

A Song & An Analysis

SONG: *I'm Alone*

Lyrics and Chords:

Asus7 *F* *C* *Gsus7*
Why did he treat me so cruel, so cruel, so cruel?
Now I feel so old, so old, so old.
Why do I feel so ashamed, so ashamed, so ashamed?
Now I'm stuck with all the blame, all the blame, all the blame.

Chorus:

I'm alone *Am*
Pm alone *F*
I'm alone with no innocence *C G*
I'm alone *Am*

Why did my life have to change, have to change, have to change?
Do all men act the same, act the same, act the same?
What happened to all those prayers I've prayed, prayers I've prayed, prayers I've prayed?
Now I feel so afraid, so afraid, so afraid.

Chorus

Why does the memory haunt me so, haunt me so, haunt me so?
Now I need so time to grow, time to, grow, time to grow.
Why did this happen to me, happen to me, happen to me?
Will these feelings ever let me be, let me be, let me be?

Chorus

Analysis

I knew from the beginning of class that I wanted to do a song about the aftermath of living with rape. Then during our rape discussion week I was even more driven to write a song that I felt might help in some way for people to understand the kind of emotional baggage that rape victims have to carry around. The comment was made in class that men view rape as a minor crime, I believe the term misdemeanor was used. I was appalled because the men that I know, even the less sensitive ones, realize that rape is a violation of someone's privacy and

dignity. Then when I sat back and thought about the statement and my feelings I couldn't reconcile the fact that if most men thought that rape was so horrible then it would make sense that it wouldn't occur with the frequency that it does. I don't know why men rape and I don't know if anyone will ever figure out why it happens everyday. I hoped that by writing the song that I did, it might convey to at least one man or women that living with the aftermath of rape is worse than the actual rape itself.

Over the past three years I've been involved in relationships with three women, all of whom have been raped sometime during their lives. Honestly, being romantically involved with a rape victim is not the most pleasant experience on earth. Having these women tell me that they've been raped made wonder what the hell is going on in our society. It can't just be dumb luck that I've managed to pick out the only three raped women in the world. I don't know the statistics, but from just my calculations rape happens A LOT. I wrote the song about one woman in particular because I've seen how being raped at the age of 12 change her personality and how she interacts with herself and other people. She has caused so many broken hearts because she can't properly function in a loving relationship. A very important aspect of rape that I think many people don't see is how a rapist is not only causing extreme harm to the rape victim but also to those people who care or will care for the rape victim in the future. A rapist is not only causing damage to one, but to anyone else who might have some deep emotional contact with that person.

To be honest, I've needed to write this song for not only her but for myself. I play guitar and write music more than I study for school so I thought that I would just whip this song out like any other song that I write. I went through so many ideas and different versions of songs that had way to many options to try and piece together. I actually had a song fully written, with music and lyrics, about how I dealt with a rape victim in a relationship, which was good musically, but I didn't feel as though it conveyed the message that I thought I needed to convey. So I watched the FSU game on that Saturday and feeling depressed I called up my old girlfriend and talked with her about her experience with rape and just jotted down notes about her feelings and how it has impacted her life. At about 1 A.M. I sat on my porch with my guitar, the notepad

I brought to class and a pen and it just all started coming together. As I was writing the song I was having a tough time trying to write in the 3rd person. I couldn't get the timing down and the lyrics weren't coming out the way I wanted. I decided to write the song in the 1st person for a couple of reasons. First, it was easier for the song to flow in the 1st person. Second, I thought it would be interesting for the lyrics that I wrote about a rape victim to come from the voice of a man. Maybe by me singing the song in the 1st person might show a different aspect of rape that maybe a man could relate to better. Then I was upset because the song was so personal that I didn't know if I wanted to perform it for the class. Actually, the Monday before the performance I almost came to you to ask if I could just record it for you because I was apprehensive about sharing the song with the class. In retrospect, I'm so glad that I did perform the song because it seems like everyone got the message and really appreciated my efforts. Just from an egotistical musician's standpoint, it feels great when people like what you've taken the time to create.

Although having to deal rape in my life has been a painful experience, I wouldn't change a thing. Having those relationships and experiences that I've had has not only made me a stronger person but has also opened y eyes to what women are dealing with in society. From a male perspective, I don't think that most men realize how often rape occurs today. I certainly didn't realize it occurred at the rate that it apparently does. Hopefully, people will begin to understand that we need to treat each other better than me seem to be treating each other. Maybe songs like mine will open people's eyes and show them what's is really going on in our civilized society.