

This is our Cliff Notes version of the cultural notes so here's what these songs are about in a nutshell. They're in the order of when the songs will be performed in semi one and semi two. So if you're watching semi one or semi two on Peacock or wherever, it'll be easy to follow along. And if a song comes on out of this order, jump to the bottom of this doc!

### **Semi-Final One!**

1. **Cyprus - Silia Kapsis - *Liar***: It's about a liar. She doesn't like him!
2. **Serbia - Teya Dora - *Ramonda***: A song in tribute to the strength and resilience of the Serbian people, using the Ramonda (aka the Serbian phoenix flower) as a metaphor for that resilience.
3. **Lithuania - Silvester Belt - *Luktelk***: It's about waiting for your society to grow less oppressive and more progressive. But in the meantime, let's just vibe.
4. **Ireland - Bambie Thug - *Doomsday Blue***: Bambie's in love with a weird monster. On the surface, it's about a person who is being disregarded by someone for whom they care. On a deeper level, it's about the inequalities faced by queer folks.
5. **Ukraine - Jerry Heil and Alyona Alyona - *Teresa and Maria***: A tribute to all the people you admire and the realization that they were once normal human beings just like you. Also a prayer to the heavens to protect Ukraine.
6. **Poland - Luna - *The Tower***: Our favorite white witch is singing a nice little pop ditty about building the tower. By the end of the song, you'll have no doubt about who built it.
7. **Croatia - Baby Lasagna - *Rim Tim Tagi Dim***: This might seem like nonsense, but this is actually a song about how a lot of Eastern European nations are losing their best and brightest to countries that can pay more money. And as they leave behind their native countries, those countries sort of suffer for that loss, as do the people leaving it, as they are no longer connected to their homeland. Beautiful, and it rocks.
8. **Iceland - Hera Björk - *Scared of Heights***: She's starting a relationship. She's starting to fall in love, but she's a little afraid to go all in. Yes, it's your mom's favorite song.
9. **Slovenia - Raiven - *Veronika***: Based on the legend of a Slovenian royal tried for witchcraft who was killed by drowning despite beating the charges. Spooky.
10. **Finland - Windows95man - *No Rules!***: Benevolent anarchy with a beat. It's a song about not obeying the rules, baby, and if you didn't get that, you need to pay attention.

11. **Moldova - Natalia Barbu - *In The Middle*:** It's a song about a person who's just discovered the most perfect person, a person who is a work of art that they love deep inside their heart - dare we say, in the middle of their heart.
12. **Azerbaijan - Fahree feat. Ilkin Dovlatov - *Özünlə Apar*:** It is just a beautiful folkloric love song. Please don't ask us how it's pronounced.
13. **Australia - Electric Fields - *One Milkali (One Blood)*:** Hey y'all, we're all one blood, we all live on this crazy planet. All of our divisions are unnecessary. Let's make beautiful art together.
14. **Portugal - Iolanda - *Grito*:** Translates to scream. It is all about the insecurities and difficulties that you experience as an artist, as a creative person, and how you can overcome them if you push through the agony.
15. **Luxembourg - Tali - *Fighter*:** This is pretty similar to Grito, except with more punching.

### **Semi-Final Two!**

1. **Malta - Sarah Bonnici - *Loop*:** She's got you on loop. She can't stop thinking about you. It's on a loop. You get it.
2. **Albania - Besa - *Titan*:** A song about breaking my heart and translating a beautiful song into English that was originally in wonderful Albanian. But the actual song is about the resiliency to survive any and all hardship that comes your way. Good number of those this year!
3. **Greece - Marina Sati - *Zari*:** Oscar's favorite this year. What is it about? I don't know, but it's a bop. With some of these, you're just not going to get explanations and you need to deal with it. Just, like, listen to the song and you'll understand. It's a vibe. Something about taking risks on love.
4. **Switzerland - Nemo - *The Code*:** The Code is very explicitly Nemo's journey in discovering themselves and figuring out through all these different identities. Who am I? They're all of them, baby. Nemo's non-binary and that's how Nemo rolls.
5. **Czechia - Aiko - *Pedestal*:** A rock and roll banger dedicated to self-respect.
6. **Austria - Kaleen - *We Will Rave*:** Kaleen's going through a hard time after a break-up, so she's going to numb the pain at a rave. Doesn't seem effective in the long term, but she will rave.

7. **Denmark - Saba - *Sand***: Sand is weird, man. Hard to hold that stuff. It's gonna slip through your hands, sand. But in the context of a relationship, it feels like it's time and the relationship. It might be slipping away, right? Ooh, a metaphor.
8. **Armenia - Ladaniva - *Jako***: It is a song about a girl who refuses to conform to societal expectations because she's an individual and she's just going to dance.
9. **Latvia - Dons - *Hollow***: It's the sad boy anthem of Eurovision 2024.
10. **San Marino - Megara - *11:11***: It's a rock and roll breakup song, baby.
11. **Georgia - Nutsa - *Firefighter***: This song is about a relationship that's on the rocks and how this person wants to save the relationship before it burns.
12. **Belgium - Mustii - *Before the Party is Over***: He's shirtless and he's singing sad stuff. Everything sucks and we're doomed. And it's kind of about climate change? Don't worry about it, who wants shots?
13. **Estonia: 5miinust & Puuluup - *(nendest) narkootikumidest ei tea me (küll) midagi***: Jeremy's fave. Roughly translates to, "We really don't know anything about these drugs." They're getting raided by police, but they don't know anything about illicit activity. They're just weird dudes! What's going on? They just like cider and vitamins. That's an actual line from the song. It's so good, folks.
14. **Norway - Gåte - *Ulveham***: A rock-folk medieval revenge fairy tale about a woman who's been beset by all sorts of tragedy by her evil stepmother and how she ultimately gets her bloody revenge.
15. **The Netherlands - Joost Klien - *Europa***: A song about Joost traveling all of Europe, celebrating European unity, and also remembering his parents, who both passed early in Joost's life. A banger with heart.

### **Automatically Qualified for the Final (The Big Five and Last Year's Winner)**

1. **United Kingdom - Olly Alexander - *Dizzy***: He's dizzy for your kisses i don't know what more you want from that song
2. **Italy - Angelina Mango - *La Noia***: Dimitry's favorite of the year. A song about the highs and lows of life. You can't know the best of life without going through the worst of it as well.
3. **Spain - Nebulossa - *Zorra***: It's about being a vixen and promiscuous and being it's all about female empowerment and being just a big old slut, in a positive way.

4. **Sweden - Marcus and Martinus - *Unforgettable***: It's about a girl who's unforgettable. It's fine.
5. **France - Slimane - *Mon Amour***: It's a French love ballad. This man is confused about how his paramour feels about him, and damn it, he wants to know!
6. **Germany - Isaak - *Always On The Run***: Sung by a great singer, Isaak. It's a shame the song is horrible. It's about the difficulty that the singer is having with learning and figuring out exactly who he is. He's always on the run because his identity is always kind of in flux. It's a shame that somebody else wrote that same song and it's much better this year.