



BRICK

Ben Folds, Darren Jessee

BEN FOLDS FIVE

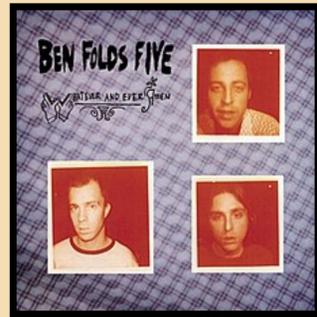
1997

Epic Records

The fourth single from the album **Whatever and Ever Amen**. Chart: #19, #6 Alternative Airplay. Time - 4:31. Released in U.S.A. November 21, 1997.

Recorded in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. Sep–Oct 1996 Produced and engineered by **Ben Folds** and **Caleb Southern**.

We are in a time, in the U.S. where abortion is dominating the news. The Supreme Court is about to allow the outlawing of abortion, in some states without exception. Ben Folds had the experience, in a relationship with it and was able to write about it. Written the most part by Folds on guitar, with the chorus being written by Jessee. It seems they didn't know the power this song had, as it three other singles were released previous to this one. --- Larry ---



Personnel

Ben Folds - lead vocals, piano, electric piano, melodica
Robert Sledge - bass, double bass, backing vocals
Darren Jessee - drums, percussion, backing vocals
Caleb Southern - Hammond organ

Ben Folds - *Ben Folds Live album*

"People ask me what this song's about... I was asked about it a lot, and I didn't really wanna make a big hairy deal out of it, because I just wanted the song to speak for itself. But the song is about when I was in high school, me and my girlfriend had to get an abortion, and it was a very sad thing. And, I didn't really want to write this song from any kind of political standpoint, or make a statement. I just wanted to reflect what it feels like. So, anyone who's gone through that before, then you'll know what the song's about."

Ben Folds - 2019:*The Guardian*

"I dreaded that song coming out. I tried to talk the manager and label people out of it: that it wasn't a hit, it's upright piano, it's out of tune." At the time it was written, though, "the point wasn't to reveal myself; the point was to write the best song I could. Consider me almost a songwriting sociopath. I do not give a shit, as long as it's a good song."

Ben Folds - 2019:*Tidal*

"I never intended to have these moments in my songwriting career that were that... out there, from my personal life. But if I want the song, if I want the cookie, I've got to be honest. It didn't kill me to be honest in ('Brick'). Maybe it works in real life. I never intended to have these moments in my songwriting career that were that... out there, from my personal life. It's just that when it happened, I found it was an effective song, and I realized that I had to suck it up and let it out there. The song 'Brick,' the more watered down it was to protect myself from looking bad, (the worse it got). So I had to be honest. It didn't kill me to be honest in the song. Maybe it works in real life."

Ben Folds - *Spinner*

"To do a song that was just so simple and commercial-sounding was bumming the peanut gallery out. They said, 'What's that song? Is that going to really be on the album?' (I asked,) 'Why, you don't like it?' 'Well, was it the record label's idea?' It's just called growth and being honest doing what you do. It's about something and it just captures the feeling pretty well. I always felt that was our moment. I thought 'Brick' was a very dignified thing for us to have our biggest hit."

YOU TUBE STUDIO TRACK VIDEO

YOU TUBE LYRIC VIDEO

YOU TUBE LIVE 1997, MTV Live

6 A.M., day after Christmas
I throw some clothes on in the dark
The smell of cold
Car seat is freezing
The world is sleeping
I am numb

Up the stairs to her apartment
She is balled up on the couch
Her mom and dad went down to Charlotte
They're not home to find us out
And we drive
Now that I have found someone
I'm feeling more alone
Than I ever have before

She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly
Off the coast and I'm headed nowhere
She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly

They call her name at 7:30
I pace around the parking lot
Then I walk down to buy her flowers
And sell some gifts that I got
Can't you see
It's not me you're dying for?
Now she's feeling more alone
Than she ever has before

She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly
Off the coast and I'm headed nowhere
She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly

As weeks went by
It showed that she was not fine
They told me, "Son, it's time to tell the truth"
And she broke down, and I broke down
'Cause I was tired of lying

Driving back to her apartment
For the moment, we're alone
Yeah, she's alone, and I'm alone
And now I know it

She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly
Off the coast and I'm headed nowhere
She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly