

Ellie
Finnerty

lyric diary



Hey friend,

So you're listening to Ellie Finnerty's music, huh? Well, you've got great taste, and I think you and I are going to get along just fine.

If this is our first time meeting, let me introduce myself. I'm Ellie Finnerty and I'm a songwriter from Dawlish, Devon. At the time of writing, the year is 2022 and I am twenty-two years old. I've been penning lyrics about my life since I was fifteen and this body of work you're listening to now is a collection of my favorite songs I've written so far. My songs are highly lyric-driven, and are a diary into my experiences. I delve into topics like dealing with the pandemic, my first heart-break, moving away from home and returning back, reminiscing about friendships, and stalking your ex online...

I hope you find something of value in this work.

Peace and love,

Ellie x



1. six pound forty
2. those nights (the cliff song) [live]
3. generation jade
4. radio silence
5. signals
6. fool's duet
7. screen
8. home
9. human touch

all lyrics and music written by ellie finnerty
track 1 recorded and produced remotely by rodrigo branco
track 2 recorded live with izzi skate at off grid studios, devon
tracks 3-9 recorded and produced by gaz chatterton in dawlish, devon

Six Pound Forty

SIX POUND FORTY



Six Pound Forty artwork - released May 2021

Ellie
Finnerty

It felt only right to begin the album with Six Pound Forty. I mean, I literally introduce where I'm from (Devon) and what my name is (Ellie) in the opening verse. And it is one of the first songs I ever wrote, jotting the first lyrics in my purple songwriting book in my bedroom in 2016, and finally finishing the song eighteen months later. It tells the true story, from beginning to end, of the holiday romance turned long distance relationship I had at fifteen/sixteen years old. And every lyric is 100% true.

Six Pound Forty was also my debut single, released online in May 2021. It was a collaborative process between myself and producer Rodrigo Branco, recorded entirely over Zoom, due to the coronavirus lockdown, with me in Dawlish, Devon, and Rodrigo over in Spain. When it came to releasing the song, I enlisted the help of over 180 fans, friends and family, who all contributed artwork to create a lyric video, which is available to watch on YouTube. (A shoutout and thank you to all involved in the creation of the lyric video - bunch of legends xx)



LYRICS

From day one it was like a movie
Eyes met across the pool and you
could see right through me
Oh
Woah
It was too hot and you offered me a
bottle of water
I said yes
I'd prefer to have a Coke and vodka
though
And you asked me
Girl where are you from
And what is your name
I said I'm from Devon
My name's Ellie and
I asked you the same
Every single day for the rest of the
trip
We weren't seen without the other
We were joined at the hip
People could not believe that we
had only just met
And when the time came to say so
long to my best friend
You said
This is not goodbye

I will see you again
And I will swim there if I have to
Well how would I cope without my
other half
I can't remember a time before I
knew that laugh
Well I was working late in August
One lonely afternoon
Just thinking 'bout the time
When you said you'd see me soon
With five minutes 'til the end of my
shift
A familiar voice I heard and my
head I lifted
And I said
What the hell are you doing here
You said
I drove all this way
I'm sorry to shock you
I just really wanted to see you my
dear
For months and months
Back and forth we went
From your house to mine
You spent New Year here
And my friends all thought

You were mighty fine
While I was beginning to have my
doubts
On the surface all was good
We were living the dream
We were the Gavin and Stacey of
2016
Torn apart by a bridge that cost us
six pound forty
But each time it felt like a longer
trip
By March I was starting to ask if it
was worth it
'Cause you look different in the
Welsh rain than the sun
And it's starting to feel a bit serious
Let's have some fun
I never wanted to say goodbye
But you've got your own life to lead
And so have I
From day one it was like a movie
And we let this story unfold
It was Oscar worthy
We played our part
But now
Let the credits roll

**FYI: the title of the track comes from the cost of crossing the Severn Bridge
into Wales at the time of my long-distance relationship**

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Those Nights (The Cliff Song) [Live]

Recorded live in November 2021 at wind and solar powered recording studio, Off Grid Studios, in South Devon, 'Those Nights (The Cliff Song)' is the song of my teenage summers. Back then, almost all of my Friday nights were spent hanging out with my mates on a cliff top overlooking the beach. Specifically, Langstone Rock, on the edge of Dawlish Warren. Years later, we look back fondly on "those nights", and even at the time there was a knowing that this era wouldn't last forever; adult life was fast approaching and "someday soon we'll drift apart". I remember the exact day I wrote this song, in my bedroom in August 2016. I came running downstairs to my Mum to play it for her, and she said "ohh let me film it and put it on facebook!" (The original video is still on there...) The addition of the bracketed "(The Cliff Song)" in the title is thanks to my good friend Paige. She loved the song so much, she came to see every live show she could and always sang along to the words... but could never remember what it was called. Just that the song was about a cliff... and so the name stuck.



Music Video up on YouTube at
www.youtube.com/elliefinnertymusic

LYRICS

Moonlight
Shimmers on the waves tonight
It never looks the same way twice
So keep the colours in your mind
Don't let go
Of all the memories
We both know
That some day soon we'll drift apart
So keep this feeling in your heart
I could stay and watch the sun go down forever
Way up here I know these nights will never fade
Broken hearts, damaged livers
Smoke and fire, take a picture
On your polaroid and we'll all jump in
Laughing way too loud as my head it spins
And the history is irrelevant
'Cause all we know is here and now tonight
Let's live on the edge
Let's sneak away
From everybody you and me
We've got some catching up to do
So keep your word and please stay true
We come home late
With stories that we can't explain
'Cause no one else will understand
The beauty of my hand in your hand

I could stay and watch the sun go down forever
Way up here I know these nights will never fade
Broken hearts, damaged livers
Smoke and fire, take a picture
On your polaroid and we'll all jump in
Laughing way too loud as my head it spins
And the history is irrelevant
'Cause all we know is here and now tonight
Let's live on the edge
Ohh...
Will you stay
Until the sun goes down
'Cause I know it won't be the same
When you're not around
So stick around
I could stay and watch the sun go down forever
Way up here I know these nights will never fade
Broken hearts, damaged livers
Smoke and fire, take a picture
On your polaroid and we'll all jump in
Laughing way too loud as my head it spins
And the history is irrelevant
'Cause all we know is here and now
Tonight
Let's live on the edge

Generation Jaded

Online dating sucks. The most luck I ever had was the
time I sang Bohemian Rhapsody with a seal...



LYRICS

I met a guy on Tinder today
And I promise you this time I won't
get carried away
But he's surely the one
He only lives six miles away

I matched a guy on Hinge last week
And I swiped right on his picture
'cause his puppy looked sweet
But he left me on read
So we'll probably never meet

Oh why-y-y
Do I-I-I-I
Do this to myself?

'Cause when the
Conversation's finally faded
You'll tell all your friends
It's 'cause of something they did
Is it any wonder why
We're Generation Jaded

'Cause when the
Conversation's finally faded
You'll tell all your friends
It's 'cause of something they did
Is it any wonder why
We're Generation Jaded

We're Generation Jaded
It's always something they did
The talking phase is so shit
We're Generation Jaded

Now Nate asked me on a FaceTime
date
Let me pick the recipe and we
baked the same cake
But I got the ick when he said he
likes women under five foot eight
(And I'm five foot nine)

And when restrictions lifted
I went on a date with Mike
Down the pub laughing over a pint
Then he called the bartender a slag
And I was like
Red flag, red flag, red flag

Oh why-y-y
Do I-I-I-I
Do this to myself?
I think I read online somewhere
It's not good for your mental health

'Cause when the
Conversation's finally faded
You'll tell all your friends
It's 'cause of something they did
Is it any wonder why
We're Generation Jaded

'Cause when the
Conversation's finally faded
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It's 'cause of something they did
Is it any wonder why
We're Generation Jaded

We're Generation Jaded
It's always something they did
The talking phase is so shit
We're Generation Jaded

Now you are my audience
So I cannot pretend
Sometimes I wonder
Why I have bad luck with men
Look in the mirror, is it me?
No it's always them

Now you are my audience
So I cannot pretend

Sometimes I wonder
Why I have bad luck with men
Look in the mirror, is it me?
No it's always them

Now you are my audience s
So I cannot pretend
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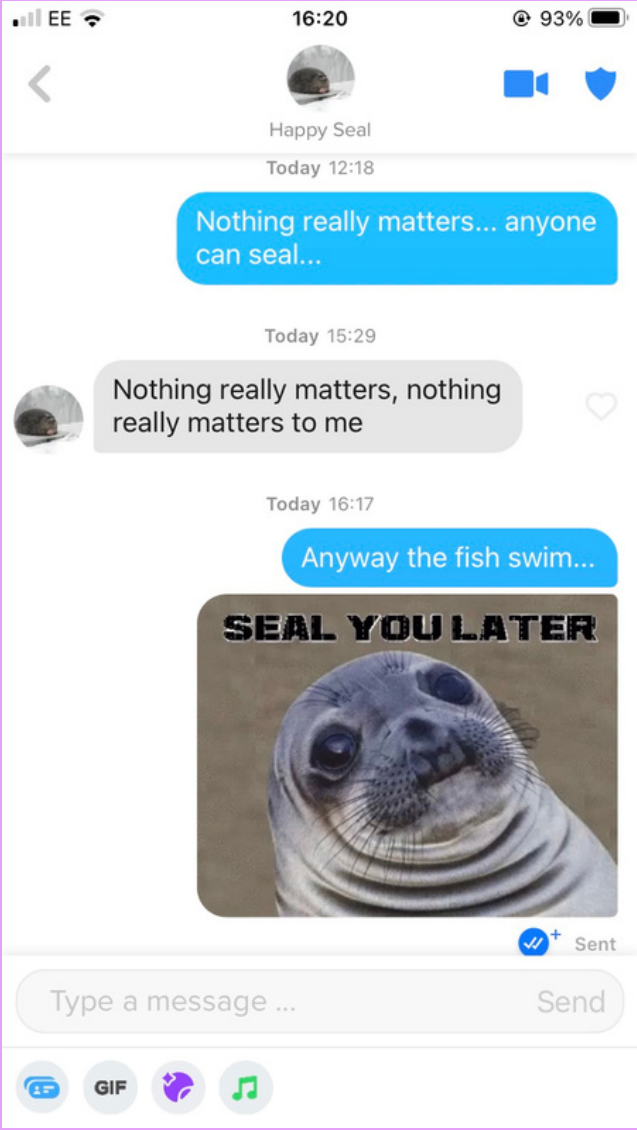
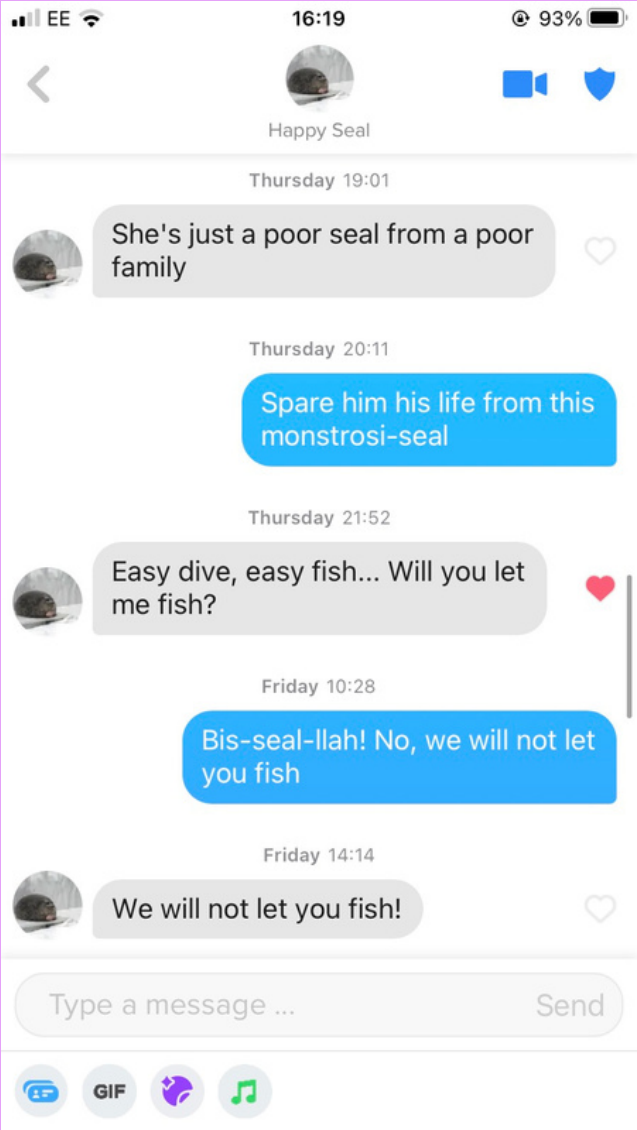
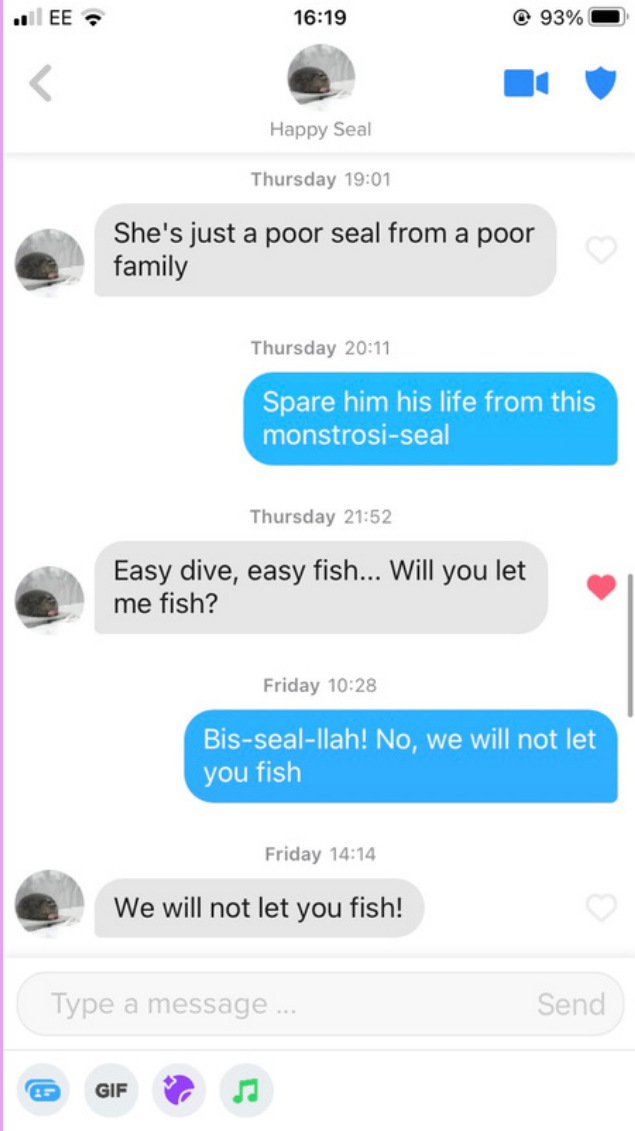
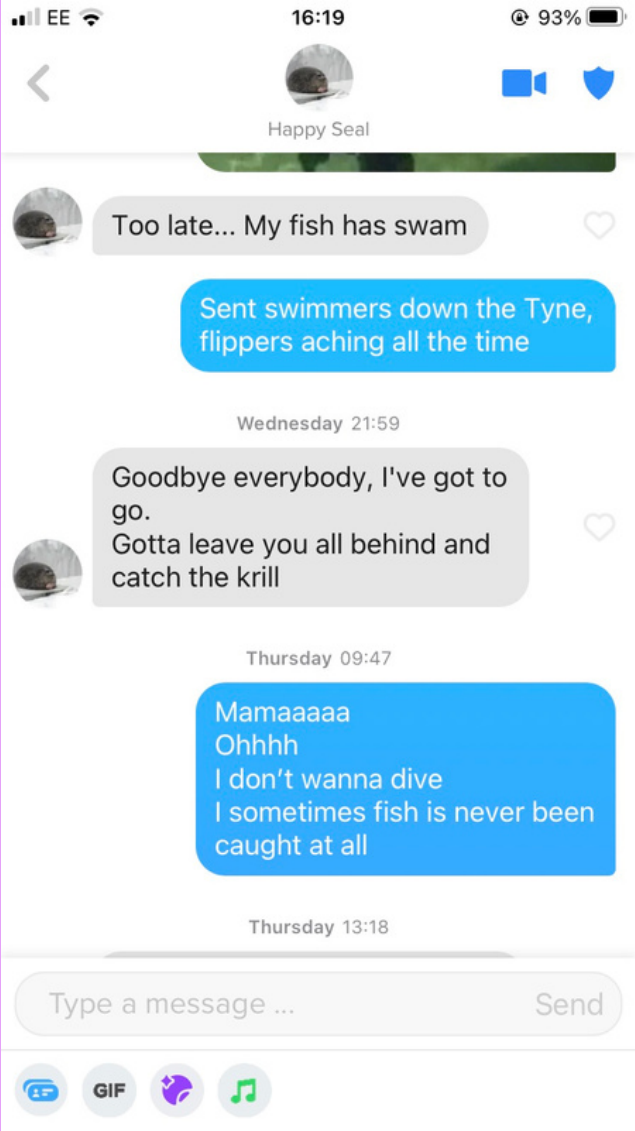
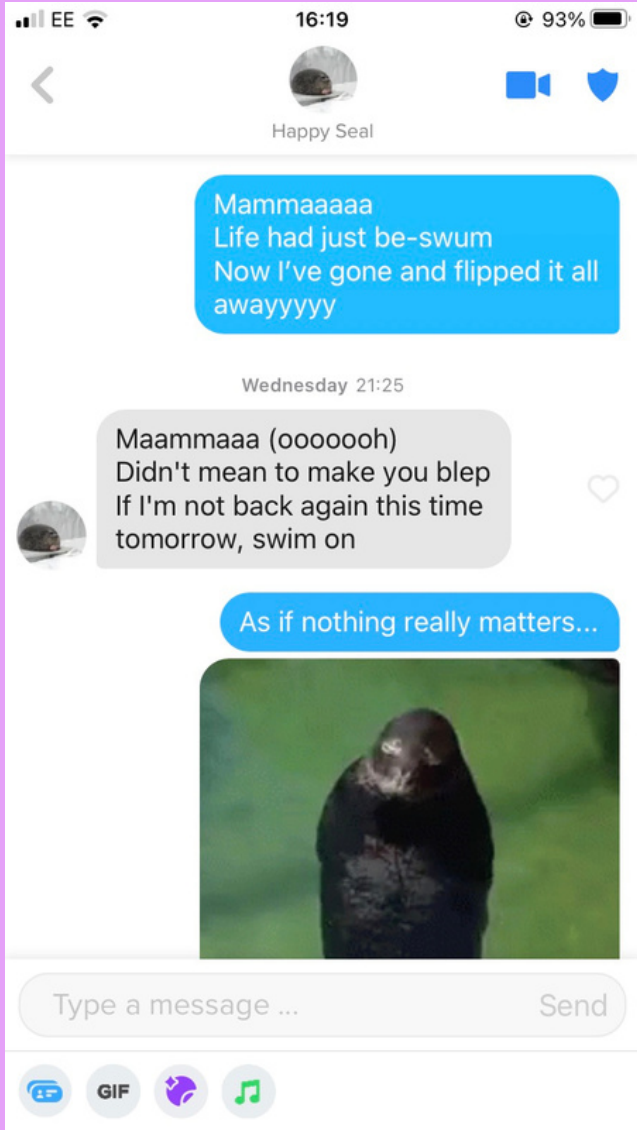
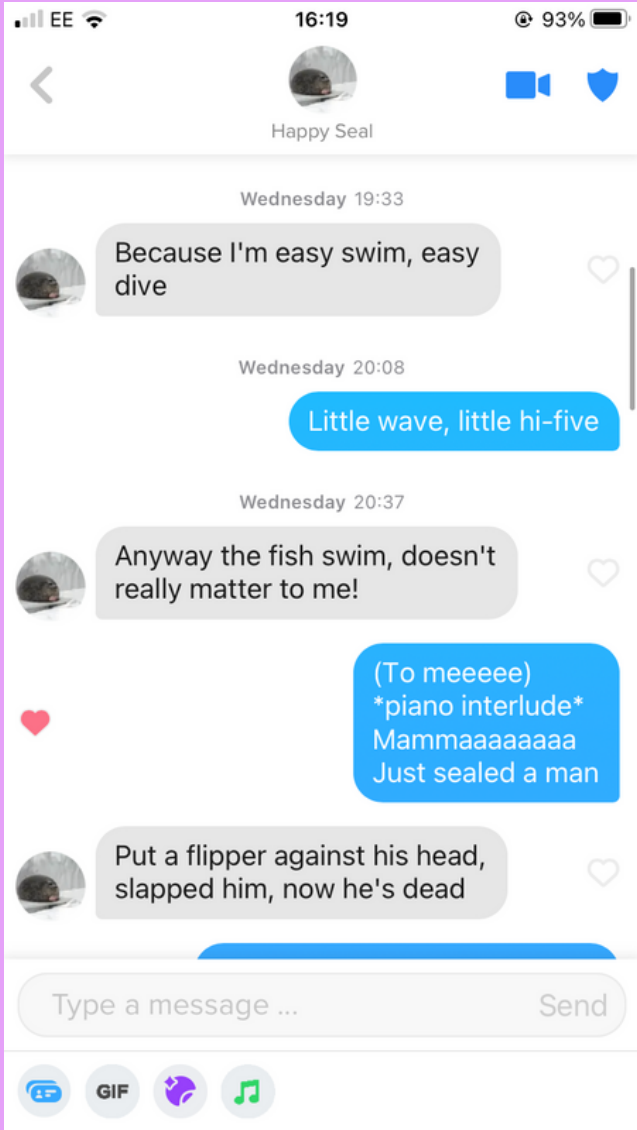
Oh why-y-y
Do I-I-I-I-I-I
Do this to myself?
I'm pretty sure I read online that
It's not good for your mental health

'Cause when the
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You'll tell all your friends
It's something they did
Is it any wonder why
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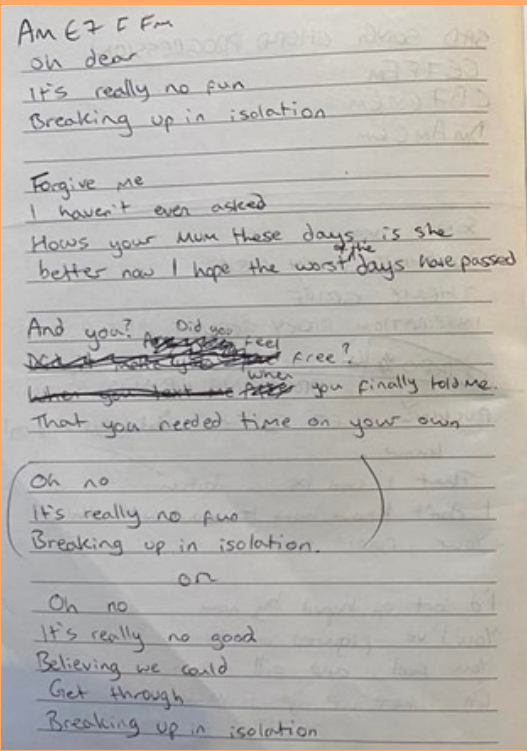


The best Tinder conversation I ever had

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Radio Silence

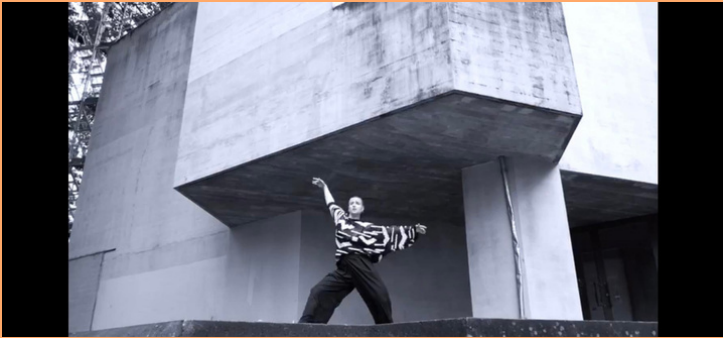
Buckle your seatbelts, it's time for the first of the sad songs. A relationship that was very important to me fell apart right at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. The worst part was, I couldn't even blame him. I couldn't be angry. I understood completely why it was over. And we went from everything to nothing in the blink of an eye. The rug was pulled from under my feet so quickly that I fell flat on my face, bruised and broken and trying but failing to stand up again. Not being allowed to leave the house during isolation, I had nothing but an endless stretch of time to think and think and think about the "what if"s and the "should have"s and the "maybe someday"s. This song is the product of that immense sadness.



A page from my little purple notebook in which I write my lyrics

An Arts Chain Music Video

A matter of weeks after writing Radio Silence in Spring 2020, my friend Selina over in Austria invited me to submit a piece of work to kick start her new initiative 'The Arts Chain'. This is a project in which an artist submits a creation (for me as a songwriter, I sent her a demo of my newly penned 'Radio Silence'). Selina then passes this onto another creative who expresses their art in a different format (dancing, painting, story-telling etc) and the song is used as stimuli to produce a totally new piece of art. That is then passed onwards and onwards again to create the chain. Radio Silence was used by Austrian creative Natalie Rossetti to choreograph a beautiful contemporary dance music video.



Stills taken from the Arts Chain Music Video for Radio Silence, available to watch on Natalie Rossetti's Instagram (@nnrossettijordan)

LYRICS

I know
That I can be a bitch
I don't know to deal with this
Your radio silence
I'd sort of hoped by now
You'd've figured out how
You feel
And fill me in
On
Where we go from
Here
Oh dear
It's really no fun
Breaking up in isolation
Forgive me
I haven't even asked
How's your mum these days
Is she better now
I hope the worst of the days have passed
And you?
Did you feel free?
When you finally told me

That you needed time
On your own
Oh no
It's no good
Believing we could
Get through
Breaking up in isolation
Now there's far too much empty time
When it ends can I still call you mine?
I can't walk away
Without hearing your final say
So give me the truth
And be ruthless with my heart
If this is us for
Good
Then
You
Should
Find
Someone new to kiss
And I'll learn how to deal with this:
Your radio silence



If Radio Silence is the sorrow after the breakup, Signals takes it right back to the heart flutters of the first meeting. I think of these two songs as bookends of the relationship. It's about those secret moments of connection you share right at the start, and praying you're reading the signals right this time.

Musically, I was very heavily influenced by Dodie's 'Intertwined', the title track of her 2016 EP, and strived to replicate the soft fingerpicking style of guitar and intimate vocals to reflect the vulnerability of putting your heart on the line.

P.S. If 'Signals' was a scene in a TV show it would be Heartstopper, Season 1, Episode 3, 21 minutes and 11 seconds in.

LYRICS

Knees touch
You don't move yours away
You've made your way to my side of the table
I'm secretly glad when you stay
Eyes lock
You hold my gaze
I tell a terrible joke
No one laughs
But you
Anyway I
Hope that I'm not
Overthinking these signals too much
But do you feel wonderful?
Nervous?
Excited
Like me
When
Our
Fingers touch
Soft as summer breeze
You've made your way by my side as we walk
And I hope you never leave

Alone now
It's just you and me
We stay up talking 'til four in the morning and
Honestly
I pray that I'm not
Overthinking these signals again
I'm prone to overromanticize nothing
But then
You take me by the hand
I finally understand
I'm not going insane
No I've not lost my brain
This is real
And under moonlit skies
We stargaze side by side
In an infinite vastness of chaotic chances
It's you
Hearts stop
No longer afraid
You've made your way to my life
And I like it
I'm kind of hoping you'll stay



Fool's Duet



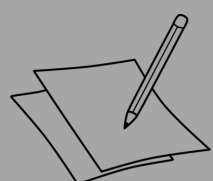
Story break-down

This is the story of two ex-lovers and follows their inner monologue as they deal with a tormentous heartbreak. (Lyrically, this is the song I'm proudest of and I've always felt like I could write a GCSE English Literature essay on this one so here it goes.)

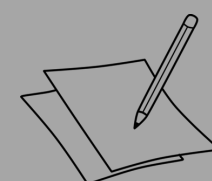
Verse one is sang from the female perspective, verse two from the male perspective, and the two voices come together for the middle eight and outro. In verse one, the narrator is speaking directly to her ex, stating her belief that he “moved on long ago”. By listing all of the things she is free to do as single woman (“kissing whoever I want in the dead of night, not missing you at all”) she attempts to convince him, and perhaps even herself, that she has “fallen out of love”. However, there is doubt in the conviction of her words, as she has to “say it over again ‘til it becomes the truth”, almost like a mantra she repeats to herself in the mirror to make it real. She believes herself to be the “fool” for ever thinking she could be the one to fill his “vacant heart”.

Upon hearing this, in verse two, the male ex responds. He takes her words at face value, and is wholeheartedly convinced that she is over him. His inability to read into the subtleties points to a flaw in their communication throughout the relationship. By saying “finally” and “it was only a matter of time”, he thinks her moving on quickly after the breakup was inevitable. It is clear that his self-confidence is low; perhaps he thought he would be pushed, so he jumped. He expresses regret for thinking that “letting [her] go would be easy”. She does not hear him. If this song were a dance, here I would imagine that she would have her back to him throughout this verse.

In the middle eight, both voices come together and we hear their thoughts in live time as they see each other “across the crowd” for the first time since the breakup. They both think the other has had “so much time to heal” and that “it’s not fair” that their ex has moved on so much quicker than themselves. If only they would sit down and have a truly honest conversation about how they are feeling and really listen to each other, they may be able to work things out. But alas, they cannot, rendering them both "fools". The concluding lyric is a repetition of the opening statement that “I’ve fallen out of love with you. I’ll say it over again ‘til it becomes the truth” and the cyclic structure of the song exposes their ongoing suffering.



Writing the song



I was living and working out in Cyprus when I penned Fool's Duet in my box room in the early hours of the morning, overheated and starkly lit by florescent tube lighting. I was still suffering from the hangover of heartbreak I had gone through earlier that year, and observing a close friend of mine who, at the time, was dealing with a turbulent relationship. I felt inspired by JP Saxe and Julia Michaels' 'If The World Was Ending' and the dynamic of a male vs female narrating voices. I also chose to reference 'Is It Just Me?' by Emily Burns and 'Wish You Were Here' by Pink Floyd in the lyrics of Fool's Duet as two powerful songs of misery and longing.

When I finished writing the song that night, I stepped out of my room onto the steps where my friends were hanging out and asked if I could try it out on them, to get their feedback. As I finished the song, I looked up to see the friend in the turbulent relationship crying... so I think I did something right?

The version you are hearing has only my voice, but I have big plans for this song in the future to record again as a duet, but who will be my partner? (Ed Sheeran, what do you say?)

LYRICS

I've fallen out of love with you
I'll say it over again 'til it becomes the truth
You moved on long ago
So I'm no longer fighting this lump in the back of my throat
And I can listen to 'Is It Just Me?' with dry eyes
Kissing whoever I want in the dead of night
Not missing you at all
No
No longer grieving the future that we never got to build
I get it
Your vacant heart could never be filled by me
What a fool to think it could be

You've finally fallen out of love with me
It was only a matter of time until you saw what I see
That I could never give you all you need
And now you look so damn happy
But I can't listen to 'Wish You Were Here' with dry eyes
Thinking who's holding you close in the cold dark night
Regretting that it should be me
But I get it
By now you've ran out of tears for grieving
I thought letting you go would be easy
What a fool to think it would be

Now
I see your face across the crowd
You're right there
But you don't care
But how
Could I even tell you how I feel?
You've had so much time to heal
It's not fair
You don't care
Because

You've fallen out of love with us
Too much has passed to ever re-build that trust

And I swear
That I've fallen out of love with you
I'll say it over again 'til it becomes the truth

Screen



Here's a question for you; do you still follow your ex on social media?

When I put a poll out on my Instagram story asking this question, it was around a 50/50 split between yes and no.

People told me; "yes, because we're still friends" or "no, because they cheated on me". "Yes, because I'm nosey" or "no, because I don't want to feel like I'm constantly trying to prove to my ex that my life is great now". The latter is exactly what I was doing: obsessing over whether he had seen that picture of me down at the beach, wondering what he thought of it, desperate to showcase how happy I now was. (Spoiler, I was miserable). I realised, our parents generation never had this issue. We are navigating uncharted territory of life online post-breakup. So, what is there to do but write a song about it...

LYRICS

I won't lie
I still check that you view my Insta
story
I'll admit
I feel better when you do
It's pathetic
But I like to convince myself that
You still care
That I'm doing alright
Without you

So when you see me through your
iPhone screen
And I'm living my best life
Do you ever wonder what's
underneath that beautiful lie

I guess I'll have to grow up
Watch you get engaged on Facebook
See you move to the suburbs
You told me
You never wanted to live by the coast
And I will double tap on the picture
Of your kid's first day at school
And act like it's all cool with me
That I'm watching you live your life
through a screen

Through a screen
Through a screen
Instead of growing old with me
I'll sit here quietly
And watch your life through a screen

I'll admit
I still read the messages you sent me
And after all this time
No the words haven't changed

I don't know what I'm hoping to find
Perhaps some closure that it's really
over
Or some evidence
That you might change your mind

Cause when I see you through my
iPhone screen
And you're living your best life
I often wonder what's underneath
that beautiful lie

I guess I'll have to grow up
Watch you get engaged on Facebook
See you move to the suburbs
You told me
You never wanted to live by the coast
And I will double tap on the picture
Of your kids first day at school
And act like it's all cool with me
That I'm watching you live your life
through a screen

Through a screen
Through a screen
Instead of growing old with me
I'll sit here quietly and watch your life
through a screen

Oh through a screen
Through a screen
Instead of making plans with me
I'll sit here enviously and watch your
life through a screen

Cause when I see you through my
iPhone screen
And you're living your best life

I often wonder what's underneath
that beautiful lie

But I guess I'll have to grow up
Watch you get engaged on Facebook
See you move to the suburbs
You told me
You never wanted to live by the coast
(Hm)
And I will double tap on the picture
Of your kids first day at school
And act like it's all cool with me
That I'm watching you live your life

Oh I guess I'll have to grow
And watch you get engaged on
Facebook
See you move to the suburbs
You told me you never wanted to live
by the coast
And I will double tap on the picture
Of your kids first day day at school
And act like it's all cool with me
That I'm watching you live your life
through a screen

Through a screen
Through a screen
Instead of growing old with me
I'll sit here quietly
And watch your life through a screen

Oh through a screen
Through a screen
Instead of making plans with me
I'll sit here enviously
And maybe one day
One day hit delete

Swan Home Swan

This song is for the people of Dawlish.



When I was a kid, my Dad etched mine and my brother's names into the wet tarmac on the sea wall between Dawlish and Dawlish Warren. It has since been covered over, but the "E" and "L" of my name still remains.

I grew up in this seaside town on the South Devon coast, and it was only when moving back, amid a global pandemic, that I saw the place with fresh eyes, and a newfound fondness. My Mum and I were on one of our once-per-day government-prescribed walks in that unusually warm Spring of 2020, when I began recalling layer upon layer of memories. My growing up is intrinsically intertwined with the landscape and landmarks of this town, and I am love coming home and playing this song live to its people. If you've never been to Dawlish, come along and check it out - grab yourself a Gay's Creamery ice cream and sit by the Brook to watch the Black Swans.



"The station where I had my first kiss"



LYRICS

I walk with my mother under the old oak tree
By the river and the play park where I used to run free
My initials are carved into the branch
Permanently

I walk with my father along the sea wall
There's an 'E' etched in the tarmac from when I was small
Though the waves they crash and they beat
Relentlessly

I vandalise my name across this town
So no matter how long I'm away
When I sit under the old oak tree, I know
This town will always be home

My primary school used to be bigger, I swear
Or did I just get taller and grow out my hair?
'Cause that home-cut fringe was a trend
Back in twenty-ten

I walk by the station where I had my first kiss
On a summer Friday evening as the sun began to dip
And I think about that boy sometimes

I vandalise my name across this town
So no matter how long I'm away
When I sit under the old oak tree, I know
This town will always be home

And though I was itching to leave
The moment I turned eighteen
Am Now that I'm back it is
so clear to see

Every corner screams with memories
This town is where I became
me

I vandalise my name across this town
So no matter how long I'm away
When I sit under the old oak tree, I know
This town
Oh this town
Will always be home

Human Touch

Well my friend you've made it through with me to the end.

This final song, 'Human Touch' was never intended to be anything more than the stream-of-consciousness poem that came pouring out of me one sleepless night in the Autumn of 2020, not long after my 21st birthday.

Somehow the lyrics managed to capture the mood of the moment:

Confusion over what was right and what was wrong amid the ever-changing covid-19 guidelines implemented by the British Government ("half-price coffee" referring to that summer's 'Eat Out To Help Out' scheme)

Bitterness that the supposed best years of my life weren't panning out like all the movies I grew up watching ("should be out there having fun")

Fear that the worst was yet to come ("dreading winter locked in hibernation again")

Questioning if my desires were moral in the context of the pandemic ("is it selfish to want to hug my friends")

Acknowledgement of the mental health crisis that was exacerbated by prolonged isolation ("PTSD and anxiety")

The fundamental human need for contact ("I miss the human touch")



With piano accompaniment by Gaz Chatterton, this felt like the right way to conclude this body of work. I hope you have enjoyed this album. Thank you for being here.



elliefinnertymusic something I wrote at two o'clock in the morning a few weeks back

LYRICS

I don't understand what you want me to do
Got a half-price coffee just the other week
Now there's a 10 pm curfew
Sending signals more mixed than my ex
When he broke my heart in two
'Cause I've just turned 21, should be out there
having fun
But I'm left so confused by
The feeling that I'm wasting my young adulthood
The crippling guiltiness that I should
Be doing more
Than sitting on my childhood bedroom floor
Writing songs about loneliness and isolation
I'm dreading winter locked in hibernation again
Is it selfish to want to hug my friends with PTSD
And anxiety
Zoom just don't cut it 'cause we're all 2D
I need to feel something
More than this nothing
I miss the human touch
And the comfort in knowing that
What I can offer the world
Is enough

24 hour recording challenge with Gaz Music Solutions



Tracks 3-9 on this album were recorded and produced by Gaz Chatterton of Gaz Music Solutions, based in Dawlish, Devon.

Six of those tracks (Generation Jaded, Radio Silence, Signals, Fool's Duet, Home and Human Touch) were recorded within a 24 hour time frame: between midday on Wednesday 1st June and midday on Thursday 2nd June 2022. (Screen was recorded separately one evening in March 2022)



Gaz provides a fully mobile and professional recording setup, and we were able to capture high quality audio using his equipment and production expertise. He is a skilled multi instrumentalist and makes a mean cup of tea.

I would highly recommend anyone looking to record their music to contact Gaz Chatterton. Find out more on their website:
www.gazmusicsolutions.co.uk

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