

WHAT-IF ISLAND

Lyric Booklet

A note on this booklet

This booklet contains the lyrics for all the songs in the show. It also includes a brief description of the mood and feeling of each song, to convey the non-lyrical elements for D/deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences.

While I have tried my best to show exactly what I sing for each song, there may be times when I add in extra vocalisations (singing sounds like 'ooh' or 'ah') that aren't written here. These sounds help me build up the mood of the song as I'm performing it.

Please note the lyrics of 'Reason to Doubt' briefly allude to self-harm.

Please note 'Fundamental' contains swearing.

If you'd like to give feedback on this booklet, please contact Ilana via ilanacharnelle.com/contact-social.

Song name: Appointment

Song description: *This song has a moody, jazzy feeling. Ilana starts singing in a low tone, rises to higher notes, and then drops down again. The melody gives the feeling of anger rising and falling.*

Think I'll make an appointment
To come hear your defence
Tell her all your reasons
I'm sure you did your best
She'll treat you with kindness
But she's so inclined coz
She has to take your word
For all that you did

All of these women
They hold you together
Like birds of a feather
They'll tell you whatever
Don't know what you're needing
But they're all believing
The crowd is all cheering

And they'll tell you you're healing
Babe, you're doing so well
No matter who's bleeding

Or who you're putting through hell
Who you putting through hell?

All of these women
They're so sympathetic
Coz you're always the hero
And never the train wreck
And if they believe you
I guess power to them
I saw the good in you
It led me to ruin

Song name: What A Lie

Song description: *This song has a boppy, upbeat feeling, with a more drawn-out melody in the chorus. Multiple recordings of Ilana's voice come in as a group at the start of the song and in the chorus, representing the questions going round and round in her head.*

What, what'll I
What, what'll I
What, what'll I
What

An open book, an empty page
Who would you like, I'll put her on, I'll take the stage
Always attuned to what you'll need
I find the cues, I hit the mark, I take the lead

I know too well the things to hide
The fraying edges that I need to brush aside
No, I don't mind, no, it's not hard
I know to be loved I need to play the part

Until I'm sitting at home in the dark where you left me
You had to discard what I built so carefully

What'll I do (oh, oh, oh) now you have gone away
I'm dull and bruised
What'll I do (oh, oh, oh) I became someone new
I thought you'd choose (oh, oh oh), what'll I do

What, what'll I
What, what'll I
What, what'll I
What

I feel the ache, try to adjust
There's only so much I can carve until I'm dust
It costs so much to try again
And I don't know what's underneath all the pretend

Tell me what's left, I gave my all
There was no battle won, so what did I fight for
Too much to take, so they all leave
But this life I built was never built for me

And in the eye of the storm, it's just me and the mirror
We're eye to eye, and it's like I can hear her

'What a lie you (oh, oh, oh) spun through our lives each day
Now you're consumed
What a lie you (oh, oh, oh) clung to, to get you through
The worst is true (oh, oh, oh)
The worst is true
What a liar are you'

Song name: Eulogy

Song description: *This song is sad and dramatic. The melody rises and falls in the chorus, before building up to very high notes that represent grief and pain.*

To the one fresh from the train
Iced coffee, old suitcase, light rain
To the one who stayed up late
Spouting plans I wish we didn't make

To the one with the smile
That grew fainter, rarer, died
To the man I thought you'd be
Not the boy who gave up on me

Rest peacefully, sleep easily
You were wondrous and you were make believe
My everything, gone violently
I wish I didn't need a eulogy

To the one I thought that you'd become
Gave up all my dreams to prop yours on
I could see the you you couldn't
Gave you all of me and god you knew it

Here I set you down for the final time
May you rest in peace, now you can't have mine

Rest peacefully, sleep easily
You were wondrous and you were make believe
My everything, gone violently
I wish I didn't need a eulogy
Rest peacefully, sleep easily
You were wondrous and you were make believe
My everything, gone violently
I wish I didn't need a eulogy

(A series of long, high notes)

I bury you deep, I make my peace
You were poison, you sucked the life from me
My fading dream, woke violently
I wish I didn't need a eulogy
I wish you didn't come back just to leave

Song name: Reason to Doubt

Song description: *This song is based around the 'oh, oh,' melody Ilana has been singing throughout the show so far. It is sad and thoughtful. The melody becomes higher in the chorus, representing the intensity of Ilana's feelings.*

Oh, oh (oh, oh)

Can I love you and let you go
Can I take my eyes off the road
If we're not held fast will it still last

Will you still love me tomorrow

When it's late and you're still not here
Can I trust you won't disappear
Want you close, not your ghost, baby please don't
Sow the tiniest seed of fear

I've lost you once don't think I'll
Survive it again
How can I reconcile
That this isn't the end

Oh, oh (oh, oh)
Do I have reason to doubt you
Oh, oh (oh, oh)
Coz I can't do this without you, oh
Stars in my eyes turned to scars on my thighs
You say there's no right and no wrong
But oh, oh (oh, oh)
I'm so sick of being strong

Oh, oh (oh, oh)

Song name: Fundamental

Song description: *This song is split into two sections: a vintage style introduction, and an upbeat main section. Overall, the song is fun and cheeky. Ilana performs this song in a playful, sarcastic way.*

I've said it before, I'll say it again
If you say something mean it, I don't understand
How all these mouths open, they spout all this noise
Then think I'm the strange one for believing the ploys

The thing is, when I feel, I feel it all truly
Can't stand the deception making things unruly
So if you say you want me, I will believe
Spare me the trouble if you'd rather I leave
And mean what you say, or say what you fucking mean

(A stronger rhythm begins for the main section:)

Uh oh, da da da da dum
Uh oh, da da da da dum

Hindsight, it's 20/20
And the warning signs, there were plenty
All the rules they break, so casually
But when I miss the mark
You know they seize the chance to tell me

You want me to follow your discretion
'Be like her!' - which is to say, don't question
But all your words don't match how you are acting
And if I point it out, well then I'm the one attacking

Differences
Differences were fundamental
Turns out the truth is one more thing that you can't handle
Differences
Differences were far too much
So forgive me if I don't want to stay in touch

Uh oh, da da da da dum
Uh oh, da da da da dum

Tell me again, I'm some foul creature
Just because I asked for purpose or procedure
I will ask why, you'll wish I didn't
Coz you're on shaky ground and there's no reason underneath it

You want me to stop causing all this mess
'Be like her!' - please, there's nothing I want less
All your attempts to get me into line
Make it so obvious it's just a waste of time

Differences
Differences were fundamental
Turns out critique is one more thing that you can't handle
Differences
Differences were far too much
So forgive me if I don't want to stay in touch

Uh oh, da da da da dum
Uh oh, da da da da dum

Just wish that you'd stopped for a second and thought it all through
Like maybe I'd think you were honest because I am too
And I was dimming my light trying to make you happy
But I'm done being polite, if that's what you want well that's not me
Not me, not me, yeah

(the next paragraph is sung in a relaxed, almost spoken tone:)

Uh oh, da da da da dum
I'm sorry, was that too direct for you to handle?
Uh oh, da da da da dum
And how fucked up that it's my brain this world can't stand, oh!

Differences
Differences were fundamental
Turns out this bitch was one more thing that you can't handle, oh
Differences
Differences were far too much
So forgive me if I don't want to stay in - want to stay in touch
So forgive me if I don't want to stay in touch

Song name: Armour

Song description: *This song is simple and honest. It does not have big, dramatic notes like some of the other songs.*

No time to spend, coz I'm in debt
How can I be numb and still upset
I can't smile, but I can act
If you don't look hard, I look intact

I'll hold my breath, don't ask for help
I'm barely holding on
I'm raw and weak, but you won't see
I'll put my armour on
I'll pick someone to become

Song name: Reason to Doubt (Reprise)

Song description: *A reprise is a section of a song that is repeated. This section sounds the same as Reason to Doubt, which was played earlier in the show.*

Oh, oh (oh, oh)
All of these reasons to doubt you
Oh, oh (oh, oh)
Look what I'm doing without you
Thought when you left that my whole world would end
But I couldn't have been more wrong
And oh, oh
And you won't see what I've become

Song name: A Miserable Man

Song description: *This song is powerful, with steady piano chords and a melody that becomes high and loud, showing Ilana standing strong.*

And I can't help you
Can't fix the flaws in your plan
No matter how hard I want to believe I can
Lived under your storm, but I need to breathe again
I won't destroy myself to save
A miserable man
Almost destroyed myself
For some promised land

Song name: Not A Thing

Song description: *This song is happy and fun, with a strong beat and a catchy melody. The high notes in the chorus, and the clapping towards the end, give the feeling of celebration and pride.*

Imagine feeling like you're drowning
Wrecked out in the deepest sea
Never thought I could be found, but
I didn't count on finding me, oh

You don't get to tell my story
It's my name and it's my glory
When I felt I'd disappear beneath the wave
I'm the one who saved the day

So I'm done with wasting all my time
Trying madly to toe every line
I could dull myself to make you mine
But I love the way that I shine
And you know I'm done keeping the peace
If I'm not the one feeling at ease
While you're telling me who I should be
I hope you're remembering I don't need you for a thing
No, no, not a thing

I watched out for sounds of rain coz
The dreams I'd built were paper thin
Believing I could live in pain, but
I wasn't living in the state I was in

Mornings dark and days all empty
I was frozen, limbs so heavy
Never thought the sun would touch my face again
But I'm the one who stayed till then

So I'm done with wasting all my time
Trying madly to toe every line
I could dull myself to make you mine
But I love the way that I shine
And you know I'm done keeping the peace
If I'm not the one feeling at ease
While you're telling me who I should be
I hope you're remembering I don't need you for a thing
No, no, not a thing

You don't get to tell my story
It's my name and it's my glory
When I felt I'd disappear beneath the wave (who?)
I'm the one who saved the day

(Most of the instruments stop playing and a clap comes in to keep the beat:)
So I'm done with wasting all my time
Trying madly to toe every line
I could dull myself to make you mine

But I love the way that I shine
(All instruments come back in:)
And you know I'm done keeping the peace
If I'm not the one feeling at ease
While you're telling me who I should be
I hope you're remembering I don't need you for a thing
No, no, not a thing, yeah
I don't need you for a thing
Yeah, yeah
For a thing, yeah
I don't need you for a thing