


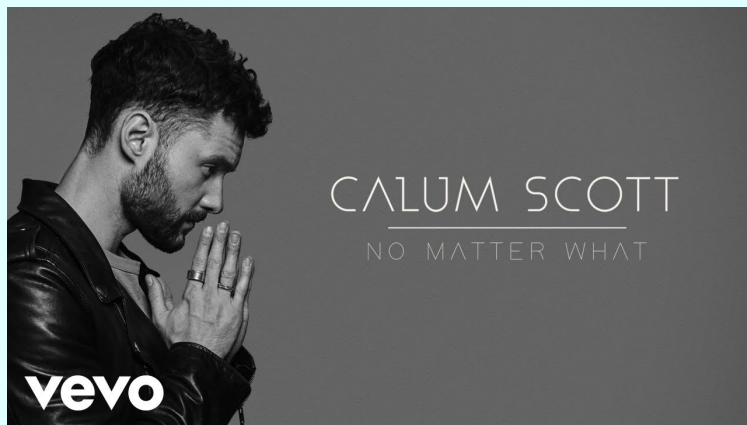
ANALYSIS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

This song written by Calum Scott depicts his journey of acceptance. He talks about being gay and how he came to terms with accepting himself, getting acceptance from his parents, and the troubles he faced in his childhood. Through this song, he was able to come out to the world.

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This song has always been very special to me as it has helped me come to terms with my asexuality and has also helped me understand that it's okay to be different.

 Calum Scott - No Matter What (Official Video)



FIRST VERSE

**“When I was a young boy I was scared of growing up
I didn't understand it but I was terrified of love
Felt like I had to choose but it was outta my control
I needed to be saved, I was going crazy on my own”**

ANALYSIS/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Social norms of heteronormativity have left children confused while growing up. Scott emphasizes being scared and unable to understand these norms. The line “I didn't understand it but I was terrified of love” further shows how norms of love in society do not match with how some feel, leaving children confused at an early age. He further talks about being unable to fit in with his friends and how he always felt different and alone.

In his music video, he depicts a scene where boys are playing a game. The boy on the left represents himself and the boy on the right with the ball is the team captain and is choosing who should play the game. Everyone was chosen except Scott, leaving him to be chosen by default. This represents how he never really felt like he fit in with friends and always found himself feeling left out.

Personally, I never felt like I fit in with my peers either. When having conversations with friends they would always talk about having a crush or liking boys and I would always try to hide from conversations like that as I never had a crush or never would want to talk about boys the way everyone else did. This left me quite alone throughout my elementary years. The emphasis that the media puts on heterosexuality and relationships, in general, made me feel like the odd one out.



SECOND VERSE

**“It took me years to tell my mother, I expected the worst
I gathered all the courage in the world**

**She said, "I love you no matter what
I just want you to be happy and always be who you are"
She wrapped her arms around me
Said, "Don't try to be what you're not
'Cause I love you no matter what"
She loves me no matter what”**



Personally, I do not have the best experience with coming out because when I told my aunt she brushed it off. She admitted that she does not think I am asexual and that I should not use that label. The reason why she acted like that is because of what society portrays as the norm and the importance of sexual relationships to start a family. This also enforces the ideologies of the nuclear family. A family looks different for asexuals or those who do not identify as heterosexual, therefore going against SNAF norms.

FOURTH VERSE

**“When I ran home I saw my mother, it was written on my face
Felt like I had a heart of glass about to break**

**She said, "I love you no matter what
I just want you to be happy and always be who you are"
She wrapped her arms around me
Said, "Don't try to be what you're not
'Cause I love you no matter what"
Yeah”**



ANALYSIS/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Within these verses of the song, we can see Calum Scott coming to terms with his sexuality and telling his mother. His mother is very accepting as a parent should be and tells him that she loves him no matter what. Coming out can be a very difficult thing to do and as he states he “expected the worst”. This is due to the stigma around homosexual relationships and the fear of not being accepted.

The second verse of the music video shows his mother comforting him and tucking him into bed. While stroking his hair, she is reassuring her support and helps him understand that she will always be there for him and that she loves him no matter what. The fourth verse shows Scott’s mother comforting him after being bullied by his friends. His mom embraces him and provides him with her support.

THIRD VERSE

**“I got a little older wishing all my time away
Riding on the pavement, every sunny day was grey
I trusted in my friends then all my world came crashing down
I wish I never said a thing, 'cause to them I'm a stranger now”**

ANALYSIS/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

In this part of the song, Scott talks about the troubles that he faced being accepted by his friends as he got older. He talks about trusting his friends by confiding in them. Ultimately he was let down as unlike his mother, they never accepted him for who he was. He found himself wishing he never told them about his sexuality. Scott being judged by his friends is not an individual issue but rooted in systemic issues. The norms surrounding family have led so many to believe that other forms of family are not ideal. Therefore, his friends did not accept this difference.

This part of the music video shows Scott in his mid-twenties and he is riding a skateboard. He approaches his friends and they start to physically fight him. One guy in particular, corners him to a wall and grabs on to his sweater. He does not fight back but rather stands there defenceless while they continue to bully him. The physicality of this also represents the verbal abuse faced by society.

Connecting back to my experience, I remember being called a liar and many names when I told friends I have never had a crush because it was a held belief that it's impossible to not have a crush. I remember being bullied to a point where I had to fake a crush in grade eight to stop being picked on. Asexuality is rightfully called the invisible orientation as I remember walking into my first day of health class in ninth grade, with my teacher reinforcing the fact that everyone has sexual desires. She said something along the lines of ‘Everyone needs sex. Everyone thinks about it. Everyone will eventually do it.’ The education system contributes to heteronormative thinking in young minds, perpetuating bullying among students.



FIFTH VERSE

**“Now I'm a man and I'm so much wiser
I walk the earth with my head held higher
I got the love that I need
But I was still missing one special piece
My father looked at me”**

ANALYSIS/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

This part of the song refers to how he has overcome the problems that he has faced. He talks about how he has moved through his struggles and how he has regained his confidence. He also mentions how he got the love that he needed to get to where he is. But despite that, he is still missing the acceptance of his father.

Within this part of the music video, we see Scott rising up from all that has happened to him. Multiple clips are shown side by side. The first clips rewinds back to his younger self and is looking up to the sun and the second clip cuts to him continuing to skateboard. The purpose of this is to show that despite the criticism and troubles that he has faced through these situations he always kept going and rising beyond the hurdles that crossed his path.

It took me a while to accept my asexuality. I always knew I was different growing up, but I never understood what it was. I learned about asexuality when I was 17 but was in denial about even considering the fact that I may be ace and completely ignored it for two years. When I turned 19, I realized the importance of actually figuring things out for myself so I started doing loads of research regarding asexuality and what it actually means. After I took every possible sexuality quiz I could find and read many different articles, I came to the phase of acceptance. At first, I had trouble accepting it because of the norms around heterosexuality and not wanting to be different. But eventually, I started to be okay with it and now I can say I mostly accept myself for who I am.



SIXTH VERSE

**“He said, "I love you no matter what
I just want you to be happy and always be who you are"
He wrapped his arms around me
Said, "Don't try to be what you're not
'Cause I love you no matter what"
He loves me no matter what
And they love me no matter what”**

ANALYSIS/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

This part of the song is when Scott receives full acceptance from his family. His father embraces him, letting him know that he is there and he will be there for his son ‘no matter what’.

Within this part of the music video, Scott brings his boyfriend home for dinner to introduce him to his father. Initially he seems to be quite hesitant and fearful of what the outcome may be, but to his surprise, his father smiles. The father walked up to Scott and embraces him, letting him know that its okay. Then he shakes Scott’s boyfriend’s hand and they sit down to eat. This part is very significant as it emphasizes the final piece of support that Scott receives in his journey of acceptance. Due to how society view homosexual relationships, this moment is very emotional as some parents are not very accepting of relationships that do no fit the norm.

My one piece of support that I have is the acceptance from my friends. I came out to two of my closest friends from kindergarten and they have been so supportive. They have both tried to learn about what asexuality is, and respect my boundaries when having conversations surrounding sexual topics. I am really lucky to have them as my close friends and being accepted like that means everything.

