

Women & Meth (Intro)

This song serves as an intro to what will be my compositions for Women & Meth. This track is inspired by Interview #1. There were a number of feelings and reactions I got from reading interview #1, and began feeling different ways that I could approach music for it, yet it was still unclear as to how I wanted to begin it. I let different ideas and sounds go through my head while trying to find the idea of how I wanted to approach it.

Since the project of Women & Meth is new, uncharted territory to me, I decided to take a different approach to writing the music for this first song compared to what I usually do. Most of my recordings are live based recordings with guitars, keyboards and voices. I decided to use a different recording software that I have on my computer but have never gotten familiar with. I wanted to obtain a new sound and feel, while also pushing myself to see what I could come up with. It is digital software with digital sounds. There are no live recordings in this track, as it is arranged in the software, and I customize all of it from scratch. I put together a simple drum track with a simple bass line, and then I built over it. Layers upon layers, it eventually began to take shape. It was a frustrating process at times as it was also a lot of trial and error.

I used various sounds, each of which represent something different, creating different atmospheres and feelings. The soundscape opens with a slow, urban sounding drum and bass mix. This is followed by a piano melody. I like the piano, because it can be soft or loud, gentle or intense; a very dynamic instrument. Perhaps it represents the human element throughout the song, and may be a recurring theme in future recordings.

Next, I used somewhat surreal, dreamy sounding strings to create a new layer to the soundscape. This represents for me the almost surreal feeling of the life Jill was living while using meth. A new piano melody also begins to play when the strings start; a somewhat more eerie melody, with perhaps a hint of danger.

I wanted to add a sense of danger to the music, and I feel I was able to do this by adding electric guitars to give the music a new edge that wasn't there earlier. Also adding to edge is a new rhythmic sound, like a static, white noise, coming in and out in a rather intense way. With all these layers combined, they create what I feel is a rather edgy sound, with a feeling of tension and danger.

Also important to note, I added the sound of breaking glass throughout the song as part of the rhythm. It represents a sound for the destructive patterns Jill found herself embracing. The sound of a gunshot is also heard throughout the song occasionally, representing the danger and violence that came with it, as Jill mentions in the interview as having a hard time to believe there were times when she was chasing people down with guns, as well as threats against her.

I end the song abruptly with three piano chords playing together. It again represents a more human element, while maintaining a feeling of tension for what's to come musically.