

# Exercise Episode 017

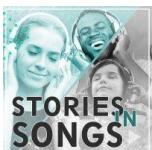
## The Lovers Meet Scene

inspired by the song:  
“Special K” by Placebo

### TASK:

I want you to write your original lyrics about a struggling character who experiences a revelation through meeting their love interest, but who is still too caught up in their ongoing struggle that they can't embrace this new opportunity of appreciating the love they've found.

1. Use **present tense** to engage in the ongoing struggle of your song's character. They were dealing with a problem before they've met this special person. But now they wonder if that person is a positive influence or something that will pull them down.
2. Try to be as **specific** as you can when you mirror the character's problem onto their new love interest. Placebo used the comparison to the drug Ketamine. Can you think of a way to link your character's problem with their love interest to highlight what that person does to them (*question them, empowers them, makes them suffer, ...*)
3. You are free to choose if you want to **disguise the meaning of your words** in a fancy creative language (*like Placebo did*), or you just follow the style you are most comfortable with. Speaking tongue in cheek is not a must if that's not your thing. But you can try it out. You can also just write two versions—one using words in disguise and one that's easier to understand.
4. Show your song's **character's fear** and what it looks like when it comes true. Again, be specific and use action verbs.
5. Include only the **first two Story Grid commandments** so that you learn how to show the incapacity of a character to see beyond their ongoing struggle and recognize the opportunity they've got. Tipp: This new opportunity for a change should be clear to your listener, but not to your song's character.



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## ABSTRACT BEATS as they occur in the lyrics

"Special K"  
Placebo

Special K lyrics © Sony/atv Harmony, Bmg Gold Songs, Sony/atv Harmony Uk, Sony Atv Music Publishing France, Sony Atv Harmony Uk, Bmg Fm Music Ltd

*(First Verse)*

*Coming up beyond belief  
On this coronary thief*

**[Commandment #2: Turning Point Revelation]**

**[Moment of Awareness]**

*More than just a leitmotif*

*More chaotic, no relief*

*I'll describe the way I feel*

*Weeping wounds that never heal*

**[Describing the new sensation/feeling]**

*Can the savior be for real*

*Or are you just my seventh seal?*

**[Commandment #3: Hint at the Crisis]**

*(Chorus)*

*No hesitation, no delay*

*You come on just like special K*

*Just like I swallowed half my stash.*

*I never ever wanna crash.*

*No hesitation, no delay*

*You come on just like special K*

**[Comparison to the character's ongoing struggle]**

*(Second Verse)*

*Now you're back with dope demand.*

*I'm on sinking sand*

*Gravity, no escaping*

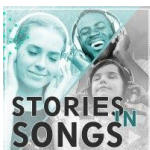
*Gravity*

*Gravity, no escaping*

*Not for free*

*I fall down*

*Hit the ground*



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*Make a heavy sound  
Every time you seem to come around*  
[Effect of the other person on song's character]

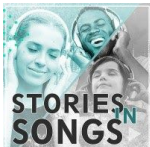
*I'll describe the way I feel  
You're my new Achilles heel*  
[Describing the new sensation/feeling]

*Can this savior be for real  
Or are you just my seventh seal?*  
[Commandment #3: Hint at the Crisis]

*(Chorus)*  
*No hesitation, no delay  
You come on just like special K  
Just like I swallowed half my stash.  
I never ever wanna crash.  
No hesitation, no delay  
You come on just like special K  
Now you're back with dope demand.*  
[Comparison to the character's ongoing struggle]

*(Outro)*  
*I'm on sinking sand  
Gravity, no escaping  
Gravity  
Gravity, no escaping  
Not for free  
I fall down  
Hit the ground  
Make a heavy sound  
Every time you seem to come around*

*No escaping gravity  
No escaping gravity  
No escaping gravity  
No escaping gravity  
Gravity  
Gravity  
Gravity*  
[Highlighting the character's struggle]



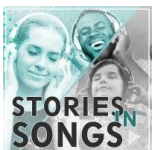
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## ABSTRACT BEATS to use in your lyrics

- **Commandment 1: Inciting Incident: Meeting the One**
  - *Start your song with your character questioning what meeting that person (which was the inciting incident) provoked in their thoughts. Show how torn apart they feel and hint at their struggle to recognize who that person could become for them.*
- **Moment of Awareness**
  - *Include a phrase that shows that the song's character has a moment of clarity. This is necessary so that your character can start reflecting on what he feels.*
- **Describing the new sensation/feeling**
  - *After the moment of becoming self-aware to his feelings, the song's character is making his first attempt to let the listener know how he feels. He is not yet using the comparison to his ongoing struggle but the descriptions are able to prepare the listener for what's to come. In "Special K", we learn of the character's weakness ("You're my new Achilles heel") which is at the center of everything that follows. So think about one character trait that will be proven by the upcoming comparison to his other struggle.*
- **Commandment 2: Turning Point = Interruption + Love Story Convention**
  - *Think about the love story conventions that are at your disposal for the turning point. There should be something or someone who points them in the direction to see their dilemma, even though they are not there yet to understand it fully. Maybe the turning point is recognizing what they feel, even though those feelings are distorted since they struggle with an even bigger problem (drug addiction, depression, no self-esteem, poverty, ...) that is constantly on their mind.*
- **Commandment 3: Crisis = Only let the listener know what the pending crisis could look like.**
  - *Do not include the crisis, the decision, or the resolution of how everything turned out. Just focus on the character's struggle of wanting to move on while they keep giving in to what's holding them back.*
- **Comparison to the character's ongoing struggle**
  - *The song's character is trying to put in words how he feels. Compare those new feelings to the only feelings he's familiar with = the way his ongoing struggle makes him feel.*
- **Highlighting the character's struggle / Effect of the other person on song's character**
  - *You have two possibilities. You can either show how the character struggles to understand the love he's found which will push him to recognize his options OR you let the character's personal struggle take control. But make sure that*



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*some force seems to rule over your song's character which makes it harder for him/her to continue their path. It's also possible that you leave the cause open for interpretation. (Placebo left it open if that gravitational force was caused by love or his drug addiction.)*



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## YOUR TURN

Write your song considering the given constraints and using the abstract beats.



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