. According to Amber Ferrano, this *"older man"* was a drug dealer, he was not Demri's boyfriend, Demri was staying with him because he had klonopin so she wouldn't have seizures.

Demri had lived something of a nomadic existence, staying with different people for periods of a few days to a few weeks at a time. Toward the end of her life, it became very difficult for her to find a place to stay. *"People were afraid to have Dem stay with them, because no one wanted her to die at their house,"* Austin explained. Austin alleges that the older man was isolating Demri, keeping her away from people to the point where nobody, including Austin, was able to contact her. At one point, Austin called and told him, *"I want to talk to my daughter."* He made up some excuse why she couldn't. Austin wasn't having any of it. *"If I don't hear from my daughter within the next twenty minutes, I'm going to call the police, and we are going to show up at your door." "Well, I'll see if I can wake her up,"* he replied. Demri called her shortly after.



September of 1996
📸 cr.: Kathleen Austin

On the afternoon of October 28, 1996, the older man drove Demri into Seattle. She told him she wanted a few things from a Fred Meyer grocery store. When he arrived at the store, Demri was unconscious, and he couldn't wake her. He went into the store to pick up her things, leaving the car engine running so she wouldn't get cold. He came out of the store, drove home, and still couldn't wake her. He left her in the car unconscious so he could do his laundry. He eventually realized something was seriously wrong. He drove to the home of Jim and Marlene – two of Austin's patients – freaking out, saying, *"She's dead! She's dead! What am I going to do? What am I going to do?"* Jim checked on Demri and felt a slight pulse. He got in the driver's seat and told

Marlene and the older man to follow him in another car while he drove to the hospital.

Demri was eventually brought in to the emergency room at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland at 7:30 P.M. – two and a half hours after she first lost consciousness.

Austin got a phone call from the hospital, telling her Demri was there. They told her that the older man – whom Austin said they erroneously identified to her in the phone call and in the medical examiner's report as Demri's boyfriend – had brought her to the emergency room. By the time she got there, the man had left the hospital. Eventually, he called Austin on the phone and filled her in on what happened that afternoon. Austin was dismayed. *"I think, 'What a dumb fuck. Why didn't you take her to the hospital when you couldn't wake her up?'"*

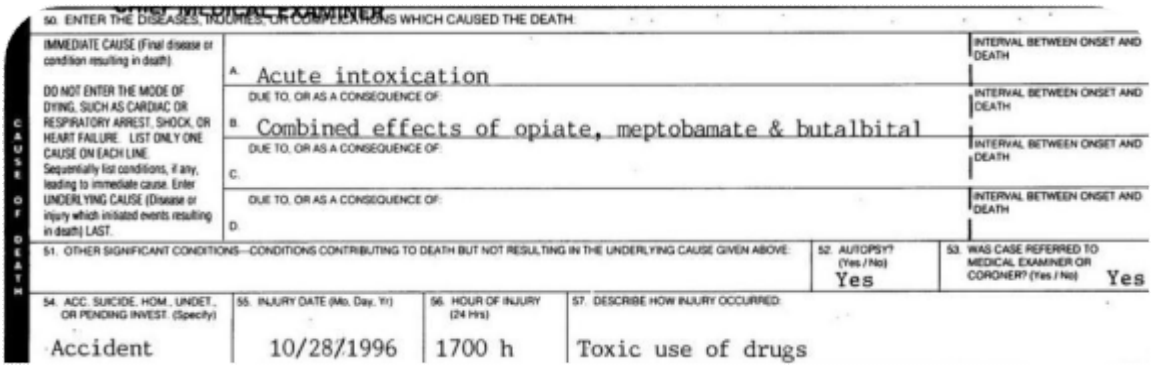


September of 1996
📸 cr.: Kathleen Austin

Austin's sister, Patricia Dean Austin, arrived at the hospital shortly after. At this point, Demri was still alive but unconscious. Kathleen asked the doctors if Demri could hear her. The doctors told her they thought she could. She clutched Demri's hand and said, *"Dem, if you have a choice to stay or to go, you don't have to stay for me anymore."* During previous hospitalizations, she had always told her to fight, to survive. This time was different. *"That was the only time that I ever gave her permission to go."* She found out later that Patricia had told Demri essentially the same thing. They stayed with Demri through the night, leaving only to get some sleep.

Early the next morning, Patricia and Kathleen Austin walked into the room where Demri was. Kathleen turned to look at her sister, who immediately feared the worst. *"Oh my God, she's gone,"* Patricia said. Kathleen went over to Demri, touched her face, and saw that her chest was moving. *"I said, 'Oh, her chest is moving.' Then said, 'No, no. That's the machine. She's gone.' I don't know how to describe nothing, that feeling of nothing. The night before, I felt her presence. I believe she passed away when we went to sleep. She knew*

my family would be there in the morning. She knew my sister was there. She knew I wasn't going to be alone. She knew I was okay, and gave her permission to go. So when I went to sleep, she passed away." Demri was still on life support, but she was gone. After being with her a few minutes, Kathleen and Patricia left the room. The doctors came a few minutes later and asked her if she wanted to be present when they disconnected Demri from life support. *"There's no reason for me to be there. My daughter's already gone,"* Kathleen responded.



CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

50. ENTER THE DISEASES, INJURIES, OR COMPLICATIONS WHICH CAUSED THE DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death).

DO NOT ENTER THE MODE OF DYING, SUCH AS CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST, SHOCK, OR HEART FAILURE. LIST ONLY ONE CAUSE ON EACH LINE. Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (Disease or injury which initiated events resulting in death) LAST.

A. Acute intoxication — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

B. Combined effects of opiate, meptobamate & butalbital — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

C. — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

D. — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

51. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS—CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RESULTING IN THE UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN ABOVE

52. AUTOPSY? (Yes / No): Yes

53. WAS CASE REFERRED TO MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER? (Yes / No): Yes

54. ACC. SUICIDE, HOM., UNDET., OR PENDING INVEST. (Specify)	55. INJURY DATE (Mo, Day, Yr)	56. HOUR OF INJURY (24 Hrs)	57. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED
Accident	10/28/1996	1700 h	Toxic use of drugs

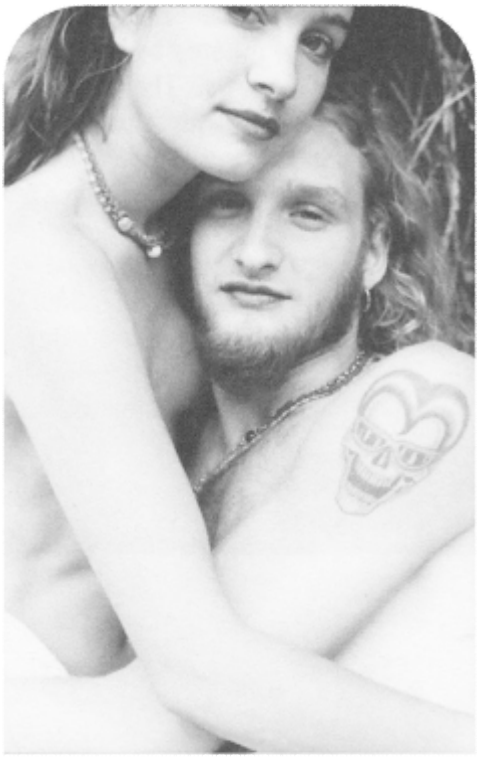
A doctor came back and confirmed Austin's conclusion that the life support equipment was keeping her alive. It was 7:40 A.M. – twelve hours after Demri was first admitted in the emergency room. She was *twenty-seven years old.* A coroner concluded that she died of ***acute intoxication caused by the combined effects of opiate, meprobamate, and butalbital***. [1]

Kathleen Austin: *"Demri **did die** of an **overdose** after not using for a short while. She battled endocarditis for over 2 years which the doctors informed my family they were unable to kill. I've often wondered if it was MRSA before it had a name. She had a heart valve repaired and another replaced and the pacemaker implanted at age 26."*

DREAMS & LEGACY

Amber Ferrano: *"Demri was just a girl who wanted to follow her dreams. They changed but one was to be a soap opera actress and especially play twins so she could do more acting. She wanted to marry a man she loved, have kids, and live on a block with all her friends so we could watch each other's kids, garden together and borrow sugar. I'm sure that block included her mom and her brothers, sister, cousin, dad, grandparents, etc. Because she loved her family dearly and her friends like family.*

We were all supposed to live on the same block on Magnolia to watch each other's kids and to borrow sugar from each other as Demri always said. She picked out the block and everything and everyone including Chris [Cornell] seemed to love that idea. Demri always wanted to come garden or have her own place to garden. Layne was going to help her get a place to do that before she died."



Seattle, 1990
📸 photogr.: Krista Kay

Mike Bobis: *"I wonder what Dem would be like now. Probably still trying to talk me into doing things I know I shouldn't but would, simply cause it'd be easier than dealing with her giving me shit for not doing them.*
I do miss them. They'd be the best hippie parents ever. We could barely get Dem to wear a shirt sometimes. Oh Dem, the wild child."

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"She always said, 'What's the big deal? I have a boy's chest!'. Best parents ever [Layne & Demri]. I miss that they weren't here to share in it. When Kurt passed I came to Seattle and saw Dem, and she put her ear to my pregnant belly and said, 'Isn't it wild? Two boys!'. When the boys were less than a year old, I went to Mad Season with Layne's stepdad. After the show, I showed him pictures, and Layne saw my son's photo and grinned, 'He's got big ears!'. They always wanted children. I met Dem's baby sister and Layne held her close. They wanted to, but they knew their 'condition'. The last time we saw her was at Wedgewood, she made sure to come out to our car and give my sons lovins' in their car seats, they were barely two years old. I saw it in*

her eyes and felt it in her soul. How I wish and hoped Demri would be around here for a while and have her own, and share in the joy of babies. She would have been a beautiful mom. Besides my boys, they were the loves of my life. They were so full of life."

Jennifer B.: *"The last time I saw Demri was when she went to the airport with me and my parents so she could hold my little baby one last time before heading to Germany. My heart hurts. I miss Demri so much."*

Terri Brannon: *"Last time I saw her, I went over to Carolina Court Apartments to say goodbye because I was moving back to Arkansas. I had a very sad feeling when I hugged her. I knew in my heart I'd never see her again. She was so full of life back then. A wild gypsy child. Reminded me of myself many years before. It's been years and years, but you never forget Demri. She is unforgettable."*

Johnny Bacolas: *"I'll never forget her energy. She always had the energy of a vibrant little girl. I miss her so much. Still. I remember all the talks we had late at night."*

Christina Naficy: *"We all miss her. She was warm and always went out of her way to make people feel comfortable."*

Cam Orgaard: *"I knew Demri. She pops into my head often. I unfortunately didn't know her for long enough, but she touched my heart in a very special way."*

Marjie Wild: *"I only knew her for a few short years but she made such an imprint on my life and many others with her love. She is always in my thoughts."*

Heidi Guinn: *"I miss Demri too. We weren't close friends, but she still made an imprint on my heart. She was an amazing person, and I'm honored to say she was my friend."*

Karie Pfeiffer-Simmons: *"I hold our childhood memories very dear to my heart and I will forever remember our laughter, tears, talking about our future dreams together and pulling all of us girls together to teach us about the big 'S' word. We had no idea what was ahead. We lost touch. I miss her so much! She touched the lives of everyone who was privileged to have her around. Thank you for touching mine. She's forever in my heart!"*

Nikki Thompson-Posey: *"Demri and I had many adventures together that always make me smile. She was one of those rare gifts to the world that was taken to soon but made an impact on all she knew."*

Krista Kay: *"You have no idea how much Demri influenced me. In every way. The vintage boots, the cut off thrift store dress, the silks, postcards, and dried flowers as decor. I am feeling deeply nostalgic and Demri is on my mind daily – for many reasons. She is still very much a part of me."*

Keli Lake: *"Demri is special to me because she inspired my self-confidence. It's complicated since she lacked it herself. It's like she gave it all away until she was depleted. Beautiful person to me."*

Kimberly: *"I miss her beyond words. I miss her spirit, her old soul, her smile. I miss our talks, how she would raid my clothes and turn them into something uniquely Demri. I miss her beautiful cards and notes. She always made everyone she knew feel happy and deeply loved. I have been burning her scent in my wax warmer for weeks – patchouli and gardenia. It brings me comfort just like she used to.*

Thank you for sending me signs that you're around from time to time. I'm convinced you sent the little female cardinal I see at my kitchen window every day. You were one of a kind, sweets."

Lea Nichols: *"Demri was an It-girl who could get anything she wanted when she put her mind and energy into it. She was a very extreme person and whenever she did something she did it with every bit of herself. I loved Demri and I will always remember the times we had together. People don't understand because they were not there but she was a very good and sweet person. I don't think except one or two times did I ever see her in a down energy or mood, she always had positive things to say about everybody, she was very sweet. I love her, especially with all the rotten people in the world now that go out of their way to be cruel on social media and bully people. She was not like that, she would never have done that. She was such a good person, even if she got sick and did some things to get the fix she needed to feel better. Remember, until you walk in somebody else's shoes you cannot know what they're going through or why they do the things they do so I suggest people don't slander or mark up a name of somebody like her because she captivated thousands and thousands after laying passed away but in life she was captivating to all her friends, there is no blame to put on her for Layne's downward spiral. Other than that she was beautiful and he lost his soulmate, the only blame would be in how beautiful she was inside and out."*

A few months after Demri's death, Layne asked Austin for the *teddy bear* Demri had had with her in the hospital and a few other things. They set up a time for Austin to meet at his condo in the U-District. Austin arrived and repeatedly rang the doorbell and got no answer. She went back to her car, waited for about half an hour, and tried again. Still no answer. Austin went home. She got a phone call from Layne at ten o'clock that night, asking why she hadn't shown up. Austin told him she had been there at the scheduled time, to which Layne responded that he had had to go out.



Demri's teddy bear
📸 cr.: Fabiola Gonzalez

Austin suspected he was out getting drugs. She ran into him by accident on Broadway a few weeks later and still had Demri's teddy bear and other things in the trunk of her car. They made the exchange at that point. This was the last time Austin saw him. [1]

Jack Plasky: *"The first time I met Layne was when he came by my studio after Demri passed. We hung out for about six or seven hours. We went through Demri's pictures. We did not talk much, it was more like sharing with me his pain. He was not a rock god that day, just a regular person who wanted to share the loss with each other. We had a very strong bond based on our love and caring for Demri, and her feelings for us. I got a strong true feeling from him when he looked at Demri's pictures, that life held nothing for him anymore."*



Early 90's
📸 cr.: Fabiola Gonzalez

Fabiola Gonzalez*: "The last time I saw Layne was at his U-District condo and he had a room set up with the newest digital drums of the time and headphones. He wanted me to play and I embarrassingly did. He had to show me how to hold the sticks and I meekly tried a cadence. He had a big photo of Demri that I had given to him from a photographer we worked with. It was in black and white and she's got a cheesy grin, holding a conga drum. It was February 22,*

2000, her birthday. As I sat on the drummer's chair, the photo to the left of me fell off the shelf it was on and turned upside down. Layne and I looked at each other bug-eyed! We went up to his deck that overlooked Lake Washington and wished her a Happy Birthday in the night. Then we were silent and at peace when we looked over the water and the stars. We hung out until the sun rose that morning."



Layne's favorite photo of him & Demri
MTV VMAs, September 5th, 1991
📸 cr.: shared on Reddit

Elsa: *"She was a funny, creative and, of course, beautiful light that went out. We attended a small Celebration of Life her mother had with her family and friends. When Layne walked in, there was no way I could even approach him. He looked so broken and I didn't know him well enough to offer any truly comforting words, so I left him alone. I did give him what he said was his favorite photo of him and Demri about a year later, he was very happy to have that."*

Fabiola Gonzalez: *"I remember at her memorial at the church, there was a thrift bazaar there. We were giggling, 'She's with us shopping at her own memorial, at the church.'"*

Demri and her uncle Richard shared a passion for poetry. He wrote a poem for her Service:

"Demri Lara was a beautiful wildflower!
Untamable, untouchable, ever-bending to the winds.
Like all wildflowers, she had durable roots
But a fragile blossom.
She chose to plant herself in the harshest of soils-
A back lot of scrabble rock and twisted, rusting metal,
Lacking sunshine and nutrients and pure sweet water.
But to her it was a garden where she could flourish and be among other wildflowers like herself,
Where she could define her own beauty, create her unique bouquet,
Be a wild rose in a field of forget-me-nots.

The season for a wildflower is short, and even more so for Demri,
Because there were so many poisons in her soil.
Her blossom faded and wilted before it's time.
The Bible teaches:
Whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are honest,
Whatsoever things are just,
Whatsoever things are pure,
Whatsoever things are lovely,
Whatsoever things are of good report,
If there be any virtue,
And if there be any praise...
Think on those things.
So I will remember Demri as she was when she was honest and just,
As when she faced her fears.
I'll remember Demri as she was when she was most pure and lovely,
As she was in her childhood.
I'll remember Demri as she was when she was most well-doing and virtuous,
As when she shared with her family and friends.
I'll remember Demri as she was when she was most worthy of praise,
As when she sought God!
Love, Uncle Richard."

Clay: *"Demri, it's been 13 years*[12] *since you went to be with Jesus and I still miss you so much sweetie. I'm so glad we got to share all the time with each other before you left us. When we prayed and talked about Heaven and The Lord, it still makes me think about how I look forward to seeing you again and being with you forever. I hope all the world knows you are with Christ now and your faith in Him, so they can have the same hope we shared. I'll always treasure your Bible your grandma gave me, until we are together again. Love you always, Clay."*

Sonja: *"I miss Demri every day. My daughter asked me, 'Mom, what's the meaning of my name?' All I could say is, 'It's the most beautiful playful angel in your heart and sky, most beautiful sunset to the sunrise.' I guess it's*

[12] This comment was left on *'findagrave'* website in March, 2009. Clay is also mentioned in Demri's obituary.

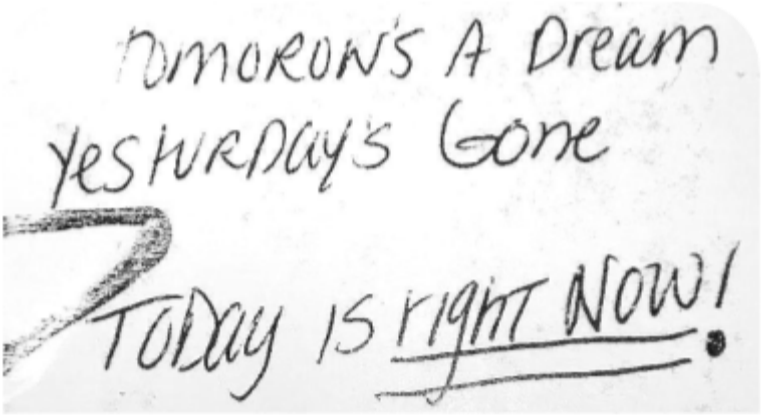
about love. This summer[13] will be the first time I show her where and who her name came from. I put a spin on it to create her own identity – Demerie. It was hard for me at first to even think about using her name for I sill mourn her departure."

Amber Ferrano: *"More than anything, I am so sad that Layne and Demri were good people and had to go through such sorrow, life could be so different and wonderful for them now. I remember when Demri died people were using the phrase, 'What a waste'. Kathleen was hurt by that and would say, 'My daughter's life wasn't a waste'. I felt it was a 'waste' in that Demri did not get all the great things she deserved back in life. I think we all would have loved to see that happen for her. People think of a drug addict wasting their life away but Demri kept up with me and I do not think she wasted a minute, let alone a second, she just got derailed."*

Barbara Dearaujo: *"I find it so right that even after Demri's passing she still has that undeniable charismatic spark that still attracts people to her like a magnet in a crazy way even 25-30 years later. Pretty powerful stuff if you ask me. She was loved by many and she will never be forgotten by those who knew her and hopefully now by those who only knew of her. I also hope people learn something from her life and from her death, if nothing else to stay away from drugs and to love themselves. To love life and to love people. To smile as much as possible and to laugh even when you want to cry."*

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[13] This comment was left on some website in May, 2017. Sonja is also mentioned in Demri's obituary.



"Tomorrow's a dream,
yesterday's gone,
today is right now!" – Demri

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