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## CHAPTER 1

# EARLY LIFE

### WHO IS HALSEY?

Halsey is a singer and songwriter. Her given name is Ashley Nicolette Frangipane. She was born on September 29, 1994, in Clark, New Jersey. The star still visits her home state. New Jersey is “like a little sister or a little brother that’s annoying . . . but I love you still,” the singer told Business Insider.



## WHO IS BILLIE EILISH?

Singer and songwriter Billie Eilish was born on December 18, 2001. Her parents named her Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell. The singer was named after her grandfather Bill. "Pirate was going to be my middle name," she told the BBC in 2017. "But then my uncle had a problem with it because pirates are bad. Then Baird is my mother's name." Billie was born in Los Angeles, California.





Nicole Frangipane

## THE FRANGIPANE FAMILY

Halsey's parents are Nicole and Chris. They had her very young. Both dropped out of college to raise their child. Nicole worked security at a hospital. Chris managed a car dealership. Halsey's mother is Italian and Hungarian. Her father is African American and Irish.



## THE BAIRD O'CONNELL FAMILY

Billie's parents are Maggie Baird and Patrick O'Connell. They are both of Irish and Scottish descent. While working as actors in a play, the two met and fell in love. Maggie was in a famous comedy group called the Groundlings. Billie's parents were older than Halsey's parents when they had children. At that point, they stopped focusing on acting. Both did voice-over work, and Maggie taught trapeze classes. Patrick also worked at Mattel. He built displays for selling Barbie dolls.

A photograph of Maggie Baird, a woman with long dark hair, smiling and looking towards a child. The child is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned outfit and a matching bucket hat, and is holding a microphone. The background is dark with some stage lighting. A Spotify logo is visible in the top right corner.

Maggie Baird

## WORKING-CLASS NEW JERSEY GIRL



Nicole and Chris changed jobs often when Halsey was a child. They sometimes had to work two jobs each. The family moved from town to town for work. “I grew up in a really chaotic household,” Halsey told *Rolling Stone*. She changed schools nearly every year until the age of 13.

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood in Edison, New Jersey. The image shows a grid of residential streets with various houses, many with large trees in their yards. Several cars are parked along the streets. A blue callout box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Edison, New Jersey

## A BOHEMIAN FAMILY

Billie is from an artistic family. Like Halsey, her childhood was not privileged.

She was raised in Highland Park, Los Angeles. The singer says it was too dangerous to go outside after dark. “Automatically, people think you’re from Beverly Hills. . . . Not at all. I grew up with no money at all. . . . I had one pair of shoes and a shirt,” the star told the *Guardian*. Her parents still sleep in the living room of their two-bedroom bungalow.







## SCHOOL DAYS

Halsey went to Warren Hills Regional High School. This is in Washington, New Jersey. It is a small town. The teenager took advanced placement (AP) classes and was a good student. However, she did not fit in. Halsey was more artistic than many of her classmates. Painting was a hobby. She designed the school yearbook too. At 14, Halsey was posting her paintings and other work on MySpace. The teen also worked at a music venue. There, she helped to book bands. In 2012, the future star graduated high school.



## HOMESCHOOL



While Halsey went to many different schools, the Baird O'Connell children were homeschooled. Creativity and self-expression were important. Maggie explained to *Vogue*, "We homeschooled in a way that was interest-led and experiential. Nothing had a higher value than the other." Billie and her brother took art classes. They also went to museums. Her parents taught them math through cooking. Billie earned her GED when she was 15.

### HOMESCHOOLED STARS

Homeschooled students are often academic high achievers. Many stars have been homeschooled. Some began homeschooling after they became stars, and others long before. Stars who were homeschooled include Justin Bieber, Emma Watson, Venus and Serena Williams, the Jonas Brothers, Christina Aguilera, and Ryan Gosling. Demi Lovato and Selena Gomez were even homeschooled together.