
Playlist: *Say Goodbye*

I used to be one of those writers who could only work in complete silence. Then my husband gave me an iPod, and I discovered the best procrastination tool for authors since continually checking our sales rankings on Amazon.com. Suddenly, I need mood music for everything from brainstorming a scene to drafting a paragraph to writing a novel. Starting a new chapter? Music please! Need a new way of killing someone? Music please!

For *Say Goodbye*, I ended up creating an entire playlist. The first song came to me naturally: ‘Animals’ by Nickelback, which inspired chapter one of the novel. Other songs I selected for different reasons. ‘Money Maker’ reminded me of Kimberly Quincy every time I heard it – the attitude, the driving tempo, the darker edge. Other songs helped set the mood of the novel, from ‘Mad World’ to ‘Spiders’ to ‘Numb’. I used to think that Johnny Cash’s rendition of ‘Hurt’ was the villain’s song. Maybe it still is, but maybe it started to belong to some of the other characters, too, who discovered there are many ways of hurting some one. ‘Better Days’ is an ode to Kimberly again, trying to find optimism in spite of a job that keeps her constantly dealing with the worst people can do. And Jeff Buckley’s bittersweet ‘Hallelujah’ has always haunted me. I think of the boy when I listen to it, so hurt, so broken, yet trying to believe.

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| 1. Animals | Nickelback |
| 2. Mad World | Michael Andrews |
| 3. Money Maker | Rilo Kiley |
| 4. Sleeper | The Chambermaids |
| 5. Feel Good, Inc. | Gorillaz |
| 6. Hurt | Johnny Cash |
| 7. Spiders | System of a Down |
| 8. Runaway | Bon Jovi |
| 9. Fake It | Seether |
| 10. Mr. Brightside | The Killers |
| 11. Numb | Linkin Park |
| 12. Bring Me to Life | Evanescence |
| 13. Kryptonite | 3 Doors Down |
| 14. Better Days | Goo Goo Dolls |
| 15. Hallelujah | Jeff Buckley |
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