

Exercise Episode 016

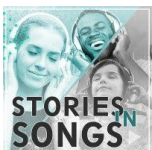
The Lovers Meet Scene

inspired by the song:
"Middle of a Memory" by Cole Swindell

TASK:

Write your original lyrics about a character who has a clear goal and feels confident in achieving it (winning someone's heart), but who encounters an unexpected misfortune that makes them stop to catch their breath.

1. Use **past tense** and **direct-address** to help the character make sense of what just happened to them and use "would" to paint the imagined future of what their hopes or expectations were.
2. Use **present tense** to reel back into the present moment so that your audience can see that your character is still trying to catch their breath after metaphorically being punched in the guts.
3. Create **one creative phrase** for your chorus and/or song title that is original, new, but also easy to understand. It should be able to paint a picture in your audience's head before they've even listened to your lyrics. Don't use too much imagery and poetic phrases. Just really focus on the one.
4. Include only the **first two Story Grid commandments** so that you learn how to create a cliffhanger.



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ABSTRACT BEATS as they occur in the lyrics

"Middle of a Memory"
Cole Swindell

Middle of a Memory lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Kobalt Music Publishing Ltd., Round Hill Music Big Loud Songs

(First Verse)

*Baby, it just took one look at you.
For me to change my one drink order to two*

[Commandment #1: Inciting Incident]

*Like we already knew each other.
Like we been talking all night.*

[Preparing for introducing the character's high hopes]

*About a minute into our first dance
We got blindsided by your friends.*

[Love Story Convention]

All in a hurry like you had to go.

[Commandment #2: Turning Point]

*Didn't they know you can't leave someone?
Girl, you can't leave someone.*

(Chorus)

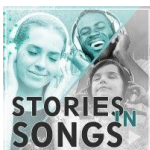
*In the middle of a dance floor all alone.
In the middle of an old school country song
Right when I was just about to lean on in
Why'd you have to go then?
Baby, in the middle of the glow of the neon light
It shoulda, coulda, woulda been the night of our lives.
Girl, it ain't right, no.*

How you gonna leave me right in the middle of a memory?

[Trying to catch their breath.]

(Second Verse)

*We were gonna dance till they shut it down.
People'd be staring while I spin you 'round
Thinking we were so in love, yeah
They wouldn't know we hadn't even hooked up.
I'd get your number and I'd give you mine.
And we'd be hanging out tomorrow night.*



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[Painting the imagined future that got ripped out of your character's grasp.]

*But now I don't know where you are
I'm under these lights right here in the dark.*

[Switching over to the present and stating the problem]

(Chorus)

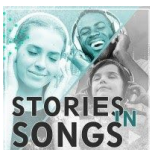
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It shoulda, coulda, woulda been the night of our lives.
Girl, it ain't right, no
How you gonna leave me right in the middle of a memory?*

(Third Verse)

*Yeah, it's like you walked right out in the middle of a movie.
Tore the back half out of a book
[Highlight the emotions]
And no, you'll never know, girl, what you did to me.
It ain't right saying goodbye*

(Chorus)

*In the middle of a dance floor all alone.
In the middle of what could've been our song
Right when I was just about to lean on in
Why'd you have to go then?
Baby, in the middle of the glow of the neon light
It shoulda, coulda, woulda been the night of our lives.
But, girl, it ain't right, no.
How you gonna leave me right in the middle of a memory?
In the middle of a memory
In the middle of a memory*

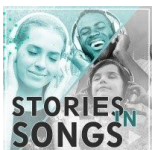


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ABSTRACT BEATS to use in your lyrics

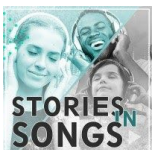
- **Commandment 1: Inciting Incident: Meeting the One**
 - *Start your song with the inciting incident. This is meeting that special person for the very first time. And it's establishing a dream scenario in your character's mind. You can share their expectations before letting the tables turn to make the turning point event even more impactful. You can also write the lyrics as Swindell did in his song "Middle of a Memory" and paint their hopes after the turning point. Your choice. Just make sure the inciting incident leads to those high hopes and expectations and establishes a goal they are so confident of achieving.*
- **Preparing for introducing the character's high hopes**
 - *After the inciting incident, hint at the positive attitude and emotions that your character feels towards the person that just got their attention.*
- **Commandment 2: Turning Point = Interruption + Love Story Convention**
 - *Think about the love story conventions that are at your disposal. In Swindell's song, the friends acted as hinderers. But you can also include a rival who steps up as the turning point event. Or you use opposing forces outside of the character's control, like there's an evacuation or the police storms the dance club. Everything is possible. It must be unexpected, and it must separate the lovers. And it must leave the main character standing there trying to make sense of what just happened.*
- **Trying to catch their breath.**
 - *After the punch in the guts (Turning Point Event), the character tries to make sense of what just happened.*
 - *Do not include the crisis, the decision, or the resolution of how everything turned out. Just focus on the aftermath of the turning point event and how your character deals with coming to terms with that situation.*
- **Painting the imagined future that got ripped out of your character's grasp**
 - *Paint a picture to show your character's hopes and expectations that seem impossible to reach now after that turning point event. Similar to Swindell's song, try to think of some specific actions your character would have taken to win the heart of his/her love interest.*
- **Switching over to the present and stating the problem**
 - *Your character looked back at the situation using past tense as he/she was looking for clues to how it all turned out differently than he/she expected. Now it's time to move to the present moment and show where your character literally is and highlight that he/she is seconds before realizing the dilemma they are on. You do that by introducing the problem by showing your character has been left standing somewhere all alone.*



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- Highlight the emotions
 - *Show the impact of the turning point event by highlighting how it feels to have lost the one thing they were sure of.*

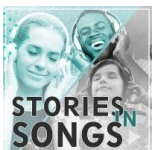


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YOUR TURN

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



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