

Paralyzed – Female Monologue

(reading a book) Addicted—psychologically and physiologically dependent on a substance or practice beyond one’s voluntary control. *(talking to herself)* Dependent?! Agh, I hate that word! That is *not* me – I depend on nothing and no one. Learned that years ago... The only one you can truly depend on is yourself. *(reading aloud again)* Paralyzed—loss of power or voluntary movement. *(defiantly)* Oh please, I have total control of myself and my actions. I can stop whenever I want... *(beat, then smugly)* I just don’t want to.

(closes book, thinks for a while) Even if I did want to stop, everything *else* will be that much worse. This is the only thing that helps...that takes the pain away.

(pause, then with bitterness) Fine, you want the truth? I’m afraid... I don’t know what else to do. I don’t know how else to deal with things – and I’m afraid to stop. *(beat)* I can’t... *(sarcastically)* So is that a “loss of power”? Does that make me “dependent beyond my voluntary control”? I don’t know, you tell me...

(pause, softening) The truth is, I want to *really* have control of my life... Control of myself... *(pause)* I *want* to be free...I just don’t know how.

BLACKOUT.