

By **Stephanie King**

When I first saw the video for Gabriella Cilmi's [On a Mission](#), I thought it would be funny (ha) to write a post on this embarrassing excuse for a pop song. This disgustingly infectious track has now polluted my head for one long, tawdry week and so it is with immense relief that I expel this track from my iPod never to be heard again.

Its beginning is deceptively promising. A growling bassline thumps under tinny artificial percussion which gives way to a thumping 4/4 beat and fabulous [Pointer Sisters](#) synths. Sadly, Cilmi has the kind of foghorn voice last heard terrorising people in the form of

[Anastasia](#)

. Consequently, not even a half-hearted funky guitar lead-in can save the graceless, ugly chorus.

The lyrics are from the same diabolical faux-feminist rhetoric as Destiny's Child's [Independent Woman](#) and

Beyonce's

[Diva](#)

and

[Single Ladies](#)

(spot the common denominator), in which women should be extra proud if they pay for their own things, walk all over people, and then sneer at their ex-boyfriends for not marrying them as they shake their booty in that sorry dawg's face.

However, while Beyonce has the excuse of making decent music, Gabriella Cilmi, er, doesn't. Not that it really matters, as Gabriella has her thoughts on far higher things, being as she is "a woman, on a mission (whoah-oooh-oooh)"

. These are the kind of inspiring mantras you'd find on a discontinued Davina McCall workout video.

The video is a graveyard for ghosts of music video gimmicks. Its weird outer space setting is like the freakish lovechild of Jennifer Lopez's [Play](#) and The Darkness' [I Believe in a Thing Called Love](#)

– two

videos I had mercifully forgotten until now. Cilmi appears as a sexy astronaut, a sexy mythic deity, a sexy cartoon character, a sexy sheer-suited something-or-other, a sexy self-referential video of her sexy self, a sexy disco chick, a sexy goth warrior queen and a sexy pop princess.

**Song of the Week: On a Mission - Gabriella Cilmi**

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