

REFLECTION

For my project, I decided to take a handful of love songs that are considered sweet, pick certain lyrics out of each song, and remove the context to them and combine them together to create what is essentially a note from a stalker, an obsessive love letter that ends in a kidnapping threat towards the reader.

I was inspired to do this when “More than a Woman” by The Bee Gees came on in my headphones as I was doing homework for this class. It’s a traditionally romantic song, often in playlists for dancing with one’s partner. However, as I listened, I noticed that the words to this song would be surprisingly creepy if they were presented as a statement. For example, in “More than a Woman”, “This is the only way that we should fly/This is the only way to go/And if I lose your love, I know I would die” seems rather obsessively pushy when written. As I sorted through, collecting love songs (or songs that are listened to as songs about love by the general public, like Weezer’s “I Just Threw Out the Love of My Dreams”) I found even more lyrics that could be considered unsettling, demanding, and obsessive, all presented in a romantic light. As such, I decided to take some of them and present them in a much different way— writing them down with no music in bright red ink on crumpled paper to imply distress, emphasizing certain words to draw attention to them and scribbling over the paper as I wrote to signify intense feelings.

I found it quite fascinating how many lyrics in love songs, both modern and classic, are both incredibly possessive and controlling— and especially how this kind of characterization of love is considered normal in the media. I am sure that all of these songs are meant to be happy, of course, and contain no ill intent. However, I do think that possessive depictions of love in the media, like the lines I picked out of the songs, can influence someone’s overall perception of what love should be, resulting in unhealthy relationships being regarded as normal. This art piece is meant to be the worldview of someone who was influenced by those depictions, although taken to the extreme for exaggeration.

Every word in this piece was taken from the songs listed in the source key, which by textbook definition does make it a plagiarism. Even the paper texture is plagiarized from various sources. However, I’m inclined to disagree that this is actually plagiarism. Although the theme of a love declaration stays the same between the source media and the final piece, the lyrics when handwritten, emphasized differently, and cut and pasted together with other lyrics out of order, take

on an entirely different meaning. They are twisted so they are made threatening, and are almost completely unrecognizable. The intention behind them is completely different now too. In their sources, they were meant to be a contribution to a romantic expression of love. In the text, they signify danger, a threat. As a whole, the piece is now a critique of the overall depictions of love in media, which I believe makes it an original piece of art.

SOURCE KEY

EDITS: As none of the songs have clear punctuation, all punctuation was added by me. Additionally, **any “he” pronoun was changed to “she” for consistency.**

Paper textures used were plagiarized from [melemel](#) (1), [capturedbykc](#) (2), and [PkGam](#) (3).

All lines and lyrics were taken from [Musixmatch](#).

Color Coded Song Source List:

More than a Woman - The Bee Gees

Unchained Melody - The Righteous Brothers

My Cherie Amour - Stevie Wonder

I Don't Want to Set The World on Fire - The Ink Spots

He Needs Me - Punch Drunk Love

Light Shower - Melanie Martinez

I Just Threw Out the Love of My Dreams - Weezer

Hopelessly Devoted to You - Grease

I'll Never Smile Again - Frank Sinatra

My Kind of Woman - Mac DeMarco

Can't Get You Out of My Head - Kylie Minogue

Lover - Taylor Swift

Always Forever - Cults

We Belong Together - Ritchie Valens

You Belong With Me - Taylor Swift

Tonight You Belong To Me - Patience and Prudence

Unchained Lover

Oh, girl, I've known you very well

I've seen you growing every day

Woah, my love, my darling

I've hungered for your touch

A long, lonely time

In a café or sometimes on a crowded street

I've been near you, but you never noticed me

My Cherie amour, won't you tell me how could you ignore

That behind that little smile I wore

How I wish that you were mine

You see

Way down inside of me

Darlin', I have only one desire

And that one desire is you

And I know

Nobody else ain't gonna do

For once, for once in life

I've finally felt

That someone needed me

But you made me want to

Plan out my last days on earth, eating you

I was surprised to see heaven in your eyes

And all at once I knew

I knew at once

I knew he needed me

Until the day I die

I won't know why

I knew he needed me

He is in my eyes, he is in my ears

He is in my blood, he is in my tears

He needs me, he needs me

He needs me, he needs me

He needs me, he needs me

I'm out of my head

Hopelessly devoted to you

I'll never love again

I'm so in love with you

You're makin' me crazy

Really drivin' me mad

I just can't get you out of my head

Boy, its more than I dare to think about

Every night

Every day

Just to be there in your arms

... Here in your arms I found my paradise

My only chance for happiness

And if I lose you now, I think I would die

Can I go where you go?

Can we always be this close forever and ever?

You and me always forever

We could stay alone together

You and me always forever

Say you'll stay never be separate

Oh, say you'll always be my baby, we can make it shine

We can take forever, just a minute at a time

This is the only way that we should fly

This is the only way to go

And if I lose your love, I know I would die

You're mine

And we belong together

Yes, we belong together

For eternity

You're mine

Won't you stay?

Stay forever and ever, and ever, and ever

I swear by everything I own

You'll always, always be mine

I never once was treated right, you're what I'm missing in my life

Can't you see that I'm the one

Who understands you?

Been here all along

So, why can't you see?

You belong with me

My Cherie amour, pretty little one that I adore

You're the only girl my heart beats for

How I wish that you were mine

And I'm highly suspicious that everyone who sees you wants you

I've loved you three summers now, honey, but I want 'em all

You're my, my, my, my

Lover

You're a shower of light I'd devour any day of the week

Baby, cleanse me

You make me feel like I'm on drugs

I breathe love, and see you everyday

Standing by and waiting at your backdoor

All this time how could you not know, baby?

Shall I stay?

Would it be, would it be a sin?

Oh, he's got me wondering

My righteousness is crumbling

I know (I know)

You belong to somebody new

But now there's nowhere to hide

Since you pushed my love aside

Wait for me, wait for me

I'll be coming home, wait for me

My honey I know

With the dawn that you will be gone

But tonight you belong to me

Just to little old me

