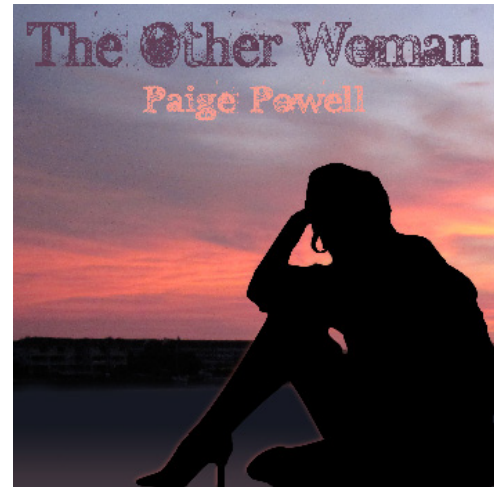


Paige Powell Music Blog for May 1, 2020:

## The Story Behind the Song, "The Other Woman"

Whenever I perform "The Other Woman," I explain that it is NOT autobiographical — it's not about me. **A songwriter is a writer**, and as a writer, I often use my imagination. I wondered what it would be like to be a loose woman who is filled with regret, rejection, and loneliness. She complains that she wants to find a "good man", but the men she meets are not only married, they have another "steady girlfriend" on the side and she's just a plaything.



Originally, the format was verse after verse, with the last line being "I always seem to end up being the other woman". My fellow songwriters suggested it needed more of a chorus instead of all verses with a tag line (an old-fashioned Bob Dylan format). **When I wrote the chorus, I thought it would be a good idea to add a conclusion** — that the woman in the story wants to change: "Lord, help me rearrange this life that's gotta change or I'm always gonna end up alone." This way, she's reaching out to God in repentance, which gives the song a Christian edge, although most people would not classify it as a Christian song at all, especially since it has hard-hitting rock drums and electric guitar.

**Songs are supposed to be emotional, or they will fall flat.** The electric guitar, played brilliantly by lifelong friend **Stephen Curtin**, wails with cries of anguish when loud, and whimpers with sadness when played softly. When I took a songwriting class on the blues, the instructor told us that **the blues is the best format for complaining, crying, moaning and screaming.** If you're feeling trapped by today's social distancing and quarantines, putting on a blues/rock song like this one and moaning while you sing it might help!

I'm in the middle of recording a NEW song, "Waterfall" and it is close to being finished. Meanwhile, I keep writing new songs. My newest one is called "The Family Is My Heart" and I played it for my cousins during a Zoom reunion this past Sunday. In the third verse, I decided to include listeners who might not have a family:

*"If you are alone, no family, no home; Friends can be family, and be just as close  
So, go and make a friend — don't let the friendship end; They'll be your family,  
the ones you love the most!"*

During a recent meeting of our DC chapter of NSAI\*, I submitted it for a feedback/critique from **Shane Adams, Founding Instructor for Berklee Online who teaches songwriting.** He not only exclaimed that he loved the chord progression, but his only suggestion was to change one word in the entire song! I felt as if I had written a winner!

\*Nashville Songwriters Association International