



## Reflective Letter

It is in song, poetry and stories where we are reborn – an evolved person. Each scripted thought and feeling becomes a lesson learned and a memory held. With every metaphor and framed vision of the present, history is awakened and the future brought to light. Maigon Buckner was born and raised in Inglewood, California. The music on this soundtrack is dedicated to the people and moments that have floated through my life and left an indelible mark. Hear the lines with your ears and listen with your soul. This is dedicated to the black sheep – the ones who avoided the prescribed, generic path of life. The ones who were told they wouldn't amount to anything; who learn best the hard way. To the black sheep who despite the choices – good, bad or indifferent – made them on their own and came out – still standing. I live my life by a simple creed – no boundaries, no limits, no regrets; love hustle, love the struggle...failure is not an option.

### [Better Days by Dianne Reeves](#)

"Better Days" by Dianne Reeves is a song about reminiscing after the death of a loved one. Specifically, Ms. Reeves sings about losing her grandmother and the wise words she left behind. The song relates to my life because when I was sixteen my great-grandmother passed away. It was an expected death, but it took me many years to accept. In the lines "Silver gray hair neatly combed in place/There were four generations of love on her face", Dianne Reeves uses imagery and metaphor to create a familiar image of a grandmother. Her silver hair is combed neatly in place suggesting that she is an upstanding and meticulous woman; while the wrinkles on her face are not from aging but rather years of shared love. This connects to my life because my great-grandmother was an old woman who experienced much. As a black woman growing up in the early 1900's, she worked cleaning houses for a quarter per floor. With that money, she eventually purchased a home with her husband (a house will still go to for family events) and raised her children, grandchildren and great-grandchild. My first memory as a child is being in her arms.

### [Sleigh Ride by Harry Connick, Jr.](#)

When most people hear the song "Sleigh Ride", they think of mistletoe, reindeer and a horse drawn carriage. Harry Connick, Jr.'s "Sleigh Ride" is a reminder of how much my father loves me. Connick Jr.'s up tempo notes and horns compilation suggests a tone that is contagiously happy. Behind Harry Connick Jr.'s sultry voice, horns set playful tone that compliments his sound. In times when I don't quite fit in and I am ostracized for being different, my father has stood by my side and supported me in every step. He allows my voice to play while he compliments my position in the background. While this song has no reference of a daughter's love for a father, it epitomizes the love I have for mine.

### [Do You Wanna Build a Snowman? by Various Artists](#)

In 2014, Disney released the movie Frozen about sisterly love being the truest love. The song, "Do You Wanna Build a Snowman?" is sang by the younger sister who is begging to be a part of her elder sister's life. In the song, a young Anna sings, "I never see you anymore/Come out the door/It's like you've gone away/We used to best buddies and now we're not; I wish you would tell me why/ Do you wanna build a snowman, it doesn't have to be a snowman [go away Anna] Okay, bye" Later, the sister experience a great loss and an older Anna sings "People are asking where you've been/They say have courage and I'm trying to/I'm right out here for you, just let me in/We only have each other, it's just you and me, what are we going to do." The snowman is a symbolic representation of the happier times the sisters had before the collapse of their relationship. Hopefulness is heard in both stages of Anna's voice when she suggests that she will not leave her sister's side, in the lines "I wish you would tell me why" and "I'm right here for you." My childhood was a tumultuous set of events and roller coaster memories. Unfortunately, these events drove a wedge between my sister and me. As much as my sister tried, I consistently pushed her further away; believing that keeping her away from me would make her better or happier. My younger self didn't realize the harm that it was actually causing. My sister, who is now my best friend, could have easily given up and found friends to replace her neglecting sister. Instead, she waited patiently for me to open the door.

### [Cleaning Out My Closet by Eminem](#) (contains explicit lyrics)

After a public battle between parent and child, Eminem released the song "Cleaning Out My Closet" about the events he believes began with child neglect from his mother. On an ominous drum track, Eminem sings purposefully out of tune, "I'm sorry mamma I never meant hear you/I never meant to make you cry but tonight I'm cleaning out my closet". The lines are self-explanatory including the conceptual understanding of "cleaning out my closet" suggesting that Eminem ridding himself of things (and people) who have caused him pain or grief, so that he can be a better person. While the relationship between my mother and I was not destructive or abusive, the songs brings about memories of a time in my life when I realized that my only solution to getting *better* was to rid myself of what I believed to be the poisonous elements in my life. In essence, the drum track and phrase "cleaning out my closet" helped me to realize the changes that I need to make.