So, for a while now, I've had this idea for an ability. A song based ability.

It's just… It's not that similar to any of my other ideas. It's kinda personal, and embarrassing.

That said, I *want* to share it. I just… I want you to understand where I'm coming from with this. It's not a *cool ability* designed to be a potentially fun thing like all the other ones I've designed. This is… more real than them.

The Wall manifests as an almost imperceptible mental barrier, serving as a sophisticated, automatic defense mechanism. Rather than exhibiting outward flashy or dramatic effects, *The Wall* ability operates subtly, allowing the user to seamlessly conceal genuine emotions and reactions behind a carefully maintained facade. The user instinctively projects a socially acceptable or neutral demeanor, irrespective of their true feelings or thoughts. This mask is meticulously maintained, adapted dynamically based on environmental expectations and social contexts, but is primarily based on what the user defines as "normal behavior". *The Wall* does not require conscious activation. Instead, it operates passively and continuously, triggered by social interactions or environments perceived by the user as demanding conformity, normalcy, or emotional restraint. It provides a consistent layer of perceived emotional stability and adaptability to external observers, despite such stability and adaptability not necessarily existing.

Continuous use of *The Wall* takes a toll on the user, causing them to become rapidly tired or exhausted. Historically, there have been thousands of users of *The Wall*, with more than a few simultaneous users existing. There is not enough data to conclude the period over which users become exhausted, and it is theorized that different users can effectively handle *The Wall* for different amounts of time.

Additionally, if there is a user of *The Wall*, it'd be almost impossible to tell if they were nearby, or who they are at all. Since their whole goal is to blend into greater society, the only noteworthy things about them are scrubbed away. However, if you can find a **truly uninteresting individual**, there is a high probability you have found someone using *The Wall*.

Given all that context, who do you think I wrote *The Wall* about? This isn't a trick question, I'm genuinely curious. I wrote it about myself, but if you read all that and found a kernel of truth about yourself in there, you may very well also have *The Wall*.

Regardless though, I mention this to you not *just* because it's an ability and I wanted to share it with *someone*.

I shared it because you are one of the few people who I make the conscious effort to drop *The Wall* around. Granted, I don't actually think I

should unmask myself entirely. I'm not *evil* and I don't mean you any harm, but...

What if that's not enough? I don't *mean* to cause harm, but evidently I do. I've been causing harm to the people I consider my closest allies for a while now.

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is, I might act a little differently today. And, if you don't like that, there's no shame in that. Given what I've done, you would be forgiven for not liking my true self. Actually, to be entirely honest, I expect that to happen.

And yet, still, I insist on acting like my true self. Isn't that odd? Normally, I wouldn't have the balls.

Anyways, sorry for all this rambling. If you've read all this, *thank you*, and sorry for the unavoidable patch of gobbledygook later.