

TESTIMONY
By Stephen Schwartz
Texts inspired by the “It Gets Better” project

I don't want to be like this
I don't want to be who I am
Every day that I don't change
I blame myself
I am not trying hard enough
(I don't want to be like this)
I am not trying hard enough
(I don't want to be how I am)

When they find out
No one will love me
I'll lose my family
And all of my friends
(I'm trapped like a fish with a hook in its mouth)

I am impersonating the person I show as me
I'm an imposter
I am a spy behind enemy lines
I pack my feelings so deep inside me
They turn to concrete
(I don't want to be like this
I don't want to be who I, how I, what I am)

Every night I ask God to end my life
(I am an abomination)

Overlapping:
God take this away or take me away ...

I don't want to be like this ...
I don't want to be who I am, I don't want to be how I am, I don't want to be
what I am
I don't want to be anymore ...
Today I'm going to hang myself
Today I'm going to slit my wrists
Today I'm going to jump off my building ...
Take me away, take me away, take me away ...

Hang in, hang on
Wait just a little longer
Hang in, hang on
I know it now, I know it now
If I had made myself not exist
There is so much that I would have missed ...

I would have missed
So many travels and adventures
More wonders than I knew could be
So many friends
With jokes and laughter, not to mention
The joy of living in authenticity
Sometimes I cry
Life can still be hard
But there's no part of me
Still crying: "Hide me"
I would have missed
The chance to sing out like this
With people I love beside me

I have been brave
I grew, and so did those around me
And now look what a life I've earned
It gets more than better
It gets amazing and astounding
If I could reach my past, I'd tell him what I've learned:
I was more loved
Than I dared to know
There were open arms
I could not see
And when I die
And when it's my time to go
I want to come back as me
I want to come back as me.