

Fragility

Approaching this song, I knew I was nearing the end of the musical journey. I had to really think about what I've covered so far, and how I want to wrap my part of the project up. Concluding with a final song seemed too soon, so I felt there would be a need for at least two more, to be summed up with a concluding piece. With that in mind, I knew I had to make sure I found a suitable theme to put to music before concluding.

This song was inspired largely by a recurring theme through Jill's interviews—of her wanting to and needing to go back to her taking meth. Seeing it come again in the third interview, she described it in a way that I was really able to visualize what she was saying, and knew that was the feeling I wanted to try putting to music.

“You know, after having some time clean, I can play that out in my mind. You know, being a single mom with six kids and two full-time jobs, there's days when exhaustion just hits. And, I mean, that thought of, man, I wish I could do a line to keep me goin' hits. But the reality is I can play it out in my mind now and know that it's not just one line that would keep me going. You know, it would – the end result is I can't control it anymore. And once it's in my body, um, the addiction is off and running again.”

(Interview 3: Lines 154-161)

Her explanation really made sense to me, and I could understand what she was describing. In the interview, Jill recounted how two friends had relapsed and overdosed from drug use.

After reading the three interviews, there is no doubt to the strength and will of Jill having overcome her addictions. Yet, from her remarks, there is still fragility there. Even 11 years after being clean, the addiction never truly goes away. She explains that it's kind of always lurking in the background. She described cravings that occasionally hit, yet she is able to play the scenario out in her mind as to what would happen.

I tried to capture these feelings with the music. I tried to give it a somewhat gentle yet somewhat eerie sound: feelings of the cravings, a feeling of wanting to let go and give in; perhaps a slight feeling of danger. Yet Jill is very self-aware and is able to visualize the consequences within her own mind. I tried to capture this in the music during the up-beat, rhythmic sections where the drums and bass accelerate together, as if it's the downward spiral within her mind, realizing what could happen. The song then concludes rather suddenly, as if waking roughly from a deep thought or a dream.

I was worried about using a word like *Fragility* for the title, as I didn't really want to speak of Jill as necessarily being weak or fragile after reading the interviews. Yet I personally felt there was a lot of strength coming from Jill being honest about those weaknesses sometimes being present, as if it's a sort of fragility, where handled roughly, the balance could break. With this in mind, I felt that *Fragility* was able to describe the addiction.