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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

song, barbie, people, support, transition, phase, thorne, barbie doll, encountering, feel, job, jackie, community, houston, therapist, life, friends, years, cousins, depression

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00:00

Mary Chapin Carpenter Why walk when you can fly



00:04

nice song nice. The



00:05

lyrics on that are just are just beautiful.



00:08

And that's what we're focusing on tonight the lyrics and the messages that these songs are bringing to your life. The it's. And by the way, this is after hours, queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And Sara dipalma is here and we're, we're celebrating the last full length. trans gendered show.



00:32

Yes, you have not turned into the wrong station or the wrong program? No, this program has not gone straight. No, nothing like that. This is what we're doing. This is my last full three hour show. In we're doing kind of a musical explanation of transgenderism in and transition. And that's that sort of thing. So it's all music with messages tonight. Now the next song, we just did a couple songs that were very serious. Now we're gonna get less than Siri, okay, good. Okay. Once you have made the decision that you're going to transition, most therapists will make you spend a minute Well, it's required of at least a year, but most people do two years or more what's called the real life test. What that means is now you're gonna have to go out and work and your new gender, you're going to have to tell your family, you're going to have to build,

straighten out your relationships or whatever. In other words, you have to demonstrate that if you went and you had the operation for sexual reassignment surgery, that you would not go off and jump off a bridge, you have to work,



01:34

right. So this is living in the opposite gender, for a year or so. And that's no easy matter for for many people, because if they already have a job, many times, you're gonna find yourself in the unemployment line, when you go and say, Hey, I am going to transition.



01:57

Well, this is when they're going to incur they're going to start encountering employment discrimination. Because you're talking about being starting to transition on the job. Yeah, because I may have known you as Robert. But now you may come back as Roberta. That's right.



02:11

And if your job doesn't keep you on, and then you may even find it harder to find a job, because all of your identification is going to say, male male. And if you lie on your employment application, then it gives any company the right to fire you.



02:31

Well, I've tried to identify some different phases of the real life test. And one of those is what I would call the party girl phase. Ah, you know, you have to remember people who are going through the process have not had puberty and so they have not had the socialization of being 13 14 15 years old. That's



02:54

true. You don't you know, on the outside looking in, you don't think about that. But yeah, you have to go through all that. It's much like gay and lesbian people dating. We never learned how actually which



03:06

is an ongoing process even as we speak. And most people that's true going out into the bars and I don't think that dating neural looking for actually know. And which actually the next the next song is this to deal with as call I thought is the bar scene. Yeah. Now if you're out at cousins, right now, you can go out the cousins and lined up against the walls all over the bar, a bunch of transgendered people. Yep. Now they're there. They may be there to show off their new clothes, but more likely they're there for something else. Yes. So these next two pieces

sort of go together in I consider them both part of the puberty process, I guess. One is well, I'm gonna let that first one explain itself as far as being the party girl, but the second one you'll recognize is ZZ Top, doing tush so with that in mind, here we go with puberty as as defined by me in the training in the real life process. Okay. The Home Team Z. Oh, yeah,



04:11

yes. Oh, I remember when that song came out. It was like so nasty.



04:15

Lord, take me downtown. I'm just looking for some tush.



04:19

Yes. And and I looked the Barbie thing and it's like, and you know, and when that was playing I can I can picture because I've been to cousins a few times that I've seen the typing you know, you can look at somebody said, Oh, this is their first time they've got a



04:35

short skirt. It stops just just low their genital exactly mate way too much makeup huge puffed up bare head wigs. Yeah, you know, I mean, they look like the proverbial porn star.



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And just being all the you know, the ultra feminine thing,



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you know, and I couldn't help but think of Danielle as we did this. You know, Danielle, who had been on the show many times. Where are you? You've seen here all crucifying the whole Barbie con Oh yeah, having good time with that. And the one suggestion was, you know, street person Barbie, you know dresser and rags, you know or drug addict. Yeah. Biker Barbie. Yeah. Are you saying they're gonna call it a lesbian?



05:17

It's something that came a joke that came across. I hope they do have lesbian Barbie out for Christmas this





05:23

year. Well, Marilyn, we had we had a guest on the show that was saying that, that she dressed up Barbie and Ken's clothes. They asked her cliffie That was that? Yes. And she kept she kept kin tied up. And she had her Barbie doll that would go and she she had another green haired friend named Skipper or something. And they would get on these adventures and never did get around to rescuing Ken. Yeah, but but skipper and Barbie had a lot of fun. Was back leafy that told us that? That's right. I love that one of those more bizarre stories that were on the show. But I thought it was pretty interesting at the time. Well, we



06:06

met and that's that phase. And you think everybody goes through that?



06:10

Oh, yeah. I mean, I went through it. I mean, I would go get cousins at nine o'clock, and I wouldn't leave until they close. And then we'd go over to Chapultepec over, and Richmond would stay there till four o'clock in the morning. You know, and I did this for months and months and months in. And I actually went through that fifth phase pretty fast, because I was a little older to start with. But for some of the some people never get out of that phase, especially a lot of cross dressers get there and never leave it. And it's kind of sad, you'll see some 60 year old people out there doing this. And it just looks. It looks pathetic. It does look yeah, it doesn't. But there are people who really get stuck in that phase. Now, the real life, the real life. Test is not obviously it's not all fun and games, because this is where the hard work gets done. This is where you face on the employment discrimination. This is if you're going to have problems with your family, this is where it is. Because you're here you're going to have to tell you, the therapist, a good therapist is not going to let you have surgery will never sign off on it. Unless the family knows.



07:12

And that's really tough, especially if your family has been your support. And you're not sure that they're going to remain so after you tell them and a lot of people do lose their faith. And then word Yeah, you gotta have another kind of support built up for. Yes, yeah, yes, friends in the community. Just whoever people that



07:35

I thought would remain, my friends disappeared. And people that I thought would desert me ended up being friends. I mean, there's just no way to tell how people are going to react to that. This is where you're going to have. If you're going to have issues with your church, or with your faith, with your religion, this is where you're going to encounter it. Because one thing



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it's not fair because this is the toughest time at all of all, I think and and I mean, your self esteem is kind of teetering. And your your financial situation may not be so hot. And I mean, you've got all of these mental pressures thrown on you.



08:11

Well, we watched Katrina in here in Katrina, and we were there are several times that will Katrina was in here in tears. Yes. And she was a very, very smart person. But you know, she couldn't get a job. She was having trouble with her, her her parents. It was it was just really hard to watch that we watched the McKellar go through that. Jimmy has watched me go through this for the last five years. Now I sort of came out of the other side number, a far better person for it. But there are some people who get into this phase. In the fun games part, the Barbie doll stuff, the bar scene wears off pretty fast. And what you end up with is a battle with guilt and shame, which I still say is one of the best two or three shows we ever did. And this is the phase where suicide becomes an issue. Yes. transgendered people commit suicide at a horrible rate. Some of that is hormone related, but most of it is emotional.



09:08

And it's you can't it's no pick and choose because folks who have already transitioned and you think they've got their life together, all of a sudden ended



09:17

all of a sudden in in we've seen that. So that brings me to this next song. And this is Bonnie Tyler with a Total Eclipse of the Heart. And the reason I chose this is because I'm now speaking as a person with some experience with this for a minute. This is what depression honest to God feels like. She says in the song. I'm living on a powder keg, and I'm giving off sparks. And that's exactly what it feels like. You just sort of wait for the explosion. Or you just totally give up one of the two. Either way this song. The lyrics of the song really are terrific explanation of depression. Yes. So yeah, I'm sorry. Go ahead.



09:59

You're listening to it now. On after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station



10:09

turn around bright eyes a totally Eclipse of the Heart. Everybody in here we just sing up helps better if helps by turn on the microphone. There you go. Classic classic song everybody was sitting in here singing along,



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10:15  
written by Jim Steinman.

10:28  
Is that right is that figures Jim Steinman wrote Lori's all Laura. All of the meatloaf stuff. Yes, yes. That, in fact, that song real dramatic.

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Yeah. Back in the early 80s. He put out an album of some of the meatloaf songs that he did himself

10:46  
or he has it. Oh, me too. Yeah, too. Yeah. The, the reason I liked that song is because it's the best explanation of what depression is like I've ever heard. You know, once upon a time, there was light in my life. Now, there's only love in the dark. And that's what it feels like. It's like being blind, you know that you're groping for something. And you take it if you don't figure out where the hell it was. And it's just a horrible, horrible experience. But you do come out of it. Or at least most people that

11:18  
it all depends on the support system, I truly believe,

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which is actually where exactly where we go next. It was to talk about Yeah, so yeah, finding community. Yeah, it's some point. And often it's during this depressed period, interestingly, people begin to realize they need support. If the therapist has not already told them that they find that out pretty fast. And we're very lucky in Houston that we have two very, very good support organizations, actually, three, we have one called the Houston crossdressers anonymous, which is not like it sounds, they're not trying to cure cure, dressing. It's actually a very good support group.

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Brenda Thomas has been on here many times, right? When

11:58  
then there's of course, is Texas Association for transsexual support in Gulf Coast transgender community, but you do at some point, start to realize that you need support, that you're going

community, but you do at some point, start to realize that you need support, that you're going to need to be around people. And I'll tell you very honestly, I would not have survived transition process without that support group around me.



12:18

I'm gonna have it you cannot do it alone. Oh, no, don't even try. You must have people to help you or be there with you to support you.



12:27

That's right. And by the way, hello to the folks and tats that are sitting in the swimming around sort of swimming pool in Galveston listening to the show tonight.



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I heard something about a what a bikini bikini party? Yeah,



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I want pictures. Olympics pictures. Yeah. But so this next song is is aimed at exactly that. You know, you've been encountering these troubles, you've been encountering troubles with your family, perhaps, or with job or with your church or any number of other things. In some point, you find a commit, you find a support group. And if you're lucky, if you stay with these people, if you're willing to learn from them, and they learn from you. This is what it begins to feel like you begin to feel stronger every day. Chicago back when they actually did rock and roll,



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feeling stronger every day. What a great song,



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you know, and that's really what it felt like to me for Jackie Thorne, God bless her to a GCTC meeting, and walked in the door. And everybody was just so supportive. And I thought, wow, I think I'm going to survive all this. And I was within GCTC, I guess for two and a half or three years before I finally said, Okay, I want to move off into activism and do some other things. But I would not have made it through without them. The kind of things that they did just they were small things they would have, somebody would come in and they would talk about makeup. And someone else would come in and talk a little bit about self esteem. And somebody else would come in to talk about this or that. But the main reason that you went was to be around other people that were like you. Yes. And that's a very important, you didn't feel like you were such a freak. You didn't think you feel like you were so alone, that it was going to you began to find out that there were people who are like you that had been been successful. They had

made it through the transition process. And you began to feel like there was some hope for you. And that's I mean, you know, that's the ideal thing you'd hope for out of a support group. And I wonder



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how many lives Jackie Thorne has saved over the years has she's been in the community work in it for a long, long time.



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He she had a group I don't know if she still does, but she used to have a group that was called Ultra. And that's exactly what it was aimed at was from was it for newbies as they call in Know the newcomers, introducing them into the community and kind of showing them the ropes. And I think she still does that. In Jackie Thorne, God bless her. She was hanging out there hustling around in trying to create a community when there really wasn't one, long before community existed, Jackie Thorne was out there. And that that sense of community, you're right, he's probably saved a bunch of lives and saved mine. See? And so you've got to find that. Now, once you've found that if you're really, really worked at this, and you want to go on about this process, in you've, you've kind of follow the process along. And if you're a little bit lucky, by that, I mean, you've been able to hang on to your job or you've been able to find new jobs, because let's face it without a job, there's no groceries. Then you could end up in this next song. Oh, and this is from George Michael. If you could very well end up with freedom. Freedom. So with that, we go to George Michael in one of my patron actually one of my favorite pieces of music afternoon