

THE ANGEL MAGAZINE



ALBUM PROLOGUE

Over the past year, my life has been full of ups and downs, and each day has juxtaposed the next. A deep rooted self hatred suffocates me, and my idolisation of others destroys my relationships. In this record, I bring my life to pen.

Throughout my near 18 years on this earth, one thing I have always strived to do is please everyone around me. Although I can remain firm in myself when I am faced with confrontation, I have an innate desire to be perceived in the most positive light possible.

Every time I bend over backwards to make someone happy, or change something about myself to present as more likeable, I subscribe to an angelic version of myself — which simply, does not exist.

At the end of the day, I am a human and I am imperfect in a multitude of ways. As someone who tries to have an utmost understanding of themselves, I know this very well.

However, my brain has always continued to feed on praise and affirmation, sending me into cycles of high expectations set on myself, causing an ever-growing sense of self hatred when these expectations aren't met.

So, my need to be the angel to everyone around me is most detrimental to my most important relationship — the one with myself — and in turn I become something of opposite essence, such as a devil.

All in all, this record encompasses how my idolisation of others, compounded with my desire to people please and tendency to set expectations for myself, ultimately lead to the destruction of my own image — to the point where I hate who I am from every angle.

As somebody who is learning to love themselves, it is most vital that I understand that sometimes, being the angel is the worst thing I can do. Moreover, seeing everyone around me as an angel (when, let's face it, isn't true either), not only worsens this self image, but leads me down destructive paths in my life.

I hope you can appreciate this record for what it is, because it has my entire heart and soul.

Thank you,
Aston



angel
parasite
too good to be true
fair world
ghost of a man
medicine
cupid
sweet dreams

TRACK ONE

ANGEL

Did it hurt when you fell from the sky?

I'll pick you up and take you back, because you give me life

But at those gates, we'll part ways

They'd rather burn than let me stay, so I'll go back down

Where I'm in hell without you

You're the first angel to ever grace the earth

And you're all I need, for what it's worth

Upon the taste of me, charred and menacing

You floated away with everything

Angel, spread your wings

Angel, take everything from me

Any shred of self respect I have left, and all my dignity

Angel, start a fire

Angel, act on your desires with me

It's like you refract sunlight

It's like you live in my mind, angel

Every mistake you've ever made, they were all my fault

I'll take the blame

God is lucky that you use his name, even if it's being used in vain

It feels like you have everything in control, not a worry in the world under your
halo

With skin like dough and hair like silk, you know that your looks are to kill

Chorus

But how come blood runs through your veins? How come I felt your warm
embrace? You're not a saint, you make mistakes, you're human, and I'm insane

Raking in darkness like it's a sport, turns out I deserve less than I thought

An angel or a human, either way, you're what I'm losing

TRACK ONE ANGEL

In my opinion, this song is the centrepiece of the album, and was completely essential in order to convey the ideas which I wanted to throughout the album. This song is a blunt expression of how I idolise others, and excuse them of their mistakes and flaws. However, the most important part of this song doesn't come until the outro, where my realisation that these people are human and imperfect hits me with force. Instead of finding beauty and reassurance in this, I instead decide that for them to be human, I must be something even worse than that. This then leads into the second track.

I love the writing on this song, and I think it is sonically gorgeous.

TRACK TWO

PARASITE

You must have figured out, there's nothing left inside of me

You're all alone – nothing to take, I'm hollow and weak

I challenged you to run wild

I'm few and far between

But I never thought you'd really give me a deep clean

You've scraped every part of me away

What more can I even say?

Changed who I am in every way

Just so you could put me on display

Parasite, why do you suck away the light?

I'm in shackles, and you're breathing down my neck

Get me out of this mess

Parasite, I hate myself to the edge of the universe

Parasite, I'm too anxious, I'm gonna cripple under your curse

Deep in my chest, I feel you telling me that I'm not the person
that I used to be

I know I'll never deem myself to be worthy, because perfection
is just a dream

Parasite, I can't escape, all these feelings are here to stay

For the rest of my days

Parasite, you and your infectious ways

I don't deserve love

What's the point if I push them away?

I need to be sent from the heavens

I need to be the chosen one

TRACK TWO

PARASITE

The juxtaposition of this track and the opening one is so incredibly jarring as a listener (and as a writer), and was completely intentional. While I was previously writing confessions of love and admiration atop of a light and glistening track, I then turn my focus onto myself, and it takes a dark turn sonically and lyrically.

The parasite in question is not at all literal, don't be afraid! It can be taken in a number of ways, but to me the parasite is my anxiety which is a leech in my life and leads me to hate myself and everything around me.

TRACK THREE

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

It's only been a year since I told you to make me feel
But it felt so long, I almost gave up on the whole ordeal

I never thought I would experience a teenage love
But after glances and some flirting, I think you'll give me one

You know, that he tore me to shreds

Did you know that no one thought to put me back together?

You know that he stole my youth

Have you ever thought you could be the one to change me for the better?

Is this too good to be true?

My pulse is racing, my heart is inflating
I look in your eyes, you look back in mine

Cold blue, so simple

Is this too good to be true?

Go on, tell me this is all a dream

Can someone just pinch me already?

Is everyone just all in on some joke?

Laughing for reasons I don't know

Chorus

It's only been a year since I told you to make me feel
But it felt so long, I almost gave up on the whole ordeal

I never thought I would experience teenage love
But after glances and some flirting, I think you'll give me one

TRACK THREE

TOO GOOD

TO BE TRUE

While this song is the furthest on the album from being thematically cohesive (as it is the only genuinely happy one), I find my disbelief that I could experience something joyous and pure very poignant, hence why it made it onto the tracklist. In the face of something positive and hopeful, I still turn to my pain instead of living in the moment. This captured feeling disappearing days after I wrote this song is something which is undeniably relevant to the themes of this album as well, and is expanded on in “medicine” and a soon-to-be deluxe track “cold”.

I wrote this song (and many others) before even landing on this album as a concept, but the applicability of it and them to the album reassures me that these songs (and this concept) are authentically true to my life as of now.

If I haven’t made it painfully clear already, this song is a sequel to “dig deeper” and directly references it in the first verse.

TRACK FOUR

FAIR WORLD

I know that every time you hold her, I'm the last thing you would think about
You are a master at forgetting who you are, and what you desire

Cause that's what you did to escape from this
Looking back at it now, I was abandoned while still dizzy from that kiss
I'm watching you now, you're a while away
It's evident to me that you don't even feel the space
And that's okay, that's not okay

It's not a fair world, how could you move on?
Your stomach doesn't tighten at the thought of us
If it were a fair world, I would be your love
You would have smelt my cologne in the parking lot
Your favourite album, does it remind you of me?
Do you sing about how I'm something you need?
It's not a fair world, you've moved on
I'm picking up the pieces, you're long gone, you're long gone
You're unforgettable – as sad as it sounds, I get out of bed for you

A simple glance, it can make my day
I'd spend it all with you if I could have my way
I try to convince myself that we have a future
Either that, or I am bound to leave you

It's not a fair world, I haven't moved on
Still need someone better who I can parade around
If it were a fair world, I'd forget your name
I would befriend your enemies to rub it in your face
Can I go a week without thinking about you?
Can I lead you on, just because I know how to?
It's not a fair world, I'll never move on
You're ripping me to pieces and I can't go

Jumbled Chorus

TRACK FOUR FAIR WORLD

This song is incredibly important to me and was written with a lot of care and intention. I start the song with a verse, where I write about this person who is (sort of) in my life, and how they view and act towards me. This follows into the chorus, where I say that if the world was truly fair, he would feel the same way that I do. The second verse and chorus flip it, where I start talking about myself and how I view him, and goes into how, in a fair world, I would act exactly like he does. My definition of “fair,” in this song is interesting to me, because it isn’t really accurate – all I want is for us to switch positions, and for him to be the one in pain.

TRACK FIVE

HOST

OF

A MAN

The night I saw you in my backyard, I swear, I almost lost my shit
But I welcomed you inside with open arms

The next morning, I woke up with my ear right on your heart
There was nothing, you were cold, I stopped breathing

Let me run away with you, let me fade away just like you did with the moon
How am I supposed to live my life with the memory of who you were
Engraved in my mind

Let me slip into that skin, let me taste your power

Like I taste my blood on these lips

Oh, that ghost of a man, bring him back

There's no better way to put it

You're the only person who's ever made me feel truly alive
But now I'm in ruins

Why is it that I'm left with the pieces no one desired?

But I'll still push them around, try to replicate you

As if something so perfect could ever be replicable

Chorus

Oh, that ghost of a man, bring him back

TRACK FIVE

HOST

OF

A MAN

This song is very complex and layered and can mean a number of different things to a listener and to me as a writer. On the one hand, I speak to someone in my life who I lost, someone who abandoned me. On the other hand, I speak to the old version of myself, who I tend to look back on as the angel I so badly want to be, which is also discussed briefly in “parasite”.

I tried to use intense and vivid imagery to convey how the loss of this person (whether it be someone else or myself) drove me to insanity. The loss of both of these things are also incredibly intertwined, as I have recently come to the conclusion that my attraction and obsession with this person comes from a place of jealousy. It's not that I am in love with this person, I think it could be that I want to be him to some extent. Which falls in line with the rapid emotional decline I write about on this record.

TRACK SIX

MEDICINE

I know, I shouldn't be writing this song

I just want it back the way it was

The nights were young, the air was fresh

We were in the same boat together

I know, I shouldn't be idolising you

But with that heart of gold, I'd find it hard not to

I remember I was scared of you when we first met

But never again

I get that you moved to America

But I don't understand why I got a taste of my own medicine

It looks like you hate me now

I know why you pushed me out

That's a classic move I pull when I've had enough

You ripped the page directly from my book

But that's probably why we got along so quick

The taste of my own medicine

Is more bitter than anything

TRACK SIX

MEDICINE

This song is so incredibly important to me and I find it so raw and honest, to the point where I don't want to discuss the context of the song in detail. The simplicity in my admiration for this person makes the song stronger, as it makes the hook of the song more impactful. This is a darker version of "Ticking Time Bomb" but I flipped it. I find my self awareness in this situation very important but also hard to listen to sometimes because this pain is one which I inflict.

TRACK SEVEN

CUPID

Every time I hear an arrow pierce the air
I hold my breath and wonder if it's finally my time
It never is, you're like a stranger in town square
You either forgot who I am or you're trying to cross the line

“I think I’m losing my head!” I said
Not that you would ever blink an eye, but it’s always worth a try
No one cared when I cried myself to sleep every night, over everything I
lack

I think I pissed off cupid, he’s running all around me
Making everybody’s lives

I think I just look stupid, I don’t know what I did to be completely deprived
Of love

All I ask is that he sends someone my way
But he won’t listen to anything I say

I think I pissed off cupid, I don’t know what I did to be completely deprived
Of love

I thought I should take my issue to a higher power
So I spoke to Venus on a winter night

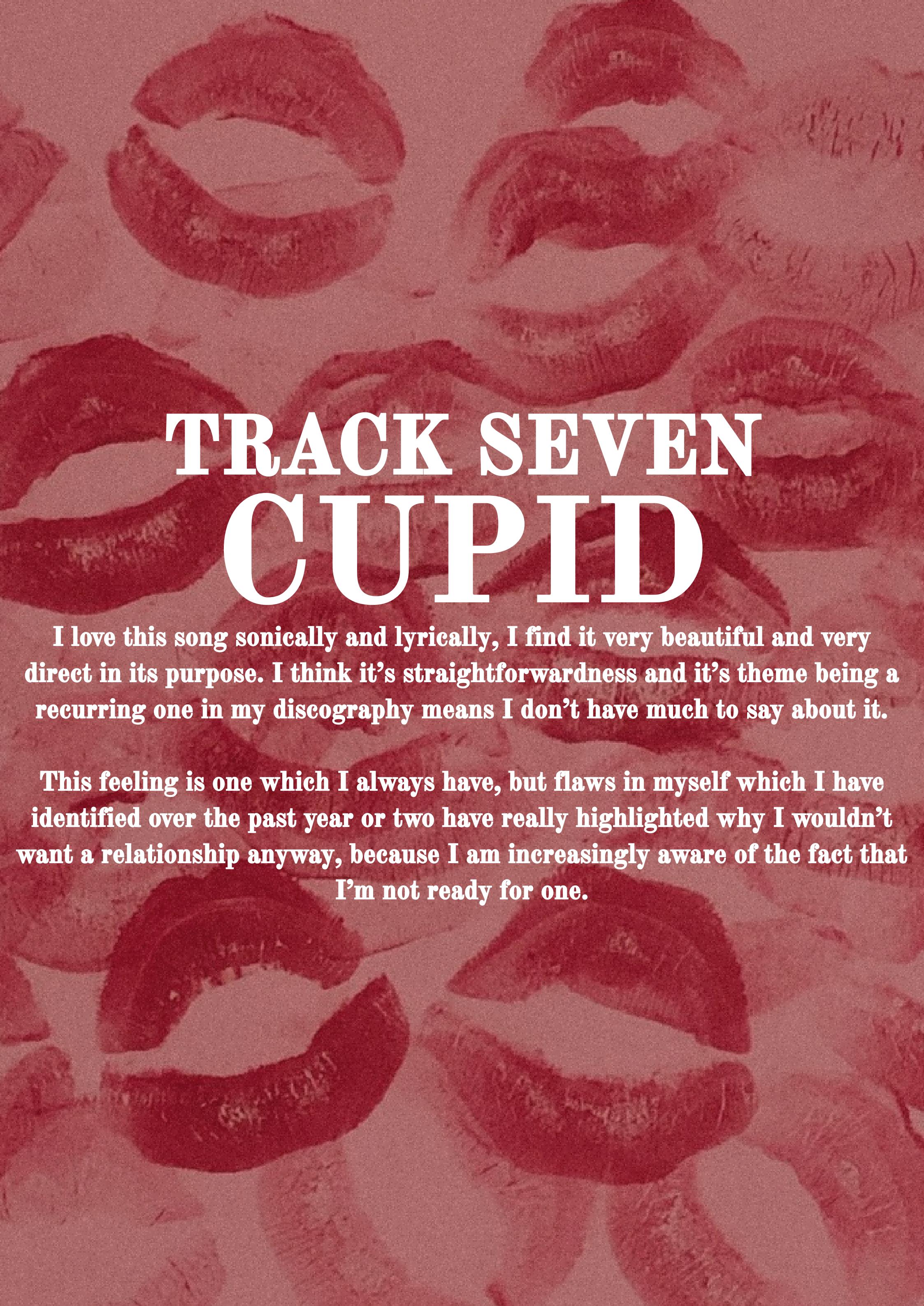
Never meet your heroes, she told me she had a plan
But I fucked it up, now I’m out of luck, and that was that

“I think you’re losing your head!” she said, “not everything is about
romance,”

“there is joy in other lands!”
I accepted my defeat, so feeble and weak
Who else can say they were shunned by the goddess of love?

Chorus

Give me everything I need



TRACK SEVEN

CUPID

I love this song sonically and lyrically, I find it very beautiful and very direct in its purpose. I think it's straightforwardness and it's theme being a recurring one in my discography means I don't have much to say about it.

This feeling is one which I always have, but flaws in myself which I have identified over the past year or two have really highlighted why I wouldn't want a relationship anyway, because I am increasingly aware of the fact that I'm not ready for one.

TRACK EIGHT

SWEET

DREAMS

A single tear rolls down my cheek, I can't stand the way he looks at me
I'm crying in my sister's arms underneath the cherry blossom tree

Time goes fast but life goes slow, it stands still when I'm alone
I'll ride the high even though I'm low, I've been feeling so hollow

The doctors tell me I'm lovesick, I'll shut it down, it's progressive

In some ways I'm a detective, I'm laying out the objectives
I go about my day, tryna ignore the pain, gonna find my way

Till I decay in the room where reality slips away

I'm gonna, I'm gonna find my way

So I go to sleep and I have sweet dreams, where I'm falling in love

Living happy and free, and then I wake up, seems like I'm falling apart

I wanna throw my life away, pack my bags and start again

Without my worrying and my anxious thinking

Just put me to sleep, only then I'll find some peace

I find myself in a half dug hole, cause are they so sweet, after all?

All my friends hate me, I'm losing all hope

The fear of what's to come has swallowed me whole

I won't say what I want, I won't do as I please

Cause every time I do, I think that they're about to leave

I refuse to pick a side, cause it'll strangle me

But when I paint our landscape, it's a need

Chorus

Drug me up, intoxicate me, don't care how it's done but I need to be free

Meet me half way, show up for me, sometimes when he closes his eyes

I hope he sees me

TRACK EIGHT

SWEET

DREAMS

This is the very first song I wrote for the album, and in my opinion was very well crafted in terms of it's lyrics. This was an idea which had been lingering since the end of the “lost” creative process, but at the time was not a well fleshed out idea in the slightest. Over the summer, a melody came to me, followed by lyrics to a chorus. The verses are entirely inspired by real dreams I had around the time I wrote this song, and really stood out to me as dreams which were trying to tell me something. The concept of this song in itself is honestly very pessimistic and unpleasant – with me saying that I would rather just be unconscious than face the pain which comes with daylight.

The production of this song is very textured and allowed me to create something I am super proud of. I wish I could have written a song which said that I now see myself as an angel and that I am empowered, but that just would not be true. The fade out at the end of this song indicates that this is very much an ongoing battle in my life.

THANK YOU

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING,
THANK YOU FOR READING,
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I
OWE YOU THE WORLD.
HOPEFULLY MORE TO COME
VERY SOON.**