

Sees a lot of good and bad in this culture

West hills:

He describes how when their family and friends went to church (or partook in any religious activity) they would (try to) get out and go somewhere else. Cutting through the hedges and fields might refer to breaking free from the closed community they grew up in, so seeking (literal) light from that secluded darkness is their way of feeling just a little bit of freedom.

Quiet Town:

The only way to leave the town was suicide.

He contrasts the tragedies in the town with the gracious and loving characteristics of the community; he doesn't question whether or not they legitimately are good people, but he instead asks why bad things still happen despite them being good people.\

Terrible Thing:

He is on the verge of suicide. He and his dreams feel trapped in the town, unable to be himself. He does not understand how people could find bullfighting moral but be disgusted by homosexuality.

Cody:

Cody" explores another outcast character with a troubled childhood trapped in a vicious cycle of imprisonment of beliefs and complacency. This motif might be emphasized by the start of the song where a clip of a man proclaiming his beliefs on a higher power is heard in a way that sounds robotic and rehearsed.

Sleepwalker:

Brandon himself as the "sleepwalker" who was reawakened and finally able to delve into a complex and multi-faceted youth that was rosy and good in some ways and stifling and difficult for others.

Runaway Horses:

the character of “Terrible Thing”, successfully embraced domestic bliss, trading “school for wedding rings and rent”, a very different path from the one chosen by the narrator character.

In The Car Outside:

The main focus is on what a partner might do when they feel like everything has fallen apart and how some people turn to infidelity. Notably, the entire song is from the man’s perspective as he describes the actions and words of both his wife as well as an older love interest.

In Another Life:

In Another Life seems to be about that local man who the girl chose to stay with, always second-guessing whether or not she is happy that she chose him instead of chasing her youthful dreams.

Desperate Things:

the song tells a fictionalized tale of a cop who falls in love with a domestic-abuse victim, and winds up murdering her husband.

Pressure Machine:

idk feeling that she is trapped in the town due to her significant other.

The Getting By:

The lyrics suggest a blend of melancholy and hope, as they portray people who continue pushing forward, though they’re often faced with limited opportunities or a lack of change. It’s a commentary on both the beauty and the burdens of small-town life, where routines can feel stifling but also serve as a source of strength for those who endure them.

