

# Stepping Stone

Eminem

Its 2002, everything was totally new  
We were globally huge  
Watching sales go through the roof  
We wrote and we viewed it  
Runyon Avenue soldiers included  
A multitude of homies who would bounce for no good excuse  
We were so bulletproof wrote, souped and soaked in our youth  
Thought we was running shit till we lost the sole of our shoe  
The death of Doody broke us in two  
We were thrown for a loop, ain't none of us know what to do  
And at the time I was going through my own struggles too  
So I wasn't in no condition to be coaching us through  
Everyone tried to go solo, really nobody blew  
I was hoping they do so I ain't have to shoulder the group  
The plan was put everyone in position so that they knew  
How to stand on they own and I don't want to open up wounds  
I just noticed the oomf was gone when we go in the booth  
Cause the truth is the moment that Proof died, so did the group

If I could leave this world behind  
I could open up my eyes and walk in a straight line  
Turn to the river with you  
Help me leave this all behind

I'ma wash away my sins  
I'ma rinse away this dirt  
I forgot to make amends  
To all the friends I may have hurt  
I better stop and say my grace  
From that I pray that I don't fall  
'Cause on the way back down I may  
May end up running back into them all  
I never meant to use you all as my stepping stones

It was never the same, and it's bothered me since  
And the farther we drift apart the more awkward it gets  
The more time goes by, the more life happens  
And we gotta be men, we got responsibilities  
Plus we don't say how we feel, and I feel like this is what got us in  
The debacle we're in, been with you guys thick and thin  
But it's almost as if sometimes we're not even friends  
Which reminded me Biz, Rockstar was the shit  
Y'all could've got you a hit without me on the shit  
If you've put D12 on it, wish I could've did  
More than try talking you into coming up off of it  
I know it wasn't my fault, but part of it probably is  
I think of all of the trips to BET and the rappers  
I wish that we would've politicked with  
Maybe y'all coulda clicked and got you some features  
But that's water under the bridge  
But I'm washing my sins in it til my conscious is clear

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Bacardi in hand  
Never thought the party would end  
One minute you're bodyin' shit but then your audience splits  
You can already sense the climate is starting to shift  
To these kids you no longer exist  
Went from rainin' cats and dogs in this bitch  
To tiny drops full of drips  
And by the time your reign is over, you'll hardly be missed  
You start thinkin' of all the artists you gift  
All the carnage you left  
Is this the kinda karma you get?  
For turning your fuckin' back on Bizzy, Kuniva and Swift  
A Freudian slip  
Subconsciously, I honestly wished  
I ain't feel so much guilt and y'all didn't harbor resentment  
But it's hard to pretend that y'all ain't got none of this  
Wish I had words

But I guess they're just for this  
Still, my point is I just can't say how sorry I am  
This is not how I planned for our story to end  
I love all of you, men  
But I just can't be the guy  
Everybody depends on for entire careers  
'Cause that's not even fair  
I will always be here  
But that spark isn't there  
And I don't know how to recapture that time and that air  
I've tried hearkening back to  
But I'm fighting for air  
I'm barely charting myself  
Feels like I'm under the sink

But it was not my intent  
To treat y'all like a stepping stone  
Though I ain't left no one behind  
But we been down every road  
Done all we possibly can  
I know we kept up our hopes up  
But the longer we spend livin' this lie that we live  
The less is left for closure, so let's let this go  
It's not goodbye to our friendship, but D12 is over

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I never meant to use you all as my stepping stones  
I never meant to make you feel like my stepping stones

I never meant to use you all for my stepping stones