

Chapter Three - 2014

"Wichita Lineman"

Artist: Glen Campbell/Johnny Cash

Writer: Jimmy Webb.

*"And I need you more than want you,
And I want you for all time."*

If two lines could summarize twenty-four years of emotions evoked by The One Who Got Away, those two up there would be the ones.

The thread running through those emotions is simple: I fell completely for Jennifer Peterson back in 1993, and I never completely recovered. Tangled in and around that thread are hellos and goodbyes, resignation and reunion, a beginning and end to a second chance, a lot of life.

I could go on. But read those two lines again. Focus on them, then let your head back away and take a wider look. Follow the circular and nested implications of the words. Consider the magnitude of a need which is greater than a want that spans all of time. Only then do you approach both the depth and simplicity of the connection between Jennifer and me, the complexity and clarity of what we have.

In my opinion, those two lines may be the most beautiful lyrics in all the history of songwriting. They work as well when Johnny Cash sings them over nothing but an acoustic guitar as they do cradled in the Wrecking Crew orchestration of Glen Campbell's original recording.

And that's how Jennifer and I work. The connection and love are always there, no matter the changing scenes and the movement of the music. We are always together, even when we're apart.

*"And I need you more than want you,
And I want you for all time."*

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