

Amber Holcomb Bids a Sad Farewell to the 'American Idol' Stage



By Kerri Sheehan

[American Idol](#) viewers were disappointed to say goodbye to 19-year-old Texas native Amber Holcomb last night. After her elimination from the competition was announced, Holcomb broke down in tears as she belted out her last song “I Believe In You and Me,” originally sung by Whitney Houston. “Before the performance, we watched the video of memorable clips, and that always gets to me every single week. It was just a lot. It was really overwhelming.”

While her impromptu waterworks may lead some to think that the elimination blindsided the singer, Holcomb says otherwise. “They always say an Idol can feel it when it’s time, and I’m not going to lie; I honestly did feel like I was

the next to go.” However, she realizes that even though the competition has reached an end for her, it’s not the end of the experience. She gets to join the other contestants for the tour this summer. “I was really sad, but at the same time, I told myself that I still get to go on tour. I’ll see them all again, so I was happy. Tickets are on sale today, by the way!”

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Speaking of the connections she made during her time on *American Idol*, it seems the relationship between Holcomb and former cast-off Burnell Taylor is still brewing. Holcomb played it coy when asked about the New Orleans crooner, only saying, “We text a little bit, but we’re just really excited to go on tour together and see each other then.”

In addition to the tour, Holcomb has big plans for her future. The southern songstress believes that there is room in the industry for someone with her prowess, and she plans to keep the onstage persona she developed on the show, something that judge Nicki Minaj often praised. “My style, personally, it changes depending on my mood. I feel like, right now, there’s nobody like me, so why fix something that isn’t broken?”

The sky is the limit when it comes to her career. “I see myself in magazines, on every television channel, on Billboards, on the Grammys – all that good stuff.” She also hopes to dabble in acting and thinks *Glee* is “really relatable right now” for her. When it comes to singing, Holcomb names Minaj, Lil Wayne, Rihanna and Frank Ocean as artists she hopes to collaborate with someday.

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As a shout-out to her fans, she exclaims, “I want to say thank you to everyone who supported me. Expect great things from

me!”

To keep up with Holcomb, you can follow her [Twitter](#) or catch her on the American Idol [tour](#) this summer.

Burnell Taylor of ‘American Idol’: I “Really Like” Amber Holcomb



By [Whitney Baker](#)

[Johnson](#)

American Idol viewers were surprised to see New Orleans native Burnell Taylor sent home last night. Even mentor Jimmy Iovine predicted that he would be the last guy standing, saying at the start of the elimination show that Lazaro Arbos should be

voted off. Taylor, though, says he “had a feeling it was going to be me this week. I was prepared – it’s always a possibility.”

Still, he’s proud of himself for his performance of Bon Jovi’s “You Give Love a Bad Name” on Wednesday night. “I can’t believe I performed a rock song on live television,” he says with a laugh. “If somebody would’ve told me I was going to do that, I never would’ve believed them.” He adds that he “learned to roll with the punches” during the competition.

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Of his save song, the singer says that it wasn’t about him being saved by the judges. Instead, he wanted to leave his mark. He certainly did that, ending the song by kissing fellow contestant Amber Holcomb on the cheek. Of his relationship with the singing beauty, he says, “We’re still learning about each other. We’re not moving too fast. We’re both young, but we really like each other.”

Taylor also had a big effect on judge Mariah Carey and contestant Candice Glover, who were both in tears over his departure. “I never knew how much they cared about me. To see that they were so genuine really touched me. I broke down too.” As for Carey’s advice, Taylor says, “She told me that this wasn’t the end, that I should run with it. And that’s what I’m going to do. I feel like it’s about what you do after the show.”

So what does the crooner want to do now? “I want to be a storyteller and get as personal as I can with my album. I want to be honest. That’s what I feel is missing from the industry.” When asked about comparisons to John Legend, he shares that the Grammy winner is definitely of his inspirations. “As far as my music, though, I want to be as original as I can and do something that nobody’s ever done

before.”

He graciously thanks his fans – who he calls family – for their support and adds, “We shall meet again – and it’s won’t be too long.”

You can follow Taylor on [Twitter](#). Be sure to check him out on the American Idol summer tour too!