

MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Linkin Park

Wake

This short song was created near the end of the album writing process. The dual-meaning of the word "wake" seemed an appropriate introduction to the record.

Given Up

To add a unique twist on the punk/industrial theme of the guitar, Brad added the sounds on the intro of this song: multiple tracks of claps - and keys jingling.

Wake in a sweat again
Another day's been laid to waste
In my disgrace
Stuck in my head again
Feels like I'll never leave this place
There's no escape
I'm my own worst enemy

I've given up
I'm sick of living
Is there nothing you can say
Take this all away
I'm suffocating
Tell me what the fuck is wrong with me

I don't know what to take
Thought I was focused but I'm scared
I'm not prepared
I hyperventilate
Looking for help somehow somewhere
And you don't care

Put me out of my misery

Leave Out All The Rest

The final version of this track is virtually the same as the first demo of the song. Very little changed between the first incarnation of the music, and the final version that appears on the album.

I dreamed I was missing
You were so scared
But no one would listen
Cause no one else cared
After my dreaming
I woke with this fear
What am I leaving
When I'm done here
So if you're asking me I want you to know

When my time comes
Forget the wrong that I've done
Help me leave behind some
Reasons to be missed
Don't resent me

And when you're feeling empty
Keep me in your memory
Leave out all the rest
Leave out all the rest

Don't be afraid
I've taken my beating
I've shared what I made
I'm strong on the surface
Not all the way through
I've never been perfect
But neither have you
So if you're asking me I want you to know

Forgetting / all the hurt inside you learned to hide so well
Pretending / someone else can come and save me from myself
I can't be who you are

Bleed It Out

One of the band's goals on this record was to enjoy it. This track is one of the places that it is most evident.

Here we go for the hundredth time
Hand grenade pins in every line
Throw 'em up and let something shine
Going out of my fuckin mind
Filthy mouth / no excuse
Find a new place to hang this noose
String me up from atop these roofs
Knot it tight so I won't get loose
Truth is / you can stop and stare
Bled myself out and no one cares
Dug the trench out / laid down there
With a shovel up out of reach somewhere
Yeah / someone pour it in
Make it a dirt dance floor again
Say your prayers and stomp it out
When they bring that chorus in
I bleed it out
Digging deeper just to throw it away
Just to throw it away
I bleed it out

I bleed it out / go / stop the show
Choppy words and a sloppy flow
Shotgun opera / lock and load
Cock it back and then watch it go
Mama help me / I've been cursed
Death is rolling in every verse
Candy paint on his brand new hearse
Can't contain him / he know the works
Fuck this hurts / I won't lie / doesn't matter how hard I try
Half the words don't mean a thing and I know I won't be satisfied
So why try ignoring him
Make it a dirt dance floor again

Say your prayers and stomp it out
When they bring that chorus in

I open up these scars
I'll make you face this
I pull myself apart
I'll make you face this
I open up these scars
I'll make you face this now

[Shadow Of The Day](#)

The keyboard loop in "Shadow Of The Day" went through many different changes during the song's creation. Dozens of options were created on piano, acoustic guitar, marimba, xylophone, and even electric banjo before finally writing the reversed/edited keyboard version that appears here.

I close both locks below the window
I close both blinds and turn away
Sometimes solutions aren't so simple
Sometimes goodbye's the only way

And the sun will set for you
The sun will set for you
And the shadow of the day
Will embrace the world in grey
And the sun will set for you

In cards and flowers on your window
Your friends all plead for you to stay
Sometimes beginnings aren't so simple
Sometimes goodbye's the only way

And the shadow of the day
Will embrace the world in grey
And the sun will set for you

[What I've Done](#)

One of the last songs finished for the album, the lyrics for this song were intended to work on many levels, including freedom, art, and death metaphors.

In this farewell
There's no blood
There's no alibi
Cause I've drawn regret
From the truth
Of a thousand lies

So let mercy come
And wash away

What I've done
I'll face myself
To cross out what I've become
Erase myself
And let go of what I've done

Put to rest
What you thought of me
While I've cleaned this slate
With the hands
Of uncertainty

For what I've done
I start again
And whatever pain may come
Today this ends
I'm forgiving what I've done

[Hands Held High](#)

Early in the writing process, Rick suggested the band experiment by contrasting together unexpected elements. Because the instrumental idea known as "Song O" sounded primed for melodic singing, Rick suggested the opposite be done. The song's pipe organ and marching snare proved the perfect musical bed for two of the most inspired verses Mike had ever delivered.

Turn my
Mic up louder I got to say something
Lightweights step it aside when we come in
Feel it in your chest / the syllables get pumping
People on the street they panic and start running
Words on loose leaf sheet complete coming
I jump in my mind and summon the rhyme I'm dumping
Healing the blind I promise to let the sun in
Sick of the dark ways we march to the drum and
Jump when they tell us that they wanna see jumping
Fuck that / I wanna see some fists pumping
Risk something / take back what's yours
Say something that you know they might attack you for
Cause I'm sick of being treated like I have before
Like it's stupid standing for what I'm standing for
Like this war's really just a different brand of war
Like it doesn't cater to rich and abandon poor
Like they understand you in the back of the jet / when you
Can't put gas in your tank / and these fuckers are
Laughing their way to the bank / cashing the check
Asking you to have compassion / have respect
For a leader so nervous in an obvious way
Stuttering and mumbling for nightly news to replay
And the rest of the world watching at the end of the day
In their living room laughing like
What did he say

In my living room watching / I am not laughing / cause
When it gets tense I know what might happen
The world is cold / the bold men make action
Have to react or get blown into fractions
Ten years old / it's something to see / another
Kid my age drug under a jeep
Taken and bound / and found later under a tree
I wonder if he had thought the next one could be me

Do you see / the soldiers / they're out today they
Brush the dust from the bulletproof vests away
It's ironic / at times like this you pray
But a bomb blew the mosque up yesterday
There's bombs on the busses / bikes / roads
Inside your market / your shops / your clothes / my dad
He's got a lot of fear I know
But enough pride inside not to let that show
My brother had a book he would hold with pride
A little red cover with a broken spine
On the back / he hand wrote a quote inside:
"when the rich wage war it's the poor who die"
And meanwhile / the leader just talks away
Stuttering and mumbling for the nightly news to replay
The rest of the world watching at the end of the day
Both scared and angry like
What did he say

With hands held high into a sky so blue
As the ocean opens up to swallow you

No More Sorrow

While the band was recording at the Laurel studio, Rick suggested that Brad try adding ebow to "The Little Things Give You Away." Although Brad ultimately decided not to add ebow to that song, his experimentation produced the introductory sound around which "No More Sorrow" was built.

Are you lost / in your lies
Do you tell yourself I don't realize
Your campaign's a disguise
Replaced freedom with fear / you trade money for lives
I'm aware of what you've done

No / no more sorrow
I've paid for your mistakes
Your / time is borrowed
Your time has come to be replaced

I see pain / I see need
I see liars and thieves abuse power with greed
I had hope / I believed
But I'm beginning to think that I've been deceived
You will pay for what you've done

Thieves and hypocrites

No / no more sorrow
I've paid for your mistakes
Your / time is borrowed
Your time has come to be replaced
Your time has come to be erased

Valentine's Day

Although it was finished at the Laurel Studio, "Valentine's Day" retains most of the original music and vocals that were recorded during the writing phase. In fact, although the band

experimented with re-recording most of their early demos, the earliest recordings were often chosen to make the album.

My insides all turned to ash / so slow
And blew away as I collapsed / so cold
A black wind took them away / from sight
And held the darkness over day / that night

And the clouds above move closer
Looking so dissatisfied
But the heartless wind kept blowing, blowing

I used to be my own protection / but not now
Cause my path had lost direction / somehow
A black wind took you away / from sight
And held the darkness over day / that night

And the clouds above move closer
Looking so dissatisfied
And the ground below grew colder
As they put you down inside
But the heartless wind kept blowing, blowing

So now you're gone
And I was wrong
I never knew what it was like
To be alone

On a valentine's day

[In Between](#)

Rick encouraged the band to lay rough vocals on their demos as early as possible, believing that sometimes a sparse song can become great with the right vocal melody. "In Between" was a perfect example. Even with just Mike's vocal and a bass line, this song remained on the band's "favorites" list, as many songs with a lot more production were voted off of the album.

Let me apologize to begin with
Let me apologize for what I'm about to say
But trying to be genuine
Was harder than it seemed
And somehow I got caught up in between

Let me apologize to begin with
Let me apologize for what I'm about to say
But trying to be someone else
Was harder than it seemed
And somehow I got caught up in between

Between my pride and my promise
Between my lies and how the truth gets in the way
The things I want to say to you
Get lost before they come
The only thing that's worse than one is none

Let me apologize to begin with

Let me apologize for what I'm about to say
But trying to regain your trust
Was harder than it seemed
And somehow I got caught up in between

And I cannot explain to you
In anything I say or do or plan
Fear is not afraid of you
But guilt's a language you can understand
I cannot explain to you
In anything I say or do
But hope the actions speak the words they can

For my pride and my promise
For my lies and how the truth gets in the way
The things I want to say to you
Get lost before they come
The only thing that's worse than one is none

In Pieces

This song began as a keyboard and beat loop, along with the staccato guitar in the second verse. In that early form, Chester put down a rough vocal, with words that came relatively effortlessly. The vocals that appeared in those early stages remained virtually unchanged throughout the growth of the song.

Telling me to go
But hands beg me to stay
Your lips say that you love
Your eyes say that you hate

There's truth in your lies
Doubt in your faith
What you build you lay to waste
There's truth in your lies
Doubt in your faith
All I've got's what you didn't take

So I / I won't be the one
Be the one to leave this
In pieces
And you / you will be alone
Alone with all your secrets
Your regrets
Don't lie

You promise me the sky
Then toss me like a stone
You wrap me in your arms
And chill me to the bone

There's truth in your lies
And doubt in your faith
What you build you lay to waste
There's truth in your lies
And doubt in your faith

All I've got's what you didn't take

So I / I won't be the one
Be the one to leave this
In pieces
And you / you will be alone
Alone with all your secrets
Your regrets
Don't lie

[The Little Things Give You Away](#)

This song began from a demo by Rob Bourdon, based around the drum pattern heard in the bridge. The vocals were finished after the band visited New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

Water grey
Through the windows
Up the stairs
Chilling rain
Like an ocean
Everywhere

Don't want to reach for me do you
I mean nothing to you
The little things give you away
And now there will be no mistaking
The levees are breaking

All you've ever wanted
Was someone to truly look up to you
And six feet / underwater
I do

Hope decays
Generations disappear
Washed away
As a nation simply stares

All you've ever wanted
Was someone to truly look up to you
And six feet / underwater
I do
All you've ever wanted
Was someone to truly look up to you
And six feet / underground now
I do

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