

I Wish You Would Kill Yourself
Like Your Brother or Like Kurt Cobain

By Dean Strickland

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Denton, Texas

Transferring to a different college can have quite an effect on you. The university atmosphere was very different from what Dean, a twenty-nine year old college student, was used to. The dorm life is, as Dean described it, a place where rich kids' parents send them to continue the education of their choice. Not exactly the best view to have toward college students ten years younger than him. Dean received a federal Pell grant, and federal Stafford loans that paid for his college tuition, and housing in the dorms. He moved into the College Inn dormitory at the University of North Texas, at the beginning of the 1997 fall semester, majoring in music, after he finished paying for his home: a one-bedroom, wood-frame house built in 1940 on three quarters of an acre of land in Forest Hill, a city in south Fort Worth, Texas. Dean had dreams of his own. He had been singing and playing guitar since he was a little boy. He always had an innate ability to sing like other singers he heard on records. His favorite singer of all time was Mick Jagger, and his favorite guitar player was Keith Richards. Dean's parents had eight children, and his family was musical. His dad, Jimmy, sang and played guitar, and liked country musicians like Hank Williams, Conway Twitty, Marty Robbins and Tom T. Hall. His mother was a big Elvis Presley fan. When Dean was six years old, his oldest brother Joey showed him how to play songs like "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" and "Angie" by The Rolling Stones. Dean had a band in the first grade called Black Gold. He was the lead singer/guitarist. They never practiced, but it was just the idea of being in a band that mattered to Dean. When Dean was in junior high school, his brother Doug, who was one year older than he was, started playing guitar, and they along with some of their friends from school had a band. During high school their friend Mike Britt, who went on to play guitar for the country band Lonestar, played bass in their band that they called Bad Axe. When Mike left their band after high school, they never found another bass player to replace him. Their band didn't last long. It was falling apart, because Doug was having difficulty coping with his personal problems.

Dean, still wanting to sing and play music, joined a few different bands, but they never did much. In the spring of 1996, Dean matriculated at Tarrant County Junior College as a music major.

In 1996, Dean wrote a song about self-hatred, called "I Hate You" in memory of Kurt Cobain.

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In that same year, Dean wrote another song, called "I Don't Like You Either."

I Don't Like You Either

This song goes out
To all of you out there
Who don't like me
For whatever the reason might be

I don't care
You can't make me
I'll just continue to do as I please

I'm not gonna change
So just stay away
In my opinion you're just jealous anyway
Besides, anyway I don't like you either

Go right on ahead
Look down on me
If you look my way you'll just get the finger

And don't try to tell me what I can and cannot do
I'll just do whatever it is that I want to

I'm not gonna change
So just stay away
In my opinion you're just jealous anyway
Besides, anyway I don't like you either

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Dean wanted to go where the best musicians were, so he chose to attend the University of North Texas College of Music in Denton, Texas. He chose to study jazz guitar just so he could play electric guitar. He also chose to study voice and classical guitar. The University of North Texas College of Music was the place where Dean thought he could go to become

what he wanted to be in life, and for Dean that was a rock-'n'-roll musician.

Dean had heard that Bruce Hall was where the musicians and artists hung out. He started hanging out there and meeting new people. One of the places to meet new people was the bench in front of Bruce Hall. That's where the students who hung out smoked their cigarettes. Dean was meeting people who were just out of high school. To him they were still impressionable and worried about peer pressure. Dean was an older student and didn't think about peer pressure. The students he was meeting liked to party a lot, so they got along pretty well. Eric was an eighteen-year-old student from Beaumont, Texas who majored in jazz guitar. He and Dean hung around together meeting other students who liked to party. Not too far into his first semester Dean met Rachel, who also liked to party, and to him she appeared to be a very sweet girl. She was eighteen years old. Dean fell in love with her the first time he saw her. He thought she had beautiful hair, beautiful eyes and a beautiful smile. He began thinking that he wanted to tell her so. He wrote a song, which he recorded on his micro-cassette recorder, and in it, he sang, "I love you" to the names of several girls that he had met in Bruce Hall, and Rachel's name was the first one he sang for good reason. He loved Rachel the most. Dean didn't really talk much to other students. He did a lot of just hanging out in the Bruce Hall lobby, or at the Bruce Bench. During the last few weeks of his first year at UNT, he started talking more to Rachel. She told him that after the semester was to end she was going to move into an apartment near campus with her best friend Lacy. Dean asked Rachel if he could call her when she moved into her apartment, and she gave him her phone number. They talked on the phone a few times and everything was cool. Dean wanted to tell Rachel that he was attracted to her. He told her friend Lacy, and about a week later, at a party Lacy told Rachel that Dean liked her. Dean was glad that Rachel knew that he had feelings for her. He talked to her for a little while that night, but just small talk.

About a week later, Dean was at Rachel's apartment, and they were alone. They were sitting on the floor watching television and listening to music, and Dean said to Rachel, "I think I love you." Dean was shy and didn't think he knew exactly what the right thing was to say to a girl, so he would just say how he felt. Rachel said to him, "I'm flattered" and she blushed. Dean was calling her on a regular basis now, and about a week later asked her if she thought he was being a nuisance. She told him he was not being a nuisance.

The next week Dean was starting to think more about Rachel. He would see things in gift shops around town and think about how much he would like to give her a gift. He asked her if he could give her gifts and she said it would be OK. He would give her books, jewelry, candles and incense, and other things he thought she might like as gifts.

Rachel didn't really talk much. She was a very talented Art major, who spent a lot of time hanging out with her best friend Lacy. She and Lacy were very close friends because they had known each other since they went to kindergarten together in Abilene, Texas.

Dean really liked Rachel a lot. He thought she was smart as well as beautiful, because he didn't think that she appeared to give in to peer pressure. He was thinking a lot about how he wanted to become better friends with her. He asked Lacy for some advice and she told him that Rachel had not had a boyfriend since elementary school, and that boy had treated her

badly. Dean had been in a few relationships before, but was not comfortable talking about them unless he knew he could trust her to be his good friend.

After knowing each other for about a month longer, Dean was alone with Rachel at her apartment, and he asked her if he could kiss her and she answered him by saying that she didn't think it was such a good idea. Then Dean asked her again for permission to kiss her on her cheek, and she still would not give him her consent. That made Dean sad. He asked her for a hug at the end of their visit together, and she hugged him.

Dean called Rachel later that week, and after talking to her for a little while he asked her, "What do I have to do to win your love?" She said to him, "I don't know." He told her that he would be willing to do anything to win her love. Dean told her that he knew that by doing so he could be placing himself in a position where he could get his feelings hurt. Dean told Rachel that she had the power to hurt his feelings. He started asking her if he could do her favors, and if he could share things with her. Dean and Rachel both liked to smoke marijuana, and Dean shared very much of what he had with Rachel. When he would ask her if he could share some of his marijuana with her, she would always say, "You don't have to," and he would respond by saying, "I want to. It's my way of showing you that I love you." Dean enjoyed doing many favors for Rachel. Dean told Rachel that he liked the way that she always said to him, "You don't have to," and never asked him for any of the things that he would share with her. He told her that he was always happy to offer.

Lacy was different from Rachel. She would always talk a lot about people and events. She was more outgoing and carefree in her attitude than Rachel was. Lacy would ask Dean to give her marijuana. Lacy would get upset when Dean would share marijuana with Rachel and would say to Dean, "I have to pay for mine," so he would share with Lacy too, but for different reasons. He shared with Lacy because she would ask him to, and because she was Rachel's friend. Dean really wanted Rachel to like him, so he would go out of his way to try to make her happy. They were just friends, but Dean loved Rachel, and he wrote her a love letter that he hung on her front door at her apartment. The next day he found out that Lacy and Rachel had both read the letter. Lacy commented to him that he should not have written such a letter to Rachel. Rachel didn't really say much to him about the letter. Later that week Dean and Rachel were alone again in her apartment, and he saw the letter he wrote to her lying on the coffee table. He took the letter and he secretly slipped it between the seat and the back of her green couch. Dean and Rachel continued to be friends and hang out together for that whole summer.

Rachel was planning to move into a new apartment, all by herself, when the fall semester started, and Lacy was dropping out of college and planning to move into an apartment with her friend Marie—whom she had met at Bruce Hall—for a while before she moved back to Abilene. When they made their moves, and the fall semester started, Dean asked Rachel if he could call her, and she gave him her new phone number. Dean called Rachel often, and would always ask her if he could call her again. She would tell him it was OK, just not to call before 12:00 noon or after 12:00 midnight. Dean once called Rachel at 9:30 in the morning, and she got very upset with him. He said to her, "Rachel, friends should be able to call each other at anytime during the day or night." Rachel didn't agree with Dean, but instead implied

to him that he was disrespecting her. Dean told Rachel that he respected her very much. Dean would also call her sometimes after midnight, but she didn't seem to get as upset about that. Their conversations didn't usually last that long. When Dean would call Rachel, he would tell her that he loved her, and they would talk about school, or things that he had seen that he thought she might like as a gift. Rachel didn't really talk much. Dean asked her if she thought he was too old for her and she said to him, "No." They had what they agreed could be called an undefined relationship. Rachel asked Dean, "Why didn't you just kiss me?" when he brought up the fact that she had said to him that she didn't think that him kissing her was a good idea. He thought that to kiss her without her permission would be to take advantage of her. Dean was shy and had never got up the nerve to just kiss Rachel. About a month later, Dean went to Rachel's apartment, and she started to reach out to hug him when he walked in, but he didn't motion to hug her back, and then the moment ended. He thought at the time, that he saw her motion to hug him, but didn't say anything to her about it because he was too shy.

Lacy continued to ask Dean for things, and gave him the impression that she was being envious of the way he was treating Rachel. Dean and Rachel would sometimes argue about Lacy. Rachel did not like to hear Dean argue and complain about her friends. When he called Rachel and complained about her friends, she would sometimes hang up on him, and he would always call her back and try to work things out with her. Dean was having a hard time trying to figure out exactly where he stood with Rachel. He did not consider Rachel to be his girlfriend, but still he wanted to give her gifts and do favors for her. He understood that what they had together was an undefined relationship, and was not happy with such a relationship, but wanted to continue the friendship he thought he had with her. Dean assumed many not so good things about Rachel, and when he would speak to her about them she would say to him, "Don't assume anything." One of the things Dean would assume was that he always had to treat Rachel as if she was his girlfriend in order to keep the friendship he had with her. He was finding himself in a situation with Rachel that he did not like all that much, but still he loved her. It got to the point where Lacy would argue with Dean about his relationship with Rachel. Dean did not like having to answer to Rachel's friends and he didn't understand why she would not talk to him herself. When Dean did get a chance to speak to Rachel again on the phone, he told her again that he loved her, and she said to him, "I wish you wouldn't say it." Soon Dean and Rachel had such a big argument that she put everything he had ever given her in a brown paper bag and threw them away in the dumpster outside her apartment. Dean was apologizing, but he would not leave Rachel alone, because he wanted her to talk to him and she wouldn't. He kept returning to her apartment and knocking at her door. He would knock and she would not answer the door. She was inside her apartment and he knew it, and he would stay at her door and would knock repeatedly, begging her to talk to him. He was being relentless in his pursuit to make Rachel answer the door. He even went to the extreme of knocking on her door with his foot. Later that evening Lacy was visiting Rachel, and Dean returned to Rachel's apartment and knocked on her door again. Lacy answered the door and yelled out at Dean, "You have a crush on Rachel! You don't even know her!" Dean said back to Lacy, "I love Rachel," and Rachel told Dean, "You blew it." Dean was sad and went back to his dorm room.

Dean had known Rachel for about two years at that time, and he thought that he had gotten to

know her pretty well. They had spent a lot of time together hanging out and talking about school and stuff almost on a daily basis.

Because of Dean's behavior, Rachel told him that she would call him when she was ready to talk to him again. Dean was sorry because he had called Rachel a bitch in their last argument. Dean loved Rachel, and he wanted things to be cool between him and her as friends. He didn't call her again for a long time. He was always feeling heartbroken and apologetic. He would lie in bed in his dorm room and cry for Rachel. He missed her and he wanted her to call him, but she wouldn't, so he called her and he told her that he thought that she might never call him. She told him that she would call him when she was ready to talk to him. He said to her that he hoped it would be very soon when he could talk to her again. About a month went by, and Dean hadn't heard from Rachel. He started thinking that she was treating him cruelly by not calling him. He childishly called her and left her messages on her telephone answering machine saying that she had made him despise her for the way she had treated him, and that he hated her. Later that day Dean received a message on his answering machine from Rachel. She said that she would talk to him and that he could call her. He called her and she told him that he could go over to her apartment and visit her. He did, and they talked about how they wanted never to argue like that again. Dean did most of the talking, while Rachel mostly just listened to him. Rachel said to Dean, "I don't love you," and he replied, "That's OK. You don't have to." For the next month or so, they were talking on the phone and hanging out together at her apartment. Dean would call Rachel wanting to speak to her, but at times she was not there, so he would call her back later. Rachel had caller ID and Dean didn't want her to know that he was calling as many times as he was, so he would drive by her apartment to see if she was home before he called her. Dean told Rachel that he was driving by to see if she was home before calling her, and she said it was OK for him to do so. During that time, Rachel mentioned to Dean in one of her visits with him, that a friend of hers had gotten pregnant and was considering getting an abortion. Rachel told Dean that she would not want to get an abortion, and that she was going to wait until she was ready to have sex. Dean's respect for Rachel grew tremendously when she said that to him.

Not long after that, Rachel introduced Dean to her new friend Jamie, who lived in Rachel's same apartment complex a few doors down. Dean thought Rachel and Jamie were totally opposite from each other. He thought Rachel was sort of a quiet person who thought before she spoke and was very smart, while Jamie on the other hand did not seem to be able to control her mouth from continually talking.

Dean was leaving many messages on Rachel's answering machine. She told him it was OK for him to call her and leave her messages just to say hello and that he loved her. Dean liked to leave Rachel messages that were nice and complimenting to her. Dean assumed that Rachel was letting Lacy and Jamie listen to the messages he would leave for her, and that they didn't like them and would tell Rachel bad things about him. Dean called Rachel and asked her if he could come over to her apartment to visit her. She said, "Yes" and when he arrived at Rachel's apartment Jamie was there. Dean sat down and before he or Rachel could say much Jamie started talking and did not stop for almost two hours. Dean couldn't help but notice that Jamie was talking a lot, and how he could hardly get a word into the conversation. Jamie was talking a lot about how she was a psychology major and her dream was to be a

psychiatrist who works in a court of law and tells the judge which people are mentally competent to stand trial, and whether or not they should be committed to a mental institution. Dean told Jamie that he didn't really have much respect for that job because he had seen the inside of mental hospitals while visiting his brother Doug who had been committed to a mental hospital by a psychiatrist in a court of law. Dean told Jamie that he had another brother, Joey who committed suicide at the age of twenty-three. After their conversation Jamie left Rachel's apartment, and Rachel made some comments to Dean about how Jamie was talking so much. Dean told Rachel that he knew what she was talking about.

Rachel and Jamie were becoming better friends with one another. Jamie moved into the apartment next to Rachel's. When Dean would call and visit Rachel, Jamie would be there. Dean would try to speak to Rachel privately, but Rachel would just sit there and not say much. When Jamie did leave, Dean noticed that Rachel looked frightened. He told Rachel how she looked scared and that he wished she would talk to him. He tried to calm her fears. He didn't understand why she looked so scared. Dean started saying to Rachel that Jamie must have been talking bad about him to her, and that that must be the reason why she was looking so scared. Rachel told Dean that she wanted him to leave. Dean felt like Rachel was treating him unfairly, and begged her to talk to him before he had to leave. She did not talk to him and he left. He went back to his dorm room and called her, and asked her to please talk to him. He went back to her apartment and knocked on her door. She would not answer the door, and he would continue to knock. He would knock on her door in the middle of the night. He would call her in the middle of the night asking her to please speak to him, and she would hang up on him.

Rachel would ask her friends what she should think about Dean's behavior. Her friend Meredith, who lived in the same apartment complex as Rachel, told Rachel that Dean's behavior sounded odd. Rachel's friends were talking bad about Dean to her. Dean spoke to Rachel again over the phone and she told him that he blew his second chance to be her friend, and that everything her friends were saying about him was true. Dean told Rachel that none of what her friends were saying about him was true, and Rachel hung up the phone on him. Later that day and into the night, Dean called on the phone and said, "Fuck you!" to all of the friends of Rachel who he thought were talking bad about him to her. He didn't know what Rachel's friends had said about him exactly, or which of them had said bad things about him to her, but he knew that Rachel had told him that everything her friends were saying about him was true. Dean didn't know Jamie's phone number, so he couldn't call her, but he did call Meredith and say, "Fuck you!" to her over the phone. He also called Rachel repeatedly but did not say bad things to her; rather he was apologizing for the many bad things he had said to her before. Rachel was tired of Dean calling her, and told him not to call. He continued to call her and Meredith. He called Rachel so many times that she screamed at him, "I hate you!" but then she said immediately after that, "I don't hate you. I don't hate anybody." When he called Meredith, one too many times, the Denton police answered her phone. He had to answer to the police about what he was doing making harassing phone calls. He explained to the police how Rachel's friends were talking bad about him to her, and that that was the reason he was making the harassing phone calls. Meredith and Rachel made reports to the police, but they did not file any charges against Dean for the telephone harassment. The next weekend Dean went to the mall and saw Jamie in the parking lot as he

was walking out of the mall back to his truck. Dean looked at Jamie and said “bitch” to her when he walked by her. The next week the police notified the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities about the reports made against Dean by Meredith and Rachel, and Kent, the Coordinator of Student Life, gave him six months conduct probation and told him that if he made any more harassing phone calls, he would be suspended from college. A few days later Dean called Rachel on the phone again, in the morning, and said to her that she must have not ever been his friend, and she said to him that she was his friend.

Soon after, Dean began thinking that he should apologize to the people he called and harassed. He was not even sure if they had talked bad about him, but even if they had, he still wanted to apologize to them to let them know that he was feeling terrible for having made the harassing phone calls. He sent cards of apology and flowers to Rachel every day for almost a month. After a month of apologizing, Dean showed up at Rachel’s door with flowers wanting to apologize again, but she would not answer the door. Then Jamie drove up and said to Dean, “You’d better leave. The police are on their way.” Dean left the flowers by Rachel’s front door. Then the police drove up and gave Dean a notice of trespass from the property. Rachel walked outside and started talking to Jamie. Jamie yelled out to the police, “He’s obsessed!”

Rachel worked at the mall; Dean would go there sometimes to shop or just to browse around. When he saw Rachel working, he would always say “hi” to her. Dean started worrying about whether or not he should go to the mall or not, since he knew Jamie was talking bad about him to Rachel. Dean started to call Rachel and tell her when he was going to the mall and for what reason, in hopes that she might not think that he was stalking her as Jamie was accusing him of doing. Rachel told Dean that he did not need to call her and tell her that he was going to the mall, and that anybody can go to the mall. A week later Dean went to the mall and saw Rachel working in the center of the mall doing surveys. She ran up to Dean and asked him, “What are you doing in the mall?” as if he were up to something and were not supposed to be there. Dean didn’t answer her, and started thinking that Jamie had convinced Rachel that he was stalking her. Then Dean called the police and reported to them what Rachel had said to him, and how a week before that Rachel had no problem with him being at the mall. The police officer arrived at the mall, talked to Rachel, and then told Dean that this was a stalking case. Dean said to the police officer, “No it’s not. I called you out here.” The officer told Dean that it does not matter who called the police out to the mall. Dean asked for the police officer’s name and then made a written complaint to the lieutenant of Internal Affairs against the officer for making such an accusation. Later the lieutenant told Dean that the officer was wrong to make his remark to him that this was a stalking case. Dean went to the mall again about three weeks later and noticed that Rachel was not doing her regular job, which was recruiting people to answer survey questions, but instead had moved to a desk job. When he would go to the mall on the weekends, Rachel’s boss would say to Dean when she saw him, “Get out of here boy.” Dean called Rachel’s work to complain about the remarks made to him by the manager, and the assistant manager that answered the phone called him a stalker. About a month later Dean went to the mall again, and when Rachel’s boss saw him she said to him again, “Get out of here boy.” Dean called for security and asked the officer to tell the woman to stop saying, “get out of here boy” whenever he walked through the mall.

Dean finished the six months conduct probation he had received from the University of North Texas. He was hearing that he had made far too many apologies to Rachel from people who knew both of them and sided with Jamie's accusations that he was an obsessive psycho stalker.

During the last six months that had passed Jamie had gotten her a new boyfriend. His name was James. Dean and Rachel both knew James, because he had once been Lacy's boyfriend, and he was the lead singer of a local band called Mugzu. Dean would attend the Mugzu shows now and then, and he had read the band's Web address www.geocities.com/slappysacnuts on one of their flyers. He started e-mailing the band to tell them what he thought of their shows that he was attending. He e-mailed the band to let them know how much he liked their shows and would sometimes add constructive criticism. Dean was reading Mugzu's Web site, and read that their manager, someone whom they called the "Booking Bitch," was Jamie, and it listed her first and last name, and her home phone number as the number which to call to reach the band. Dean called the number, and for the very first time spoke with Jamie on the phone. He told her that he had read her name and phone number on the band's Web site. Jamie spoke with Dean only for a couple of minutes about how she was no longer a Psychology major before her tone of voice became hostile, and she started yelling at him that she did not want him to attend any more of the band's shows in the future, and that she was the band's manager and what she says goes. Dean told her that he liked Mugzu's music, that he liked the band's members, and that not everybody felt the same way she did about him. After Jamie yelled at Dean, she hung up the phone on him. Dean e-mailed the band again, writing to the members about what Jamie had said to him, and telling them that he wanted to go to their shows. Peter, the band's bass player, e-mailed Dean back, telling him that he could go to their shows. Dean went out and bought several of the new Mugzu CDs "Girth" that the band had just recently released. He took them to radio stations around the metroplex area, asking them to play one of the songs from the Mugzu CD during the stations time allotted for local bands. Dean e-mailed the band to let them know about the support he was giving them, and they e-mailed him back, thanking him for his support and inviting him to their up and coming shows. A couple of weeks after that, Dean went to a Mugzu show and he asked the band to autograph his "Girth" CD. James, the lead singer, autographed his name with a big heart around it. Peter, the lead guitar player, autographed his name and wrote, "I love Dean." Dan, the drummer, autographed his name and wrote, "I love you more." Peter, the bass player, autographed his name and wrote, "Dean rules." Dean thought things were cool between him and the band.

Dean went to watch a local band called Burnt Sienna give a performance in Deep Ellum in Dallas. Dean knew the members of Burnt Sienna because they were guys whom Rachel had introduced to him when they moved to Denton, because she had known them back when she lived in Abilene. The band was giving their performance the night after Rachel's twenty-first birthday. Dean saw Rachel and Jamie in the audience. He had not spoken to or seen either of them in months. He got up the nerve to talk to them. First, he asked Jamie by whispering in her ear, while the band was playing, "Will you please stop being mad at me?" Jamie looked at Dean and said to him, "OK." Then Dean walked up to Rachel and whispered the same question in her ear, and she said to him, "It's all in the past." Dean was very happy that Rachel and Jamie were saying such things to him, and he said to Rachel, "Happy birthday,"

and she smiled at him and said, "Thank you." Dean thought things were getting better between him and Rachel. Dean saw Meredith later that week on campus and said to her, "Hi Meredith, you don't have to be mad at me any more." Then Meredith said to Dean, "I'm not mad at anybody."

The next night Dean decided that he wanted to write a song for Rachel. He grabbed his Martin D28 model acoustic guitar, and walked to the park in front of the language arts building at the University. He sat down on a bench, and started strumming on different chord progressions. He thought about how good he felt when Jamie and Rachel answered his question "Will you please stop being mad at me?" He came up with a verse and a chorus to a song that he thought was worth keeping. The next morning when he woke up he wrote the second verse, using the word "OK" that Jamie had said to him a couple of nights before. Later that afternoon he wrote the third verse and the ending to the song. He wrote the song for Rachel, but wanted it to sound as though he could have written it for anybody in the world. He called the song "You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)."

You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)

You cheered me up when I was down
You let me know you care for me
You let me know you are there for me

Now you've made me smile
You've made my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
Now I thank the stars above, because you're no longer mad at me

Knowing that you said to me "OK"
Makes me hope to see you again
And I'm hoping that we can be friends

You've made me smile
You've made my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
And I thank the stars above, because you're no longer mad at me

I want you to know that I care for you
And I'll be there for you if you need a friend

You make me smile
You make my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
Yeah, I thank the stars above, because you've forgiven me

And you're no longer mad at me
Thank you oh so much

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He recorded it on his micro-cassette recorder so he wouldn't forget it. Then he decided that he wanted to record the song and have it fully produced, then release it as a single, with a dedication to Rachel on the front cover. He wanted to get Rachel's permission to dedicate the song to her, so he called her on the phone and left a message on her answering machine asking her for her permission to do so. She never called him back. He e-mailed the lyrics of the song to Mugzu and added that he wanted to dedicate the song to both Jamie and Rachel. He was thinking that Rachel would be more likely to give him permission to dedicate the song to her if he dedicated it to Jamie also.

Later, Dean saw Rachel at another Mugzu show in Deep Ellum. He asked her if she had heard about the song that he wrote for her. She smiled at him and said, "I heard about your song." Then he asked her, "Can I dedicate it to you?" and she answered him by saying, "I'm drunk. Ask me later." Then he smiled at her and said, "OK. I will."

Dean went to the next Mugzu show at a bar called The Shack, which was located across the street from UNT. He saw Rachel there and said, "Hi" to her, and they spoke for just a minute. Rachel was acting pleasant. Then a friend of Rachel's named Marissa—whom she had met at Bruce Hall—started saying to Dean that she spoke for everybody in the bar when she said nobody cares about him. She told him to just ask everyone in the bar, so he went around asking people in the bar if it was true that Marissa spoke for all of them when she said nobody cares about him. Some of them said, "Yes" and some of them said, "No." When Dean asked Rachel if Marissa spoke for her, she leaned over to him and whispered in his ear, "It's cool." That night he changed the lyric in the song from "OK" to "It's cool."

You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)

You cheered me up when I was down
You let me know you care for me
You let me know you are there for me

Now you've made me smile
You've made my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
Now I thank the stars above, because you're no longer mad at me

Knowing that you said to me, "It's cool"
Makes me hope to see you again
And I'm hoping that we can be friends

You've made me smile
You've made my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
And I thank the stars above, because you're no longer mad at me

I want you to know that I care for you
And I'll be there for you if you need a friend

You make me smile
You make my sadness go away and my frown
You fill my heart with joy when you're near me
Yeah, I thank the stars above, because you've forgiven me
And you're no longer mad at me
Thank you oh so much

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About a week or so later, Dean went to a Mugzu show at a bar called The Cave. He saw Rachel there sitting at a table with Jamie. He sat down at their table and said, "Hi" to Rachel. Rachel was smiling and acting pleasant as she said back to Dean, "Hi." Dean asked Rachel again for her permission to dedicate his song to her. He leaned over and whispered in her ear that he really only wanted to dedicate the song to her and not to Jamie. He told her that he changed the lyric in the song from "OK" to "It's cool." Then Jamie spoke up and said to Dean, "You can dedicate the song to us, but if you say anything derogatory about us we'll sue you!" Then Dean said to Jamie, "I was talking to Rachel, not you. I only want to dedicate the song to Rachel." Then Jamie said to Dean, "You wrote that song for both of us." Dean said back to Jamie, "I only used the word "OK" that you said to me the night before I wrote the song, but really I wrote the song for Rachel." It appeared to Dean as though Jamie was upsetting Rachel. Dean said to Rachel, "Rachel, I thought you said, 'It's cool.'" She said him, "I did say, 'It's cool,' but only for you to say 'hi' to me and not for you to speak to me." Then Jamie started yelling at Dean that she and all of her friends had "Deanativity" and "Deanaphobia," which were words she had made up to describe the negative feelings she held for him. She also started yelling out to what she called her circle of friends that Dean was stalking James. Dean asked Dan, the drummer for Mugzu, if he felt the same way as Jamie. Dan looked around at his friends and said to all of them, "Love." Then Jamie yelled out, about Dean, "He's not supposed to within five hundred feet of me!" Dean replied, "That's not true." Jamie's yelling had caused Rachel's pleasant countenance to turn resentful. Then Rachel started yelling at Dean repeatedly, "Fuck you!" as he was walking out of the

bar. James and Dan were living in the same dormitory as Dean that summer, and Dean saw them in the parking lot when they got home from the show. He walked up to James and asked him, “What’s up with your girlfriend saying I’m stalking you?” James said to Dean, “I don’t know.” Dean said back to James, “You people better chill out.” Dean went to speak with the lieutenant of Internal Affairs again, and the lieutenant said to Dean, “People who let others speak for them are brain dead and weak.”

A couple of weeks later Dean went into the recording studio and started recording “You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know).” While he was recording the song, he was thinking a lot about how sweet Rachel used to be when they would hang out together. He was also thinking a lot about the influence that her friends, especially Jamie, were having on her. He couldn’t help but feel sorry for Rachel because her friends were feeding her full of so much negativity and were lying to her. Dean did not think of Rachel as a negative person. He cared about her and thought that she deserved the best things in life. During the few weeks that Dean was recording in the studio, he read on the Mugzu Web site that they were having a show again at The Shack, and he went. Dean saw Rachel drive up into the Shack parking lot the night of the Mugzu show and told her that his song was going fine and said to her, “Can I still dedicate it to you? I want to.” She said to him, “I don’t care.” Then he asked her, “Will you use it against me?” She answered him, “No.” Dean was worried that Jamie might talk Rachel into using his dedication to Rachel against him by saying he was harassing her in some way.

Dean spent about a month in the recording studio before finishing “You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know).” He asked Burnt Sienna’s bass player Aaron to record the bass line on the song and he did. When he finished recording the song he wanted Rachel to hear it, so he asked his friend Bobby to leave a copy of the CD—which Dean had not yet fully produced—by her front door so that she would be sure to get it, and he did. Dean’s friend Lee made the song into an mp3 file, and Dean got his own Web site at www.mp3.com/DeanStrickland.

About a week later, Dean saw Jamie, Rachel and James at The Shack again. He asked them if they had heard his song and what they thought about it. Rachel didn’t answer, but Jamie said to Dean, “It wasn’t what I thought it would be like.” Dean said to Jamie, “That’s good.” Then Jamie said in an upset tone of voice, “I think the song is psycho.” Dean said to Jamie that hundreds of people had listened to the song on his mp3 Web site, and of those people who e-mailed him their thoughts back about the song, none of them thought that the song was psycho. Dean called Rachel later that night and spoke with her on the phone. He asked her to please consider being his friend again. She answered him by saying, “You haven’t paid enough for what you did to me and my friends.” Dean said to her, “Yes I have.” Dean asked Rachel what she thought of the song and she said to him, “I don’t know what to think about it.” Dean tried to explain to Rachel how Jamie was wrong and Rachel said to him, “Jamie is entitled to her own opinion.” Dean asked Rachel if he could photograph her artwork to put on the “You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)” CD covers. She said to him, “You don’t have any of my artwork. Stop making up reasons to call me.”

Later that night Dean received a message on his telephone answering machine from Lacy,

who was in Abilene. She said in her message that she was tired of getting calls from Rachel about him calling her, and that none of the fighting would be happening if he hadn't harassed her friends on the phone almost a year earlier. Lacy also said in her message, "Fuck your song!" Dean called Rachel and told her about the message he got from Lacy. Dean asked Rachel when would she speak to him again and she said, "Never." Dean told Rachel that he wanted to write more songs for her. He called Lacy back and left her a message on her answering machine telling her to stay out of his business.

The next day Dean called Jamie and said to her that she was alone in her thinking that the song he wrote for Rachel is psycho. Jamie said to Dean, "I was going to call you and apologize to you for calling your song psycho. I was drunk, and I don't think your song is psycho. As a musician myself I can appreciate your hard work." Dean accepted her apology and said to her, "I didn't know you are a musician. You'll have to show off for me someday." Dean thought things were cool between him and Jamie and that he could call her and talk to her. He called her and spoke with her on the phone the next day and they spoke nicely to each other. The day after that Dean was sad because he wanted to talk to Rachel, and he knew that she would not talk to him if he tried. He was crying for Rachel. He decided that he would write her another song, and, thinking back to what she had said to him on the phone a couple of nights before, he wrote "Please Tell Me that I've Suffered Enough." He recorded it on his micro-cassette recorder, and later that night, while he was walking around the block, he saw Rachel and Jamie walking to The Shack. He was listening to the song when he saw them, and he asked them if they would please listen to it, and they did. When the song was through, he asked them if they liked it. Jamie said to him, "Yeah," and then she and Rachel started to walk away. Then Dean asked, "Rachel, do you like it?" She said to him, "Yeah." Dean was happy because Rachel liked the song that he had written for her.

Please Tell Me that I've Suffered Enough

Would you say I should have known better
Than to ever think you would be nice to me
When all the things I choose to remember
Say you were never ever nice to me

I remember things like you taking
And I remember things like you faking
But still I want to believe

I thought there was something in your eyes
But now I'm thinking what it is are lies
The truth is that I wrote this song for you
Only because you've made me cry

And honestly what I still believe
Is that there's beauty in your eyes

So please tell me that I've suffered enough
So I can stop writing songs about me crying

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Mugzu played another show at The Shack a few weeks later, and Dean went to the show. He saw Rachel, Jamie, and Lacy hanging out with some friends of theirs who belonged to the same club as Rachel—OTP. They were playing pool and drinking pitchers of beer. Dean bought a bottle of beer and sat alone at a table opposite the bar. He thought to himself that he should say hello to them before they started thinking that he was doing something he shouldn't be doing. He walked up to them and said, "I thought I would come over and say 'hi', so y'all won't use the fact that I'm here against me." They didn't say 'hi' to Dean. Dean said, "Hi" to Lacy and she said to him, "You already said that to me three times. "Dean spoke to Rachel saying, "Your sorority friends never did like me, and there is nothing I can do to change that." Rachel said to Dean, "Don't even try." The band was going to start playing soon, and Dean paid Jamie and James three dollars to get to see Mugzu perform. Dean walked up to Rachel and started talking to her about what she had said to him over the phone when she said he hadn't paid enough for what he did to her and her friends. Rachel started telling Dean that she didn't remember saying that. Then Dean said to her, "I bet you remember saying that you should've kicked me in my balls and stomped on them," and she said to him, "Yeah, I remember saying that." Then Lacy yelled at Dean, "You're harassing her!" Dean told Lacy, "No I'm not." Then Jamie walked up to Dean and yelled at him, "If you don't stop talking to Rachel I'm going to make you leave!" The band was going to perform at the bars outside stage but hadn't started yet, so Dean walked back into the bar. Then James walked up to Dean and said to him, "Get out of here or I'll kick your ass." Dean asked him, "What are you going to do hit me?" Then James walked away. Then Dean sat at the bar next to Peter, Mugzu's bass player. Dean ordered another bottle of beer and asked Peter if he would play bass on his latest song "Please Me that I've Suffered Enough." Peter said to Dean, "Yeah. I'll be working at the dorms whenever the fall semester starts. Bring me a tape of what you have recorded and I'll do it." Then Dean said to Peter, "Don't let your friends talk you out of it." Peter said to him, "I won't." Then Jamie walked into the bar, started pointing her finger at Dean, and yelled out, "He's obsessed!" Then Dean said to Jamie, "If the fact that I care about Rachel is an obsession then you're right I'm obsessed." Then the manager of the band Burnt Sienna was in the bar and he walked up to Dean and started talking to him. This guy had always been nice to Dean in the past, but Dean wanted to show him how they were treating him, so he said to him, "Get out of my face." The guy started to push Dean saying to him, "I've always been nice to you." Dean said to him, "It's OK. I'm just showing you how I'm being treated." Then Anita, the manager of the bar, told Dean that he had to leave because Jamie did not want him at the Mugzu show. Dean said to her, "Then I want my three dollars back." At first, Jamie and James refused to give him his money back, but after Dean pointed out to them how unfair it was, they gave him his three dollars back. Dean asked Anita if he could sit at the bar and have another beer. He told her

that he would not go to the outside stage where the band was playing. Anita then allowed him back into the bar. Then Dean sat down at the bar and ordered another bottle of beer. He started talking to the bartender, who was the girlfriend of Peter, the bass player of Mugzu. He told her that Peter had said that he would play bass on his song. He asked her if she had heard his song "You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)." She told him, "Yeah." He asked her if she liked it and she said, "Yeah." Then a big heavysset guy sat at the bar next to Dean. He started making remarks accusing Dean of being crazy for staying in a bar full of people who didn't like him. Then Dean explained to him that he had the right to be there and that not everybody felt that way about him. Then Rachel and Lacy left the bar, and Dean said to them, "Bye." When Mugzu finished performing and was loading up their guitars and amplifiers the big heavysset guy said to Dean, "They're through playing now. You can go back there." Dean did, and as soon as he got back there, the manager of Burnt Sienna walked up to him and started pushing him across the yard, and was calling him names. Dean was telling him, as the guy was pushing him, "It's OK. I understand. You're just standing up for yourself." Then Anita asked Dean to leave and as he was walking out of the bar, the big heavysset guy followed him out to the parking lot with a friend of his that Dean had never seen before. When the three of them were in the parking lot, the big heavysset guy told Dean that his friend who was with him would do whatever he told him to do. The big heavysset guy had a glass jar in his hand, and he handed it to his friend and said to him, "Hit him over the head with it." Then Dean said to him, "That's it you've threatened me. I'm going to call 911." Dean walked to the payphone located in the Shack parking lot to call 911. Then several of the band's audience members walked up to Dean and started trying to take the phone away from him. Dean said to them, "This call has nothing to do with y'all. Leave me alone." They continued to grab at the phone. Dean said to them, "I'll go use the phone at the 7-Eleven." Dean walked over to the 7-Eleven and used the payphone there to make his 911 call. He was talking to the 911 operator about the guy who threatened him with the glass jar when Terry, one of the Mugzu audience members, staggered around the corner of the 7-Eleven parking lot to the payphone Dean was using, and started trying to take the phone away from Dean to hang it up. Dean was telling Terry to stop. Dean was telling the 911 operator what Terry was doing. This went on for several minutes. Then a lot more of the Mugzu audience members circled around Dean, and Jamie joined Terry in his effort to take the phone away from Dean. At the same time the first patrol car arrived at the scene, Jamie chambered her fist back and then hit Dean in his forehead, just above his right eye. The police officer saw Jamie hit Dean and immediately got out of his patrol car and arrested Jamie. Then a second patrol car arrived at the scene. The officer driving that car got out and asked the crowd, "What's going on?" James—Jamie's boyfriend yelled out to the officer, "He hit her first!" Then Dean said to the officer, "I did not. I would never hit a girl. I never have and I never will. I have a black belt in karate that my mother awarded me when she used to own a karate school." The officer then told Dean to sit down on the ground while he spoke to the crowd. He spoke to the Mugzu crowd for a few minutes and then said to Dean, "They said if you press charges against Jamie that they will all sign witness statements saying that you hit her first." Then the officer said to Dean that if that should happen, he would have no choice except to throw him in jail for assault. Dean said to the officer, "It's not fair, because I didn't hit her, but I will go through the motions to see that she gets charged for hitting me in my head." After the police arrested Dean and he was sitting in the police car, his arresting officer walked over to The Shack then went back to his patrol car and served Dean with a notice of trespass from the property of The

Shack. Jamie and Dean both went to city jail that night. Jamie bonded out, and the authorities released Dean the next morning without his having to pay a bond. About a week later, Dean called the municipal court to find out exactly what his and Jamie's charges were. He found out that the charge against him was disorderly conduct/abuses/threatens a person in a public place, and that Jamie's charge was disorderly conduct/fighting in public. The very day that Dean found out what the charge was against him, he showed up to his pre-trial hearing in his best suit and pleaded not guilty to the charge. He spoke with Stephanie, the city attorney, and told her that he went to jail for assault charges and not for disorderly conduct/abuses/threatens a person in a public place. She said to him, "Wait. Something doesn't make sense here." Then she took her pen and crossed out the charge of disorderly conduct/abuses/threatens a person in a public place, and wrote in its place disorderly conduct/verbal abuse. Dean had previously asked the police Records Department if he could look at any witness statements made against him. The officers had told him that there were no witness statements against him, nor was there an offense report filed against him. Dean said to Stephanie, the city attorney, "There are no witness reports, nor is there an offense report. Will you please drop the charge?" She said to him, "I am not going to drop the charge." Dean started saying to her that she was not treating him fairly. She told him that he could speak to the judge. Then the city attorney and Dean approached the judge's bench. Dean started explaining to the judge that he didn't hit Jamie, and that Stephanie was treating him unfairly. Judge Murphy told him that all she would be able to do in his case would be to set a court date. She told Dean that he could hire an attorney to represent him. Dean said to her, "I can't afford to pay an attorney." The judge then told him that he could represent himself. Dean talked to the judge about how he didn't know how to subpoena people. The judge told him that the court would give him subpoena list forms, and that he could call the people whom he might subpoena to let them know, as a courtesy, that they might want to take that day off work because court could last all day. Dean explained to the judge that he did not think that calling the people was such a good idea. The judge told him that he could call them, but that they also might try to use it against him that he did.

The next day Dean started calling people on the telephone telling them that the judge had told him that he could call them as a courtesy to let them know that they might be subpoenaed to court, and that court could last all day, so they might want to clear their schedules for court on that date. Dean called the parents of James, the lead singer of Mugzu, and left a message on their answering machine asking them to please tell James that Dean might subpoena him to appear in court. Dean called and spoke to the father of Dan, the Mugzu drummer, and asked him to please tell Dan that Dean might subpoena him to show up in court. Dean called and spoke to the father of Peter, the Mugzu lead guitar player, and asked him to tell Peter that Dean might subpoena him to show up in court. Dean called several other people and left messages on their answering machines telling them that he might subpoena them to appear in court. Dean called Anita, the manager of The Shack, at her work and told her that he might subpoena her to appear in court. She asked him to not subpoena her because she had not been paying her child support. Dean explained to her that it was because of her friend Jamie, who had falsely charged him with an assault charge, and that because Anita was managing the bar the night it happened, that she might be subpoenaed to court. That night Dean called Jamie and told her that he might subpoena her to appear in court. She told him to have his legal department call her attorney. The next morning Dean called Rachel and told her that he might

subpoena her to appear in court. Rachel said to Dean, "Fuck you. Fuck you." Then she hung up the phone. Later that night Dean wrote his song "Rachel, I'm Very Sorry."

Rachel, I'm Very Sorry

You can say to me "Fuck you"
But Rachel, I still love you
Your friends can take a shot at my head
You can even wish that I was dead
You can tell the D. A. I'm bad
But Rachel, I still love you

You know that I care about you Rachel
You know that I'll be there for you Rachel
You know all you got to do is call me
I'll sing it for you that I'm very sorry

Sorry I took things way too far
I hate it that we've grown so far apart
Now I'm sittin' here with a broken heart
Thinkin' 'bout how beautiful you are

Wishing that we could be together
Remembering the word you said is "Never"

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The next night Dean wrote for Rachel his song "She's got Problems."

She's Got Problems

She's gonna wait until she's ready
She's got problems caused by the friends she's chosen
They want to bring her down to their level
But she's gonna wait until she's ready

She deserves respect
For the life she chooses to live

But it's hard for her
Because her friends won't let her think for herself

She's not like them
They're all mean as hell
She's a good sweet girl
In a bad bitter world
But she'll make it through
I can tell

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Later that week Dean made a motion to the court for dismissal of the disorderly conduct charge against him. On his day to appear in court the city attorney talked to him outside of the courtroom and told him that she had made a motion for dismissal of the charge against him because she had no witnesses to appear in court. Dean appeared in front of Judge Ramsey, and the judge told him that the city attorney had made a motion for dismissal of the charge against him because—as she claimed—the police filed the charge against him incorrectly; it should have been for disorderly conduct/fighting in public. Then the judge dismissed the charge against Dean.

Dean and his friend Bobby, who lived across the street from The Shack, had been working for over a month designing the CD cover for Dean's CD "You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)," which Dean planned to release into the local record stores. When they finished designing the cover, Dean self produced twenty CD singles, which he sold in five different record stores throughout the city. The stores in Denton that sold his CD at were CD Warehouse; Voyager's Dream; Recycled Books, Records, CD's; Johnny Law Records; Hastings and Sam Goody. He called Rachel and told her that he wanted her to have a copy of the CD but didn't know how to get it to her. She said to him, "You know my address. You've mailed me enough letters." He mailed a copy of the fully produced single to Rachel. Dean put out over one thousand flyers around campus to promote the release of his CD.

During Dean's fourth year at the University of North Texas he changed his major to Art, because he was soon going to be faced with some of what he expected would be extremely difficult courses, such as Aural Skills. As a guitarist, Dean never really considered himself a jazz musician. He thought of himself more as a rock-'n'-roll musician. He was happy with what he had accomplished at the College of Music. He had passed the voice proficiency exam and the classical guitar proficiency exam. He had taken five semesters of jazz guitar lessons and made excellent grades. Dean's mother had told him when he was a little boy that when he grew up he should go to college and study art. During his first semester as an art major he decided music was what he really wanted to do, so he decided that he would apply to Musicians Institute in Hollywood, California. After he made his decision to try to transfer to

Musicians Institute, he wrote for Rachel and her friends his song “I’ll Remember You Always (And the Irony).”

I’ll Remember You Always (And the Irony)

I’m finding it difficult to think
About anything other than the way that you’ve treated me
It is only through my own eyes that I can see
So please forgive me if we view things differently

You’ve all been very mean to me
And soon will be the time when I must leave
I see no need for more worn out apologies
For one day we may look back on this
And think how it was all meant to be

I must go where my music takes me
It really has nothing to do with anything I believe
It has to do with everything I dream
And that is for the whole wide world to hear me sing

Please don’t be glad to see me leave
Please wish me luck and try to support me
You’ll show me you’re my friend if you do these things
And I’ll remember you always and the irony
And I’ll remember you always and the irony
Yes, I’ll remember you always and the irony
I’ll remember you always and the irony

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Dean had complained to Kent, the Coordinator of Student Life about Jamie hitting him in his head with her fist. Dean also complained to Kent that Jamie was lying by saying to people, “He’s not supposed to be within five hundred feet of me.” Dean told Kent that he would do whatever he had to do to clear his name of the false charge Jamie had made against him. Dean found out later that in a reaction to his complaint she had made her own complaint against him saying that she was speaking for James, Rachel, Meredith, and—as she wrote in her complaint—“all of us,” when she stated that Dean was harassing them after being given six conduct probation in the past for doing so. She also stated that Dean hit her first with the phone, and that she only hit him back in self-defense. Later that week Dean saw Jamie and

James in the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities office. They were there to see the Coordinator of Student Life. When Jamie saw Dean there, she yelled out to the office assistant about Dean, "He's not supposed to be near me!" Dean replied, "That's not true. She's lying." James—Jamie's boyfriend, and Dan—Mugzu's drummer, made written complaints against Dean also. James's complaint stated that his neighbor told him that Dean was hiding in the bushes stalking him. His complaint against Dean also stated that Dean had talked to James's dad on the phone, which caused him to be scared for James's life. Dan's complaint also stated that his neighbor had told him that Dean was hiding in the bushes stalking him. After Dean found out about Jamie's complaint against him he was walking back to his dorm room, saw Meredith on campus, and said to her, "I thought you weren't mad at me anymore." She said back to him, "I'm not." Then he said to her, "Jamie put your name in a complaint against me saying that she speaks for you, and that I'm harassing you." Meredith said to Dean, "I didn't give her permission to do that." She asked Dean to please leave her a copy of the complaint—with her name on it—by the front door of her apartment. Later that day Dean left a copy of that complaint by Meredith's front door. The next week Dean made an appointment to see Kent, the Coordination of Student Life, and made a written complaint that Jamie had false witnessed in her complaint against him.

A few weeks later Dean wrote another song for Rachel called "I've Learned."

I've Learned

I've learned for myself
I shouldn't count on anybody else's help
I've learned from my mistakes
You've got to be careful in the risks you take

I've learned from being alone
I need you with me more than you will ever know
I should've learned that you don't care
And I should've learned that you never will be there for me

I've learned that being nice
Won't get you what it is that you want in life
I've learned that being rude
Is never the right thing for me to do
I've learned that I was wrong
To call you over and over on the telephone
I've learned I'll always care for you
No matter what you and your friends might do to me

You could say I've learned a lot from you
You could say you've taught me a thing or two
You can say that you don't care for me

But still I'll say, "Here's where I'll be for you"

I've learned that it's best
When things are going wrong to just give it a rest
I've learned when nothing's right
You've got to hang in there and face the fight
I should've learned to let go
But what am I to do when I love you so?
I've learned not to assume
'Cause that's what started this whole mess with me and you

You could say I've learned a lot from you
You could say you've taught me a thing or two
You can say that you don't care for me
But still I'll say, "Here's where I'll be for you"

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Dean printed out copies of the lyrics to his song "I'll remember You Always (And the Irony)" and "I've Learned" and attached them to the "You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)" flyers that he was putting on windshield wipers around the University area. He put a flyer on Meredith's car and later that week went to her apartment and asked her if she had read the lyrics. She said, "Yeah," and they talked for quite a long time about Dean's past, the present, and his plans for the future. Meredith told Dean that when she first met Jamie she learned that Jamie had been suspended from a Baptist college that she once attended, and also that Jamie once was the manager of some other band, and she was dating one of the band members, but the band fired her as their manager and that the member she was dating broke up with her. Meredith told Dean that Jamie would talk constantly about her break-up with that band member. Meredith referred to Jamie as "self-centered" and "psycho" to Dean. Dean said to Meredith, "That's not very nice." During their conversation, Meredith mentioned to Dean that she thought Jamie should have something written about her describing what a bitch and a slut she is. The next day Dean wrote a rude poem called "The Booking Bitch."

The Booking Bitch

She's an ugly fucking four-eyed bitch
She likes to suck fat lead singers' dicks
She's got a fucking motor mouth that won't quit
And all she does is talk fucking bullshit

She's your typical dumb fucking blonde
She'll tell you she's right when she's fucking wrong
She don't give a fuck about anybody else
She's a self-centered psycho bitch from hell

Just ask her and she might even suck your dick
If you're a fat lead singer she'll go down on you quick
You wonder how do I know and how can I say this
Because I'm the one about whom she talks all her bullshit

My name is Dean and I've been accused
Of doing shit that I didn't do
She told all her friends that I was stalking
And they're all so brain dead that they started believing

You can say this poem is to get her back
For talking all of her motor mouth crap
She deserves what she gets is the way that I see it
You can decide for yourself whenever you read it

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The day after Dean wrote his poem "The Booking Bitch," he saw Peter working at the College Inn dorm. Dean told Peter that he still wanted him to play bass on his song "Please tell me that I've Suffered Enough." Peter said to Dean, "I don't know." Dean thought to himself that Peter had let his friends talk him out of playing bass on his song. Dean self published a few copies of his poem "The Booking Bitch" around the campus. The next night Dean was hanging out in the driveway of his friend Bobby's apartment, and Rachel and Jamie were at The Shack. They saw Dean sitting on the fence across the street in the driveway and walked across the street to within five feet of him. Then Rachel asked Dean in a very sweet voice, "What do you want to talk about?" Dean had called Rachel the day before and left her a message saying he wanted to speak to her. Dean wasn't sure of what to say to her, but he was glad that Rachel was talking to him. Then Jamie took her camera that she had hidden and started taking Dean's photograph. Then Dean asked Rachel, "Are you going to try to get me in trouble?" Rachel answered him by saying, "You're trying to get yourself in trouble." Then Rachel and Jamie walked back into the bar giggling. Then Dean called the police and reported that Jamie had taken his photograph when he asked her not to. The police told him that there was nothing wrong with taking photographs. The next day Dean went to the mall with a camera hoping to see Rachel so he could take her photograph because she and Jamie had taken his photograph. He saw her, and he took her photograph. She smiled

for the camera. The next night Dean saw Jamie outside of The Shack. Dean wanted to take her photograph. As he was taking her photograph she was pointing her finger at him and yelling, "I wish you would kill yourself like your brother or like Kurt Cobain!" Then Jamie walked back into the bar. Then a few minutes later one of Jamie's friends from the bar, named Chris, walked outside and up to Dean. He said to Dean, "Did you hit Jamie?" Dean said him, "No." Chris said to Dean, "She's in there saying you did." Dean said to Chris, "She's lying." Then Chris went back into the bar. Then a few minutes later the police showed up to speak to Dean across the street from the bar. The officers questioned Dean about whether or not he had hit Jamie. Dean told the police that Jamie was lying and that he had not hit her. Then Rachel, Jamie and James ran outside of the bar and across the street to where the police were speaking to Dean, and Dean said to the officers, talking about Rachel, "What is she doing out here?" Then the police told Rachel, Jamie and James to wait a minute and they would speak to them. When the officers did speak to the three of them, Dean overheard them asking Jamie about the outcome of her assault charge. Dean heard Jamie saying to the officers that Dean hit her first and that she would never hit anyone. Jamie at the time was so excited that she was hopping up and down, while trying to get Dean in trouble. Jamie said to the officer, "He wrote me a poem!" Then Dean overheard Rachel say to the officers, "He's being a nuisance." Then one of the officers looked at Rachel and shook his head "No." Then the police officers told Rachel, Jamie and James to go back into the bar. The officers then told Dean to go home, so Dean went back to his dorm room and went to sleep.

A few weeks later Dean wrote his poem "There is Love Between Us."

There is Love Between Us

I just can't accept the truth
That you don't love me the way I love you
I don't want to hear that you don't care
I want to hear the truth that you'll be there

Let's stop playing games and let's get real
I'm going to tell you how the both of us feel
We love each other and we both know it
I don't want to hear you say that I blew it

I'm tired of hurting when the truth is you love me
And the truth is also that our love is meant to be
Let's come to our senses and let's get together
Let's promise each other that our love will last forever

Let's never fight again. We should put all that behind us
And let's remember always that there is love between us

On Halloween 2000, Dean received a letter of acceptance in the mail from Musicians Institute in Hollywood, California. Dean called Rachel that day and said to her that Musicians Institute had accepted him for enrollment, and that he was not a loser, but was a winner. Rachel said to Dean, "Congratulations." Dean said to her, "Thank you." Rachel said to him, "I'll be glad to see you leave. I hope you go and make a lot of money." Dean said to her that he didn't know that he would make a lot of money. Rachel said to Dean that she had read his whole story "I Wish You Would Kill Yourself Like You Brother or Like Kurt Cobain" and that she didn't appreciate it. Dean told her that the story is all true. She said that she disagreed with it and should write her own story. She said to Dean, "Don't put words in my mouth." Dean replied, "I'm not putting words in your mouth." She told Dean to never call her back again. Dean said to Rachel that he never was stalking her as her friends had said he was doing. Rachel said to Dean that she never felt as though he was stalking her, and not to listen to her friends' opinions, which she said they were entitled to, but were different from hers. She told him he forgot to mention that he once said to her in one of their arguments, "Now you better be scared." Dean said to her that he was sorry for making that statement and that he did not mean it. Rachel said to him that she formed her opinion of him long before she ever met Jamie. She said to Dean that her opinion was that he was obsessive. Rachel said to Dean, "I want this to end." Dean told Rachel that he would drop the lawsuit against Chance if she wanted him to. Rachel said she did want him to. Dean said to Rachel, "I'm your friend." She said to him, "Mmhhh." Dean said to her, "Mmhhh. I care about you." She said to him, "Mmhhh." Dean said to her, "Mmhhh." Rachel told Dean that he could continue to write songs for her. Rachel told Dean that the poem "The Booking Bitch" was rude. Rachel said to Dean, "You don't respect me." Dean said to Rachel, "You don't understand the respect I have for you." Rachel hung up the phone. Dean went to the courthouse and dropped his lawsuit against Chance.

Earlier that month, Dean was taking photographs of people he recognized as they were walking out of The Shack, because he wanted to let them know how it felt to have someone take their photograph the way Jamie had taken his. Dean was aiming his camera at a guy whom he recognized, named Chris, as he was walking out of The Shack to the 7-Eleven. A bartender of The Shack, named Charlie, and Anita, the manager, saw what Dean was doing. Charlie ran at Dean, so Dean turned and aimed his camera at Charlie and snapped his photograph as he was running at him. Then Charlie jumped on top of Dean and hit him repeatedly in the head with his fist. All Dean thought about while Charlie was hitting him was that he wanted to protect his camera. While Charlie walked back into the bar, Dean stood up and checked out his camera. His camera didn't have a scratch on it. Then Dean walked to the payphone at the 7-Eleven and called the police. He reported that the bartender of The Shack had assaulted him. When the police arrived at the 7-Eleven, they questioned Dean about what was going on. Dean told the police that he had taken the bartender's photograph while he was running at him. The police told Dean that they would need the film in order to develop that photograph to use as evidence. Dean opened up the camera and accidentally

exposed the film. Dean bought his camera the day after Jamie had taken his photograph and didn't know that he couldn't open the camera without ruining the film unless he rewound the film first. Dean asked the police to charge the bartender with assault. They never did. Later that night, Dean was hanging out in the 7-Eleven parking lot when a man whom Dean didn't know started chasing him, so Dean called the police at the 7-Eleven payphone. When the police arrived, Anita talked to them and accused Dean of throwing a rock at her and hitting her on her elbow, so the police questioned Dean about Anita's report of throwing rocks. Dean told the police that he did not throw a rock and that Anita was lying. Then the police took a photograph of Anita's elbow, charged Dean with assault, and took him to jail. The next afternoon, Dean bailed out of jail for \$250.00. The following week, Dean filed a lawsuit against Chance, the owner of The Shack, who had vicarious liability for the actions of his employees.

A few weeks later, Dean saw Anita at the Jack-In-The-Box next to The Shack and asked her if she would drop the assault charge she had made against him. Dean said to Anita, "Wouldn't it be easier to just drop the charge rather than have to show up in court and lie about it?" Anita replied, "Yeah," and agreed that she would consider calling the police the next day to try to have the assault charge against Dean dropped.

The next month, Dean got the idea that he wanted to buy Rachel a going away gift, since he would be leaving for Hollywood in the spring. He bought her a book containing the complete works of her favorite artist, Frida Kahlo. He inscribed the book "To Rachel with the utmost respect." He signed it and mailed it to her.

About a week later, Dean wrote another song for Rachel called "Some Girls to Blame."

Some Girls to Blame

She hates me
Let me tell you
She hates me
I don't know what I'm gonna do

She won't talk to me at all
But it's really not my fault
There are some girls to blame
And I would like to tell you their names

There's Jamie, she told the girl I love
I'm no good for her
And Lacy, she made the girl I love
Turn her back on me

And now she hates me

Let me tell you
She hates me
I don't know what I'm gonna do
She won't talk to me at all
But it's really not my fault
There are some girls to blame
And I just wanted to tell you their names

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A few days after that, Dean wrote another song for Rachel called "I Love You."

I Love You

I promise you
I'll never act like that again
I promise you
I'll do as you say and I won't listen to your friends
I promise you
I'll never again against you act as though I have to win
And I promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you
That I love you

I promise you
You're the prettiest girl I've ever seen
I promise you
All the rude things I said to you I really didn't mean
I promise you
All the songs I'm writing for you are true
And I promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you
That I love you

I promise you
I'll never try to hurt your feelings again
I promise you
I'll always be here for you if you need a friend

I promise you
I really feel bad about the way I treated you
And I promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you, promise you
That I love you

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About a week after that, Dean wrote for Rachel his song “If You Want This to End.”

If You Want This to End

If you want this to end
Then please don't come over here
'Cause when you do, my heart breaks
And then I'll have me another beer

And then I'll smoke another joint
But, girl, that's not the point of this song
And since we just can't get along

If you want this to end
Then please don't you come around me
'Cause it's only through eyes
Of true love that I see

And since you won't talk to me
You'll only tear me apart
So please cooperate
To save my poor broken heart

If you want this to end
Please stay on your side of town
'Cause, girl, I just can't take it
When I see you around

I just want to hug you and squeeze you
And to be your friend
Just like old times
You and me friends again

Yeah, and maybe even more

Oh, girl, we could roll around on the floor
Fall in love, get married, and make love
Yeah, and we could live happily ever for the rest of our lives

But if you want this to end
Then please stay away from me
'Cause I will only think about
How I dream things could be

And that is you finding it in your heart
To give me another chance
Then just like old times
You and me friends again

Yeah, and maybe even more
Oh, girl, we could roll around on the floor
Fall in love, get married, and make love
Yeah, and we could live happily ever for the rest of our lives

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On Thanksgiving night, Dean was walking to his friend Bobby's apartment and saw Rachel walking out of The Shack. He said, "Hi, Rachel." She looked at him but didn't say anything; she just got in her truck and drove away. Dean walked back to his dorm room, called her, and left her a message on her answering machine saying he wanted to ask her if she had gotten the package he had mailed to her, and if she hadn't gotten it yet, that she should expect a surprise package in the mail. Dean also said many of the things that he had written in his song "If You Want This to End." Then a few minutes later, he called back. Rachel answered the phone and yelled at him, "Don't fucking call back!" Then she hung up the phone. Then a few minutes after that, Dean called Rachel back again and left another message saying he was sorry he made her scream on Thanksgiving, and that the package he sent her was a book about her favorite artist. A couple of days later, Dean called Rachel again and left a message on her answering machine saying that he was sorry for telling her that she should not go back around The Shack, but really he could care less if she ever went back over there because terrible people hung out there. A few minutes later, Dean called Rachel again and an officer of the University of North Texas Police Department answered her phone. The officer told Dean that if he called Rachel again he would be charged with harassment. Dean remained silent until the officer had stopped speaking and had hung up the phone. Then Dean hung up his phone. A few minutes later, two UNT police officers showed up at the dorm where Dean lived and questioned him about the messages. One of the officers told Dean that Rachel had said she was scared about the package he had sent her. Dean said to the officer, "She's being paranoid." Then the officer said to Dean, "Wouldn't you be?" Dean replied, "No." Then the

officer said to Dean, "Haven't you ever heard of the Unabomber?" Dean replied, "It's a book of her favorite artist, not a bomb." Then the police told Dean, "You're free to go."

That night, Dean wrote another song for Rachel called "I'm Wondering (Are You Paranoid)."

I'm Wondering (Are You Paranoid)

Tell me are you paranoid
All because your mind is void?
Tell me is it true you accuse
All because your mind is a vacuum?

Tell me is it true you hate
All because your mind is an empty space?
Tell me do you think it's cool
To shit on someone who cares for you?

Well don't be paranoid 'cause there's really nothing to fear
But I understand it's hard for you if there's nothing between your ears

My, but you're a pretty girl
But there are a million pretty girls in the world
I used to think you're very smart
But now I'm wondering if you have a heart
I'm not one to accuse

And I don't even know if what I'm wondering is true
Tell me do you think it's cool
To shit on someone who cares for you like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do?
Like I do? I do? I do? I do? I do?

About a week and a half later, Dean got a message on his answering machine from Sergeant Prickett, a UNT detective, saying that the detective wanted to speak to Dean, and that Dean should return his call. Dean tried several times to call the detective, but he never could reach the detective at his work. The next week, Dean got a letter from Kent, the Coordinator of Student Life, which was a summons to call and make an appointment to speak with Sergeant Prickett. Dean again called the detective's office but could not reach him at his work.

Later that week, Dean wanted to write a song for Rachel that he thought she deserved very much, and so he wrote for her "There's No One As Beautiful As You."

There's No One As Beautiful As You

There's no one as beautiful as you
And there's no one who can love you the way I do
I feel a need to tell you what's true
There's no one as beautiful as you

I remember meeting you in school
And seeing in your brown eyes what I knew was true
You had it all together and were nobody's fool
That was when I knew for sure I loved you

You were so cool and very much a young lady
With your long brown hair that you wore so beautifully
You stood righteously, virtuously, and respectably
A young lady whom all the other girls envied

There's no one as beautiful as you
And there's no one who can love you the way I do
I feel a need to tell you what's true
There's no one as beautiful as you

Now a few years since then have gone by
And I think you should be proud of how you have turned out
It's because of the way you have chosen to live your life
That I find you such a beautiful woman now

Please never stop shining your pretty smile
'Cause when I see you smile it makes all the things I do worthwhile
I know one day you'll make a good man proud

Can I be the one to share with you wedding vows?

There's no one as beautiful as you
And there's no one who can love you the way I do
I feel a need to tell you what's true
There's no one as beautiful as you

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Dean saw Rachel and Lacy walking out of The Shack a couple of days later and he said to Rachel, "Hi, Rachel, I wrote you another song called 'There's No One As Beautiful As You.' I e-mailed the lyrics to your friend. Please read them, they're nice." Rachel faced Dean and said something to him, but Dean couldn't hear what Rachel had said because Lacy was yelling at Dean repeatedly, "Go to hell!" Then Rachel and Lacy got into Rachel's truck and drove away.

The following Friday, the semester ended, and Dean moved out of his dorm room. The following Monday, as Dean was walking to court to be arraigned for the assault charge that Anita had put on him, the same UNT police officer who had questioned him about the Unabomber stopped him and told him there was a warrant out for his arrest for charges of harassment. Dean asked the officer, "Who did I harass?" The officer replied, "I don't know; I'm just doing my job." Dean asked the officer, "Can I see the warrant?" The officer didn't show Dean the warrant but said to him that the officer who took Rachel's report made the charge against him and that there was no one else listed on the warrant as charging him. Dean suspected that it was because he had never made an appointment to speak with Sergeant Prickett that the officer charged him with harassment and put a warrant out for his arrest. Dean went to the Denton County jail, where they took his mug shot and posted it on the Internet. He bailed out that same day for \$250.00. While the police officer was driving Dean to jail, Dean said to the officer that calling someone to apologize does not constitute harassment according to the Texas Penal Code.

A couple of days later Dean wrote another song for Rachel called "The Charge of Loving You."

The Charge of Loving You

Go ahead and charge me for loving you
When I get my day in court, I'll say it's true
And then I'll spend a year in jail if I'm made to
All for the charge of loving you

I called you to apologize and you called the cops
And reported that you wanted this to end
Well, the cops that you reported to slapped me with a charge
So like it or not here we go again

Go ahead and charge me for loving you
When I get my day in court, I'll say it's true
And then I'll spend a year in jail if I'm made to
All for the charge of loving you

When I'm arraigned, I'll ask for a jury trial
And then I'll tell the jury I want to be your friend
Those messages I left you were meant to try to work things out
I'll admit I knew you wanted our friendship to end

Go ahead and charge me for loving you
When I get my day in court, I say it's true
And then I'll spend a year in jail if I'm made to
All for the charge of loving you

I know I'll be broken hearted when this is all over with
And I may be found guilty, but I will never admit
That I was meaning to harass you with the intent
To make you cry or ever hurt your feelings again

Go ahead and charge me for loving you
When I get my day in court, I'll say it's true
And then I'll spend a year in jail if I'm made to
All for the charge of loving you
All for the charge of loving you
All for the charge of loving you

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A few days after New Year's Dean wrote a song called "Suicide Note (I'm Doing This)."

Suicide Note (I'm Doing This)

I'm doing this
And nobody gives a damn
I'm doing this
And nobody understands
I'm doing this
And I know you won't care at all
I'm doing this
But it's not your fault

I'm doing this
'Cause nobody listens
I'm doing this
'Cause no one is here to help
I'm doing this
And I know you won't care at all
I'm doing this
But it's not your fault

I'm doing this
And I know it's what you wish
Goodbye
Don't cry
For me it's time to die

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Chapter 2

Dean now had court to face. He called Meredith on the telephone right after he found out what it was he was facing. Meredith still talked to Dean; and he really appreciated it, because it seemed to him that hardly anybody would. They talked for about thirty or forty minutes. Meredith told him that he should not worry and that everything would probably be OK. Dean told Meredith that he started to write her a song, but that he threw it away before he finished it, because he didn't think he knew her well enough to write her a song. She said to him, I think you know me well enough to write me a song. He said to her, OK. I'll try again, Later that night, Dean wrote his song, "Meredith With Your Pretty Blue Eyes."

Meredith, With Your Pretty Blue Eyes

Meredith, with your pretty blue eyes
I've never known a girl who is quite as wise
As you are
I believe that you've honestly forgiven me

Meredith, with your pretty blue eyes
We've known each other for a pretty long time now
Wouldn't you say?
It means a lot to me that our relationship is still OK

Meredith, with your pretty blue eyes
I'm really happy to know you
And I honestly believe that you won't take sides
I've got a feeling that you'll stand up
For what you know is right

Meredith, with your pretty blue eyes
I don't believe I've ever known you to tell a lie
To protect your friends
And so, I'm really not worried that you will lie for them
When you take the stand

But could the truth be
That I really don't know you all that well?
And that you're setting me up
When you say not to worry, it will probably be OK

I truly believe that you're one of the good people
In this world who stand for the truth
Please don't turn on me now
And go along with your good friend by whom I stand accused

Meredith, with your pretty blue eyes please stay wise
I really have faith in you

2001 Dean Strickland

In the assault case that the state had against Dean, Anita was the state's first witness. Anita no longer worked as the manager of The Shack; she had a new job working as a cashier at the Sack N Save grocery store. During that time, Bobby was allowing Dean to sleep on his living room floor, because Dean was between semesters and was planning to move to Hollywood in March to study at Musicians Institute to do their Recording Artist Program, which started in April. Dean was really looking forward to attending Musicians Institute, because his

assignment would be to record a full length CD, and that was a dream he had always had, and was the main reason why he had been working long and hard to get as many songs written as he could. One night in March, Dean and Bobby went to the Sack N Save to buy groceries. And they went through Anita's line to make their purchases, where Dean said to her, Anita, can I speak to you? She replied, What about? He asked her, Did you ever do what you said you were going to do? He was referring to what she had said to him before about calling the police to tell them that she didn't want to press charges against him. She told Dean that she had tried, and that the police told her they would contact her. Then Dean said to Anita, I don't want to see you get in trouble, but I didn't throw a rock at you. She said back to him, I know.

Dean had a court-appointed attorney named Coby Waddill handling his case. At first, Dean was not very happy with Mr. Waddill as his attorney, because during their first meeting in Mr Waddill's office he and his partner Henry C. Paine, Jr. told Dean that they thought he would be found guilty of the charge, which was throwing a rock at Anita. Dean asked both of them, How can I be found guilty of throwing a rock that I didn't throw? Dean made a request to Judge Crouch that Mr. Waddill be fired as his attorney, and that he be allowed to represent himself. Judge Crouch talked Dean out of firing Mr. Waddill by telling him that they were trying to help him. Dean agreed not to fire Mr. Waddill. When Dean's assault case went to trial in March, Anita failed to appear, and it was dismissed.

About a month earlier, on February 8, Dean's friend Lee got for him the opportunity to be the talent in a recording class at Dallas Sound Lab, where he was able to record three acoustic guitar songs in Studio A for free. From those recordings, in the following month of March, Dean released his second single, entitled "Suicide Note (I'm Doing This)," into all the record stores in Denton that were carrying his first single, "You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)."

When Dean had his arraignment in March for the harassment charge against him, Mr. Waddill was again appointed by the court as his attorney, and Rachel was the state's first witness in the case. Dean thought Rachel was very resentful toward him, and it was then that he wrote his song, "A State Jail Felony."

A State Jail Felony

I'm really hoping that you won't appear
To show everyone just how much you never cared
'Cause you've got me scared
And I'm thinking that you will be there

You'll show up with all your friends by your side
With malicious prosecution on all of your minds
And in the electric chair
Is where you'll all hope to see me fry

Rachel, please don't do me in
I was trying to apologize. I still want to be your friend
Please let me go to Hollywood to record my songs

Rachel, please don't do me in
Haven't I paid enough for what I did to you and your friends?
Please let me go to Hollywood and record my songs

I'm sorry that I didn't wait forever
To call you, but you told me never say never.
And I've got tattoos to prove that what I'm saying is true

I told you once I'd never get a tattoo
You said never say never, and now look
I've got three tattoos
I would have done anything to impress a girl like you

Rachel, please don't do me in
I was trying to apologize. I still want to be your friend
Please let me go to Hollywood to record my songs

Rachel, please don't do me in
Haven't I paid enough for what I did to you and your friends?
Please let me go to Hollywood and record my songs

I really wish you would be nice to me
If you could lose that resentment you have for me
You could truly set yourself free

But I don't want to break the law and be
Tried for committing a State Jail Felony
Which is what this song may be thought to be

Rachel, please don't do me in
I was trying to apologize. I still want to be your friend
Please let me go to Hollywood to record my songs

Rachel, please don't do me in
Haven't I paid enough for what I did to you and your friends?
Please let me go to Hollywood and record my songs
The songs I wrote for you

2001 Dean Strickland

Mr. Waddill said some things to Dean that made him worry that he was not going to get a fair trial, such as: Judge Crouch was not a fair judge, and that the District Attorney, J.R. Moore, did not like him; but not to take it personally. Mr. Waddill told Dean that J.R. Moore had told him that he thought he should have won the assault case against him, and that had Anita appeared at the trial, he could have; and for that reason J.R. Moore was out for blood. Dean didn't feel safe and asked Mr. Waddill if he could get a different district attorney and a different judge. Mr. Waddill told Dean that that was not possible. Mr. Waddill suggested to Dean that he remove his story, "I Wish You Would Kill Yourself Like Your Brother or Like Kurt Cobain" from his Internet Web site until the trial was over with, but Dean did not want to remove his story and explained to Mr. Waddill that his songs were not all true, but part fantasy. Dean explained to Mr. Waddill that when he was growing up listening to hit songs he noticed that they were all fantasy mixed with reality; so that was the approach he took when writing his songs, and he saw an opportunity to write songs based on what he was going through with Rachel and her friends.

Dean was worried that Mr. Waddill was not spending enough time with him to get all of the facts he needed to prepare a good defense. Dean told Mr. Waddill that he wanted to take the witness stand, but Mr. Waddill advised him not to do so, because the district attorney had read his book, "I Wish You Would Kill Yourself Like Your Brother or Like Kurt Cobain" on the Internet, and J.R. Moore had told him that if he testified, he would ask him with a yes or no question whether he gave Rachel and Lacy marijuana. Mr. Waddill told Dean that the judge would make him answer the question with a yes or no question whether he gave Rachel and Lacy marijuana. Mr. Waddill told Dean that the judge would make him answer the question with a yes or no, and if he answered, "No, he would be forced to withdraw as his attorney, because he said he remembered that he told him in one of their meetings that he did give Rachel and Lacy marijuana; and if he answered, "Yes, J.R. Moore would charge him with a felony for transferring marijuana, plus a marijuana possession charge, then J.R. Moore would give Rachel and Lacy immunity to witness against him. Dean began thinking that Mr. Waddill was not on his side. He told Mr. Waddill that it sounded to him like he wasn't on his side. Mr. Waddill tried to reassure Dean that he was on his side. Dean agreed that he would not take the witness stand.

Around the beginning of March, as Dean was browsing the Internet in the Willis Computer Lab at the University of North Texas, he was approached by a UNT police officer who asked him to step out of the building, where Sergeant Prickett was waiting for him to tell him that he did not have any business at the University of North Texas, and trespassed him from the campus, and confiscated his UNT identification card. Later that week, Dean called Elizabeth With, the Vice President of Student Development, to see if she would help him to get the trespass lifted. She told him that he had a block through her office; and Dean had no idea

why, so he made an appointment with her to find out why she had put a block on him. She told him during their appointment that he could no longer attend the University of North Texas because of his song, "Suicide Note (I'm Doing This)."

Around the beginning of April, Dean posted a few flyers around town to announce that he was looking for a bassist and a drummer. Soon after that, he wrote his song, "Bassist and Drummer Wanted."

Bassist and Drummer Wanted

Will I ever find a bassist and drummer
To help me play my original songs?
It would seem I don't have very much to offer
With just my guitar and my voice to move the music along

I can't offer anyone any money
Only two sets of my songs that really rock
And a will that lets nothing get in the way
Not even the North Texas cops

So please remember my name is Dean Strickland
'Cause in the future you'll be hearing it again
I'm the most hated singer/songwriter in Denton
Who is struggling to form a band

Will I ever find a bassist and a drummer
To help me play my original songs?
Of which I have plans to write more as I live them
And then one day I'll be gone

2001 Dean Strickland

Dean was following his harassment case on the Denton County Internet Web site, and saw

that Kent Marshall had been served a subpoena to appear in court to testify as a witness for the state. Dean called Mr. Waddill on the telephone and told him that he had made a written complaint to Kent Marshall's boss, Elizabeth With, in the fall semester of the year 2000, and that he had also complained about him to the Dean of Students and the UNT Police Department.

Dean had been playing the songs he wrote at a lot of different acoustic jams and open mike nights in both Denton and Dallas, and the night before he was to appear at his trial for the harassment case against him, he was playing his songs at a pool hall on Fry Street called "Muthers, during their open mike night. Four or five of the University of North Texas police officers, including the one who had made the comment to him about the Unabomber, watched him as he played his first two songs, which were "Bassist and Drummer Wanted" and "A State Jail Felony."

The next morning, on April 20, 2001, Dean went to his jury trial, and Mr. Waddill told him that he had spoken to Kent Marshall on the phone, and Kent told him he was never served a subpoena. Mr. Waddill told Dean that if he did appear in court to testify, the fact that he had told him he was not served a subpoena would cause him to lose his credibility as a witness. But he did not appear in court. Mr. Waddill mentioned to Dean that the district attorney had already lost three cases that week. Dean thought to himself that what that meant was that it is the district attorney's turn to win; and chances are the district attorney will win his case no matter what the truth is; and it worried him. Rachel walked into the courtroom with Jamie, their circle leader, by her side. The district attorney presented Dean's book, "I Wish You Would Kill Yourself Like Your Brother or Like Kurt Cobain" to Judge Crouch as evidence, and labeled it "State Exhibit." Judge Crouch asked the jury to leave the courtroom, and then he read aloud—to the attorneys—the lyrics to Dean's song, "I'm Wondering (Are You Paranoid)." Judge Crouch offered Dean a plea bargain of thirty days in jail, but Dean did not take the plea bargain, and said it was because he wanted the truth to come out. Six pages of Dean's book, "I Wish You Would Kill Yourself Like Your Brother or Like Kurt Cobain" were allowed to be admitted as evidence. Mr. Waddill gave Dean several sheets of notebook paper from his legal pad to write on, so that he could write down the things he wanted to communicate to him as the trial went on. The jury was called back into the courtroom. The prosecuting attorney called Rachel to the witness stand and asked her to read aloud the lyrics to Dean's song, "The Charge of Loving You". She read them and started crying. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill that he was proud of his songs. Dean thought that Rachel's answers to both the prosecution and defense attorney's questions were inconsistent. Rachel stated that Dean was always nice to her; and she was mean to him. She also stated that Dean was always getting mad at her and her friends. She stated that Dean was always apologizing. Rachel stated that she was not scared of Dean, and in the same sentence stated that she sometimes was afraid. Dean thought to himself that he never did anything to frighten her, and that it was what her friends were saying to her about him that frightened her. Rachel stated that she

would always see Dean driving his truck in front of her apartment. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill, "I was driving down Eagle." Eagle is a main road in Denton that is in front of the University of North Texas. Then Dean thought about something he had always kept to himself, which was that every morning before he would go to his first class, and also between his classes, he would drive around the campus and smoke a joint. And he remembered seeing Rachel a couple of times driving out of her apartment complex parking lot. Dean thought Rachel was obviously paranoid, because she stated that she was always having to look over her shoulder; and he thought there could be no other reason why she would say such a thing, since the only place he had seen her around for nearly the past five or six months was at The Shack. Dean figured that Jamie, who kept looking at him in the courtroom with what he thought was an evil eye, had convinced Rachel that all of the "motor mouth crap" was the truth. Dean thought to himself that he could not hardly blame Rachel, because she was so easily influenced, and Jamie had obviously influenced her way of thinking. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel if she ever told Dean that he could call her on the telephone just to say hi and that he loved her, and Rachel said that she did not. Dean thought to himself, "She's lying." He wrote to Mr. Waddill, "That's not true." Rachel stated that Dean did not know her very well. Rachel brought up the day—which was close to being a year in the past—when she asked him what he was doing at the mall, as though he should not have been there, and stated that he was walking around watching her all day long. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill, "That's not true." Dean thought to himself that he knew he had been at the mall for less than ten minutes when that incident occurred. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel about the package that Dean mailed to her, which was a book by the artist Frida Kahlo, and she stated that she never received it, but did not think it was a bomb. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel if she believed Dean's apologies were sincere. She answered him by saying that she did not know what to believe from Dean. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel if, during her phone conversation with Dean on Halloween, she said to him that she did not feel as though he was stalking her, and she said that she did not say that. Dean told Mr. Waddill that everything he wrote in his book was true. Dean thought to himself that he knew Rachel was making a lot of statements that were exaggerated and untrue. Then he asked Mr. Waddill if he could take the stand. Mr. Waddill told him he could not, because they had already agreed that he would not. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel a question that Dean thought was inappropriate and was a question that would hang him rather than help him win the case. The question Mr. Waddill asked Rachel that Dean didn't like was, "Why didn't you change your phone number?" Rachel cried, and answered that she didn't think she should have to. Sergeant Prickett, the UNT police officer who took Rachel's report and the UNT police officer who made the comment to Dean about the Unabomber—took the witness stand and stated that they believed that the messages Dean left on Rachel's answering machine were intended to harass her. Dean thought to himself that they were all being malicious, because the tone of his voice and the words he used in the messages were proof that he was not intending to harass her.

In the closing statements, Mr. Waddill told the jury that the burden of proof found Dean not guilty. Earlier in the jury selection phase of the trial, Mr. Waddill had told the potential jurors that making repeated phone calls does not constitute harassment. The district attorney told the jury, in her closing statement, that with the preponderance of evidence Dean should be found

guilty. The jury found Dean guilty, and he was taken into custody to await the punishment phase of the trial, which would take place the next morning.

Early the next morning, in the courtroom, Dean told Mr. Waddill that he saw Rachel smile when he was found guilty, and that her smile was what mattered, and that he would—with a positive attitude—take the full punishment if that was what it took to make her smile. Just before the punishment phase of the trial began, Dean asked Mr. Waddill why he asked Rachel, “Why didn’t you change your phone number?” Mr. Waddill answered Dean by telling him that he did not tell him what questions to ask. That morning, Rachel and Jamie walked into the courtroom together. The prosecuting attorney called Rachel to the witness stand and used the flyer that Dean had passed out to advertise the release of his first single, “You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know)” as evidence and labeled it “State Exhibit” then asked Rachel what she thought about the flyer and Dean’s song “You Make Me Smile (I Want You to Know),” which he dedicated to her. Rachel answered that some people like it, but she did not know why, and that she didn’t care, and that she felt like it was degrading to her. The prosecuting attorney asked Rachel to read aloud the chorus lyrics of Dean’s song, “If You Want This to End” and state what she thought about them. She read them and stated that she thought the lyrics were degrading to her. Rachel stated that she never said that it was OK for Dean to tell her that he loved her. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill that every time he gave Rachel a gift he would tell her that he loved her. Dean thought to himself about Valentine’s Day of 1999, the day he got out of the hospital after spending a week there recovering from a minor procedure he went through to heal a collapsed lung he had suffered while living in the College Inn dorm; he gave Rachel a dozen roses and told her that he loved her. Then Mr. Waddill stood up and said to Rachel that she had just said that some people like Dean’s song, and Rachel replied that she did not say that. Mr. Waddill repeated to her that she did say it, and she argued again that she did not. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill the word “typical,” meaning that it is typical for Rachel to say that she did not say something that she did say if it was in his favor. Mr. Waddill asked Judge Crouch to review the witness statement, but Judge Crouch did not review it. Dean thought back to earlier in the trial when Mr. Waddill asked Rachel if, during her phone conversation with Dean on Halloween, she said to him that she did not feel as though he was stalking her, and she said that she did not say that, and when she said that she did not ever tell him that he could call her on the phone just to say Hi and that he loved her. Dean thought it was obvious that Rachel was being dishonest. Mr. Waddill asked for a mistrial, but Judge Crouch did not grant one. Mr. Waddill asked Rachel if she would agree that the songs that she hears on the radio are not the truth, but rather fantasy, and she did agree. The prosecuting attorney asked Rachel what she thought should be done to Dean as punishment. She cried and stated that she thought he should have to go sit somewhere for a long time and think about what he had done. When Dean saw her crying and heard her say that, he wrote to Mr. Waddill, “I’ll do it,” meaning that he would take the full punishment with a positive attitude if that was what she wanted. Then the prosecuting attorney called the UNT police officer who had made the Unabomber comment to Dean to the witness stand and asked him if he had seen Dean since November when he left the messages on Rachel’s answering machine. The officer answered, “Yes,” that he had recently seen him at an open mike night at Muthers playing his song “A State Jail Felony,” which is

all about how his love for Rachel is a state jail felony. Dean wrote to Mr. Waddill, "That's not true." Mr. Waddill asked the officer if he remembered any of the lyrics to Dean's song "A State Jail Felony." The officer answered, "No." Mr. Waddill again asked for a mistrial, but Judge Crouch did not grant one. The jury gave Dean the maximum punishment, which was one hundred and eighty days in jail and a two thousand dollar fine, plus two thousand dollars in court costs. Dean told Mr. Waddill that he would continue writing his story. Mr. Waddill said to Dean that he hoped to be put in a good light. When Jamie heard that the jury gave Dean the maximum punishment, she smiled really big and gave Rachel a big hug, but Rachel did not smile; she walked out of the courtroom with a blank look on her face. When the trial was over, Dean told Mr. Waddill that he thought he did a good job as his attorney. Dean's release date from the Denton County Jail would be January 1, 2002.

Dean continued writing:

Lying Girl

You say I never knew you very well at all
Well, I thought I did; and that's why I wrote for you all of those beautiful songs

But now I see the real you, and I'm thinking that maybe you don't deserve
To have such beautiful songs written for you; Lying Girl

Lying Girl, why do you lie so much?
Could it be the friends you choose, or the way your parents brought you up?
Lying Girl, I think I know you better now
You're just a lying girl
I finally figured it out

My love for you is now gone completely away
'Cause when I hear you speak now I can't believe a word you say
But I'll still sing all the beautiful songs that I wrote for you to the world
And I really feel sorry for you
'Cause you're a lying girl

Lying Girl, why do you lie so much?
Could it be the friends you choose, or the way your parents brought you up?
Lying Girl, I think I know you better now
You're just a lying girl

I finally figured it out

I was not a criminal
I was trying to apologize
But you made me a criminal
When you took the stand and lied

Just because this crooked county court system found me guilty
Doesn't mean I really meant to harass you or hurt your feelings intentionally
The honest truth about what was going on inside my head
Sincere thoughts of apology, 'cause I thought that you were once my good friend

Lying Girl, why do you lie so much?
Could it be the friends you choose, or the way your parents brought you up?
Lying Girl, I think I know you better now
You're just a lying girl
I finally figured it out

2001 Dean Strickland

Waiting for My Dream

Waiting is something that I'm used to
Been waiting my whole life long
Waiting and hoping my dream comes true
Been waiting my whole life long

Knowing that the time is gonna pass by anyway
Realizing life is short and I'll be gone some day

Seems like every time I take a little step toward making my dream come true
Something like a ridiculous incident puts a stop to what it is I'm trying to do
But I know it's only temporary, and I've got discipline
Enough discipline enough, if I have to, to start it all over again

Waiting is something that I'm used to
Been waiting my whole life long
Waiting and hoping my dream comes true
Been waiting my whole life long

Knowing that the time is gonna pass by anyway
Realizing life is short and I'll be gone some day

Dreaming of the time when I can go to Hollywood to record my songs
Hoping nothing else will get in my way, and I'll be headed west before too long
Feeling like the obstacles I'm facing now are all building my character
Holding on to all of the good friends I have who were there for me when I was a loser

Waiting is something that I'm used to
Been waiting my whole life long
Waiting and hoping my dream comes true
Been waiting my whole life long

Knowing that the time is gonna pass by anyway
Realizing life is short and I'll be gone some day

2001 Dean Strickland

I Could Care Less If It Seems Odd

Would it be a crime for me to say
I care about you even though you threw me in jail?
It might seem a little weird and strange
That I'm not hating you and thinking you can go to hell

But there's just something about you to me that seems so innocent
That I just think of what it is you've done to me is given me free food and rent

I could never truly hate a girl who's as beautiful as you are
Sure I may write a few songs now and then you don't like, but please think of them as art
Please don't take 'em so seriously and get your panties all in a wad
I'm just being the creative me; and I could care less if it seems odd

The truth is, girl, I still care a lot about you
And there's nothing anyone can ever say or do that will change my point of view
Now I lay here in the bunk of my jail cell thinking what I wanna do
I wanna be the very best that I can be at writing songs that speak the truth

Would it be a crime for me to say
I care about you even though you threw me in jail?

It might seem a little weird and strange
That I'm not hating you and thinking you can go to hell

But there's just something about you to me that seems so innocent
That I just think of what it is you've done to me is given me free food and rent
I could never truly hate a girl who's as beautiful as you are
Sure I may write a few songs now and then you don't like, but please think of them as art

Please don't take 'em so seriously and get your panties all in a wad
I'm just being the creative me; and I could care less if it seems odd

2001 Dean Strickland

I'm Innocent

Being locked up here on the inside
Without a chance of ever seeing the outside
While I'm doing the time for this crime
I'm seeing things for the first time

I've been accused
Of what I didn't do
I'm found guilty
By an unfair jury

I was lied about by the witnesses
Then denied the chance to review their lying statements

I'm innocent of the crime that I'm doing time for
Those witnesses who took the stand lied about me in court

Their lies were overlooked by the judge
The judge refused to grant me a mistrial
Now I'm praying to the Appeal Court Judge
That perjury against me won't be allowed

I'm innocent of the crime that I'm doing time for

2001 Dean Strickland

Cadillac Style in Cell Block Seven

I've been booked in cell block seven
Here, me and all my homeboys, we're doing time
We're all looking forward to the day they say, "Out," so we can smoke out
It's a goddamn shame smoking weed's a crime

Some of the lady guards are fine as hell
And others ain't nothing but a bitch
We barely get enough food to stay alive
And everything we eat here taste like shit

We all stay cool so we won't get rolled
But we don't kiss no cop's ass
Fuck getting thrown in the goddamn hole
We do our time like riding in a Cadillac

Take some advice from a convict's mind
Always keep your shit on the down low
Be careful who you do your business with
If you want to watch your business grow

But if you get booked in cell block seven
Don't sweat it; you'll be just fine
It ain't nothing but a thing; just a bunch of convicts
Doing their time in Cadillac style

2001 Dean Strickland

I'm Depressed

I'm depressed today
I always feel this way
I'm watching what I say

So they won't put me away

I'm depressed today
I've no friends with whom to play
And nothing happens when I pray
Everything just stays the same

I want my daddy to hold me
But daddy's gone up to where the angels sing
I wish my mommy was here
I miss her terribly

I'm depressed today
I feel like I've been betrayed
Alive I don't wanna stay
'Cause she'll never look my way

I'm depressed today
I always feel this way
I'm watching what I say
So they won't put me away

2001 Dean Strickland

Asleep

Now that you've got me where you want me how do you feel?
Knowing that you put me here illegally some think you probably feel like a heel

But something tells me you don't feel anything at all
And when you go to sleep at night denial of the truth is what makes it easy to fall

Asleep
Do you ever dream about what the truth really is?
How you know I loved you all along, and you willingly accepted it

Asleep
Does the fact that you lied about me in court ever haunt your dreams?
Do the lies you told make it hard to fall asleep?

I'm hearing such a nice prediction from people who've heard my story
How that one day you'll leave your friends and come back to me saying you're sorry

But something tells me you'll never leave your friends at all
And when you go to sleep at night denial of the truth is what makes it easy to fall

Asleep
Do you ever dream about what the truth really is?
How you know I loved you all along, and you willingly accepted it

Asleep
Does the fact that you lied about me in court ever haunt your dreams?
Do the lies you told make it hard to fall asleep?

If you ever choose to walk to me and say, "Hello"
Understand that I can forgive; and you don't have to feel uncomfortable

I will always want to be your friend even when we both get old
I will never look down on you, and never will I treat you cold

I may never know the answers to the questions I have for you
But the fact that you did things illegally makes me think you're pretty cool

Still something tells me you'll never really care at all
And when you go to sleep at night denial of the truth is what makes it easy to fall

Asleep
Do you ever dream about what the truth really is?
How you know I loved you all along, and you willingly accepted it

Asleep
Does the fact that you lied about me in court ever haunt your dreams?
Do the lies you told make it hard to fall asleep?

2001 Dean Strickland

A Virgin of the New Century

She's having fun when she's writing her books
She doesn't like it if you compliment the way she looks

She just wants for everyone to leave her alone

She's nineteen and knows what she wants in life
She won't go to church until she becomes a wife
She says she just doesn't like the way those people seem so fake

She spends her time reading novels of horror
She's not a girl who really likes pretty flowers
She's not a party girl
She likes to stay at home

She's mature for her age
Not a child no matter what you say

I see she hardly smiles
So I tell her, "Wait until you're older
Then you'll understand what a child you were at nineteen"

Then she turned away from me
I've never been treated colder
She's a virgin of the new century

2001 Dean Strickland

She's on the Wrong Side of the Law

She smiled at me
Maybe I could make her my wife

She's beautiful enough
But the ring on her finger says she already has a life

But I know I would treat her better than he ever could
But on second thought we probably wouldn't get along
She's on the wrong side of the law

But she's beautiful enough
With her golden blonde hair and her lovely eyes
That I would really love to look into all night
If she'd give me a chance I'm sure we could both feel alright

But what am I thinking?
She's on the wrong side of the law
And the ring on her finger says she already has a life
Oh well, the dream of her was nice

2001 Dean Strickland

My Death Wish

They stripped my dream away from me
Along with the last of my will to be
So I was looking for something to take my misery

My sadness it had me crying
I could see no more sense in trying
So I was looking for something to take my life from me

She saw me and said she could help me
And in the morning my fate's what they'd all see
Those who said they cared for me, but showed me differently

She spoke of a drug, and I asked, "Where?"
That could take my life if I so dared
She told me to take her hand and she would lead me there

I took her hand and smiled sadly
She whispered, "This will end your misery"
I took what she had to offer willfully

I let her gently show me
What a friend the needle can be
Knowing that no one out there cares for me

Now I feel the badness in my head
Mixed with suicidal thoughts I have
Hoping that this will be the end for me

I never got to thank that witch
For sharing with me her evilness

Now I slowly fade away to my death wish

2001 Dean Strickland

I'm Not Ashamed

I'm not ashamed
My conscience is clear
I've done nothing wrong
I won't shed a tear

Help me figure it out
Come talk to me
I'm not ashamed
Of being me

I was sent to my room for wanting to be friends with you
I could stay in here forever, girl, and still not have a clue
As to what exactly I did wrong
So I'll just lie in bed and try to write another song
And dream of the day when maybe I can sing it to you

I'm not ashamed
My conscience is clear
I've done nothing wrong
I won't shed a tear

Help me figure it out
Come talk to me
I'm not ashamed
Of being me

Why was I sent to my room for writing songs for you
When that's what it is I do? I write songs for beautiful people like you
I'll never will understand what the big deal is
And why I got in trouble at all for wanting to be friends

I'm not ashamed
My conscience is clear
I've done nothing wrong
I won't shed a tear

Help me figure it out
Come talk to me
I'm not ashamed
Of being me

I've been in my room, now, for a long, long time
Thinking about what I did and if there was a crime
The only crime that I can see
Is the one you committed when you lied about me
Telling people stories like I want to be more than your friend
I'm not ashamed

2001 Dean Strickland

You're Gonna Be a Big Big Star

It's been said to me over and over
"One day you're gonna make a million dollars"
But I can't see
How something like that could ever happen to me

People they say, "One day you're gonna be a big big star
One day the whole wide world is gonna know who you are"
I tell them, "That's for other people not for me
I'll be happy just getting to sing and play my guitar
But I thank you very much for all of your support"

I was born to a great big family
Down south in Vicksburg, Mississippi
When I was young we all moved to Texas
You know the state that they say don't mess with

My oldest brother who I so admired
And my dad taught me how to play guitar
My mom who I love more than there are grains of sand on the seashore

She taught me how to be tough and never give up
For that lesson I thank her very much

She and dad, they were always there for me

And the few friends I have, they always build up my confidence
By telling me that they think my music is excellent
If I ever do make it big, I never will forget them

It's been said to me over and over
"One day you're gonna make a million dollars"
But I can't see
How something like that could ever happen to me

People they say, "One day you're gonna be a big big star
One day the whole wide world is gonna know who you are"
I tell them, that's for other people not for me
I'll be happy just getting to sing and play my guitar
But I thank you very much for all of your support"

2001 Dean Strickland

After being in jail for not much longer than a couple of months, Dean was released on an appeal bond. On the day of his release he stopped to use a payphone on the corner of Fry and Hickory street to call the UNT police, because they had trespassed him from the UNT campus. He asked the police to meet with him in person regarding his wish to file malicious prosecution charges against Jamie Alberti, because she had previously lied to the police in order to have him arrested. The police did meet with Dean and discuss his concerns. Early the next day one of the first things Dean did was go to the Justice of the Peace to file charges of assault against Jamie. After that he went to all of the local record stores that were carrying his CDs. He wanted to find out how many had sold while he was in jail. One of the stores was Voyagers Dream on Hickory street. Dean walked in Voyagers Dream and looked through the display of CDs and saw that his were not there anymore. Dean asked the employee behind the register what happened to them, and she told him he would have to ask the manager, but that he wasn't there. Dean asked her, "Would it be okay if I come back tomorrow?", and she answered yes. The next day Dean went back to Voyagers Dream to speak to the manager. When he walked in he saw Jamie behind the register. He didn't say anything to her when he first saw her. Instead he looked through the CDs to double check that his weren't there. After double checking he approached the register and said to Jamie, "You weren't working here before I went to jail." She said to him, "You need to find you a girlfriend that cares about you." He replied, "What?" She said to him, "I know you've been thinking about Rachel." He said, "I didn't even mention her." Dean tried to make peace with Jamie by saying to her, "I hope you're not still mad at me for writing the poem." She became furious and made a rude comment about his looks. Dean asked her what happened to his CDs and she said she didn't know, and that he would have to ask the manager, Mike. She told Dean that Mike was on vacation and that she would take his name and number in order to have Mike call him when

he returned. Dean didn't like the way Jamie was treating him so he demanded to speak to the person in charge of the store. Jamie told Dean that he could wait outside and that she would make a phone call to Mike, and soon Mike would be there to speak to him. Dean waited outside, and within a few minutes he saw Mike walking toward him. Dean approached Mike and said, "Your employee is being very rude to me. I just want to find out if my CDs sold, or what happened to them, and I was told I have to speak to you to find out." Mike said to Dean, "You're the one those girls put a restraining order on." Dean said to Mike, I don't have a restraining order on me. If they told you that then they've lied to you." Mike slapped Dean lightly on his face, and rather than start a fight with Mike, Dean told Mike he would file assault charges against him. Mike walked back into his store and had Dean wait outside for payment of the missing CDs, and after paying Dean he told Dean he would have him trespass. Dean then went to the phone on the corner of Hickory and Fry street to call the police to file assault charges against Mike. About ten minutes later, a Denton police officer drove up and filed Dean's charge of assault against Mike. Then the two North Texas police officers Dean had spoken to the previous day drove up in front of Voyagers Dream. They approached Dean and spoke to him calmly saying that it didn't look good him being in front of the store. Dean began to feel as if he was being set up. Dean told them he was there to check on his CDs and nothing more. They told Dean that they believed him. Then Seargents Prickett and Abdula drove up and got out of their car. Seargent Prickett then approached Dean, put handcuffs on him, and told him he was under arrest for stalking Jamie Alberti. The two North Texas officers that had arrived first were instructed to drive Dean to the county jail. While in route they told Dean that they did not believe that he was stalking Jamie, and that they were just doing what they were told by their bosses Prickett and Abdula. Dean was booked in the county jail and placed in a hold tank until the next morning when he saw the judge. The judge said to Dean, "I told you to stay away from those girls." Dean said to the judge, "I don't have a restraining order on me." The judge said to Dean, "Do I have to give you one?" Dean replied, "Well, if they are going to say I have one on me it would make more sense if I did." Dean's bond was set at \$20,000.00. Dean requested a different court appointed attorney and was appointed David Wacker to represent him in the case. Mr. Wacker told Dean that the D.A. wanted to give him two years. Dean wanted nothing more than to go to Hollywood, California to attend Musicians Institute. Dean plea bargained with the D.A. so that he would be release in time to register for school in the spring of 2002. After months of being incarcerated Dean was taken to the Justice of the Peace court to stand as the plaintiff against Jamie and Mike for the assault charges. The judge said that because of Dean's nature that both Jamie and Mike were innocent, and the cases were dismissed. Dean was released from Denton County jail on March 1, 2002. He stayed with his friend Bobby until March 13 when he boarded a plane to Los Angeles, California.