

Portrait of a Lady — Album Review



Before I begin, I just want to throw a quick disclaimer; I am not a reviewer, I do not typically do reviews of albums and I am not a professional. This is a personal breakdown of Eli's new album and my interpretation only. It may not be accurate to the actual song's meaning!

Cultus

The lyrics are written so beautifully in this song.

"Pain is now a cult that has pierced my body
A contract that binds me to beauty and ugliness
If I obey, this body will perish."

"This shameful face makes me think of vileness
If I could have been born like you."

So many lines hit straight to the heart.

It speaks to that feeling of losing yourself, following the trends of others but still never reaching your ideal self. Feeling inadequate with who you are right now — it's something I relate to so much lately.

"I wish I could be *you*"... that thought lives in my head every time I'm in awe of my favorite artists and creators. *Why does it seem so easy for them?*

Cultus really brings out this ache. It's the perfect opener for Portrait of a Lady, setting the emotional tone for what's to come.

Rain of Scabiosa

This song captures the brutal, beautiful experience of losing someone you loved deeply — clinging to memories while struggling to survive in a world without them. Slowly, painfully, learning to let go.

I've experienced deep loss too, so this song felt especially close to me. Imagining life with someone who's no longer there... it's raw. It's devastating.

Eili's voice elevates the emotion even higher — it feels like the wind itself carrying the melody to you.

An absolutely vivid and stunning piece.

Schneekugel

One of my favorite songs on the album!!

Eili's soprano SHINES here — when she sings, "A silent cry without a word", I swear I got SHIVERS. DOWN. MY. SPINE.

This song explores a painfully familiar feeling: imposter syndrome.

We hide behind facades, desperate to be accepted, but deep inside, we doubt ourselves. Every compliment feels like a lie. We think, "None of it is real — they don't know the real me."

No amount of validation can lift us because we're too busy doubting ourselves.

Schneekugel captures that aching loneliness perfectly.

零れ落ちる夜

This one was harder to interpret, but it feels like grief, regret, and the desperate clinging to a love (or passion) that's already dying.

It speaks to the violence of emotional collapse, the fragile beauty of memory, and the pain of refusing to let go.

It could be about a person, a dream, even a piece of the self.

I love how the "dirty fingertips" imagery shows how stained and undeserving she feels, yet she still clings fiercely.

It's dark, emotional, and beautiful — and fits the album's theme of self-exploration so well.

沈む羽

This song is about being trapped by the illusion of perfection — forced to uphold a beautiful facade while breaking apart inside.

It's about suffocating under the expectations of others while secretly longing for freedom ("dreaming of dawn").

The lyric writing here is phenomenal TvT.

Blackberrying

This song is about the raw struggle for selfhood — trying to hang onto your real, messy, beautiful self while the world pushes you to be something "prettier" and more acceptable.

It's vulnerable and defiant at once.

There's a deep link between the portrait and life itself — always questioning: Is this really my portrait? Or someone else's painting of me?

It's about reclaiming the brush.

There are sooo many metaphors woven into this song — it's honestly brilliant.

あさきゆめ

A breathtaking song about impermanence — how everything beautiful eventually fades away. But instead of despair, it finds peace in this truth.

It's about living fully without clinging to shallow dreams or illusions.

Probably my favorite song on the album — it's just so heartbreakingly beautiful.

贖い

This song speaks to the pain of isolation — the fear of walking alone — but also the incredible strength it takes to keep moving forward, even when nobody is there to catch you.

It's about grieving, blaming yourself, longing for connection... but ultimately finding the courage to stand up anyway.

I'm struggling with this so much right now, so this song really hit me hard.

It's so vulnerable and raw.

Unconfident Competence

Another beautiful track — I think this is one of Eili's "coined term" songs.

I absolutely love the backing track here, and the harmonies are just ethereal. It lifts you right off the ground.

This song feels like "indecision" or "unconfident" personified. A song that'd play during a particularly heart wrenching scene in a game perhaps. I can picture the protagonist fighting a very difficult battle they maybe don't want to fight, something with intense emotional stakes.

Every step, choice, attack is a painful wrench in your gut. "Is this the right choice?" "Am I doing the right thing?"

Misanoxia

This one broke me in the best way.

It's about emotional burnout, self-erasure, and realizing you've never been allowed to love yourself — you've only been surviving for others.

I cried listening to this.

It feels like my life story — trying so hard to be what others want that you forget who you even are.

An absolutely gut-wrenching song.

Pray for it

This is the anthem of reclaiming yourself.

It's a fierce, powerful declaration that you're not fragile or easily broken — you're a dragon, forged in fire, uncontainable.

It's such a sudden 180 in energy but fits the album so well.

A perfect, fiery moment of self-liberation.

nhiyr xzyhss

This song reminds me so much of World End Girlfriend and NieR, and I LOVE that.

The title (probably coined) feels like a broken star, a hidden soul, a fading world, a lost memory... something fragile and lonely.

One of my favorites on the album — I want an entire game based on this song lol.

Closing Thoughts

Portrait of a Lady is a deeply personal and vulnerable album, and I loved every second of it.

Eili's angelic, elegant vocals elevate every emotion a thousandfold, and the lyrics are so rich with metaphors and poetic meaning.

I'm so proud of you, Eili, for releasing your first album.

I can't wait to loop this for years to come <3

I've never broken down an album like this before, but somehow, every single song feels like it could be about *me*. I've never listened to a more relatable album in my life.

I feel such a spiritual and emotional connection to every track. It's incredible to have all these daily struggles put into words and sound so perfectly.

Thank you for this experience, Eili.

And special thanks to everyone on her team — the art, graphic design, mixing, instrumentals, and sound design are absolutely beautiful.

For anyone reading this review;

[GO SUPPORT THIS AMAZING ALBUM](#)

Written by Raeya Lee, a very enthusiastic supporter <3