

"THE OTHER SIDE"
Music and Lyrics by Thabi Khumalo

If any moment could be the last one
I would spend forever in this one with you
It's been so hard for you, but you love me
Underneath the confusion and medication
I remember like its yesterday
They said it was something in your aging brain
First it was keys and then your memory
I never thought I'd lose you all the same

When I get to you, on the other side
Promise me you'll be the same way, like when I was a child
Full of life, not withering away
Like the sand in the hourglass of your life
If I were you, and you were me
Would you have chose all the same type of therapies
Because now I can't even say goodbye, as you move on without me to another life

Do you think about me when you're lonely?
Does my name even cross your mind?
Cuz when I see you, you don't remember me
It's not your fault, but still I cry
I remember like its yesterday
They said it was something in your aging brain
First it was keys and then your memory
I never thought I'd lose you all the same

When I get to you, on the other side
Promise me you'll be the same way, like when I was a child
Full of life, not withering away
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If I were you, and you were me
Would you have chose all the same type of therapies
Because now I can't even say goodbye, as you move on without me to another life

I remember like its yesterday
The first time you forgot my name
I looked at you like you were crazy
If I only knew it was just the beginning

When I get to you, on the other side
Promise me you'll be the same way, like when I was a child
Full of life, not withering away
Like the sand in the hourglass of your life
If I were you, and you were me
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CONTEXT: This song is written from the point of view of a caregiver, typically a child or spouse, of an Alzheimer's patient. The patient is about to die, and the caregiver is recounting their experience, as well as sharing their feelings about losing their loved one.

WHY MUSIC?: Music has always touched me in a special way. I thought writing a song could be a good way to tell the opinion of one involved with an Alzheimer's patient in a creative way.

This song is written in descending fashion, using mostly minor chords. The only musical indication of brightness is used in the chorus in the transition from the first to second chord. It is important to note the second chord is suspended, giving the chord a clashing or crunchy feeling. I used this type of chord because I think it creates a parallel between the way feelings can clash between caregivers, doctors, and patients. Sometimes, it is hard to have a 'correct' decision that pleases every party involved in the conversation, especially in caregiving.

THE LYRICS: As mentioned, the song is written in the perspective of a caregiver to a dying loved one. The first and second verse depicts the emotions and thoughts that could run through the head of a caregiver. The pre-chorus is the caregiver reminiscing of the beginning of the process of having to deal with the weight of this disease before the end of the patient's life, which is the chorus. I tried my best to highlight thoughts a caregiver would think as they are aware of their loved one reaching the end. While the caregiver is looking forward to the possibility of seeing their loved one in an afterlife, they are still unhappy with the idea of losing their loved one, as well as never being able to be in the presence of the person they once knew, before the disease hit.

CLASS CONNECTION: In writing from the perspective of a caregiver to an Alzheimer's patient, the listener is able to gain from empathy by hearing from their personal experience and feelings. In being empathetic, it can be easier to make a well-informed ethical decision.