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### Pete's Blog&Grille: Come Meet A Proud Driver's Daughter

By Peter Carter, Posted: Jul 13, 2015 4:25 PM | Last Updated: Jul 15, 2015 4:07 PM

In a really weird tangled way, somebody at Italy's national airlines Alitalia did me and my friend Brittany Brodie a big favor, and here's how.

A long time ago, I had the incredibly good fortune to fly from Toronto all the way to India (ask me why in person, not in public) and the trip was in four stages, all told--from T.O. to Rome; then Rome to New Delhi, then home via Rome again.

It was my first trans-Atlantic trip, (my first trans-anything trip actually). And one of the best things about it was the inflight movie. Remember, in those days, all passengers watched the same show, like it or not.

It just so happened that on all four very long legs of that voyage, Alitalia screened *Coal Miner's Daughter*. It's the real life story of Loretta Lynn, as delivered in an Oscar-winning performance by Cissy Spacek.

Yup. I saw it four times.

So not only do I know many of the lyrics to the songs and much of the script, odds are I am this area-code's leading expert on "how to become a famous country singer," at least according to how it's done in the movies.

It's simple.

First, you dream of being a singer.

Oh, wait, first you have a truck-driving or coal-mining daddy. Then you get the dream.

In your late teens or early 20s, you head to Nashville, only to be knocked on your butt and fly home to pa, humbled. (See? It's easy.)

Your dad keeps bragging about you to everybody he meets, but you, a bit discouraged, get your own truck-driving job, and sometimes think about giving up on show-biz, but you don't.

While you drive, you sing.

You try Music City again. You butterfly into a determined if lovable pest until people with clout give you the time of day. You impress them with your determination and charm but mostly talent.

A band happens. A record gets made; you shop it around to all the country stations and then you go home and wait.

And the Grand Ole Opry calls.

It's that simple and it's the (almost) same walk to fame followed by all the greats that they made movies of: from *Coal Miner's Daughter* through to *Walk the Line*.

And now, I hope, by the woman I mentioned back in paragraph one, Brittany Brodie.



BRITTANY: Proud to be a Truck Driver's Daughter

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Brittany's the 29-year-old daughter of Mount-Forest.-ON-based long-haul driver Al Brodie, who I've known for almost 10 years. And when you meet him, first thing he does is brag about his and his wife Jeanna's three kids.

He's also a very enthusiastic C&W fan; his CB handle is "Country Gentleman." And he is one, too.

But today, Monday July 13, he'll be sitting especially tall behind the wheel.

Today, Brittany, who says she doesn't drive truck much any more, is releasing her first single. It's about the trucking life, and it's called "Together Never Alone." Radio stations across Canada are taking delivery of it as I type. And it's amazing.

First time I heard it, I almost crie... I mean, you know, maybe I was a bit tired or stressed or hung over or something. Anyway, I was in fact moved to tears and when I reported my response to Brit, she said she was thrilled.

Just like the people in the movies, Brittany is busy this week telling the world about her musical landmark, with glee and courage; she has radio interviews lined up and she's looking forward to performing at a showcase during the Canadian Country Music Awards in Halifax in September.

But meantime, there's some good old-hollywood-style promoting to do.

When Brittany told me about her plans, she suggested I tell readers to go to [iTunes.com/brittanybrodie](http://iTunes.com/brittanybrodie) to buy her song. "Tell everybody to call up their local radio station and request it." (That's precisely what Loretta Lynn would have done.)

Anyway, for some reason, when the Brittany Brodies of this world ask me to do something, I generally do it.

She also said you can follow her at these places: [www.facebook.com/brittanybrodiemusic](http://www.facebook.com/brittanybrodiemusic); [www.instagram.com/brittanybrodie](http://www.instagram.com/brittanybrodie); [www.twitter.com/brittanybrodie3](http://www.twitter.com/brittanybrodie3)

Personally, I'm thrilled for her and Al and Jeanna. I know what it's like to be proud of your kids.

And I'm also happy for the Canadian C&W scene. I'm thinking Brittany Brodie's is a presence not to be missed; and not just because she stands 6'1" and can drive truck.

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