

PALACE (SOLUTION)

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The first step is to figure out what is being referenced by the 20 given phrases in the red boxes. Although they sound like commands, some of the phrases resemble parts of song lyrics, and there are a few entry points of lyric segments from top hits by popular artistes which solvers might recognize. With the aha that these are actually parts of song lyrics, the next step is to identify which songs they came from. Keying these into an online lyrics search database such as [Genius](#) will yield the corresponding song as the top search hit for the respective phrase/lyrics segment. Just searching the lyrics directly on Google works well too, and the intended song should also be the top hit (or amongst the top hits, as there could possibly be false/partial matches depending on individual search results).

The table below summarizes the lyric segments in given order, the songs they came from, and their original artistes:

Lyric segments in given order	Songs	Original artistes
take the blame anyway	Warrior	Demi Lovato
simply disarm	Love You I Do	Jennifer Hudson
tell me that you're sorry	Apologize	OneRepublic
have fun tonight	Cheap Thrills	Sia
close your eyes but stay	Redbone	Childish Gambino
never get burnt	These Boots Are Made for Walkin'	Nancy Sinatra
know where my home is	I'm Like a Bird	Nelly Furtado
get in using my name	Love Yourself	Justin Bieber
let us live forever	Forever Young	Alphaville
live in memories of old	I Can't Stop Loving You	Don Gibson
bring a tear	Danny's Song	Loggins & Messina
have faith in all you do	I'll Be There	Jackson 5
give it a go	Lady Marmalade	Lil Kim, Mya, Christina Aguilera, Pink
know that you're toxic	Toxic	Britney Spears
learn much more	What a Wonderful World	Louis Armstrong
do a little thing	Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing	Stevie Wonder
take away his life	Unfaithful	Rihanna
burn your eyes better	Girl on Fire	Alicia Keys
tell me that you'll let him in	Young and Beautiful	Lana Del Rey
wish you never had met me	Rolling in the Deep	Adele

Each box also flips on mouseover to reveal a Bene Gesserit sister with a number index. This suggests that the singer of each song could be used with the index shown to extract a letter. However, not all the original artistes of these songs are female as hinted by the image and flavortext, which clues that these are probably not the ones intended to be used with the given indices. The next aha is that this puzzle's theme is on [The Voice](#) singing reality competition. This is hinted thematically and in the flavortext by the Bene Gesserit sisters using the Voice. Furthermore, the words "unseen" and "trying out" clues specifically the most iconic Blind Audition segment of this series, where the four judges in the show have to pick the contestants for their team from just hearing them sing in a blind audition. The rows of four red boxes reference the iconic red chairs of the judges, and how they swivel their chairs around to see the singer when they press their I WANT YOU button. Therefore, **the**

commonality is that all these 20 songs were sung before by a female contestant picked during the Blind Audition segment in uniquely one of the first 20 seasons of The Voice. So the next step is to identify these corresponding singers for the extraction. In all 27 seasons of The Voice, most of these 20 songs were only sung once before during the Blind Audition segments. One of the songs “Redbone” is trickier as some inferential/thematic disambiguation by solvers is required. Besides the intended season 15, the song was also sung the Blind Audition segment in other seasons, which need to be rejected based on the inferred requirements – season 13 by Anthony Alexander (a male), season 14 by MaKenzie Thomas (a female, but no judges turned their chairs for her that season), as well as seasons 24 and 26 (not contiguous with other seasons, clued by the flavortext that these songs/seasons were “from the start without a break”). To help with confirmation for these disambiguation requirements, there are also three other songs (“Danny’s Song”, “Love Yourself” and “Don’t You Worry ‘Bout a Thing”) which respectively have one of each similar type of disambiguation needed as well. As further confirmation and help, the correct contestant singers are in alphabetical order of their names based on the given order.

The table below summarizes the songs in given lyrics order, the picked female contestants who sang the songs during the Blind Audition segment, the corresponding seasons, they came from, the given indices, and the extracted letters from the singers using these indices:

Songs in given order	Contestant singers	Seasons	Given indices	Extracted letters
Warrior	Brittney Lawrence	10	4	T
Love You I Do	Celeste Betton	9	3	L
Apologize	Charlotte Sometimes	2	6	O
Cheap Thrills	Davina Leone	12	5	N
Redbone	Foushé	15	1	F
These Boots Are Made for Walkin'	Grace Askew	4	4	C
I'm Like a Bird	Halley Greg	20	5	E
Love Yourself	Josette Diaz	11	2	O
Forever Young	Kailey Abel	18	3	I
I Can't Stop Loving You	Keisha Renee	13	2	E
Danny's Song	Kelli Douglas	7	8	U
I'll Be There	Larriah Jackson	19	10	C
Lady Marmalade	Lindsay Pagano	6	5	S
Toxic	Melanie Martinez	3	5	N
What a Wonderful World	Melinda Rodriguez	17	9	O
Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing	Savannah Brister	16	3	V
Unfaithful	Teana Boston	14	7	O
Girl on Fire	Timyra-Joi	5	6	A
Young and Beautiful	Treeva Gibson	8	6	A
Rolling in the Deep	Vicci Martinez	1	11	N

Reordering the extracted letters by the corresponding unique seasons (1-20) which these picked female contestants sang those songs gives the clue phrase – NONCASUAL TONE OF VOICE. This clues the answer to this puzzle **FORMAL**.

Constructor's notes:

The mysterious Bene Gesserit Sisterhood are an iconic part of the Dune universe, especially how they could use their Voice training to control others to do their bidding. This puzzle uses the name of this ability, which is similar to The Voice, to reference that well-known singing reality competition. Song lyrics were as referenced as commands, using a visible feature of the "I WANT YOU" phrase from the show. Even the distinctive red judge's chairs and swivel were incorporated into the puzzle to hint the theme.

For the songs, I had tried to pick popular ones sung by famous singers where possible, as it would be quite satisfying for solvers to be able to recognize the songs from the lyrics without needing confirmation. I was actually surprised at how many unique popular songs I was able to find, despite there being 27 seasons of the show and over 1,700 Blind Audition songs sung in total! When choosing the songs, there were also many constraints from the extraction letters (to form a clue phrase with thematic link to the answer), as well as the thematic criteria of female contestant singers. Because of these, I had to use a few songs which were sung more than once, which was not ideal, but none of these violated the intended requirements. So these could still be disambiguated based on the theme and given clues, as well as the alphabetical ordering of the names of the correct female contestants.

The lyric segments were also unexpectedly constraining, as they needed to start with a present tense verb, which is not that common in song lyrics apparently! A lyrics search should also yield the intended song as a top hit. However, our testsolvers all used only Google directly to search for the lyrics, instead of an online lyrics database. And that yielded a number of other false or partial matches to song titles in particular. So the lyrics segments had to be adjusted and/or lengthened, which made them sound a little less elegant and like commands. But it was probably important to help solvers using Google only to find the right songs to start them off on this puzzle.