

## The Bargaining Game (I Never Broke My Rules, But My Rules Always Changed)

This is the second recording for Women & Meth. I decided for this recording, I was going to combine the new recording techniques I learned from writing the first song that I wanted to apply to this recording. This recording utilized the digital music arrangements with my own recordings of guitars layered together. The finished product is something that is closer to previous recordings, yet still something new and fresh for me personally.

This recording is inspired from Jill's first interview. It represents the progression of her meth use that she describes. I derived the title from line 193, where she says "I started doing this bargaining game with myself," going from only using on weekends to progressively starting to use heavier and more frequently. The subtitle of the song was inspired by the following quote from lines 198-200; "this whole bargaining thing in my mind was, you know, I'm still okay. I'm not breaking my rules. You know, but my rules always changed".

In the beginning, Jill described a sense of control she had, as she only used on weekends as her rule. As she progressed, she kept changing her rules and began using more frequently. From home on weekends, to home any time of the week, to home on lunch breaks, to on the way to work, to in the parking lot, to even using in her office at work. If listening closely, you can hear after every two measures in the song, a new instrumental part starts playing to create the ever changing soundscape, representing these changes in Jill's life.

I decided that I would open the song with a breath. It may be a sigh of relief, or a breath before getting started. This is followed immediately by an upbeat, playful sounding acoustic guitar. The idea behind this was to create a feeling of security and comfort. I followed this by then adding a bass guitar, with a hint of a darker sound to go over the playful guitar. The rhythm takes a new turn with drums starting to pick up the pace. Then a clean electric guitar enters the mix. A familiar piano then begins to play. An eerie melody then begins to play, with a sort of hazy, crystal-like sound. A slide guitar then joins the foray, as it begins to become a slippery slope. This is followed by a distorted guitar melody joining in. A heavily distorted rhythm guitar begins to play. Things go slightly quiet as an intense synth sounds begins to play, followed by a fast piano melody in the middle of it all. This is then followed by a crashing of everything coming in together at once; riding intensely until the end of the song's abrupt ending.