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**Music Consider**

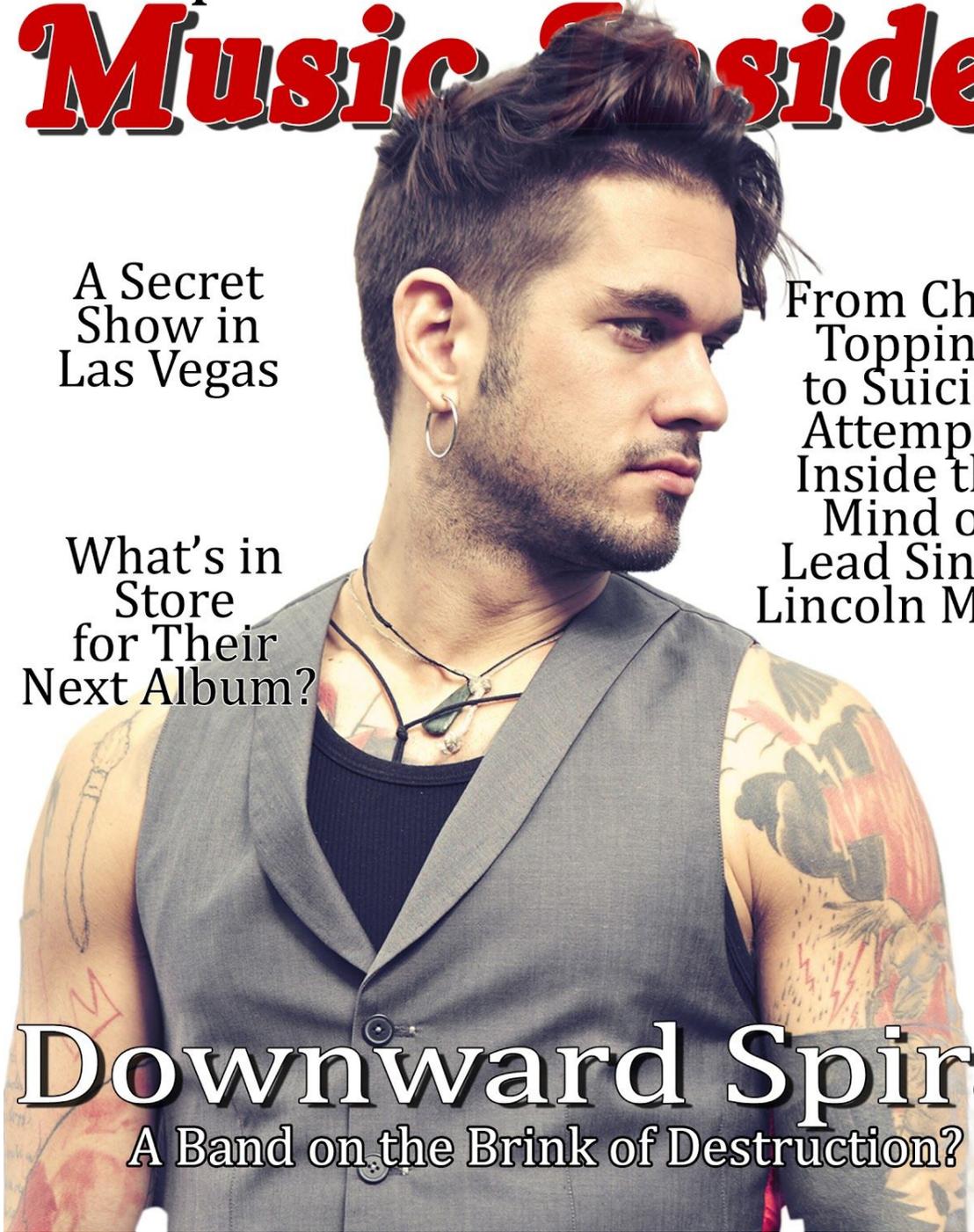
A Secret  
Show in  
Las Vegas

What's in  
Store  
for Their  
Next Album?

From Chart  
Topping  
to Suicide  
Attempts:  
Inside the  
Mind of  
Lead Singer  
Lincoln Miller

**Downward Spiral**

A Band on the Brink of Destruction?



# Interview with Lincoln Miller

*This Interview took place on November 1 at Lincoln Miller's Manhattan penthouse. He welcomed me graciously, showing me around the spacious floor plan. Floor to ceiling windows cover the East wall and lead to a large balcony. Predictably, he has several guitars hanging on the wall beside the band's three platinum records. Pictures of the band were also framed and placed on multiple surfaces around the home.*

*We sat at Lincoln's kitchen table, which was littered with scraps of paper with hastily scribbled notes. While we talked, he flipped a guitar pick between his artful fingers.*

*I didn't know what to expect from the often mysterious Lincoln Miller, but I found him to be kind and soft spoken. He strikes me as a man who carries the weight of the world around on his shoulders. I wish I had the words to describe the depth of pain behind his kind eyes.*

— Thomas Riley

## **Tell me about how Downward Spiral came to be**

The four of us— Jude, Lando, Benji, and myself were high school buddies. We met freshman year in English class. We found out we shared a love of music and decided it would be cool to jam together. It was a great outlet for us at that age, kept us out of any major trouble, and gave us something to look forward to most days. None of us expected anything to come of it. Then, ten years ago we were doing an open mic at a hole in the wall bar. I guess it was one of those right place at the right time things because Asher Horowitz happened to pass through that night and liked what he heard.

## **Of your many chart topping songs, do you have a favorite?**

That's always a difficult question for me to answer. But, I guess I have to say *Cherry Lane*. Since that was our first big break, it holds a special place in my heart. And it's one of only two songs I personally wrote, so it'll always be special to me in that way as well.

## **Many people have called *Cherry Lane* one of the most romantic songs of all time. Are the rumors true that it was inspired by your own young love?**

Ha, going right for the jugular aren't you? Yes, the rumors are true. *Cherry Lane* was the road where our summer cabins were located, and I spent every summer from the age of fourteen on falling hopelessly in love with him. I wrote the song for him our last summer together.

## **What happened between you two?**

I ruined things. That's all I'm going to say about it.

**You mentioned *Cherry Lane* is one of two songs you personally wrote. The other song was *Crimson Tiles*, can you tell me the story behind that song?**

It's not a big secret, I've struggled with self-harm most of my life. That song is about a night things got out of hand, and what it feels like to know you're dying and not care as much as you know you're supposed to. I know it's a song many people can relate to, and I strongly urge those people to reach out to someone for help, or call the suicide hotline if they don't know who to talk to.

**What's it like to be an openly gay rock star?**

Ha, I don't exactly have anything to compare it to so I'm not entirely sure. Being someone people recognize on the street, that's a trip. The first time I heard someone singing one of our songs on the street I nearly fainted. I didn't expect this from my life and most days it still doesn't feel real.

**There have been some rumors recently that the band is in a rough patch. It's been reported Jude and Benji got into a fist fight backstage at your last show. Is there any gravity to any of these claims?**

We've known each other a long time, and at the end of any tour it's often been way too long in close quarters. Do we fight? Absolutely. Are we breaking up? Not on your life.

**What's next for the band?**

We have our next tour starting in the new year, and I know Lando is hard at work on some brand new hits so we can get back to dominating the charts.

**Lando Meyer**

**Jude Katz**

**Benji Casparian**