



MTO 29.2 Examples: Tatar, Injury, Affirmation, and the Disability Masquerade in Ye's "Through the Wire"

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.23.29.2/mto.23.29.2.tatar.html>

Example 1. Front and back covers of Ye's mixtape, *Get Well Soon*. . . (2002). "Through the Wire" is listed as track 5, where it is labeled "Through the Wire (Still Standing) feat. Chaka Khan/Elton John."



Example 2. Screenshots from the video clip for the 2003 version of “Through the Wire.” Timestamps for the images left-to-right down the collage: 0:02, 0:39, 0:45, 0:53, 1:40, and 2:34.



Example 3. Formal outline of “Through the Wire.” As the 2002 and 2003 versions are structurally identical with one another, their respective formal sections can be indicated using a single timestamp (+/- approximately 1 second)

Timestamp	Section	Beginning line
0:00	Chorus 1 / Ad-lib 1	Yo, Gee, they can’t stop me from rapping, can they?
0:35	<i>Verse 1</i>	<i>I drink a Boost for breakfast</i>
1:21	Chorus 2 / Ad-lib 2	I really apologize for everything right now
1:50	<i>Verse 2</i>	<i>What if somebody from the Chi’ that was ill got a deal</i>
3:00	Chorus 3 / Ad-lib 3	Y’know what I’m sayin’?

Example 4. Lyrics of the first verse as excerpted in Audio Example 5, with changes between the two versions marked in bold

Original 2002 Recording

How **can** you console my mom or give her
light support
when you’re tellin’ her her son’s on life
support?
And just imagine how my girl feel
On the plane scared as hell that her guy look
like Emmett Till
She was with me before the deal, she’d been
tryna be mine
She a Delta, so she’d been throwin’ that
Dynasty sign
No use me tryna be lyin’, I been tryna be
signed
Tryna be a millionaire, how I used two
lifelines
In the same hospital where **Big and Tupac**
died
The doctor said I had blood clots, but I ain’t
Jamaican, man
Story on *MTV* and I ain’t tryna make a band
I swear, this right here: history in the makin’,
man

Differences in the 2003 Version

How **do** you console my mom or give her
light support
Tellin’ her her son’s on life support?

In the same hospital where **Biggie Smalls**
died

Example 5. Transcription of Chaka Khan's chorus as it appears in the opening measures of "Through the Wire." Note that this excerpt is approximately four semitones higher than the original excerpt heard in Audio Example 12

$\text{♩} = 83$

Through the test of time, Through the wire to the limit to the wall

4 _____ for the chance to be with you I'd gladly risk it all _____ Through the fire

7 through what-ev - er come what may, for the chance at lov - ing you I'd take it all the

10 way, right down to the wire _____ ev - en through the fire _____