

Anger & Sorrow

This song returns the focus back on Jill. When Jill first went clean, she described having only two feelings: anger and sadness. “When I got clean... I had two emotions. I was either angry or crying. And there was no way to describe or even get in touch with any other feelings besides anger and extreme, extreme sadness.” (Interview 1: Lines 57-60) “I think I mentioned, too, when I got clean, I was really, really angry. And I was either mad as hell or crying uncontrollably. There wasn’t anything in between.” (Interview 2: Lines 649-651) When I first read the transcripts, I knew I wanted to try capturing these emotions with music at some point.

There was about a two week gap between this and the previous recording, *Anonymous Hate – Tribute*. The first week was a break visiting family, while the second week was delayed from getting sick with the flu. Once I felt better, I decided to dive into the recording process of this song. It was a longer process than the other songs so far and took me a while to get them how I wanted. Other songs that I’ve done have combined different sections and have been put together to create different atmospheres. This song utilizes that technique as well. I felt they had to be two very different sounds to represent the anger and sadness that filled Jill’s life during this time. The results are two very different songs, both representing an emotion.

With *Anger*, I wanted to try capturing a feeling of the title. I felt that for this, I would make electric guitars the main focus of the song. To begin, I managed to work out a different kind of drum sound with my software for this one. It is a rather large sound, like a constant pressure that keeps building and going forward. The bass guitar is also a constant, almost monotonous sound within the soundscape. Then enter the guitars. I tried to create a more angry and aggressive kind of sound. I used a lot of short, sharp and aggressive type rhythms. During certain parts of the song, while playing, I would hit the strings with the bottom of my palm, creating some of the scraping noises you can hear at those sections.

Without even giving the listener a breather, I wanted the song to jump right into the next moment of the experience. I decided to drench the song in reverb to give it a feeling of being in a big room. I feel like it created a feeling of a rainy day, kind of dark and gloomy. While playing the bass guitar, I worked out the initial melody and decided I wanted it to be the lead instrument in this song. As the bass guitar is not very often a lead instrument, I feel it helped give it a different atmosphere. It gave the melody a lower, deeper sound. I have sometimes been told that an organ reminds some people of church. While I did not use the organ to capture this kind of feeling, I feel that for some, it could represent Jill’s coming to terms with and finding God. Primarily though, I used it to help create more of a lonely atmosphere within the song.

I debated on whether to separate the two songs, but I decided for now that I would put them together as *Anger & Sorrow*, as they are both part of the same experience, even though they are two distinct emotions/songs.