

# The Heart Remembers Songwriter's Blueprint

## 1. Basics of the song lyrics. Answer these:

Relatable Premise:

Even when life moves forward and people tell us to live again, the heart still remembers the people, love, pain and moments that shaped us.

Emotion:

Tender grief, quiet longing, healing, hope, and emotional acceptance.

Central Point/Core Idea (What's song about?)

The song is about a grieving person who is trying to move on after losing someone they deeply loved. At first, everything in the home reminds them of that person: the empty coffee cup, the table, the sunlight, the silence, the missing photographs, and the little memories no picture could ever capture. As the story moves forward, the character finds connection through a small town, a sacred mural, a reporter, a painter, and their music. The song shows that healing does not mean forgetting. The mind may learn to carry on, but the heart will always remember.

What is the key emotion evoked?

The key emotion is bittersweet remembrance. The song makes the listener feel the ache of missing someone while also feeling the warmth of realizing that love can survive grief.

Unique because of:

The song connects personal grief to a larger cinematic story about art, community, memory and healing. It is not only about missing someone. It also shows how a village, a mural, a reporter, a painter and a musician become part of the healing process. The song feels like both a personal confession and the emotional theme of a screenplay.

Singer style/mood/attitude:

The singer should sound vulnerable, intimate and honest. The mood should be cinematic, reflective, and restrained at first, then gradually warmer and more hopeful.

The attitude is not angry or dramatic. It is wounded but brave, like someone who is finally ready to be seen again.

Backing vocals:

Soft, ghostly background vocals can enter lightly in the chorus, almost like memories in the wind. In the final chorus, the backing vocals can grow warmer and more communal, representing the village, the friends, and the people who stay. They should not overpower the lead vocal. They should feel like emotional support and remembrance.

What's the juicy part that everybody can relate to?

Everybody knows what it feels like to miss someone in the little everyday moments. It is not only the big memories that hurt. It is the coffee cup, the empty chair, the song they used to hum (even if it was off-key), the sunlight coming into a room, the places that still feel haunted by them. The juicy universal truth is that people may tell us to move on, but the heart always remembers what love felt like.

## **2. Point of view. Answer these:**

Who is talking?

A grieving musician who has lost someone he deeply loved and is trying to find his way back to life.

What is their character avatar?

A wounded artist, widower, or emotionally broken musician hiding from the world while carrying grief, memory, and survivor's guilt.

What pronoun?

I

Who are they talking to?

They are talking to the person they lost, to themselves, and indirectly to anyone who has ever had to keep living after losing someone.

Their character avatar:

A lost loved one who still lives inside memory, and also the listener who understands grief, absence, and the struggle to heal.

What pronoun?

You

Why are they talking to them?

Because the singer is trying to confess what still hurts, what still remains, and what has begun to heal. They are trying to admit that even though life is slowly opening again, the person they loved but is no longer with them, is still a part of them. They are not trying to erase the past anymore. They are finally learning to carry it with them into the future.

**3. What is the musical/lyric hook that encapsulates the relatable premise? Write the lyric and sing the melody. The only part of the song you want to write out of pure inspiration is this step.**

What is the Hook?

The heart remembers

What is the Melody?

The melody should rise gently on “heart” and fall with emotional weight on “remembers.” It should feel simple, memorable, and inevitable, like the singer has been holding back tears and finally says the truth. The phrase should be sung with space around it so the listener feels the silence after the line.

**4a. Where will the hook be in the chorus? Beginning? Middle? End?**

The hook is at the very end of the chorus.

Main Idea:

The chorus builds toward the emotional truth that the mind can survive, adapt, and carry on, but the heart keeps the deeper record of love and loss, and it can never forget.

Details (imagery/senses):

Whispers in the wind, echoes, laughter among friends, fire inside, and the feeling that memory is still alive even when that special someone is gone.

Sensory/metaphor:

The whispers in the wind represent memory. The echo represents love that still answers back. The fire inside represents the part of the person that refuses to surrender or go numb.

#### **4b. What will comprise the remainder of the chorus?**

The rest of the chorus explains that what matters most is not only what we leave behind physically. It is who stays in our heart, who remains present through memory, who lives in laughter, friendship, sound, and inner fire. The chorus moves from loss into meaning. It says that healing is possible, but forgetting is not required.

**5. What will I say in the 1st verse that will set up my chorus? (Only one main thought idea per section so you don't confuse listener with too much). You need to know the What and Why and When And How and Where and Who. Tell the Story in the verses. Use human senses - what can the character and listener see, hear, touch, taste and smell? Use details in verses - what is the central character wearing? Who else is in the song? What are other characters doing, wearing, saying, etc.?**

Main Idea:

The first verse shows the singer trapped in the daily rituals of grief. The lost person is gone, but the singer still behaves as if they might return. The empty coffee cup, the table, the sunlight, the missing pictures, and the remembered hum all show how deeply the loved one is still present.

Details (imagery/senses):

The listener can see a table set for someone who is not there. They can see coffee sitting untouched. They can feel the morning sun entering the room but not bringing comfort. They can hear the memory of that special someone still humming off-key. They can see their smile becoming a kiss. The room feels quiet, still, and haunted by these ordinary details.

Sensory/metaphor:

The table set for a ghost is the central metaphor. It shows that grief makes absence feel physically present. The coffee sitting by itself becomes a symbol of loneliness. The sun that comes in but never stays suggests that even the power of the sun's light cannot fully reach the singer yet.

## **6. What will I say in the pre-chorus (if there is one) that will set up my chorus?**

Main Idea:

The pre-chorus shows the singer trying to process grief through writing, but every word feels heavy and incomplete. The lost person still haunts every thought, every page, and every door the singer opens. This sets up the chorus by showing that the mind is trying to move forward, but the heart is still attached to the past.

Details (imagery/senses):

The listener can feel the weight in the singer's chest. They can imagine a blank page, words that do not fit, and half-confessed truths written down but not fully understood. The image of every door opening back to the lost person makes the grief feel inescapable.

Sensory/metaphor:

Each word as a stone inside the chest is a strong metaphor for grief being physically heavy. Being haunted like a melody possessed connects perfectly to the musical identity of the singer. Time is presented as something others believe will heal him, but he is not fully convinced yet.

## **7. What will I say in the 2nd verse that will further the story and set up and keep moving the chorus along? It has to be different than verse 1 – don't say the same thing or idea again. (Only one main thought idea per section so you don't confuse listener with too much).**

Main Idea:

The second verse moves the story from private grief into communal healing. The singer is no longer only alone in a room with memories. Now the small town, the mural, the reporter, the painter, and the guitar all become part of his healing. He came to this small town to disappear, but the town (and the people here) refuse to let him vanish.

Details (imagery/senses):

The listener can see the mural growing more sacred with time. They can see a small town watching, caring, and refusing to look away. They can picture a reporter with a notebook, a painter learning to paint (or color light) again, and the singer holding his guitar. The setting feels coastal, artistic, intimate and alive with quiet human connection.

Sensory/metaphor:

The mural is the major metaphor in verse 2. It represents memory, community, grief, and the beauty that remains after loss. The painter coloring light again represents rediscovering hope. The guitar in the singer's hands represents his return to voice, music and connection.

**8. If the bridge has lyrics, what will be said there? Must fit into relatable premise but offer a different twist/perspective but still make sense. The most emotional lyrics tend to come in the bridge where the story is being resolved, or where you're adding an extra twist in the tale to heighten the emotion. There are three things a bridge can do:**

- 1) Change time**
- 2 Change perspective**
- 3) Go universal/philosophical**

Main Idea:

There is no lyrical bridge. The solo acts as the emotional bridge. It gives the listener time to feel what words cannot say. The guitar solo should represent the singer finally speaking through music instead of pain.

Details (imagery/senses):

The solo should feel like the character standing in the village, near the mural, with the sound of memory, ocean air and human connection around him. It should start intimate and wounded, then gradually become more open and hopeful.

Sensory/metaphor:

The guitar solo is the singer's heart talking without lyrics. It is the sound of grief turning into acceptance. It gives the listener space to feel the transformation between remembering with pain and remembering with love.

**9. If there is a 3rd verse or ending, what will be said there? Is it really needed?**

None

## **10. Ending / Final Chorus**

Main Idea:

The final chorus should feel like acceptance. The singer is not cured, and the lost person is not forgotten, but the pain has changed shape. The final truth is that carrying on does not mean leaving love behind. The heart remembers, and that is both the wound and the gift.

Details (imagery/senses):

The final chorus should feel bigger and warmer than the earlier choruses. The backing vocals can create a sense of community. The instrumentation can swell slightly, like the mural being restored or the town gathering together. The outro line “The heart always remembers” should feel peaceful, final, and true.

Sensory/metaphor:

The final chorus turns the heart into an archive of love. The mind is practical and learns how to survive, but the heart preserves what mattered. The final repetition of “The heart always remembers” makes the song feel like a vow, not a tragedy.

## **11. Final Checklist – answer these questions:**

**DID YOU TELL THE WHOLE STORY?**

Yes. The song tells the full emotional story from private grief to shared healing. It begins with the singer alone, setting the table for a ghost and living in the torture of their memories. It then moves into the larger world of the screenplay and movie, where the mural, town, reporter, painter and guitar help the singer find connection again. The story resolves by accepting that moving forward does not mean forgetting. Moving on is okay.

**DID YOU INVITE THE LISTENER IN?**

Yes. The song invites the listener in through ordinary, specific details that almost everyone can understand: an empty place at the table, coffee left untouched, sunlight in a room, old habits, missing someone’s voice, and trying to write through pain. These details make the grief feel human and relatable instead of abstract.

## DID YOU FULFILL EXPECTATIONS?

Yes. The title “The Heart Remembers” creates the expectation that the song will be about memory, love, loss, and emotional truth. The lyrics fulfill that expectation by showing both the pain of remembrance and the healing power of it. The chorus delivers the title idea clearly and emotionally.

## DID YOU SAY WHAT YOU MEANT TO SAY?

Yes. The song says that grief does not disappear just because time passes. It says that people can heal, reconnect and live once again - while still carrying the love they lost. The message is clear: the mind can carry on, but the heart remembers. Always.

## DOES THE SONG FEEL COMPLETE?

Yes. The song feels complete because it has a strong emotional arc. Verse 1 is absence. Pre-chorus 1 is struggle. Chorus 1 is the truth of memory. Verse 2 is healing through community and art. Pre-chorus 2 shows emotional progress. The solo gives space for feeling. The final chorus and outro land on the lasting message that the heart always remembers.