



Common

Breakthrough

Resurrection and I Used to Love H.E.R. established Common as a major writer. The song personified hip-hop as a woman whose changing identity troubles an old friend. Its gender metaphor deserves critique, but its larger impact is undeniable: a rap song became a compact argument about ownership, commercialization, region, and memory.

The breakthrough was not a crossover shortcut. It was the authority of a point of view—Chicago, observant, literary, sometimes argumentative—that made Common legible as part of a widening national canon.