

Greyson, Moses and Landslide

To mark Greyson Michael Chance's sixteenth birthday on 16 August 2013

Exactly twenty years after Elvis Presley's death, Wichita Falls TX saw the birth of somebody who, like Presley, has what it takes to become one of the all-time greats of pop/rock.

Blessed with a firm trust in God and a strong personality and provided for with stupendous musicality, an impressive voice, felicity of verbal expression and acting talent he has an assortment of qualities not easily matched.

High school exams may be the reason why he released only two and a half new songs (one of them a cover-version) this year; another reason may be that after last year's voice change he decided to wait for his voice to shake down — or it may be Moses:

His older fellow musician Jon Bon Jovi, this year on tour with a stage in the shape of the front view of a huge classic American car, said on this very stage: 'In America, when you're a kid, you get your first car — and you name her. And this car is like your baby, it's your girlfriend, it's your lover, because this is *your car* — this is what it means to be a man back in America.' Greyson, who may have wanted to join the crowd of men, on 20 March announced his purchase of a 1966 Ford Mustang, which he named Moses.



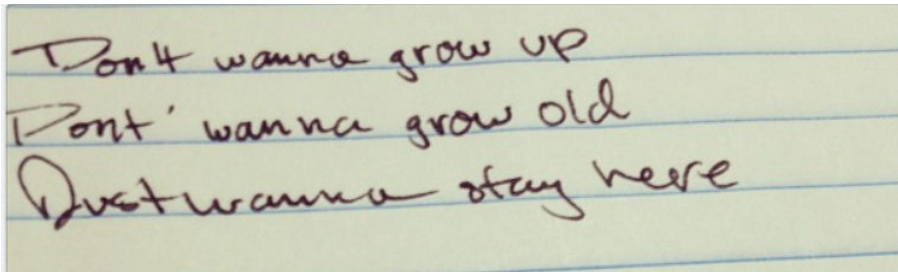
The following months were taken up by his efforts to learn car-driving, and from today onwards he will be permitted to drive unsupervised (even if it is a permission with restrictions for the first six months). I wish him joy and a motorist's life free of accidents!

Recently there have been indications that Greyson is afraid of aging.

His Easter tweet of 31 March 2013 had quite a jocular slant:

Happy Easter everybody! I asked my parents why the Easter Bunny didn't come, they said you're too old. I don't wanna grow up!

But what followed on 16 June was more serious:



This reminds me of his marvellous cover of 'Landslide' (the original is by Fleetwood Mac) of September 2012, recorded by AwesomenessTV at a rather dreary spot in Los Angeles:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShMAI1o4YUA>

It is about the fear of change ('Well, I've been afraid of changing') and the dejected observation:

Children get older
 And I'm getting older, too

If Greyson intends to work up the quoted lines into a song — fine! But if he is really afraid of changing I can only offer the following remarks:

Change is a fundamental principle that is at work everywhere and all the time, in each one of us and in the entire cosmos. Some changes are faster and others slower, but one thing is sure: change is value-neutral and does not automatically amount to a deterioration (and in fact it quite depends on our attitude whether we regard something as better or worse). For example, you would not be allowed to drive Moses alone if you did not have the age. There will be so many choice moments in your future life, even though you get older — or perhaps even because you get older — that it would be quite inappropriate to be worried. Just live your life and enjoy it!

And now, to wind up, my heartfelt congratulations on your sixteenth birthday!

Erwin Kohaut
 Vienna, Austria, Europe, 16 August 2013