

## “Metamorphosis” Artist Statement by Valeria J.

This remix project is an invitation into Gregor’s dark being. It explores the topic of the nature of change in humans, the ways it is exhibited, and the initial impact it has on relationships. The purpose was to dive deeper into Franz Kafka’s novel *Metamorphosis* to thoroughly analyze the transformation Gregor goes through, and how it affects his relationship with himself and his family, especially his mother. There is an interpretation, assumption and creative proposal on how this connection was approached and a possibility on how it could have developed further, based on the circumstances of the novel.

The remix was led by certain essential questions. “What makes humans feel powerless?”, “Why do people sometimes feel at odds with members of their own families?” These two questions set the theme of the song in relation to the novel, being written through Gregor’s eyes. The questions guided the direction of the perspective of the character into portraying his transformation, his troubled dreams, his fears and his internal battles, emphasizing his pain. Consequently, the following statement gave way to a stylistic tool to manifest the previously chosen path. “When questioned about the nightmarish and fantastical nature of *The Metamorphosis*, Kafka replied that “The terror of art is that the dream reveals the reality.” This statement, which highlights Kafka’s dark detailed way of giving life to a narrative by reflecting reality, inspired the sound of the song to be experimental, dark and non conventional. Additionally, it supports the election of taking the mother-son relationship in the novel to an analysis beyond fiction, proposing a possible real life situation. Finally, my own question was utilized: “How much impact does the way we change affect our reality, our relationships with ourselves and others?” Which clearly emphasizes the thematic of Gregor’s transformation, the connection to the passage selected, and the impact on his relationship with himself and his mother.

The primary inception of the idea is a passage from Kafka’s novel on page 9, which addresses some of the first moments in which Gregor is seen after his transformation by the outside world. The moment before the taken showcases the principal character having deep trouble to get out his bed, go out of his room and desperation to make everything normal, which installs a tone of fear that is maintained and even enhanced in the following scenes. One of the most significant symbols of the book to me is the room, and the door, representing in a way who Gregor was from the inside and how his world was constructed. It is why the point of view is not only inside his space, but also his being. The remix is inspired and includes the special elements of vivid descriptions, intricate emotions, specific word choices, and dialogue.

Surging from the complex family dynamics presented in the story, and although not implicit in the story, this remix takes on the concept of Gregor and his mother having a mother-son relationship that might be distant, damaged, and plagued with distrust and unease. It specifically centers on their interactions and contact, the mother’s actions, and the words used to describe her in the passage such as “screaming” “fled” “panic” and the “gently looking at her”. The remix includes the impactful call of “Mother, mother” from Gregor and tries to convey the same emotion and tone of confusion, pain and desperate need for care and approval.

Drawing from creative resources that resonate with the thematic, apart from the novel directly, the art piece includes three other works by other artists. The first one, is a song that perfectly captures the dysfunction in a relationship with a mother, [Mama’s Boy](#) by Dominic Fike, which is sampled in the beginning of the song. The second one, is one of the most significant scenes from the movie [Ladybird](#) by Greta Gerwig, in which the mother is not satisfied with her daughter’s expression, while she expresses her need of approval. The third, is the song [Mary Magdalene](#) by FKA twigs, which was taken as an inspiration and reference for the musical production and composition side of the first part of the song.

All the elements consolidated together make up a detailed experimental song, which delivers a sensory experience triggering emotions and imaginative faculty. Ultimately, the final product seeks to blur the lines between different areas and life experiences through the use of different mediums and inspirations, pursuing the sonic materialization of narratives, feelings, critical schemes and complex imagery.