

Hip-Hop/Rap

Lose Yourself by Eminem (2002)

His soul's escaping through this hole that is gaping
This world is mine for the taking, make me king
As we move toward a new world order
A normal life is boring but superstardom's
Close to postmortem, it only grows harder
Homie grows hotter, he blows it's all over

Eminem. (2002). Lose yourself [Song]. On 8 Mile: Music from and inspired by the motion picture. Shady Records; Interscope Records.

Hip-Hop/Rap

Juicy by The Notorious B.I.G. (1994)

Super Nintendo, Sega Genesis
When I was dead broke, man, I couldn't picture this
50-inch screen, money-green leather sofa
Got two rides, a limousine with a chauffeur
Phone bill about two G's flat
No need to worry, my accountant handles that

The Notorious B.I.G. (1994). Juicy [Song]. On Ready to Die. Bad Boy Records.

Hip-Hop/Rap

The Message by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five (1982)

Don't push me cause I'm close to the edge

I'm trying not to lose my head

It's like a jungle sometimes

It makes me wonder how I keep from goin' under

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five. (1982). The message [Song]. On The message. Sugar Hill Records.

Hip-Hop/Rap

Alright by Kendrick Lamar (2015)

I remembered you was conflicted

Misusing your influence, sometimes I did the same

Abusing my power, full of resentment

Resentment that turned into a deep depression

Found myself screamin' in the hotel room

I didn't wanna self-destruct

The evils of Lucy was all around me

So I went runnin' for answers

Lamar, K. (2015). Alright [Song]. On To Pimp a Butterfly. Top Dawg Entertainment; Aftermath Entertainment; Interscope Records.

Hip-Hop/Rap

Act Too (The Love of My Life) by The Roots (1999)

The anticipation arose as time froze
I stared off the stage with my eyes closed and dove
Into the deep cosmos
The impact pushed back, the first five rows
But before the raw live shows

The Roots. (1999). Act too (The love of my life) [Song]. On Things Fall Apart. MCA Records.

Rock/Alternative

Caution by The Killers (2020)

I'm throwing caution
What's it gonna be?
Tonight the winds of change are coming over me
If I don't get out
Out of this town
I just might be the one who finally burns it down

The Killers. (2020). Caution [Song]. On Imploding the Mirage. Island Records.

Rock/Alternative

Tonight Tonight by Smashing Pumpkins (1995)

Time is never time at all

You can never ever leave

Without leaving a piece of youth

And our lives are forever changed

We will never be the same

The more you change, the less you feel

The Smashing Pumpkins. (1995). Tonight, tonight [Song]. On Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness. Virgin Records.

Rock/Alternative

My Blood by Twenty One Pilots (2018)

When everyone

You thought you knew

Deserts your fight

I'll go with you

You're facing down

A dark hall

I'll grab my light

And go with you

Twenty One Pilots. (2018). My blood [Song]. On Trench. Fueled by Ramen.

Rock/Alternative

Black by Pearl Jam (1991)

And now my bitter hands
Cradle broken glass
Of what was everything
All the pictures had
All been washed in black
Tattooed everything
All the love gone bad
Turned my world to black
Tattooed all I see
All that I am
All I'll be

Pearl Jam. (1991). Black [Song]. On Ten. Epic Records.

Rock/Alternative

Under the Bridge by Red Hot Chili Peppers (1991)

Sometimes I feel like I don't have a partner

Sometimes I feel like my only friend

Is the city I live in, The City of Angels

Lonely as I am together we cry

I drive on her streets 'cause she's my companion

I walk through her hills 'cause she knows who I am

She sees my good deeds and she kisses me windy

Well, I never worry, now that is a lie

Red Hot Chili Peppers. (1991). Under the bridge [Song]. On Blood Sugar Sex Magik. Warner Bros. Records.

Folk/Singer-Songwriter

Fast Car by Tracy Chapman (1988)

You got a fast car
Is it fast enough so we can fly away?
We gotta make a decision
Leave tonight or live and die this way
So I remember when we were driving, driving in your car
Speed so fast, it felt like I was drunk
City lights lay out before us
And your arm felt nice wrapped 'round my shoulder
And I-I had a feeling that I belonged
I-I had a feeling I could be someone, be someone, be
someone

Chapman, T. (1988). Fast car [Song]. On Tracy Chapman [Album]. Elektra Records.

Folk/Singer-Songwriter

Vienna by Billy Joel (1977)

Slow down, you're doin' fine
You can't be everything you wanna be before your time
Although it's so romantic on the borderline tonight, tonight
Too bad, but it's the life you lead
You're so ahead of yourself, that you forgot what you need
Though you can see when you're wrong
You know you can't always see when you're right
You're right

Joel, B. (1977). Vienna [Song]. On The Stranger [Album]. Columbia Records.

Folk/Singer-Songwriter

The Archer by Taylor Swift (2019)

Dark side, I search for your dark side
But what if I'm alright, right, right, right here?
And I cut off my nose just to spite my face
Then I hate my reflection for years and years
I wake in the night, I pace like a ghost
The room is on fire, invisible smoke
And all of my heroes die all alone
Help me hold onto you
I've been the archer
I've been the prey
Screaming, who could ever leave me, darling?
But who could stay?
(I see right through me, I see right through me)

Swift, T. (2019). The Archer [Song]. On Lover [Album]. Republic Records.

Folk/Singer-Songwriter

Right on Time by Brandi Carlile (2021)

Don't look down, I can feel it when your heart starts
pounding
It's beyond your control, you know it is
It's getting to the point where I can't carry on
I never held my breath for quite this long
And I don't take it back, I did what I had to do

Carlile, B. (2021). Right on Time [Song]. On In These Silent Days [Album]. Low Country Sound/Elektra Records.

Folk/Singer-Songwriter

Take Me As I Come by Evan Honer and Wyatt Flores (2024)

Another night, another mistake
And I wound up at the same place
In a cheap hotel room with the parking lot view
Still not sure where I am
I left my heart in the car
And I parked it real far
So she wouldn't notice or ever gain focus
Of who I am

Honer, E., & Flores, W. (2024). Take me as I come [Song]. Cloverdale Records/Island Records/UMG Recordings, Inc.

Pop

What Was I Made For by Billie Eilish (2023)

When did it end? All the enjoyment
I'm sad again, don't tell my boyfriend
It's not what he's made for
What was I made for?
'Cause I, 'cause I
I don't know how to feel
But I wanna try
I don't know how to feel
But someday I might
Someday I might

Eilish, B. (2023). What Was I Made For? [Song]. On Barbie: The Album [Album]. Atlantic Records.

Pop

Mirrorball by Taylor Swift (2020)

I want you to know

I'm a mirrorball

I'll show you every version of yourself tonight

I'll get you out on the floor

Shimmering beautiful

And when I break it's in a million pieces

Hush

When no one is around, my dear

You'll find me on my tallest tiptoes

Spinning in my highest heels, love

Shining just for you

Swift, T. (2020). Mirrorball [Song]. On Folklore [Album]. Republic Records.

Pop

Hold Me Like a Grudge by Fall Out Boy (2023)

When I get down, down

Silent killers are these years coming like waves

(You put the "fun" into dysfunction)

Hold me, hold me like a grudge

The world is always spinning, and I can't keep up, whoa

Faster and faster, can't do it on my own

Part-time soulmate, full-time problem, yeah

So hold me like a grudge

Fall Out Boy. (2023). Hold Me Like a Grudge [Song]. On So Much (for) Stardust [Album]. Fueled by Ramen.

Pop

My Mind & Me by Selena Gomez (2022)

Wanna hear a part to my story? I tried to hide in the glory
And sweep it under the table so you would never know
Sometimes I feel like an accident, people look when they're
passin' it
Never check on the passenger, they just want the free show
Yeah, I'm constantly
Tryna fight somethin' that my eyes can't see

Gomez, S. (2022). My Mind & Me [Song]. On My Mind & Me [Album]. Interscope Records.

Pop

Firework by Katy Perry (2010)

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag
Drifting through the wind, wanting to start again?
Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin
Like a house of cards, one blow from cavin' in?
Do you ever feel already buried deep?
Six feet under screams, but no one seems to hear a thing
Do you know that there's still a chance for you?
'Cause there's a spark in you

Perry, K. (2010). Firework [Song]. On Teenage Dream [Album]. Capitol Records.

Country

The House That Built Me by Miranda Lambert (2009)

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it
This brokenness inside me might start healing
Out here, it's like I'm someone else
I thought that maybe I could find myself
If I could just come in, I swear I'll leave
Won't take nothin' but a memory
From the house that built me

Lambert, M. (2009). The House That Built Me [Song]. On Revolution [Album]. Columbia Nashville.

Country

Starting Over by Chris Stapleton (2020)

This might not be an easy time
There's rivers to cross and hills to climb
And some days we might fall apart
And some nights might feel cold and dark
But nobody wins afraid of losing
And the hard roads are the ones worth choosing
Some day we'll look back and smile
And know it was worth every mile
And it don't matter to me
Wherever we are is where I wanna be
And honey, for once in our life
Let's take our chances and roll the dice
And I can be your lucky penny
You can be my four leaf clover

Stapleton, C. (2020). Starting Over [Song]. On Starting Over [Album]. Mercury Nashville.

Country

Wait in the Truck by HARDY and Lainey Wilson (2023)

I don't know if he's an angel
'Cause angels don't do what he did
He was hellbent to find the man behind
All the whiskey scars I hid
I never thought my day of justice
Would come from a judge under a seat
But I knew right then I'd never get hit again
When he said to me
"Wait in the truck"
"Just wait in the truck"

HARDY, & Wilson, L. (2023). Wait in the Truck [Song]. On the mockingbird & THE CROW [Album]. Big Loud Records.

Country

Coal by Tyler Childers (2011)

Now I've seen Heaven without dyin'
Met the devil without tryin'
And they both seem to want to talk to me
But I'm all out of luck now
And my dreams aren't worth a buck
How it's tough tryin' to land on my feet
When this game of life plays heavy on my heart
And love is tough, but loneliness is twice as hard
And I'll carry that 'bout everywhere I go
They say pressure makes diamonds
How the hell am I still coal?

Childers, T. (2011). Coal [Song]. On Bottles and Bibles [Album]. Tyler Childers.

Country

My Tennessee Mountain Home by Dolly Parton (1973)

In my Tennessee mountain home

Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh

In my Tennessee mountain home

Crickets are singing in the fields nearby.

And honeysuckle vine clings to the fence along the lane

Their fragrance makes the summer wind so sweet

And on a distant hilltop, an eagle spreads its wings

And a songbird on a fence post sings a melody

Parton, D. (1973). My Tennessee mountain home [Song]. On My Tennessee Mountain Home [Album]. RCA Victor.