



The basic idea behind making a community

zine is fairly simple: we get together and we cut,

write, draw, paste, talk, type, and often take

smoke breaks.

A stack begins to grow out of the pages we've made, each one a container for a hope, a desire, a joke, a memory.

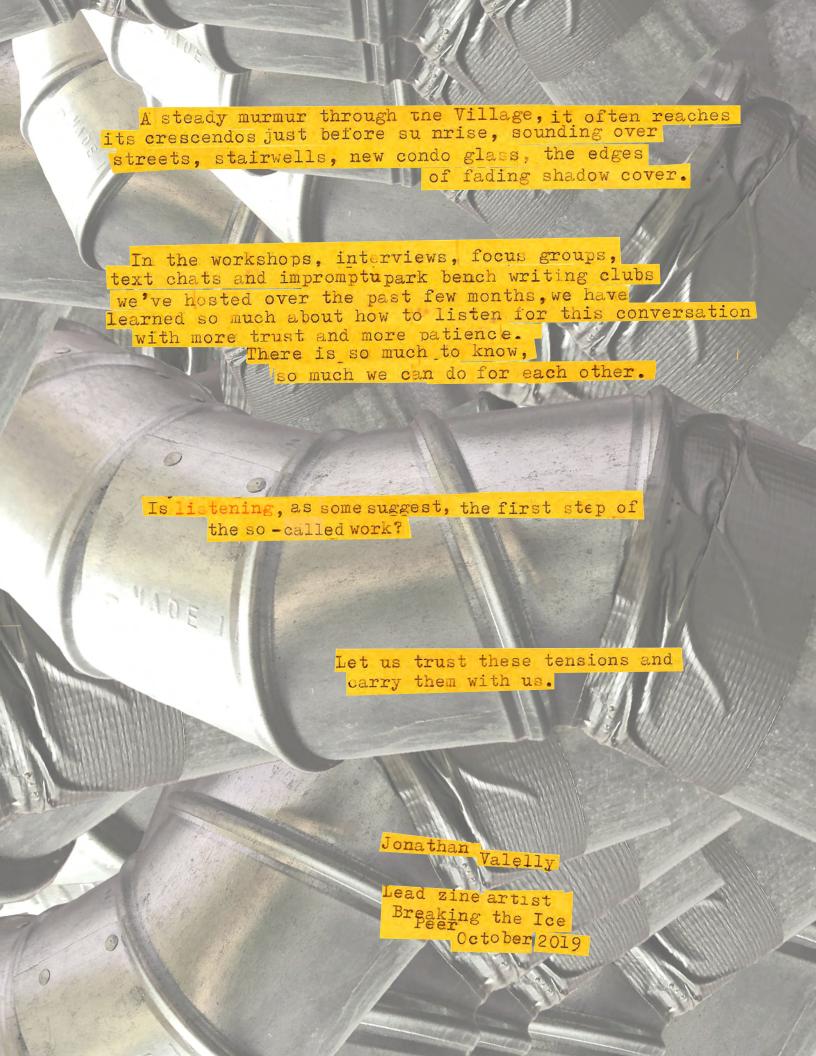
Bound into one. I find that the same condition that made these pages possible — together ness— transforms. Side by side, contributions to a zine collaboration certainly bring out powerful similarities and intersections. But the pieces are often just as full of discord, paradox, and things we still don't know.

I feel such tensions more keenly in Letters to Meth than I have in any of the zine projects I've done over the past decade. Crystal meth is a tornado of experiences and emotions: ecstatic, tragic, confusing and lucid all at once. Tie each person's knots together,

and you have to start untying in a new way.

I often hear people say that meth isn't being talked about, that it's time to start the conversation.

The conversation has begun already.



I have always been a firm believer that my art is my statement.

However, given this space, I can't overstate what an incredible honour it is to have been entrusted with contributing an artistic component to this project. My audio and visual interpretations pay humble respect to the huge variety of experiences share during Letters to Meth, and the individuals who shared them.

I am, admittedly, apprehensive about sharing my extensive experiences on this particularly dark subject for the first time in my life. But I am left with a heightened understanding of how deeply our communities are suffering because of the lack of supports and resources.

This is, of course, compounded by the stigma toward crystal meth that remains unfortunately widespread. I sincerely hope that anyone who listens and engages with the project can not only find new information about the impact of crystal meth, but be encouraged to join a louder, pressing dialogue about how to respond. Expressing myself musically and artistically has always been a highly personal and therapeutic means to channel my dark experiences and emotions. I aim to transform them into something not only vivid and beautiful, but also constructive. It was a whole new challenge to interpret the contributions of others the same way. I made it my mission to ensure that every voice would be heard (sometimes literally).

Through my involvement with Breaking the Ice, I have never become more aware of my particular privileges and unique path. This deeper insight is thanks to the brave and fabulous people who contributed. For that I am profoundly grateful.

Don Vaillancourt Audio Visual Lead Artist Breaking the Ice Peer October 2019

## Crystal Meth,

. | thought m HGH am ALTERED STATE

I FEEL WORSE THAN BEFORE...

1 Problem and

was a failure.

FUCK FRIENDS WHO NEEDS THEM ANYWAY?

Then ...

thought

ONE HOUR WITH THIS LOSER AND YOU'LL BE THANKING THE GODDESS YOU'RE NOT HER! IT WILL SNAP YOU RIGHT OUT OF YOUR DEPRESSION!

How I Got To Sleep VEIRD

OUT OF THEIR

I hope that ...

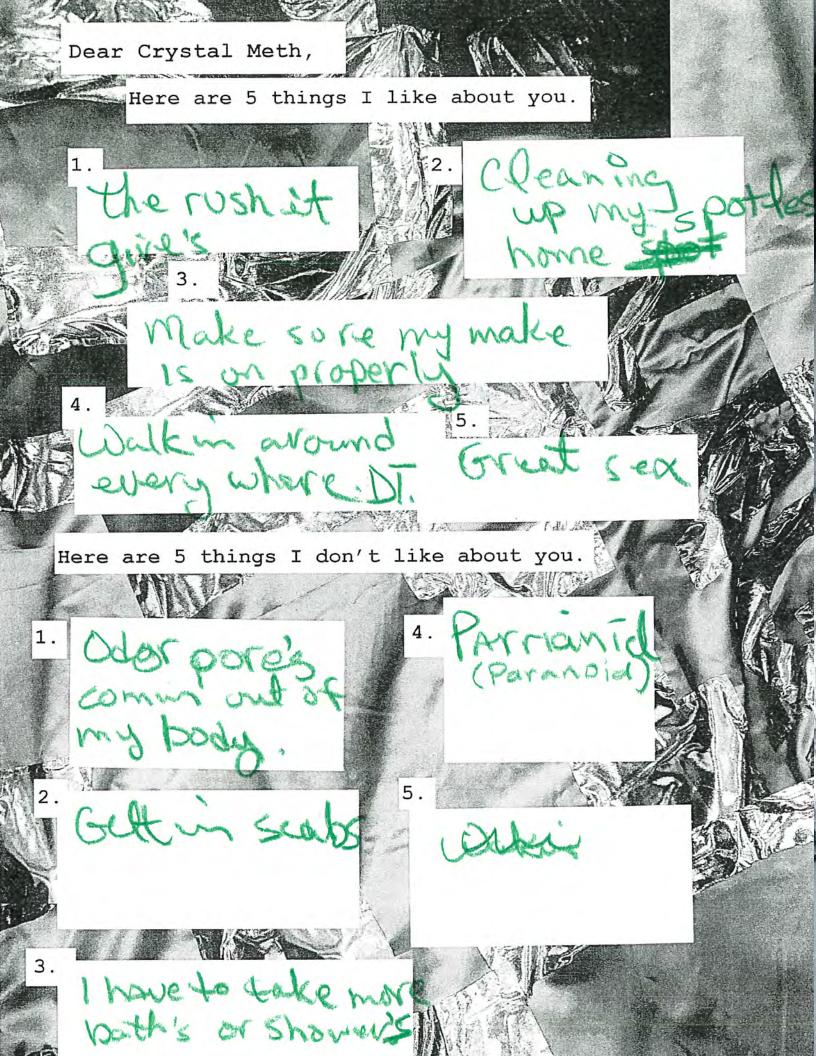
You Lose

Signed,

WITH PASSION.

Dear Crystal Meth, We first met In the village You were allways keeping my yer lease me for as long Seem to be all around my building looking form Now ... you have found me I think you are ... Theep and have no faving Let me ask you a question Are your ever going to leeve Anyway, I hope that you get tired of bugging me Signed,

How are you? I am thinking of you. I hope you
are During on well so I orrow.
I think the best time we had together was surroundy of grown when we agreed not to seemen? Oh,
night sured into a sing ? I can't believe
the lavon outlook felled with group gred!
These days when I think about you, I think
that nothing corporally pleases and explorer.
como evilorel a prico. I hope that
you and I can rooch a bolomo worly
ceyeng with what. Detill the years
accorde leaving planning, convendions
and so much also in the dest to be
setted through by those who have yet
to catch up. Pahapo I should have
to cold up. Polapo I should have listened the more chooly, to those wordy, bound signed,
Signed,



Dear Crystal Meth,	
We first met At a Starbucks Allie, inside a black garbage ba	19
You were  10-20 times the potency  af a stick of cinnamon sugar,  Then I lost my mind,  and ripped my heart out	
You and "Brandy" had a party,  Now I see things clearly,	The control of the co
I think you are Very icy or cold as like the eighties song like the hey do you exist?	And the state of t
Anyway, I hope that  I can make amends  and take some inventory  Signed, (1)	A STATE OF THE PERSON OF THE P
Signed, Liberty,	

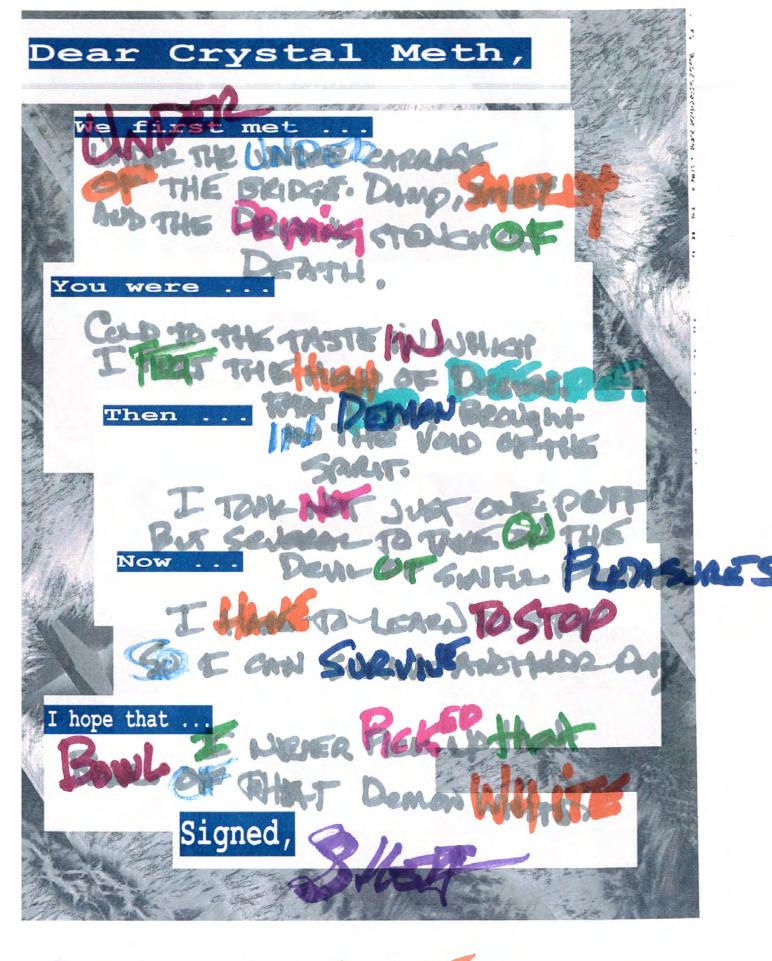
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IF Coystal Meth work & People K would not exsit whey would S become aliens and leave the's world to live in a theavy sealm a utupia thous. God to become themon again to mestroy evil







"I have a light bulb" he said,

they look at you like you

a well meaning but ultimately

they read the textbook

I tell everyonethat I

I love wou

so, that people in the neigh look

I said, Wou must be from Edmonton,"

just killed someone

and then Boom!

terrible friend

half the the land about, no you don't

Somey can ask

because I an a machine

bouringd em ne down

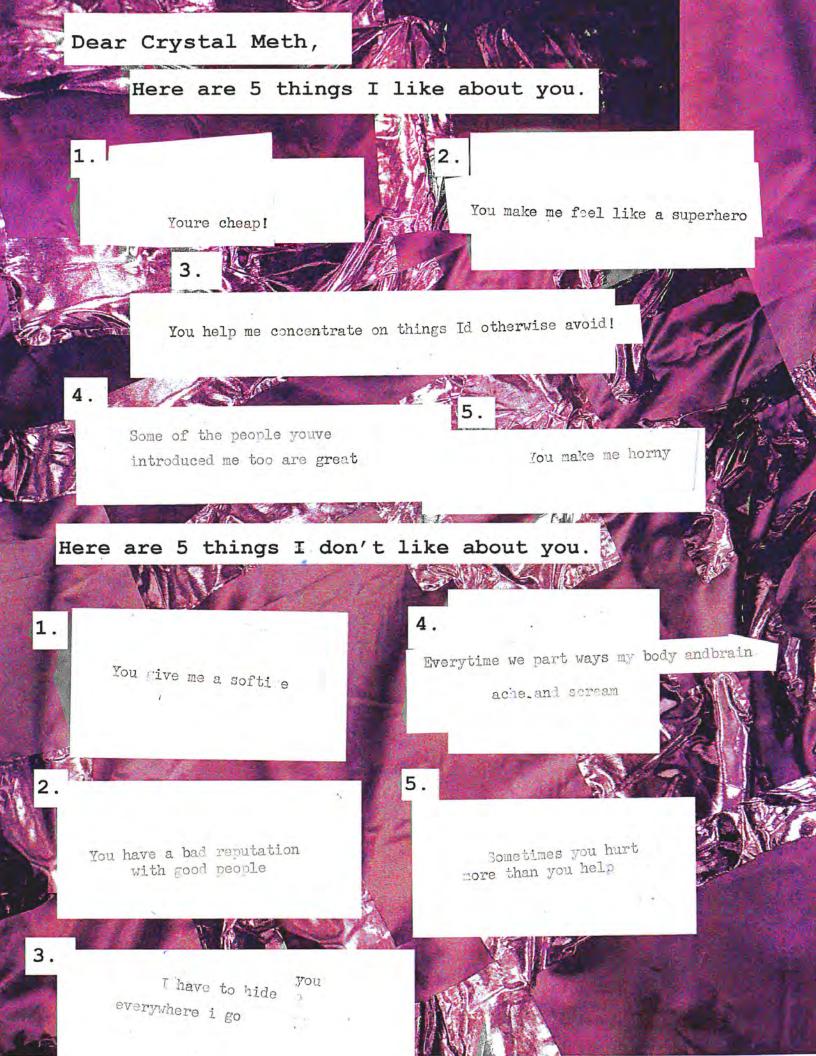






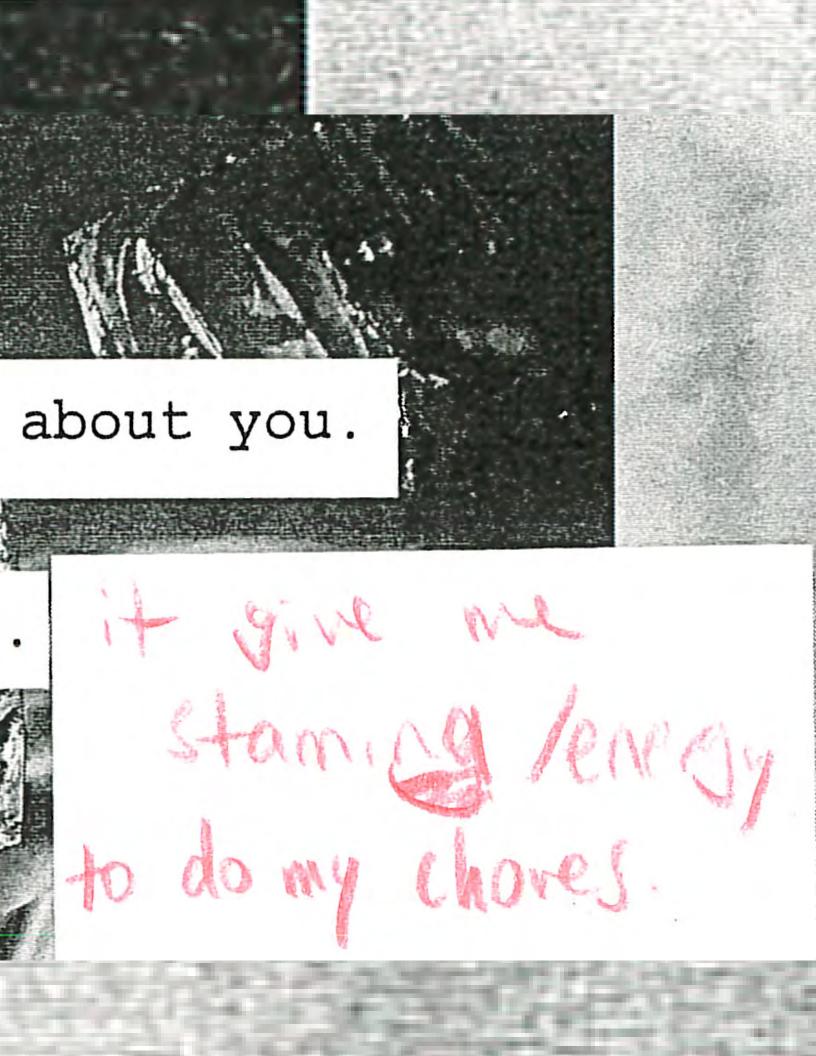


Ruck Ruck dance dance. Puck fuck dance dance Ruck Ruck dance dance fuck fuck Ruch Dance 1 Ruck Ruck dance fuct dance. fuck fu dance dance. dance dance fuck fuck fuck fuc dance dance Quet fuct dance dance Ruck Ruck Ruck Ruck Ruc fuck fuck fuck Puck Ruck dance dance dance d



Dour Moth

if been a while well not that long. I hope that Time finds her Place in the world. But I fact that wext time we meet I might find myself turning the page and Path that I will take as for the one I am on NOW work for me. I hope 404 understand more as life goas 



Dear Crystal Meth, How are you? I am thinking of you. I hope you? Not Jucking with me my one honly I think the best time we had together was he First day Inet You!!! -N-I will nover forget att but on the other hand, remember when ? I can't believe These days when I/think about/you, I think I hope that you and I can felle e Signed,

n'are a lying bitch! You France of Great Sax, andron francis, clanto, creationt, and a wonderful puture. Instead your have made me feel more Hwever when you brought e basen en tunduit

Dear Crystal Meth, Here are 5 things I like about you. Sexprive Paul Boost of Confidence Taylong Here are 5 things I don't like about you. 1. lack of apetite Sleep the Way Sweet hang hacks

Dear Crystal Meth, Here are 5 things I like about you. 1. You Resemble Diamonds 2. your Reach is Neverending 3. You My Ke Sex Better. 4. You AREN'T PICKY. 5. youre weren going away. Here are 5 things I don't like about you. 1. You killed All my Freeds 2. you pushed away my family 3. you resemble Diamonds 4. You Buddied up to fetany 5. You Bitch } Signed, A Mighston.

DEAR HOPE YOU ARE ... DOING OKAY WITHOUT WITH I KNOW THAT WE MAY SEE EACHOTHER AGAIN SOON. YOU ARE... Always around when I need you but I'm looking for something else. ANYWAY,... I know I will see you soon but... MATBE... Not the time after that.

Sinkerely,

Victoria





if I knew no deception would exist, It could be simplified a good deal further, Why not? Because she need money—lots of it. say that it's as crude and shameless as wanted to get away

Dear Crystal Meth, Here are 5 things I like about you. Got me of Give me Energy Crack. met my husband. It's a people dug. you make me Upromate me outgology a tak 2 happy. Here are 5 things I don't like about you. you office your illegal me boad acre. bod for the do too much teeth then Im stuck on atrazzel could goto tail caught trading or buying

You are a bitch and the bane of my excistance. However I feel lost without agrou

We first met ... WHEN I WAS DOWN AND OUT, MY HEE WAS IN DESPAIR

You were ... THE ANSWER TO ALL MY PAIN

Then ... YOU TOOK MY SADNESS

You and ... | ARE IN LOVE UNCONDITIONAL

NOW ... I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS AND I'M NO LONGER AFRAID

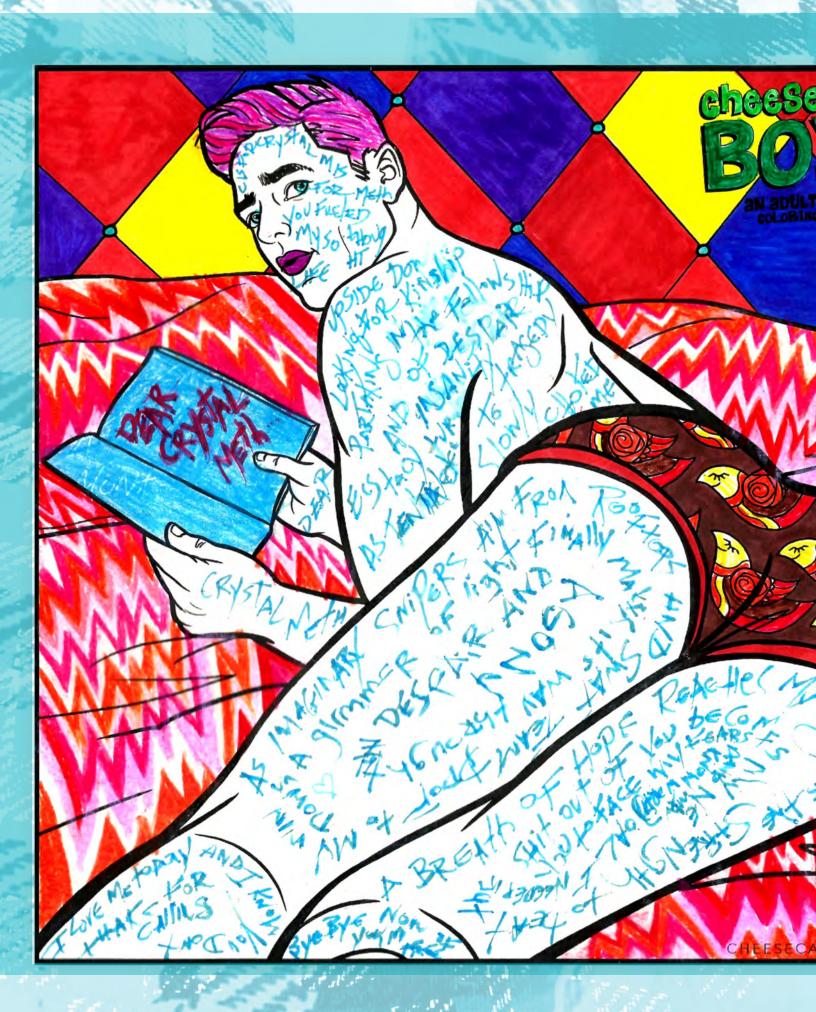
I think you are ... MY BEST PRIEND

Let me ask you a question ... PLEASE
PON'T EVER LEAVE M

Anyway, I hope that ... YOU'LL ALWAYS KEEP ME STRONG

Signed,

Dear Crystal Meth, Here are 5 things I like about you. 🛭 you add life you make me to the party Concrittate you Help me you get we ligh you Help Here are 5 things I don't like about you. cost me money Housing and you make me you make see The Deamons y Scalde 3. you put mein





LETTERS TO METH...

C IS FOR CRYSTAL AND M IS FOR METH, A CRY FOR MERCY.
YOU FUELED MY SO-THOUGHT BORING LIFE AND TURNED
IT UPSIDE DOWN.
LOOKING FOR KINSHIP, PARTAKING IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF
DESPAIR AND INSANITY.

ECSTASY TURNED TO TRACEDY AS TENTACLES SLOWLY CHOKED ME. AS IMAGINARY SMIPERS AIM FROM ROOFTOPS AND SWAT TEAMS DROP TO MY WINDOWS, A CLIMMER OF LIGHT FINALLY MAKES ITS WAY THROUGH THE DESPAIR AND AGONY.

A BREATH OF HOPE REACHES MY LUNGS AS THE STRENGTH TO BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOU BECOMES MY NEW GOAL.

I MEEDED YOU TO FACE MY FEARS AND KNOW MY WORTH.

I LOVE ME TODAY AND I KNOW YOU DON'T.

THANKS FOR CALLING.

BYE BYE NOW.

OF YOU, I'M FREE.

I HOPE YOU LIKE THIS ...

Dear Crystal Meth, We first met ... at an endisclosed locativis in the West Lockye. Egets, I have a light bill the said. Then ... I said "You must be from Edmost hot. Blue Oysto Cult ply "Hot rails to Hell" beathring copions amounts of vapour on Instern I think you are ... the boy Let me ask you a question ... do | need more meth homework to work on Anyway, I hope that ... this is not just another blue neth we've in again Smoken lee, la Baby

Dear Crystal Meth, We first met ... 1992 around with the You were Ole going. in Thursder Boy Then ... You and ... trying to graduate high school Now ... I'm a support worker FOI OHAS. I think you are ... Let me ask you a question ... What have you ever done Positive For Page Anyway, I hope that ... Pou Die meth. Signed, RJ

Dear Crystal Meth,

How are you? I am thinking of you. I hope you are

I think the best time we had together was

Oh,

but on the other hand, remember when
? I can't believe

These days when I think about you, I think

I hope that you and I can

Signed,

## DEARTINA

Miss Hing U

Are Fability

Never Change

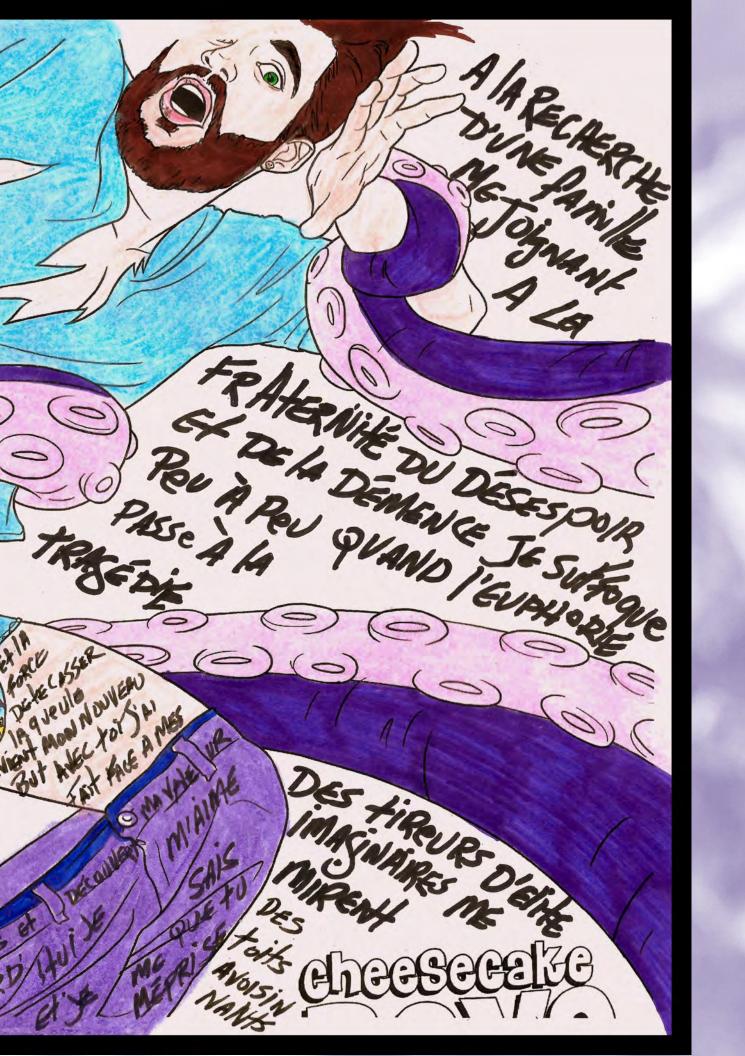
Well, Maybe 1005en 17 a bit

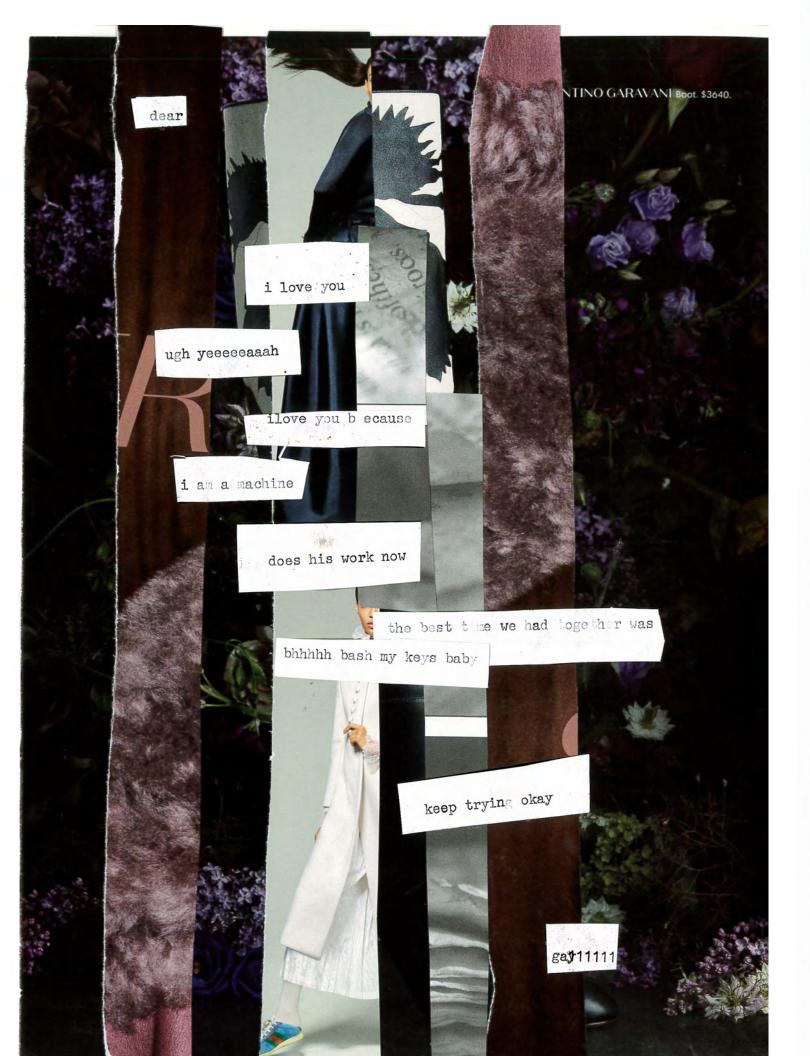
tak a chill
pill if a know
what I man

Sty Cute









Dear Crystal Meth,

How are you? I am thinking of you. I hope you are doing well of helping me to discover the beliefs in life, univers of seek. I will enjoy the time of having with you.

I think the best time we had together was when I first not my wife anya. I felt velief thoughpins finikvana and answers to seek. Thork you!

Oh,

but on the other hand, remember when thy sometimes it took longer? I can't believe to find the answers because? I can't believe were harder to tell of find.

These days when I think about you, I think we snoke with good health I good health I good houst intellectures.

I hope that you and I can melt simeday and of can buy a present for helpty me finding the answerd of not leaving me latine answerless.

Signed, Timothy factor

Dear Crystal Meth

DEAR CRYSTAL MESS

## DEAR ME THI CABIEL

HoT mEtH Xpress - AtTenTion

Top Ten Tina Turner Hairstyles 123456789 10

Miss MMs Mz Mx Mth Mrs. , Misses Mix Me Mrs. Mom METH

C is for Mi meth see ya 18r

R is for Are you hi RN do uever get nervous
Yis for no andyes and why oh why

S is for ex-loverestuary

T is for ... I mean CUM ON NOWyoure no dummy
A is for a time/a place/a decision
L is for Hell ooo Mr. ... LoL --- 1: to exw

CCrystal Waters Pride living very loud Crystal heeling + achilles heal right here right now

Dear in the headlights in Dearborn Michigan where doors deare to dreem from here to bere, and everywhere

Dear goodbye TTTTTYL

## DEAR CEYSTAL,

I guess I HAVE to WRITE A LETTER to you so here it is ...

I Fucking Hate you. I wish You NEVER WASTED 7 YEARS WANTING You (OF MY LIFE) MY EX INTRODUED US AND HAAT'S WHY HE'S MY EX. GET the fuck out of my life SOON! I'M better Without You! none of your fulling. P.S. DIE bitch Dear Crystal Meth,

Here are 5 things I like about you.

	Keeps	me	auja	10
1	Leeps	11 0	0000	

- 2. you help me concentrate
  3. you help me sing
  4. males and sex a breeze
- numbs the pain at abuse

Here are 5 things I don't like about you.

- the visions you give me; it could be real
- 2. You make people die

- 4. you make my family not like me 5. you make me bitchy.

So there you have it.

Signed, Rologa Belognese Phorchoka

IVE HAD SOME EXPE I NOWS IT USE TINE OUD WELL IN EVEN ... SOME OF MY WITH FOR THE STREET STREET, BO WOULD WILL STREET, DM TVE

BECOME EXCOMPACED TO LIVES FETROYED BY THE HOLE

Vicously erupted directly into the bloodstream through delicate veins. Sniffed like nose candy Followed by a strendous, relieved "ahh"

or smoked bicarlesst ly and presnickety.

Each have their own way few follow the Simple basic rules of Science. Combustion is

only a few degrees and a heating chambre

away From atilizing vapor.

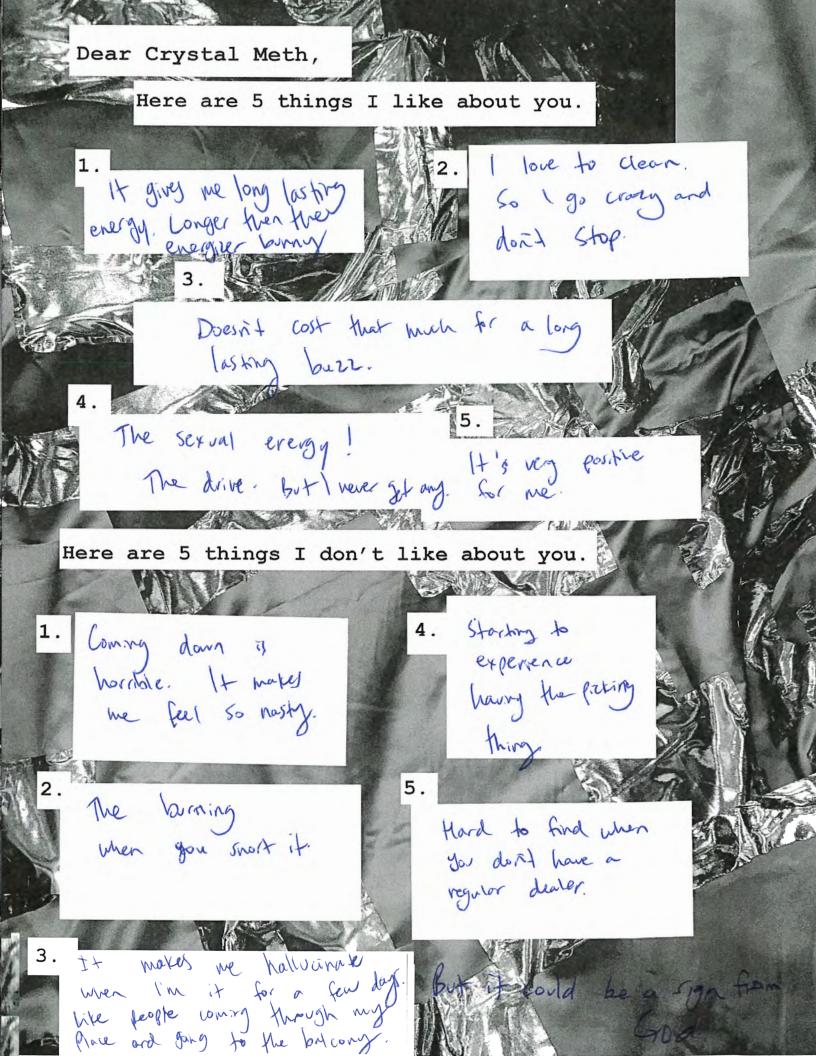
Some Seck the "rash" or "high" acheiring

a citweaking' stature.

personally just a small amount does the sexless trick to calm my nerves and maintains my related demeanor. I Find it very mild when not abused almost like a common coffee.

Now marjuana, that's a hellowa drug, I'll catch the next bus.

-Anonymous



Dear Crystal Meth, We first met ... You were ... METER AND Then ... I GOT AGUIRED TO TH E AND YOU BECAME IN You and ... Now ... think you are .... Let me ask you a question Anyway, I hope that ... All DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF STREET Signed,

Breaking the Ice is unbelievably grateful to the incredible people and partners who brought this work from an idea into fruition.



This project would have not been possible without the steadfast leadership and insightful guidance of an invaluable group of community leaders, health and social service providers, harm reduction workers, community organizers and academics.

We want to particularly acknowledge the unwaivering support of:

Fred Victor
Ontario Harm Reduction Network
Parkdale Queen West Community Health
Centre
Pieces to Pathways
South Riverdale Community Health
Centre
St. Stephen's Community House
Toronto Drop-In Network
Toronto North Support Services — MDOT

Thank you to these community organizations who offered time, space, and resources towards community conversations and key informant interviews.









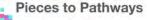






















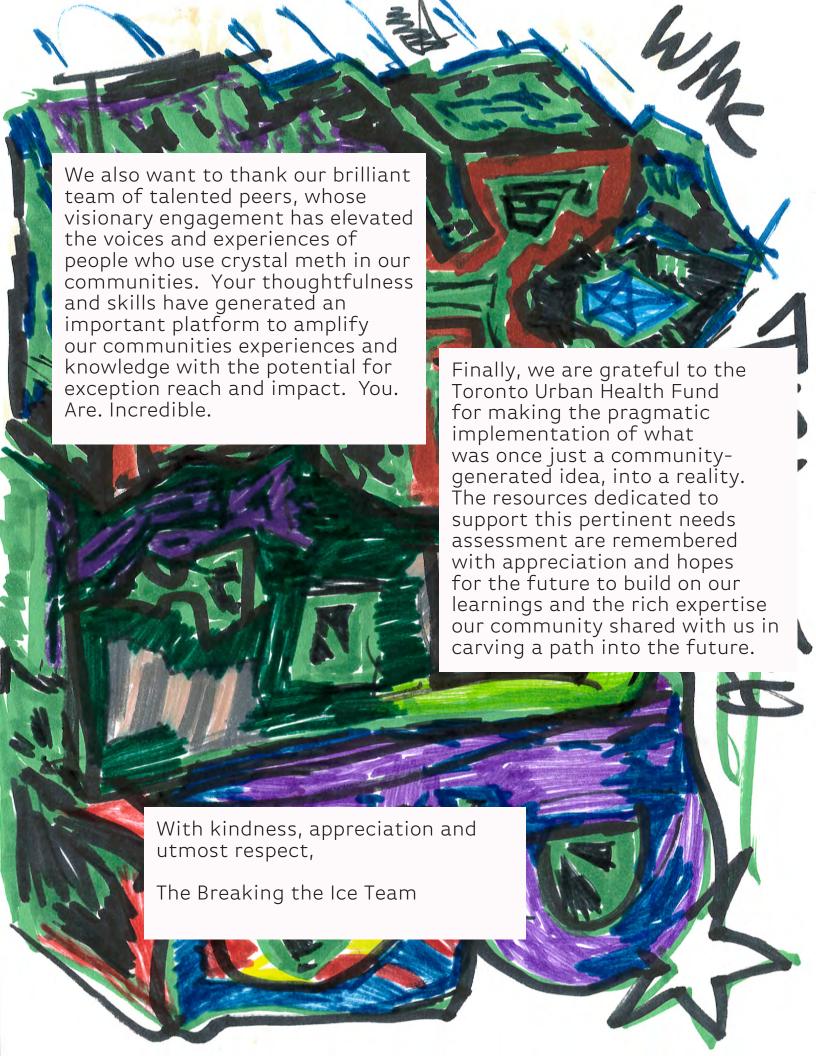












## DEAR TINA

" light

34 8W.