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Part 1:

The songs that we will be exploring are “Nothing even matters”, by Ms.Lauryn Hill, “White Ferrari” by Frank Ocean, and lastly “Destroy Myself For You” by Montell Fish. In Hill’s “Nothing Even Matters”, we see the common use of metaphors to emphasize the amount of love she has and how vast it is. For instance, in the following verse, Hill is showcasing how the love she has for her partner outweighs any otherworldly responsibility or events.

“Now the skies could fall
Not even if my boss should call
The world, it seems so very small
'Cause nothing even matters at all”

We see how Lauryn uses the metaphor where she states that the skies could fall which is not literal and infers that the world is ending, yet she would still be focused on the one she loves. It’s an interesting dynamic because she uses everyday and common things like a boss calling and the skies that can be related to the common person. She does this in an effort to show how native and blinding love can be, in a dramatic way. Hill uses the genre of R&B to captivate her audience through the theme of love which is one of the most prominent themes seen in R&B. During this timing of the release, R&B was centered around a very dream-like dynamic of love, one that had

people so ready to drop everything, which I think she illustrated well through the use of metaphors throughout the entire song.

Frank Ocean uses different devices throughout his entire song, “White Ferrari”. The title itself sets the scene of a car ride that takes the listener through different scenes and moments throughout a relationship. Frank takes the reader on a deeper more poetic scene than the previous song mentioned. He uses metaphors in ways that create a dimension that takes his meanings to a different level. He constantly brings in “White Ferrari” to illustrate that the relationship he is describing is almost passing him by without his control and he is just watching it and talking about it. During this scene, he reminisces how happy they were and how they were in “good times”.

“I care for you still and I will forever
That was my part of the deal, honest
We got so familiar
Spending each day of the year, White Ferrari
Good times”

Frank then shifts the focus of the song from this positive aspect to show the change in perspectives through the use of metaphors and diction. He states,

“I’m sure we’re taller in another dimension
You say we’re small and not worth the mention”

Using diction Frank creates a very poetic and meaningful statement, he alludes to the idea that he and his partner just aren’t meant to be at this time, and that the partner is somehow downplaying

and undermining their love while Frank is placing it at such a high level that isn't being reciprocated. Frank using the word "dimension" created an experience for the listener that is deeper than stating how much he loved this person, and showing the contrast with the following line. Frank wanted to set up a timeline through his use of diction and syntax, creating one moving part that can be seen as a car driving through the different stages of the relationship. He wanted to show how at first the love was pure and slowly transitioned to something that was simply not reciprocated anymore. Once more Frank uses Diction to showcase his feelings towards the relationship one last time,

"Clearly this isn't all that there is

Can't take what's been given

But we're so okay here, we're doing fine"

Frank's use of word choice shows that he is accepting what he is being given and even though it's not ideal he is willing to live with it and accept this love. Ocean is creating a very real and raw emotional journey that many of us may or have gone through, he wants his audience to understand this dynamic and how he felt during this time period in his life. This young dumb and blinding love while was so pure for him. Frank takes his audience on a much more personal journey though, through his use of diction as it causes the reader to read a little deeper into his

lyrics and take their own spin on what the meaning is without divulging too far off of what he meant.

Montel Fish explores his love in a different way that is still raw and unfiltered. Throughout his song, Montell uses the device of allusion to the bible, he references many times in a way that showcases how deep and how far he is willing to go for the love he feels for this other person,

“Maybe it'll last this time

Feel like I'ma crash

I hang up on the cross for You

I would give it all for You”

Fish describes his desperation and how he would go as far as to go on the cross as did Jesus Christ in the bible, to showcase his love in efforts to gain this girl back. He also uses diction to show how badly he wants everything to be okay again and to feel her love, as he would “give it all” for her. Throughout the song, Montell utilizes repetition with the phrase,

“I destroy myself just for You, You

I destroy myself just for You, You”

In a way, it emphasizes how much this heartbreak is damaging his spirit and how far he is willing to go to receive the love he once had with this person. The intended audience can range from people who simply want to listen to a song that reflects the pain they feel so strongly and their

raw emotions, while also taking points from their religion or spiritual beliefs. I believe Montell includes this biblical allusion in an attempt to heal himself and the people who are reading it, he presents such an overwhelming pain but includes biblical quotes that may offer him and his listeners some relief.

Part 2:

Love And Its Fluidity

Love is a fluid emotion. The same feeling that can make one feel worth everything in the universe, resulting in such immersive happiness, can also create a space for the greatest pain many will feel. Love can have many stages, one being what many call the “honeymoon stage”, a time period in a relationship characterized by blinding passionate love that consists mostly of laughs and intimacy, however, this is often just a phase. As this phase starts to wind down another will appear, a time period where love evolves into something much more real and realistic and problems may arise. During this time couples are put through many different “tests” in which they get to see and weigh their compatibility with each other. As a result of this phase, many partnerships end up getting stronger or weaker. Some get to continue feeling this blissful emotion while others have to fall victim to one of the most gruesome yet invisible pains that we can experience as human beings. The three songs presented convey the emotion of love in this idea. The combination of these lyrical pieces is one that shows the fluidity and expressiveness that love creates and nurtures. The ability it has to flow throughout our brain mindlessly changing the way we may perceive the world or ourselves in an instant. They show the ability for us to feel so deeply in love while also showing us how we can love at the wrong times causing things to often end.

In Ms.Lauryn Hill and D’Angelo’s song “Nothing even matters”, the emotion of love is presented in its full effect. The passion of being able to love another human being so immensely that everything else seems so small and insignificant. Throughout this song, we see the high emphasis on the idea that the two characters want nothing except to be with each other, as they

are the only things worth each other's time and attention. We often see this type of carefree love in many "honeymoon" stages of relationships. It showcases the fragile and amazing feeling love can cause between two people, an emotion so great that everything else ceases to exist. The softness and tenderness of the voices on this track create a space for one to simply forget about all stress and indulge in the great power that love gives, whether one might have a special someone in mind or simply reminisce on past experiences. Regardless this song is one for those who have felt the warmth and pleasure love has to offer, before being tainted by the problems of reality and the rift of a relationship. The love in this song is pure and may convey a strong feeling of peace however in many realistic situations, this feeling is temporary. The problems that many won't see in this phase start to arise causing all sorts of issues, that causes this once overwhelming feeling of peace to soon become a burden. It is here that many start to question the validity of their relationship and how serious they are about it.

Loving another person allows us to feel so intimate and connected with them in ways one might not think were possible, however, this same feeling can exist in a relationship that isn't meant to be or just doesn't work. Oftentimes people find themselves in love with a person however there are a lot more other factors that can cause problems that don't allow for the relationship to prosper. Frank Ocean portrays a very different love than what Hill showed us. He shows us the reality of love and how sometimes love just doesn't win, in his song "White Ferrari". Frank shows an emotion that people who have felt the blissful love that Lauryn describes while experiencing the trials and tribulations of a real relationship can relate to. The strong feeling of warmth is still expressed but perhaps in a different way, more of a reminiscing feeling and how we can be connected with a person and love them, and yet be so disconnected. Realistically loving someone who isn't on the same path or wavelength as you can be extremely

difficult and sometimes feel impossible, love doesn't discriminate on who and when you love. It can be the right person but the wrong time, yet you love them just the same. Frank presents the idea that love is a forever feeling.

“I care for you still and I will forever
That was my part of the deal, honest
We got so familiar
Spending each day of the year
White Ferrari, good times”

The simple yet meaningful message presented here is one of loving someone no matter the situation, nothing can change the feeling you have towards them, because at the end of the day the time spent with that person created a sacred space that can't just be erased. The “good times” is not something you can just recant and forget, love doesn't work that way. Instead, we acknowledge the love and promise we make with someone and start the process of moving on. Frank allows a space where one can reminisce and think about love in a way that Hill showed us but more in a way that acknowledges the issues and how sometimes the love expressed isn't always right for each other. Ocean states,

“I'm sure we're taller in another dimension
You say we're small and not worth the mention...”

As previously stated, you can love the right person however just during the wrong time or place, and this is the idea Frank is expressing above. He has this great love for someone but it just isn't the right time and he states that the love would be more concrete and substantial in maybe a different time or even universe. The feeling Frank doesn't explore here is the feeling after this, and how one might feel after acknowledging that no matter how much you may love someone if

they aren't right for you or if it isn't the right timing there is nothing you can do. The next phase in this love story is one of despair and sorrow.

Reaching the final stage in this exploration of love leaves us at the station of loss. The act of loving somebody yet not being able to be with them and indulge in this emotion causes emotional turmoil. Montell Fish explores the notion of helplessness after a heartbreak. The direct result of the once pleasurable love we felt in Lauryn Hill's song, falling down to the acknowledgment of differences to now the aftermath of heartbreak and separation. Montell expresses just how painful the loss of love is, and the act of destroying one's self with the idea of changing in an attempt to recall this now-forbidden love. The same feeling that blinds us with bliss now blinds us with despair, leaving us to simply exist as if nothing ever happened. Fish conveys just how badly many want this love back regardless of what it might take. Montell states, "Destroy myself just to wait for You", describing the lengths one would go to wait for the person they love to be ready regardless if it destroys themselves in the process. As Frank explored in his song, love isn't a feeling we get to turn on and off, we must deal with the emotions it makes us feel head-on. Whether it be happiness like Lauryn showed us, acknowledgment and reminiscing that Frank showed, or finally the sorrow and pain that heartbreak brings which Montell portrays. Love can change in an instant.

Part 3:

The story I created through this mixtape is one of how love can change and cause such a drastic effect on our emotions and seem to constantly take over our brains. I wanted each song to be different but still relate to the same theme while showing almost a timeline of how many relationships work out. These different stages that each song presents create an interesting dynamic that allows anyone to feel the shift but understand the meaning and message behind each stage. The first being naivety and unconditional love, the second being realistic and raw, then ultimately transitioning to the third of heartbreak and despair. The order of the songs is important as this shows the different stages of love. Reflecting on feedback based on a listener, the message I wanted to convey is easily receivable and illustrated,

“The first one talks more about the person being so in love with one another that "nothing even matters". Then the second one is more like the person loving a person but can't be with them. Lastly, it talks more about heartbreak where the song deals more with the sadness and loss that love can leave you with. I feel like this is the perfect mixtape...- Fernando”