

Room with a View (G-D-C for verses)

Had to follow my dreams, & I left without saying goodbye,
Wasn't quite what it seemed, turns out I was chasing a lie

I found all the things I was hoping to find, in the world, yeah
But I just didn't know what I was leaving behind, with you girl

Got a mountain of cash, & a room that looks out on the ocean
But my heart doesn't care, it has a mind of its own

What's a room with a view

In a world without you

I was foolish

What's my heart supposed to do

What good's love without you

Why'd I do this

Had the stars in my sights & I even brushed shoulders with fame

But at the end of the day, the stars, they all look the same

Don't know why I believed, I had to go off on my own

Another night in the lights, but it's the shadows that follow me home

What is fame by itself

Just a name, nothing else

I let it tempt me

What's my heart supposed to do

What is love without you

It's just empty

(Opt.)

Bridge - do something with

"Fools gold down dirt roads"

alt verse

The other side of goodbye, (is) not what I thought it would be

I was the only one there, when I finally caught up with my dreams

The Desert

I wasn't there the day I lost control

Heard about it from some friends I've known

] Helpless crowd, they just watched me go

Now I'm

Wandering the desert tonight

Why do the gifted and the good die young

& hope just seems like a setting sun

If you don't know could you find someone

I'll be

Here in the desert tonight

Chorus/

I'm down on my knees

But I'm all out of prayers

& I don't think a bottle's gonna get me there

End//

I have a feeling that the deck is stacked

A slight of hand, and a vanishing act

All I heard, is he was dressed in black

I bet he's,

Out in the desert tonight

Can you tell me where the innocence goes

(The) things we lose are what we need the most

I'd ask my priest, but I don't think he knows

I just,

Saw him in the desert tonight

Chorus/Again

(maybe skip this 1st stanza?)

No one's leaving this world alive

Kinda looks like the perfect crime

Take the stand & blame the other guy

Now he's

wandering the desert tonight

I wish I knew where nirvana was

I'd get some friends and a big old bus

But the road is hidden from most of us.

So we're

Still in the desert tonight

Chorus & then finish of

(Could just do Em-C-G?)

[Em] Tried calling out to you

[C] Calling out to you

[G] Searched for you everywhere..)

(slowing, quieter...)

(Now) I'm all out of prayers....

Is/If there(s) anyone there.....

Leave It Alone

My faith & my doubt

Roll around on the floor

They're still fighting it out

But I don't know what for

... Just can't leave it alone

It's a dubious prize

For whichever one wins

Truth is hard on the eyes

End up trading it in....

... Then they'll do this again

Chorus//

Leave it alone,

Yeah leave it alone

Don't search for the answers

You don't have to know

Don't take it so seriously,

Roll around in the mud

Live for the moment

Find someone to love

Yeah, leave it alone

End//

It's a delicate balance

The Yin and the yang

A dungeon, a palace

The pleasure and pain

(So) we live in the middle

Guess God prefers grey

An unanswerable riddle

Holds the whole thing in place

.... So we leave it alone

Chorus Again / Bridge

Bout the only thing that I need to know

Is it don't go that well when I run the show

Climbed a holy mountain,

Found a message for me

Don't take it all so damn seriously

So Much More

There's a playful child
And a woman scorned
A dream that's died
And a faith reborn

(there's) a distant look
From novels read
(And) A stormy sea
Of things unsaid

A room where nothing's
As it seems
With off-white lies
And red-hot dreams

Chorus
There's a quiet harbor of deep blue-green
The safest place that I've ever seen
You draw me in as you're searching me
You turn away and I'm lost at sea
Now your eyes are like the distant shore
You're my paradise but (you're) so much more

There's a Ferris wheel
And faded jeans
(The) November blues
(And) no in between

There's New York style

With a simple taste

A Devilish smile

With a hint of grace

(You're) The painted tears

On a smiling clown

A chapel wine

That's been watered down

There's a quiet harbor of deep blue-green

The safest place that I've ever seen

You draw me in As you're searching me

You turn away and I'm lost at sea

Now your eyes are like the distant shore

You're my paradise but so much more

opt /

There's a lonely walk with everyone

A pardoned girl, still on the run

I Know Who You Are [C-F-C-G]

In sadness, in silence

I know who you are

Try to run from the past

But you never get far

And I've met all your demons

I've seen where they hide

I know that you feed them

And I understand why

[Trans? But I know that's there's more]

[Chorus]

I know what you've been through

I don't want to lose you

The sun's gonna rise up again

I'll walk right beside you

No one knows you like I do

Just hold on, hold on, my friend

[End]

In satin and shadows

I know where you've been

Always diving for covers

As the night crashes in

& I heard the confessions

From your small crowd of sins

I was there at the temple

As you ushered them in

[Chorus Again]

And the dark-hooded thief

That ran off with your smiles

Well, I know where he lives
(&) why he's living in style

Yes, I stood by the gallows
With your future in doubt
And I heard all the screams
That could never get out

Begging for Change

The lame and the wicked
Are left minding the store
With the old hound of heaven
Asleep by the door

& The artists, the poets
The sultans of strange
Are handing out treasure
While (they're) begging for change

Chorus/

What hope is there for (the) morning
If we're enchanted by the night
Who will lead us from the darkness
if we chase away the light

Chorus //

(they're) The terminally gifted
The tragically blessed

No crime's been committed

But still they confess

The flower in the desert

The yin to our yang

Just fill the blank/empty canvass

With a dark bloody stain

Guess we've done it again

Something I've Lost

I feel like I'm looking for something I've lost

It's vague and its shy but the scent fills the air

Yet there's always a void that I can't get across

Seems like some part of me, is already there

It feels like I'm losing, even if I win

Like the game that we're playing, (it) just isn't mine

The curtain goes up and its showtime again

But I can't act the part, no one gave me the lines

Chorus//

It feels like I'm lost though I've traveled so far

Wandering & wondering where the hell we are

Looking for clues, of how it might've gone down

But I don't think that I'll find them on this side of town

End//

Not sure why I search for meaning at all
Never comes into focus, it never gets clear
When you wait by the phone, seems like nobody calls
And the louder I question, the less I can hear

I feel like a pilgrim, can't find my way home
& the dark lonely streets, (they) no longer have names
Some look familiar, some are unknown
But they never lead back, not the way that I came

Chorus//

It feels like I'm lost though I've traveled so far
Wandering & wondering where the hell we are
Looking for clues, of how it might've gone down
But I don't think that I'll find them on this side of town

End//

Crucify Dreams

(or just do 2 stanzas then chorus)

(I've) been out walking in the rain
In conversation with the pain
Wounded pride, grief and fear
Uninvited, but they're all here

[Yeah, they know about you
They've all heard your name
They know you're the reason
(that) I'm just not the same]

So they say their peace
And me, well I've said mine
We've come to agree
Someday we'll all be fine

But tonight we will scream
And tonight we will curse
A twice broken heart
There's nothing that's worse

CHORUS

It's not cupid that loses when he misses the mark
I can still see the bruises out here in the dark

And yes there are tears, and of course there are screams
That crowd always gathers when you crucify dreams

[But there's no empty tomb, when I finally look in
Though there's plenty of room, (cause) my dreams were quite thin]

END CHORUS

And, your ghosts love the dark, I can still hear them call
Though the heart rushes in, on the way out it crawls

And god only knows, why I kept holding on
Like a flame in the wind, but the candle was gone

CHORUS

It's not cupid that loses when he misses the mark

I can still see the bruises out here in the dark

Etc Etc..

I AM (the creative spirit)

I am a secret that I couldn't keep

The dreams of the dreamer who talks in his sleep

Safe but unseen in the depths of the night

I am the shadow that longs for the light

Chorus/

I am the darkness, I am the light

I am the voice that you hear in the night //

I am the answer, still trying to learn

The reason that fire can never be burned

Born into riches, like the prodigal son

I wander the earth as if I have none

/Chorus Again/

Naked and hungry, I cover the land

In search of a beggar with a bowl in his hand

He'll know who I am

/Chorus Again & Add

I am the shelter, I am the storm

I am the flames that are keeping you warm

Gone Country

Gonna find myself where the pavement ends

Need to raise some dust so I can breathe again

In the country - It's like heaven to me

Got the open road and a tank of gas

When you got nowhere to be, well, you get there fast

Gone country, It's the place to be

Chorus/

[Yeah, the town don't hold that much for me

Cause I've got somewhere else to be

Where I'm home

& my soul is free

End//

Sometimes I feel like I've lost my self

Didn't see me go, but I sure can tell

I need some country..... most Desperately

Got the windows down, turn up the radio

Those old classic songs, are like friends I've known

In the country - It's all country to me

[Chorus]

Alternates

Had to ditch the city, cause it stole my smile
(It's) in my rear view mirror (now), that's more my style
I'm going country - It's where I've got to be

No traffic lights, no blaring horns
I've never been religious but I feel reborn
Out in the country - Nowhere I'd rather be

No fancy clubs, no suit and tie
If it was a crime to leave, I've got an alibi
I was in the country
That's good enough for me

Blue

There's tissues lying scattered
Like bodies in a war
Though nothing's really died here
Just the love we had before

Screams now join the teardrops
Fleeing from the pain
But hope, the faithful shepherd
Leads them back again

CHORUS

No happy ever after, no saviors gonna come
Just thoughts/memories of you,
(pause)..... and Blue
No last minute pardon, no clever grand escape
Just the ghost of you,
(pause) and Blue

Daydreams are forbidden
The curtains have been drawn
Shadows keep me company
Now that you're gone

Hope was overrated
And bottles didn't last
Prayers lie exhausted
Around the empty glass

Chorus Again

Sacred Fire

Holy ghosts creeping in
(your) kicking up the
The past again

Sacred fire
Consuming me
Burning down
What I used to be

But I never made it out
Couldn't find the shrinking door
Guess now I'll finally know
What the night is really for

Chorus

What are you supposed to do
When the ashes and the residue
Were once the biggest part of you
[?Had been the biggest part of you?]

Just dance to the deathly rattle
Slide across the blackened floor
Try being light for once
See what all the death was for

End Chorus

What's there within the ashes
The piles are now so small (what once stood so tall/ how the lofty fall)
Guess flames can only climb
(The) high and stubborn walls

They tried going over
Cause they never could get through
Guess the fire needs its fuel
Like the past needed you (like the past depends on you)

(&) its best to (just) stay/remain silent

In the temple of the beast

You wouldn't know who to call (for)

[You wouldn't know who was who]

The demons or the priest

Falling through the flames

There's nothing to cling to

(you) Better let go of sanity

Before it lets go of you

Chorus

What are you supposed to do

When the ashes and the residue

Were once the biggest part of you

[Had been the biggest part of you]

Just dance to the deathly rattle

Slide across the blackened floor

Try being light for once

See what all the death was for

Dark Night

Approaching clouds

And dark footprints

The nights speak loud

They don't drop hints

{[The shades are pulled
But the night sees in
With senses dulled
The feast begins]] Use?

(the) Broken shadows
Unleash the rain
While (the) men in robes
Are all insane

Chorus
Even the past has a past
If you know what I mean
It just gets recast
And we.re caught/trapped between

Every night has a night
Where it's already been
Think you've seen the light
Better think again
[End Chorus]

Wounded doves
And twisted steel
(and) God knows what
Is still concealed

The crowded halls
Feed empty rooms
Where darkness breeds
What it consumes

(Alt verses)

The armchair prophets
Saw a distant star
There was no messiah/manger
Just the corner bar

Not Waiting on Destiny

No, I don't believe in fate
Not waiting on destiny
It might just be running late
(But) I've got somewhere else to be

& I'm not wishing on a star
(it) Doesn't seem all that wise
To be looking so damn far
For the things I have inside

Chorus//

I aint gonna fall for that
Aint gonna fall for that
What I need
It's all in me

So I aint gonna fall for that

End//

& no rabbits foot for me

Didn't bring much luck to him

Not sitting by the wisdom tree

I'd rather be out on a limb

No genie at my command

(I) Don't have a golden flute

There's magic in who I am

Just depends on what I do

[Chorus]

I'm no Angel

I once was lost

Now I'm just running late

It's not the speed so much

As the path you take

And yes I learned

About the early bird

(but) They don't tell you

About the early worm

[Chorus]

& I'm no angel
Thought you'd be surprised
Guess that's the trouble
With such a thin disguise

If I was an angel
I would've pawned my wings
Traded in my halo
For some other things
.....and the rush they bring
..... What a rush they bring
[End Chorus]

If there's a heaven
Doubt they'd let me stay
I'd be like graffiti
With nothing much to say

So, I won't hurry
Toward the pearly gates
(but) Don't get worried
They know I'm running late (space out?)

(chorus again)
I'm no angel
(But) you don't look surprised
Guess that's the trouble
With such a thin disguise
(etc...)

Hymn of the Pearl – Gnostic Tale

Yeah, I've got a secret
cause I've seen the truth
But I'm not meant to keep it
So I'm sharing it with you

See, I lived in the fast lane
Asleep at the wheel
Weighed down by the gold chains
Guess my fate had been sealed

Had a thirst deep inside me
But I drank/chose the wrong wine
I grew weak, I grew weary
But It was all by design

[Chorus – children's voices]
I'm gonna live forever, I'm gonna find the sea
The question is now whether, you can all find me
(or - you will follow me) //

I awoke in a castle
So far from the world
& the song that they sang there
Was about a lost pearl

Said it waits by a dragon
& it waits in the night
But if you can claim it
It can fill you with light

& The words and the music
(they) Just sounded so true
So I knew in that moment
Just what I'd have to do

Chorus Again

So I fought with the dragon
And I fought with myself
& The pearl, it was waiting
In the place where they fell

When at last I could hold it
It was well worth the fight
Cause it filled me with music
And it filled me with light

It's then that I remembered
All the words to the song
And the music was perfect
So I just sang along

Chorus Again

Feels Like Home (Twin Flame)

There's a light in your eyes
It reminds me of home
Like I'm finally through wandering
(I'm) no longer alone

I can't picture the place
But I know it by heart
Not sure how to get there
But I'm ready to start

I think we get there together
I think we know the way
I think I was the gatesman
That turned me away

/ Chorus

I tried to get back there
To the place I had known
But the gates didn't open
When I was traveling alone

Yeah, I searched for the kingdom
But I just couldn't see
That we get there together
& you were holding the key
(Or - That the best part of heaven
Was down here with me) //End

Not sure where I've been
Or how I got lost
Why I fed the river
That you helped me cross

Yeah, there's mystery in one
But there's magic in two
Think I sent me away
So I 'd come back with you

Helpless

Girl, I built a fortune
Then I tore it down
Found something new
Before it hit the ground

When I lost at love
Might have cursed the stars
But I got back up
(I) Didn't hide the scars

Chorus /

When the troubles came
I (just) pushed right through

But girl I'm helpless (pause)
In love with you //

& I danced with sinners
Broke bread with saints
(Got) cast from Eden
& I didn't (never) complain

I've fought more wars
Than hell has sins
When my ghosts came calling
Let 'em' walk right in

Repeat Chorus

My Smiles Back Again

My smiles back again
Think you know where it's been
Why it had to leave town
before the tears brought it down

I'm sure you were just fine
The damage all mine
Bet you didn't miss a beat
With your scorecard complete

[Chorus]

I hear you're back in town
(&) I hear you're looking for me
Probably thought I'd wait around

How wrong could you be

Cause I've found my smile

Though you're too cold to tell

I guess ice is now a/in style

And girl you wear it well

[End Chorus]

I'm sure your smiled remained

Immune to the pain

Teeth bared with a grin

Your heart hungry again

Pick on someone your size

Who's immune to your eyes

Stone cold to your touch

Who won't love you that much

Cause my smile's returned

This bridge has been burned

The tears have all dried

And your ghost, well, you ghost finally died

{chorus}

Longshot

(slightly inappropriate content)

(3 pauses to end each sentence / maybe going down / put dashes in 1st two as example)

Can I buy you something smooth - to - drink

(it's) not the kind of line that you – might - think

It's just your eyes are like the deep – blue - sea

Thought I better sit before they cap-size - me

Is that the best you've got

That's the look I get

But I don't think it is

Chorus /

It's a longshot

She's so damn hot

But here goes nothing again

Guys I'm going (back) in //

I'm sure you're tired of all these come on lines

(But) how 'bout giving me just one more try

I won't claim to know your destiny

But I could see you coming home with me

Is that the best you've got

Still the look I get

So I guess it is

Chorus /

It's a longshot

She's so damn hot

But here goes nothing again //

I Know That You Love Me

(G) I could swim the length of the amazon

(C) Stare right into the midday sun

(D) Easy to do

(C) Now that i'm here with you

(G) And I know that you love me

I could climb to the moon, & paint it pink

Lead a horse to water & make him drink

Just doesn't seem

(all) that hard to me

Cause I know that you love me

(C)Well I (G)love you

(C)And now I know you love (G) me to

(C)Feels like there is (F) nothing

I (D) couldn't do

I could walk to hell, & come back again

Maybe stay for lunch, count all the sins

Wouldn't think twice

With you in my life

Cause I know that you love me

I could please all the people, all the time

Break the speed of light & not pay the fine

Doesn't sound hard

When your in my arms

And I know that you love me

[Chorus YTD will go here]

(Optional verse)

I feel like I really could win 'em all

Might even go down & fight city hall

I could please all the people all the time

Steal the stars from the jealous sky

Lopsided Love

Got a hundred pair of shoes

Says she's got nowhere to go

Has tattoos of the moon

On the bottoms of her toes

She's the only one who knows (use?)

Got a cotton candy mouth

And even when she lies

It makes the sweet sound

Like a devious lullaby

Leaves me guessing every time

Chorus/

Is there room for me
in that heart of yours
Thought I saw the signs
Now I'm just not sure

Am I more than (just) a friend to you
Is this a lopsided love
That I'm falling in to
End/

(She's) got a bunch of pretty friends
Trade rumors like they're stocks
Has a past that holds its tongue
But her dreams sure love to talk

There's a promise in her smile
And a question in her eyes
Like mystery's now in/a style
(&) she's trying it on for size

Leave's me guessing every time

Chorus Again

Coming Up Roses (dark humor)

My wife is gone & the dog is packed
Don't think either one is coming back

& the blinds have not been up in weeks
Got cobwebs here, so old they squeak

Trans/

I don't have 'a' shrink, I have a team
It doesn't do much for my self esteem
But hey, a guy can always dream

Chorus

Cause soon it will be
Coming up roses
Though nobody knows it
It's coming up roses

It looks dark I suppose
But soon it will be
Coming up roses
Though nobody know it
It's coming up roses
End//

My mom says I'm a hopeless case
But I tell her I've just found my pace

I got a halo of dust around my head
The pigeons now throw me the bread

Trans/

& my cat cashed in his other lives

But said he stay 'til mine arrives

But hey I'm still a lucky guy

[Chorus Again]

End/

The phone has been unplugged for days
but I know the message used to say

('beep')

I'm jaded and alone

So I can't make it to the phone

But you can leave a message here

Stop by if you got some beer

But let me make it clear

Soon it will be.....

End//

One Fire (Twin Flame Mythology)

The jury's still out

Behind the closed door

Even the judge has his doubts

As he paces the floor

But me, I have faith

Cause it's there in your eyes

The truth will win out

Over the stories and lies

Chorus/

You and I can't say goodbye

One fire feeds our flame

Two halves of a soul

Went out for a stroll

Got lost in cupid's game

End//

When running in fear

you can't go too far

when you know why we're here

(And) you know who we are

And so I will wait

Take shelter in trust

& When nothing adds up

I'll be counting on us

Chorus /

End//

Two souls join as one

I'm walking there now

I trust that you'll come

You'll find me somehow

Chorus Again //

Other chorus option/

You and I can't say goodbye

One fire feeds our flame

Two parts of a soul

That lost control

Got caught in cupid's game

Just To Be Near You

I tried giving more

And I tried giving in

I tried letting go

Hoped you'd come back again

I waited, I wondered

To make sense of it all

I damned you, I cursed you

Then I'd wait for your call

Chorus

Just to be near you

And my heart was at home

Like the paint on a canvass

Like the words in a poem

And once I was with you

I tried so hard to stay

(girl) I'll always be sorry
If that pushed you away
End//

I tried to surrender
And I fought for control
I built you an altar
And I brought you my soul

Wrote so many love songs
But the ink has run dry
All the prayers have been said
All the tears have been cried

But now it's too late
& it's time to move on
(I) don't have anything left
But I'll leave you this song

Chorus Again

Doing Just Fine

It's Saturday, 8'oclock, sitting in the restaurant
I got paid, I'm with my friends, what else could I want

& There you are, (a) new guy, (&) now I know how you've been
I just smile, and then I lie, it's good to see you again

[I'm not staying

I'm just saying/ Use?]

[Chorus]

My heart isn't breaking

These aren't tears that you see

Isn't love we're not making

At least not for me

I can tell you that I'm.....

....Doing just fine.....

Don't know how, I could've missed it, thought we had the future planned

I'm holding on, you're holding him, love is slipping through my hands

Guess things change, and now I know, exactly how you've been

I just smile and then I lie, it was good to see you again

Trans?

[Chorus]

My heart isn't breaking

These aren't tears that you see

Isn't love we're not making

Never meant much to me

I can tell you that I'm.....

Doing just fine.....

You always know when I'm lying

Christmas Time

It's Christmas time & I'm coming home

(the) Greatest peace I've ever known

Snow is falling and I'm on my way

(it's) Already feeling like Christmas day

[Add short line here with multiple voices, repeating a couple times as break?]

[Opt - Heading back from where we scattered to

& I can't wait to see all of you]

Turn the corner it's a blessed sight

Old neighborhood all dressed in lights

Chorus//

In my life, I've been truly blessed

Seen it all & I've had the best

But right now, I can truly say

There's nothing else like Christmas day

Coming home to you

All my roads lead though

XYZXYX (2 syllable word/phrase YTBD)

End //

Christmas morning, in my old bed

Can't get this dream out of my head

(I) was making angels out in the snow

I'm way to old for such things I know

[Break line again?]

But I can't help it & it wasn't planned
If you know Christmas then you'll understand

Doesn't matter how far I've been
At Christmas time I'm just a child again

/Chorus Again/

End/

[Opt -But Christmas come & Christmas goes
Fades away like December snow]

But I still hear my fathers words
(the) Wisest thing I've ever heard

[Break line?]

Said the greatest gifts aren't by the tree
That there all right here inside of me

Said I'd never lose the Christmas cheer
If I gave like this throughout the year

[Chorus Again]

'White and Turbid Wake'

(Line form Moby Dick / @ Archetypal Journey of Soul)

[A-D-A-E Chord Progression]

[A] "I leave a white and turbid wake"

[D] Cast my fate upon the stars

[A] Not sure why I've given chase

[E] Or just what the dangers are

Might be a white whale or a ghost

Might roam the forest or the sea

Might raise a dagger or a toast

To the deepest parts of me

It's the night that leads me on

As it cloaks the mystery

Is it the moon now or the dawn

That's the greater friend to me

[Chorus Goes Here or after 2nd set of vs.]

It's been months now since I sailed

But it feels like years to me

Guess time crawls when you're jailed

(Or) when you're not who you want to be

Is that a shadow in the night

Yeah, perhaps the time is here

I could tell if I had more light

I could see without the tears

I leave a white and turbid wake

Heading for a vast unknown

It's a call I can't forsake

I can feel it in my bones

Chorus Options/

The soul, knows, just where where to go

(or slower - The soul, it knows,,,,,, how to find it's way back home)

(to) Find its way back home

Sailing 'cross the sea

Into the mystery

or

The sea is rough, its rising up

Might just swallow me whole

But still I have to go

(1 more line? The journey of the soul, The call within my soul, heading towards my home etc or repeat "Still i have to go")

Wishing Well

Tonight I need to drift away

Come back around another day

Another day (trailing off...)

I trust my secret to the moon

It knows the pain of distance too

Far from you

(So) far from you

[Chorus]

It might just be a shot in the dark

But if my words could reach your heart

You'd know

I just can't

let go //

Sometimes the pain's too much to bare

I'd turn it away, (but) I don't dare

You're already there

(You're) already there

& Don't point me to the wishing well

For tired dreams, that's worse than hell

(It's) Worse than hell

[Chorus Again]

So, just cut the ropes & let me fall

I need to rise (up) above it all

Above it all

I think the moon might share my pain

'Cause every night it's back again

To hear your name

To hear your name

Red, White & Blue

Red, white, and blue
Is that really you
So clearly defined
By (the) edges and lines

& the cash and the cars
Do they take you that far
The things that you own
And all that you know
Is that who you are

[Chorus Will Go Here]

& the world that we see
Through the mental debris
The battles and scars
Is that all we are

(&) The flesh and the skin
That are holding us in
Can I ask you, my friend
If that's where we end
Where do we begin

[Chorus Again]

The prize that we chase
While running in place
(What's) this hunger we feed
This insatiable need
Is it a memory we taste?

Bridge/Chorus ??

Angels Aren't Stopping By

My thoughts are wandering
But my minds in jail
(&) I got darkness
Make the nights look pale

Guess I got jaded
when she didn't come back
(all) My hopes were fading
Now they're dressed in black

Chorus//

My angels aren't stopping by
Probably too drunk to fly
And I'd never get to the door

My demons are here instead
They're gathering inside my head
Sometimes they just offer me more

//

& yeah I faced my shadow
But it didn't say much
Heard its been to places
Make the devil wanna blush

It's all a bunch of bullsh*%&
Just follow your dreams
I got charged with stalking
Still can hear them scream

/Chorus Again/

Drowning in Grey

It's been twenty days
You've had nothing to say
(musical break / repeating vocals – chant of 1-2 words)
Your fading away
& I'm drowning in grey
Wondering what I'm supposed to do

The line has gone dead
Was it something I said
(Musical break)
I should leave but instead
I just hang by a thread
And I already fell once for you

Chorus /

Is it wrong, is its right

Girl, I need black or white
Cause grey is my curse
(And) (there's) nothing that's worse
Than a heart that's caught in between

[Opt?]Will you be coming back
Or just fading to black (fade into black)
Cause my heart just can't stand
The/that cold empty land
(In) between //End

Am I wasting my time
Are we words that don't rhyme
(Musical break)
Cause it feels like a crime
That your hearts done to mine

Girl I never sold you
Those dreams that I told you
(Musical break)
(And) though they consoled you
They just couldn't hold you

Is it more that goodbye
That's been catching your eye
(Musical break)
Have you found bluer skies
(or just) Is there some other guy

Is the love lost between us
Cause you're distant like Venus
(music break)
Can the stars still redeem us
Or has the end seen us

Chorus /

Is it wrong, is its right
Girl, I need black or white
Cause grey is my curse
(And) (there's) nothing that's worse
Than a heart that's (get) caught in between

Will you be coming back
Or just fading to black (fade into black)
Cause my heart just can't stand
The that cold empty land
(In) between //End

Dream House (Work in progress)

Dream catcher, I'll betcha, never quite liked what you got
White rabbit, old hat, lets give this trick one last shot

(Where did we think this would lead
Grabbing for more than we need) - optional

Chorus //

It didn't turn out like we planned
Now the walls are growing thin
Better find somewhere else to stand
Cause the roof is caving in
[use? Dream home
Should have known
It would all come crashing down
The news was all over town] //

Fast talking, faith auction, had other hungers to feed
Messiah, nice try (but), this time we've all gotta bleed

Didn't know what else to do
Guess we never thought it through

Chorus //

It didn't turn out like we planned
Now the walls are growing thin
Better find somewhere else to stand
Cause the whole things crashing in
(or - cause the roof is caving in)
[Opt - Dream home
Should have known
It would all come crashing down
The news was all over town] //

Soothsayers, truth slayers, just not sure who to trust
High/top/old leaders, bottom feeders, I think its all up to us

Water into Wine

Thought I'd try & part the sea
A nice little test of faith
But when I got up past my knees
Guess I saw it a different way

So I figured I'd start smaller
Maybe turn water into wine
Brought a glass into the shower
Get my money's worth this time
Three tries & I quit trying

(spoken word chorus //)

Seems like I'm always confusing God's role & mine
Biting off too much, chewing too little
Feeling low, trying to get high
But there's just no edge
when you're living in the middle
//

So I had to try again
This time the fishes & the loaves
Turned a fat guy into twins
(That's) Not really how it goes

Still I gave it one last try
Raise some fella from the dead

At the funeral they did have wine
So I raised a glass instead

(Spoken word chorus)

But I finally learned my lesson
Just play my part & keep it small
A leap of faith, but no more ledges
Just don't have as far to fall

Looks a lot like You

(it's) 2am, let the moonlight in
(I've) Got some thinking to do
Damn woman just crashed my dreams again
Looked an awful lot like you

Came storming in
From where we've been
Her smile left me confused
Bittersweet, but then again
Tastes an awful lot like you

(Chorus YTBD but theme & possible rhymes are)

Does it mean you still want me
Are you (just) hear just to haunt me
Wish you'd make up your mind
So I could leave this all behind

Half past 3, (&) I'm counting sheep
(But) the last one hangs his head

(cause) After him, I'm off to sleep
And he knows what happens then

A promising start, a broken heart
& I'm left feeling like a fool
The gal that comes to play the other part
Looks an awful lot like you

Castle Walls

Castle walls, I stumble & fall
When I come up on my dreams
Forty feet high, shiny and bright
They don't look much like me

Spoken word chorus/

Sometimes dreams are friendlier when they're farther away
When I get up close, I realize why I made them so big to begin with //

So I back away, find somewhere to stay
Make a house in the fallen trees
And most nights
That's where you'll find me

[Break]

Wounded dove, collided with love
Fell right from the sky
Now it wanders around, makes friends on the ground
(&) forgets that it can fly

(spoken word chorus)/

There's a fine line between not being able to do something

And being afraid to try.

And the lines gets even more blurry at night

Cause that's the same color as my worst bruises //

So it looks away, finds somewhere to stay

Makes a nest in the fallen trees

And most nights

That's where you'll find me

Running in Circles

I've been screaming at shadows

Throwing punches at ghosts

But they're always behind me

So I never get close

I went chasing a rainbow

Found a big pot of gold

But it's sure hard to carry

When you're out there alone

Didn't bring that much home

[Chorus will go here]

I sought the ocean of love

Found my other half first

But there's never enough

When you're dying of thirst

So I looked to the preachers

Had such fine things to say

Thought words were like windows

To some brighter place

But they just got in the way

Crumbs

All the things I want

Seems they don't want me

So the cage is open

But I'm still not free

Yeah, yeah, just how it goes

I'm too weak to fly

I'm too tired to sing

(I'm) Just getting by

On the crumbs they bring

Yeah, Yeah, thought you should know

[Chorus will go here]

Someone stole the sky

But they forgot to run

Now they spend their time

(Just) blocking out the sun

Yeah, yeah, what can I say

So the night grows heavy
On these dusty wings
I forgot my song
I can't hear a thing
... Just getting by
On the crumbs they bring
Yeah, yeah, That's my life today

Have a Little Faith in Me

Had a little visit with my Father today
A bit one-sided, he had nothing to say

Got so many questions running round in my head
I try praying louder but the line has gone dead

(Trans)

Been awhile since we talked
I forget what he said
Something about...

Chorus//

Have a little faith in me
Can't you just wait and see
Things are gonna turn around
Never gonna let you down
End//

The world is getting louder & the devil chimes in
He's so damn clever, I don't know that its him

I get lost in my darkness, can't find my way out
Playing blind man's bluff with the shadows & doubt

(trans)

It's a still, small voice
But I wish it would shout
Instead of,

Chorus//

How 'bout Having a little faith in me
Can't you maybe, just wait and see
Things are gonna be turning around
You know I'll never let you down

.....

I'm never gonna let you down

A Different Drummer

I never fell in love
But I slipped on lust
As far as I can tell
It just don't hurt as much

And I never really cared
To have the world on a string
Not like some friends of mine

What would I do
With such sad little thing
Maybe twirl it around just to kill some time

Chorus//

I march to the beat of a different drummer
& I dance to the music of the spheres
See a shooting star, stick out my thumb (for it)
Can I get a lift, I never liked - it - here
(last 3 words stretched out)
End//

& (just) who are the jones'
why should I keep up
Bet they're going pretty slow
Carrying all that stuff

And I've never felt
I had to keep the faith
Where would I put it
My pockets are full
Get some later, saw it on Ebay
Get it just in time to save my soul
(or – have it delivered when I'm getting old)

Already Gone

You're letting go
I'm holding on

But deep down I know
That you're already gone

It's there in your eyes
Whenever we kiss
The 'no vacancy' sign
Is sure hard to miss

Chorus (Theme)

I think the love is gone
I think you're moving on
I'm just the last to know
That you're letting us go

I just wish I knew
What happened to you
End//

The writing's on the wall
& the message is clear
Your heart's gone away
Left the rest of you here

Is there some other guy
Did the flame just burn out
Cause something had died
(here) In our little house

Tried to Tell You (W.I.P - lots of alternates throughout here, chorus etc. May skip 2nd section & just use 3rd instead)

I tried to tell you, but

You know me well

I'm too careful with my words

Tried to show you, but

When I'd hold you, I

I remembered (just) where it hurt

Wasn't what you deserved

Chorus - slow spaced out/

Fallen leaves

Faded memories

(but) This one's all on me

End//

So, I backed away, I

Played it safe

Guess I listened to the scars

But, it wasn't you, it's

(just) what I've been through

You were always in my heart

You're beautiful as you are

Chorus//

Fallen leave, & memories
The chill of the winter air
Probably thought I never cared
End//

Yeah, I backed away, I
Played it safe
Tried to love you from afar

But, the night is cold, I
Should've known
There's no warmth from a distant star

But you're always in my heart

alt chorus- fallen leaves, & memories - a love that didn't bloom
But I'll always remember you
(I hope you know it wasn't you)

alt chorus

Chorus

Fallen leaves & memories are swirling in my heart
the blank of a blank-blank heart
Left wondering where you are

Don't Have to Run Away

The past, I just let it be

One way track, only goes back
& there aint nothing there for me

& Dreams, yeah, I've got some dreams
But I don't spend (my) time, wishing I could fly
If it aint in the cards/clouds for me

Chorus/

Run Johnny, run Johnny, run Johnny, run
But you don't have to run away
Run Johnny, run Johnny, run Johnny run
Cause they aint after you today
End//

Love, left me an empty cup,
(It'd) Just make it worse, thinking 'bout her
It aint gonna fill it up

Hope, is (just) a tired old hat
Might fit on you, for getting you through
But I'm fine being where I'm at

Chorus/

Run Johnny, run Johnny, run Johnny, run
But you don't have to run away
Run Johnny, run Johnny, run Johnny run
Cause they aint after you today
End//

(optional)

Life, its just one big mirror

What I see, looks a lot like me

Aren't too many strangers here

Lady Blue

[Em] I don't blame you for your doom & gloom

Cause I [Am] know where your heart has been

[Em] But how about leaving just a little room

For [Am] something else to sneak in

& I won't deprive you of your righteousness

You know, I'll let you keep that too

But you wear it like it's your favorite dress

& it don't look good on you

[Chorus Em-Am-Em-Am-D-Em]

Blue, blue

My little lady blue

Blue, Blue

Ya know I worry 'bout you

[End]

We all have to deal with our ghosts sometimes

They're gonna stop by now and then

But you treat 'em like they're family

& you let 'em walk right in

& You suffer for your own little cause

Have a cross you got on sale
But you're really not a martyr, girl
If it's you that pounds the nails

Chorus Again/ End/]

You're so deep into your troubled soul
Are you finding much down there
You just might see, you're not that unique
If you'd ever come up for air

So how about going out with us
Maybe have a drink or two
See some friends, & reminisce
You can wear anything but blue

[Chorus]

Long Gone

He laid down his laws
In matter & physics
He couldn't stay long
but I
Hear he still visits...
(that's how it went down)

I bet he stops by

On Christmas and Easter

Maybe one other time

If we're

Having a leap year

(that's the word around town)

(alt - but I don't think he sleeps here

Doubt he likes what he sees here)

Chorus//

Long gone, I guess he's long gone

(I) Heard he rarely comes back

Long gone, I bet he's long gone

Really don't blame him for that

End//

He lit a bush for old Moses

& left the plans for the ark

Said hey. what do you know

I should be

Home before dark

(that's the word around town)

But I bet he's looking down

& thinking what have I done

Looks like a circus and clowns

But they're not

Having much fun
(that's how it went down)

/Chorus Again/

The Time Has Come

Time... I think the time has come
The past.... I think its just begun
This winding road, it doesn't take us far
It just leads back to wherever we are
Time..... I think the time has come

Our way.... I think we lost our way
The path..... You know, in time it fades
Got turned around, & upside down
Got the outside in, and the inside out
Our way... I think we lost our way

/Chorus/

The night sets in
Though its dark again
Still a candle burns
There's a fire within
End//

Pain..... I'm seeing so much pain
It goes.... but the it's back again

The medicine seemed to work so well
But in the end, (it) makes us sick as hell
Pain.... I'm seeing so much pain

Home..... I think its calling us home
Deep down..... I think we've always known
Turned our back went we walked away
(But) I get the feeling that a part of us stayed
Home, I think its calling us home

/Chorus - 1 option/

The night sets in
Though its dark again
Still a candle burns
There's a fire within

Half asleep
That's how we used to be
But now we're waking up
To the mystery

Such a sight to see

End//

Dragons Den - Shout out to Dylan.. [last line (5th) is slow spoken word summation of the stanza. - more like conversation]

[First lines are fast and a bit frenzied so 5th is like pause & regroup)

Friday night about half past ten
Walked into the Dragons Den
Just a little place, but friendly folks
Light on dragons, heavy on smoke
[Figured I'd stick around, I'd heard good things]

Guy in the corner with a snakeskin pipe
Waved me over, he needed a light
Said hey there friend, (have) you tried this stuff
Said, once or twice, But it didn't do much
[He said you haven't had this particular brand, & offered me some]

So I grabbed the pipe & I thanked the guy
Took a hit and then I closed my eyes
Heard a sound like an avalanche
& reality didn't stand a chance
[You know, the guy wasn't kidding about this stuff]

Cause the roof & the walls just disappeared
Found myself in a house of mirrors
All alone, but there were 20 of me
Got to pick who I wanted to be
[Third guy from the left & I went walking]

There was a wooden arch by a magic shop
'For madmen only' written across the top
I'd been called alot worse before
So I went right in where there wasn't a door
[And they were waiting for me]

There was a slightly manic coat check girl
By the 7 wonders of the underworld
Pointed at the map, while holding a beer
This dot on top, well 'you are here'
[& it's all downhill after this, I'll show you around, so we walked]

Saw a purple pigeon in a pickup truck
(He) pulled on over to pick us up
Said howdy folks, where you headed
I'll get you there, for a loaf of bread
[You know the pigeons do like their bakery products, even down here]

(She) said we're going to Poseidon's place
Got a little trailer with a private lake
Guess all the gods downsized a bit
You know, the market crashed, they took a hit
[But, when we got there, turned out he wasn't home, so we just kept going]

Saw a hideous creature with a dozen mouths
Had been the meanest monster in town
But now he's working at the lumber mill
Trying to make a dent in his dental bills
[That's the side of monster-hood you don't hear about - maintenance costs]

So she took me to a museum of sorts
See a bunch of stuff that happened before
Main exhibit was the Holy Land
Not a whole lot of peace, (just) a whole lot of sand

[... saw a little scene happening with Moses]

He was arm wrestling an octopus

Didn't turn out like I thought it would

Moses was tough, but he was just a man

& The other dude kept changing hands

[If your gonna part this sea, you have to go through me]

& the Jews & the Christians were at it again

About the empty tomb, & the guy that went in

The Jews said it was all just a magic act

Like pulling a Rabbi from a hat

[Said, that's a bit much, so we were heading out, but we saw a little skirmish off to the west.]

It was God & the devil playing basketball

Devil had a shot to win it all

Would have made it, I have no doubt

But he tripped on his tail & time ran out

[Never read about that in the bible.. Then I said how about somewhere less biblical...]

So, she took me to a tiny little town

Hookah pipes being passed around

The dormouse looked at me and smiled

Said reality's just a stubborn child

[Deep little dormouse or) or (Certainly food for thought). Filed that away & we cut down a side road.]

Saw Buddha sitting by a burned out tree

Said the best things in life really are free

But hey, can you spare a buck or two

Got child support & the rent is due

[Guess he didn't think that one all the way through... but we were flat broke so we moved on]

Saw a kangaroo riding an elephant

Swerving all over, think they both were drunk

Went in the ditch after hitting a deer

Trunk flew open.....peanuts & beer

[Didn't see that coming.. That was fun but I figured we should be getting back.....

.....It was getting late & the stuff it was starting to wear off,

but I'm glad I tried it

& I sure am glad that I went in

To a little place called the Dragon's Den

END

USA - USA

[V = G-C-Em-Am / Chrs= C-G-Dm-Am]

So much pain in the world today

I hope we can find us another way

(But) the darkness tells me it's getting late

USA – USA

Battle lines on a lonely street

The angry mob needs an enemy

I pray to god that it isn't me

USA – USA

Broken windows and a shopping cart

A blue light special by a police car
Can someone tell me who the bad guys are
USA – USA

Chorus/
& I (just) don't know how we ended up here
The un-united states
Started out with good intentions
(or - ...towards the promised land)
Got lost along the way
(&) Sure is getting late //

We make an altar out of dollar bills
Sacrifice truth to relieve our guilt
Pray that it works but I doubt it will
USA – USA

(hey) Come on over and join our side
You know, truth alone can still survive
But it takes a village to raise a lie
USA – USA

Chorus Again //

Who needs god when you've got scientists
Feeling down, how about trying this
We treat our souls like our appliances
USA – USA

We raped the land but we left our prints
& now the law is finally closing in
Guess who's back on the run again
USA - USA

(poss Bridge)

And you say that, - you have, - someone to save us
Right along party lines
But I aint, gonna wait, for some (new) messiah
Cause I don't think we have time
Think the job is yours & mine

Chorus Again //

Almost Out The Door

I'm almost out the door
Locked up and left the key
I know it's time to go
But man it's hard to leave

The neighbors smile and wave
But my hands are filled
Seems I'm always packing up
All the dreams that we've killed

(Transition)

Outside the traffic flows
And the crowds are moving too
But they have never known

The part of me, that's you

Chorus

There's nothing worse than moving on

Even if the love is gone

Now what's my heart supposed to do

And who am I, girl, without you

Alternate – Our paths crossed & turned to one

Just like the morning knows the sun

Now what am I supposed to do

And who am I, girl, without you

{End Chorus}

Yeah, the heart tries to steer

But the pain still calls the shots

And it's easy to hear

When it's all that you've got

So I know it's time to leave

What else could we do

At times I still believe

(but) My tears say we're through

[Chorus Again here]

You said I was the one

It just never worked as two

I guess loves (just) a setting sun

And now our day is through

(trans)

Outside the traffic flows

And the crowds are moving too

But they have never known

The part of me that's you

[Chorus Again]

There's nothing worse than moving on - even if the love is gone

Now what's my heart supposed to do

And who am I, girl, without you

Passing Sails

(Chorus after 2 or 3 sets of verse?)

I stood beside the lonely sea

Saw (the) passing sails of destiny

Your not here with me

(thought I) found a place where I belonged

Seemed so right, (but) it went so wrong

All that's left is a song

Looked across at the distant shore

(of) all that we had known before

And my heart went to war

Chorus

Girl, I never told you - my dreams

I held 'em inside - like screams
I couldn't open my heart
But I think I'm ready to start
If I could hold you I'd say
I should've told you that day
It was you all along
Guess it just starts with a song
[End]

The stars now join the pale moonlight
To lead me back to you tonight
But there are storms to fight

The winds are strong, can't believe the force
I question them and find the source
It's my pride of course

It feels like years since I've been gone
It's your memory now that leads me on
I'll be home by dawn

[Chorus Again]

Lonely Heart

(C-Em-Am chord progression verse G-C-Em-Am Chorus - first part of line is drawn out.. Could just do one line instead of 2 & then chorus?)

[C] Late-[E]ly, [Am]feels like we're losing our minds
(But) maybe, there's something else we will find
(?3rd line – Something that got left behind)

We focus, on all our fears and our dreams
Have you noticed, that we're living our life in between
(never quite as it seems)

[Chorus]

& my lonely heart, it keeps saying to me
You're so busy running around
Is it turning out like you thought it would
And over you ever coming down
Are you ever coming down

//

We turn from, The voice that we fear the most
Haven't learned yet, its just god disguised as a ghost
(dressed in an old tattered robe/clothes)

Whispers, from an ocean that lies beyond words
To get there, forget everything that you've heard
So much we have to unlearn)

[Chorus again]

Reckoning Day

A battle was raging
& My soul was unwell
It was reckoning day
Between heaven & hell

So, I called up my demons
And I summoned the gods
But I just couldn't see that
They weren't really at odds

They came to my temple
To be formally wed
But I preached about purity
And divorced them instead

Chorus//

In the shadows, the shadows
Found myself
In the shadows

End//

They went off in silence
Estranged from each other
& with night setting in
They had to take cover

They wait in the shadows
Until I come to see
That my demons & gods
Are just fragments of me

When I'm done casting stones
They'll come out of hiding
They'll join hands together

& become one inside me

[Chorus again]

Take It Slow

You know I'm such a lucky guy
I cast my prayers up to the sky
Rarely have to ask him twice
I'm truly blessed, just me I guess

I gave my cares up to the wind
You know I haven't seen 'em since
I doubt they're coming back again
Such a lucky guy, hardly have to try

Think I'll climb a mountain top
Come so far, why should I stop
You say that's brave (well) thanks alot

That's just me, got more to see

[Chorus]

(You know)

If you didn't fly so high,
(Well) you wouldn't sink so low
Learn to take your time
Enjoy the winding road
(Take it slow)

See where it goes

End//

I guess I thought I had it made
I thought that peace was here to stay
You know I didn't see it wave
But I know it left, probably while I slept

Cause now the storms are rolling in
The rain is falling once again
Guess I should probably start to swim
Cause its getting deep, & it's coming for me

[Alt stanza]

Seems like I'm always tossed around
I'm either up or else I'm down
Need to find some stable ground
But not today, not with these waves

[End//]

[Chorus]

If you didn't fly so high,
(Well) you wouldn't sink so low
Learn to take your time
Enjoy the winding road
(Take it slow)
See where it goes
End//

You know it feels like judgment day

Can't keep my head above the waves
(My) hands are too damn busy/tired to pray
& I'm going down, without a sound

Next thing you know I feel some sand
Washed up on some foreign land
Then somebody takes my hand
Then I know, & then I know

[Chorus]

He says,
If you didn't fly so high,
(Well) you wouldn't sink so low
Learn to take your time
Enjoy the winding road
(Take it slow)
See where it goes
End//

Painting the Town (A&D progression)

Said she'd call me by nine tonight
It's about quarter to eleven right now
But she doesn't worry 'bout time,
Says, the hands always come back around

She's the kind of girl, who walks on a wire
tell you there ain't nothing to it
Wild & free, light as a bird
And she's got the scars to prove it

Chorus/

Said she'd love me forever

Her forever just isn't that long

More like June to December

& I'm just trying to hold on

November is already/almost gone

End//

Was a starry night, when she caught my eye

(She) was there by the carnival booth

Said you gotta be this tall to go on this ride

But the rest is all up to you

Didn't take long & I fell for the girl

Spent our nights out painting the town'

But it ain't no paint by numbers with her

(it's) Like Van Gogh ran into a clown

Colors flying all around

Chorus/

Said she'd love me forever

Her forever just isn't that long

(it's) More like June to December

& I'm just trying to hold on

November is already/almost gone

End/

Like fireworks in the summer sky

Some things just don't last that long
That's how it feels when she lights up my night
But I'm just trying to hang on

Simple As Can Be

(G-C-A-D)

[Start with one of the choruses]

I went searching for God
Thought I'd find where he hides
(But) when I finally slowed down
He snuck up from behind

Now I'm learning some things
They didn't teach me in school
(like) The mind's a great servant
It's just not fit to rule

It's a beautiful ride
If you don't hold on too tight
& possessions are prisons
If you pile them too high

Chorus//

Hey, Hey look at me
I'm hanging out like a leaf on a tree

Hey, Hey,

Simple as can be

I always wondered what it was like to be free

End//

& Desire is a bandit

And thoughts can be thieves

Will they leave empty handed

That's all up to me

& I saw how the vine

Both gives and receives

(ou know) from water to wine

There's a lesson for me

& Time's just a thread

But it's tight as a noose

'Til the moment arrives

Ends up cutting me loose

Chorus//

Hey, Hey, look at me

I'm hanging out like a wave on the sea

Hey, Hey,

Simple as can be

I always wondered what it was like to be free

End//

(repeat chorus w/ different nature analogies)

In The Middle

Turned on the evening news
Whole world is black & blue
What the hell's happening here

Drawing our battle lines
Jails of our own design
& light aint making it in
..... Where do we even begin

/Chorus/

I'll come over your way a little
If you move my way too
Maybe we'll find some peace in the middle
God knows there's plenty of room
.... Gotta do something soon /End

Blocking the sunlight out
Scared of our shadows now
Screaming at everyone else

& Nobody hears a thing
If no one is listening
End up repeating ourselves
I know that story too well

Chorus Again / End

Certain where truth resides?
There's a little in every lie
Careful 'bout holding too tight
Chorus Again / End

& Their views are heresy
Just fueling polarity
Maybe try looking again
..... Just what am i pushing against

Chorus Again / End

(Optional verses)

Loving your enemies
That's really not meant for me
Just isn't practical now

Really don't need a mirror
The problem is very clear
At least I have someone to blame
..... (but) reflections are sure hard to change

Lonely Road

Dm-Am (Am alt with A-sus) / for 1st 3 lines of each section

Then Dm-Am-Em-Am for last line of each

[Dm] I'm just a stranger [Am/sus]in the strangest land
[Dm] They say it just depends on [Am] where you stand
[Dm] But I've seen everything there [Am] is to see
[Dm] & it still [Am] looks [Em] strange [Am] to me

I've met some people (who) feel the way I do
Usually turns out there just passing through
Kindred souls are few and far between
(It's) hard to see them leave

Chorus/ (Chords YTD, Am base though)

But, I'll just keep on hop-ing
Walking with my heart wide op-en
(If) (I'm) on my own, (that's) how it goes.... (hold 4 bars then land on last line)
It's a lonely road / End

I've wandered so far off the beaten path
I wondered if I'd ever make it back
Still it seems, no matter where I go
It just don't feel much like home

Can't shake this feeling that there's something more
Some other place that we have known
I have a longing for it deep inside
It's just so damn hard to find

Chorus/

Still, I'll just keep on hop-ing

Walking with my heart wide op-en

(If) (I'm) on my own, (that's) how it goes.... (hold 4 bars)

It's a lonely road /end

Weight of the World

Neighbor of mine died the other day

Was all alone when he passed away

I heard

Saw him last week, told me he was fine

Whiskey on his breath said he might be lying

About that

Got our picket fences & well kept lawns

But don't always tell you what's going on

Inside

Chorus/

(Seems) we all got something we're carrying around

Not time yet for laying it down

(so) We just smile

& try to carry on

End//

(the) Prayers that went out, never came home
Promises (that) left us waiting..... by the phone

Faded love & unmarked tombs
Of the hopes & dreams that died too soon
I got,
Some of those myself

Chorus/
(seems) We all got something we're carrying around
Not time yet for laying it down
So we just smile,
& try to carry on
End//

Another hand is dealt, & our bets are in
Still not sure who really wins
In the end

Wear poker face, & hope it hides
What's really going on deep down inside
but I think
We're all the same

Chorus/
(seems) We all got something we're carrying around
Not time yet for laying/putting it down
We just smile,

& try to carry on

(optional)

The tears have dried but the pain's still there

A heavy heart is the cross we bear

In this world

Chorus again

If You're Selling Your Soul [W.I.P - C-F-C-G ?]

(whimsical i.e. John Prine)

Sold my soul to the devil last Saturday night

For eternal youth & a case of Bud Light

Woke up on Sunday, I was still old & gray

What the hell happened, not the deal that we made

As I looked in the mirror, I was kicking myself

Think I mighta sold my soul to somebody else

I Don't think that fella was the devil at all

Just some guy with a pitchfork, wearing overalls

Chorus/

You can't trust the devil, guess it's true what they say

And there are so many devils out in the world today

So, you gotta be careful about the company you keep

And if you're selling your soul make sure you get a receipt

Maybe ask for ID

End//

What can you do, I guess you live and you learn Some dude got my soul, I didn't get much in return

I bet he hangs out down on Broadway at night

Selling second-hand souls by a neon light

Think I'll go down there & see about getting mine back

It's probably in a pile out on the discount rack

Chorus/

You can't trust the devil, guess it's true what they say

And there are so many devils out in the world today

So, You gotta be careful about the company you keep

And if you're selling your soul make sure you get a receipt

Maybe ask for ID

End//

Afraid To Go In

Gonna climb up the mountain

And find Noah's ark

With no one around

He picked a strange place to park

Got a new submarine

It'll seat 20 of us

Has a sign on the back

Says 'Atlantis or Bust'

At a pawnshop in Cleveland

Someone spotted the grail

There was a unicorn too

But it was missing its tail

We dredged up the Nile

Looking for Moses' raft

Got a hundred foot pile

Full of crocodile crap

Chorus//

We're searching for God

All over the place

Now I even hear

That we're digging in space

I think he's hiding out,

Where he's always been

We've had him surrounded,

We're just afraid to go in ///

We camp out at Cavalry

With our shovels and pails
Quick, stop the presses
Found a rusty old nail

We've cleared out the temples
Deciphered the old texts
Got our television shows
About where to dig next

Lets go back to Peru
Or maybe even Tibet
Think we just haven't looked
High enough yet

Chorus //

We're searching for God
All over the place
Now I even hear
That we're digging in space

I think he's hiding out,
where he's always been
We've had him surrounded,
We're just afraid to go in. ///

Emily

Because I could not stop for death
He,
Had/kindly to stop for me

It wasn't quite my time just yet

But he

Left with Emily

I still feel his hands, & know his plans

Haven't

Changed much to this day

And I'm pretty sure, there is no cure

For the

ones that get away

CHorus/ (parts stretched out)

Ohhhhhhh, sweetttt, soul

I'm glad you're finally free

Hooooope, that you know

That you're always here with me

(How much you've meant to me)

On the carriage ride, once you're inside

The journey

Isn't all that long

Where you're going to, depends on you

(you) won't

Hear that in a song

But I think you'll find, the night is kind

And much

Lighter than the day

As the carriage fades, they pull the shades

I bet they're
Laughing to this day
That you
Haven't lived in vain

Here Comes The Rain

(W.I.P.)

Found the letter that you wrote to me
When we were first going out
All the love that you were feeling
That you're not feeling now

It was hidden in the corner
Of our old, oak dresser drawer
And now all the feelings that I hid/tucked away
Aren't hiding any more

So much promise in the words you wrote
It was just such a happy time
I guess something has to give way
When the present and past collide

(pre)

I didn't realize my world had turned,
So dark and grey
It's been cold & cloudy for months (now, but)

Here comes the rain

(Chorus continuing w/)

Here comes the rain, a falling

Here comes the rain

Lightning from the past & now

Here comes the rain

Here comes the rain

Thought this one was gonna last, but now

Here comes the rain //

You said that we meant for each other

That you, found your other half

Time has a way of changing things

I don't - have to tell you that

I've been going through the motions

Saying that I've been doing OK (just fine)

But the feelings that I'm fighting back

Have something else to say Tell me I mighta been lyin) see it another way

I didn't realize my world/sky was

So (damn) dark and gray

It's been cold & cloudy for months now

But here comes the rain

[Chorus continuing]

Here comes the rain a falling

Here comes the rain

Lightning from the past & now

Here comes the rain

Thought it was gonna last & now

or

Tonight your ghost came calling, now

Here comes the rain

(repeating)

Note: stanza in [] is W.I.P in place of 'promise' stanza that i moved up above to make 3 stanzas at start of song. Could do either way

1000 Little Deaths

I was leaving my home back in '94

Strangest thing, I couldn't find the door

Something gave & I fell through the floor

..... Just like a dream

Found myself out on a wooded path

My demons were there, about to attack

Turned around but I couldn't go back

..... Only one way

Been awhile since these guys were fed

If I stayed around I was gonna end up dead
Stood my ground, & they became my friends
..... Its not as it seems

Chorus/

Through the darkest nights
Kinda.... had to lose my mind
All I could do was feel my way through &
Look to the sky //

Found myself out on an endless sea
Loneliest time, no one around but me
Can't believe its so hard to get free
Guess everything goes

Tried hanging on to who I'd been
Like a snake afraid of shedding its skin
But the one I had was wearing thin
.... Time to let go

Had to die a thousand of those little deaths
Float between on a sea of breath
Find myself in the life that's left
..... Finally come home

Chorus/

Through the darkest nights
Kinda.... had to lose my mind
All I could do was feel my way through &

Look to the sky //

Time For Sleep (work in progress)

It's time for sleep, she said
Come & rest your weary head
The hour is late
& They've closed the gates
The kingdom's gone to bed

I pretend I'm falling asleep
Then she softly kisses me
You curious child
Just rest for awhile
She Leaves and takes the key

But something just isn't right
I look out and it's still light
But there's a growing haze
The world's in a daze
In a night that isn't night

[Chorus YTD]

I know what must be done
Break the door down & I run
Find a hidden hall
Rarely used at all
And I don't see anyone

Make it onto the lawn
The shades have all been drawn
The people that are there
Have an empty stare
& they're mumbling about the dawn

Now it's sleep that rules the day
In a frenzied, wandering way
People moving around
Eyelids half(way) down
& they can't hear what I say

/Chorus //

Their hearts have grown so hard
As they push their shopping carts
Like they're under a spell
They don't look well
And they're tearing up the yard

It's the loneliest time I've known
Lights are on but no one's home
If I disturb their sleep
They start cursing me
I've learned to leave them alone

Instead, I just sing my song
It's a different path they're on
I hope someday

They'll all awake

Maybe come and sing along

Into The Mystery (W.I.P - & C/D right now)

(G) I was walking by myself one day

Thinking, (C) life had let me down

(G) When I came up to the forest edge

& I, (C) heard the sweetest sound

It was like the angels were singing to me

& Music filled the air

& I swore I heard the song before

But I, can't remember where

Then I saw a vision wave to me, up

Where the trees begin

When I got up close, she raised her hand &

Wouldn't let me in

(pre-chorus)

Said you're carrying too much

What'll you give up

I said, how about half

& She just laughed, ...said

(chorus)

If you wanna be my partner, if you're gonna

Come and drink my wine

To walk with me in the mystery

You gotta leave it all behind

... but the things that you will find... /End//

So I emptied out me pockets and I

Gave her every cent

I appreciate the gesture, she said

But that wasn't what I meant

If you're gonna come into my world

There can't be any doubt

If i'm gonna fill you with music. first

You must be emptied out

Gotta, offer up your hopes and dreams,

All the, precious things you've learned

Build a sacrificial fire &

Prepare to watch them burn

(pre)

Do I have to do that

I (just) gave you my cash

(She just laughed, & said) ?

(chorus)

If you wanna be my partner, if you're gonna

Come and drink my wine

To walk with me in the mystery

You gotta leave it all behind

... but the things that you will find... /End//

I tried to find my place in this world, & I'd
Knocked on every/all the doors
Was tired of wandering the lonely streets
My hands were getting sore

I'd always felt like a stranger here
Traveling all alone
But when I heard that voice of hers
It finally felt like home

(it felt like i'd come home)

She had me convinced
So, I said i'm all in
She just grinned
& said

[Chorus again

New Age Girl (ADAE progression) [3 rhyming lines then closing line ytd)

Saw a gal that I hadn't seen in awhile
Purple hair now but I knew that smile
Known in town as the full-moon child
(closing statement for each section here ba-ba-ba-ba)

Got some shiny crystals (&) a brand new name

Far as I could tell, she was still the same

A lot of stuff just gets rearranged

()

Third time now that she's been reborn

Traded in Jesus for a unicorn

Tried to tell her it's been done before

Chorus/

She's a new age girl

Running all around the world

Still trying to find

What's she's got inside

But, she sure has a good time //

Says she's been out looking for Noah's ark

Had a dream about where it might be parked

Checked it twice with her Tarot cards

Bought a timeshare (up) on top of the moon

Sea of tranquility, with a pink pontoon

Said she's going sometime in June

But first she's sailing down to Belize

See the Yucatan, & sleep on the beach

Find some hieroglyphs & a Mayan squeeze

Chorus/

She's a new age girl

Running all around the world
Still trying to find
What she's got inside
But, she sure has a good time //

Was hitchhiking out by tortilla flats
UFO stopped but she had to pass
Said, no way (that) I'm chipping in for gas

Said she's going to Sedona soon
Maybe try digging up some ancient ruins
Got a tuning fork & her lucky spoon

Chorus/
She's a new age girl
Running all around the world
Still trying to find
What's got inside
But, she sure... has a good time //

[Optional verses

Had tattoo's done on both eyelids
Pretty cool, if you look real quick
She blinks there's a sphinx and a pyramid

Got a pickup truck full of meteor dust
Sign on the back says Uranus or bust
Don't think there's room for the rest of us

Just Watched You Go

(Country'ish)

Got a bottle in my hands
It's been swallowing my plans
But i'm getting even tonight

Got the music up loud
Gonna silence the crowd
That's been stomping around in my mind
Still running from the sound of goodbye

Chorus/

Kept it all inside
Just my stubborn pride
Wouldn't tell you how I really felt

Couldn't let you know
So I just watched you go
Now you're with somebody else
& I'm sitting here by myself
End//

Trying to drown out the pain
Like the biblical rains
& It's pouring whiskey tonight

I'm past black & blue

I'm like purple and chartreuse
& nobody's winning this fight
Aint no ending in sight

Chorus/

Kept it all inside
Just my stubborn pride
Wouldn't tell you how I really felt

Couldn't let you know
So I just watched you go
Now you're with somebody else
& I'm sitting here by myself
End//

Stumbling Along

(G-C-Am-C)

Went down to see my shrink today
Find out what is wrong with me
Wouldn't you know, the sign said closed
Heard he's back in therapy

So, I'd tried to find a professor of mine
Was the wisest guy around
But he traded his diplomas for Oklahoma
& he's now a rodeo clown

Chorus //

I don't know whether

Anyone's got it together
Think we're all just stumbling along

So maybe I'm.....
Doing just fine
End //

Had a heart to heart at the local park
With all my feathered friends
It was nice to have someone listening
At least, 'til I ran out of bread

So, I went to see an old ex-priest
Who gives sermons at the bar
I caught him doing some un-holy communing
In the backseat of his car

Chorus //
I don't know whether
Anyone's got it together
Think we're all just stumbling along

So maybe I'm.....
Doing just fine
End //

Been walking around, my head hanging down
Thought it was time that I looked up
That's when I tripped over a four-leaf clover

I couldn't believe my luck

Laying there I yelled up a prayer

Tell me, what's it all about

He just laughed, said I can't tell you that

We're all just trying to figure it out

Chorus //

I don't know whether

Anyone's got it together

Think we're all just stumbling along

So maybe I'm.....

Doing just fine

End //

(Alternate verse)

So, I went to church & that's when I heard

That they busted Father Joe

Was in a nuns outfit, made a habit of it

So they had to let him go

Sea of Love

A/D/A/ D/G/A (DGA in last line of each section)

Twelve years old it was the neighbor girl

I said honey you know I love you so much
When I grow up i'm gonna give you the world
She said, I'll settle for half of your stuff

College days, I'm by the wishing well
Pretty gal was walking by
Looking smooth 'til I slipped and fell
Ended up wishing I was still dry

[Chorus YTD will go here]

I got a job, & i'm at my desk
Office gal was flirting with me
Said you still single, your quite the catch
More like catch and release

She said well that wouldn't happen with me
I think you just might be my other half
Had a boyfriend said I should divide by three
(You know) I never could work out the math

[Chorus YTD will go here]

Years go past & I'm turning grey
Thought I'd give it just one more try
Sea of love was down to a lake
But still I dropped in a line

That's the day I met my Marry Lou

I fell for her like an April shower
She said someday I'm gonna marry you
But life kind of stepped on that flower

[Chorus YTD will go here]

Wishing on the Stars

(humming, mood song.)

Looking up at the sky tonight
(And) wondering where I'm from
All those stars seem small and shy
So different from the sun

They look so peaceful as they float
On a dark and silent sea
I wonder if there's anyone home
Maybe someone just like me

[Chorus - Humming]

All those stars just hanging around
Yet none look out of place
So many miles between us now
And so much empty space

All those lights left on, it seems
There must be someone home

I might be wishing on the stars,
(but) It makes me feel less alone

Rockabye

(W.I.P. - main verses rock back and forth between C & F. May add brief pre-chorus)

(C) Rock-a-bye, (F) little child
(C) Close your eyes, (F) For a while
(C) Sail away, (F) on the sea
Leave your cares all here with me

Chorus

(Am) Though I'm so much older now
(F) I gotta find that peace somehow
(?) Casue the is world is getting heavier all the time //

(C/F Aagin)

There are fields, That i've known
Where dreams and flowers grow
And like clouds, up in the sky
All my worries passed me by

Chorus /

(Am) Though I'm so much older now
(F) I gotta find that place somehow
(?) Casue the is world is getting heavier all the time //

(Bridge W.I.P length of lyrics depends on music. C/Em feel)

Theme is -

I'm not sure if the place still exists

I just know there's something more than this

Somehow, some way, some day

I'll make it there

/End//

Chorus Again

I believe, that it's real

I don't see it, I just feel

I just pray that, I can find

The place (that) I left behind

Though I'm so much older now

I gotta find my way somehow

Cause the is world is getting heavier every day //

[Alt for last verse]

(C/F again)

I believe, that its real

I don't see (it), I just feel

Like its hiding, deep within

Inviting me back again

Another Way?

(work in progress. Need chorus?)

There's a young man reading Dante in the night
Feels the heavenly words more than the hellish sights
Hasn't seen enough of the darkness yet in his life

Got a shiny love right now but it's bound to rust
Ashes turn to ashes and dust to dust
He'll try his best to sweep 'em under the rug

// (Pre chorus or chorus?)

And I know what my preachers gonna say
The soul has to get lost before it gets saved
(Just) seems there could have been another way ///

Newborn baby cries at it takes a breath
Let me tell you child you aint seen nothing yet
Have they told you how the whole things gonna end

Yet the bluebirds sing & it sounds like a symphony
They lift us up just high enough to see
(that) Truth walks hand in hand with absurdity

// (Pre chorus or chorus)

And I know what the artists are gonna say
Need black and white or else it all turns to grey
(Just) seems there could have been another way ///

Poets hold the dark and turn it just a bit

So maybe we can see another side of it
Better still if the light would've just stayed lit

But the morning sun comes up like a ray of hope
And maybe the gods are finally gonna drop us a rope
Or be kind enough at least, to let us in on the joke

// (Pre chorus or chorus)

And I know what my Eastern friends will say
Light & dark are dancing in a cosmic play
(Just) seems there could have been another way ///

Alt 1st verses??

There's a young man reading Dante in his room
Beautiful words lead him past skull & tombs
Might've picked this one up a bit too soon
-or-

A crow is picking at flesh out on the street
Always waiting on death for something to eat
The whole thing looks a little strange to me

Keep Travelling On

(CAmCG)

40 days and 40 nights?

I've been in the desert my whole damn life
My stomach empty, satan tempting me

Thought by now I would've seen the light

Most of the time i've felt like Job
Watching my dreams go up in smoke
If the holy fire, got any higher
It'd be burning the moon I suppose

Chorus/ C/G

But i'll just keep traveling on
I'll just keep traveling on
.... it takes so long //

& I've fallen under the siren's spell
Tumbled down an old wishing well
Clothes got soaked, but now I know
I can't always be trusting myself

I've spent some time in the belly of the whale
& Couple a nights on a bed of nails
Yeah it hurt, but what makes it worse
Is I'm stumbling along like a drunken snail

Chorus/

But i'll just keep traveling on
I'll just keep traveling on
.... it takes so long //

They say that you gotta die to be reborn
But I thought I died a couple of times before

Now they tell me, I'd just been sleeping
Probably didn't help that I'd been snoring

Chorus/

But i'll just keep traveling on

I'll just keep traveling on

.... it takes so long //

Tiger, Tiger

(William Blake Tribute)

(Am-Dm-Am-Em)

Tiger, Tiger burning bright

In the forest of your life

I've felt your hunger/anguish

And I heard all your cries

You thought you were alone

In the quiet of your room

But I was hanging out that night

With the soft August moon

Chorus - YTD

The vast, empty canvass

And the blank, virgin page

They listened to you endlessly

But never had much to say

And the crowd of familiar strangers

That talked of seeing the light
But they'd never really known
All the colors of the night

Chorus YTD

You spoke of timeless beauty
To those who (just) didn't know
That the solitary moon, it
Has no light of its own

Yet you held the cosmos
In a single grain of sand
And with the night setting in
You let it fall from your hand

Crossroads

(Am-Dm-Am-Em)

Saw a fork up in the road
So I asked the lonely moon
Tell me which way should I go
He said that's all up to you

But don't take it lightly
& don't trust the man in black
Every choice can change your life
& there aint no going back

See, you're always at a crossroads
But there's someone else there too
The devil will be waiting
And he'll be whispering to you

Chorus /

He still remembers
The choice before he fell
So you better choose well / (pause)
heaven or hell //

Your life aint set in stone
It's not written in the stars
Just a million little decisions
That happen right where you are

Yes or no, stay or go
And your whole world splits in two
You try to avoid making a choice
& it'll be made for you

See, you're always at a crossroads
But there's someone else there too
The devil will be waiting
And he'll be whispering to you

Chorus /

He still remembers
The choice before he fell

So you better choose well / (pause)

heaven or hell //

Dancing in the Graveyard

Late one night I'm out just tiptoeing

My way through the wilted tulips

My shirt's ripped, I'm spilling scotch,

don't know where the hell my other shoe is

& I'm looking around thinking of all the death

That's happened in this place

Like the garden of Eden is one big grave

Don't think the devil carries a pitchfork, think he's got a big ol' spade

(Pre)

The whole thing don't make sense sometimes

Like we're on some twisted carnival ride

And you can't get off, nowhere to hide

Chorus/

Stranded, empty handed

So I'm living lightly and I'm playing hard

Dancing round the graveyard

(Repeating ?) //

The cosmos seems like one big, cold machine

Most of the time it's stuck between gears

Once in a while it throws off a spark

And we get a Mozart, or a Shakespeare

But usually it's misfiring like my dad's old Buick

Spitting out smoke and leaking gas

And the only quantum mechanic in town

Is off at a conference in St Louis

Chorus/

Stranded, empty handed

So I'm living lightly and i'm playing hard

Dancing round the graveyard

//

I passed a guy, he was whistling Dixie

on his way to the North Pole

Try and catch a glimpse of heaven or

Squeeze some prayers through the ozone hole

He said the universe really is lawful

I guess, but a part of me is not convinced

So I'm gonna keep stealing the night away

& try not to leave any prints

Chorus/

Stranded, empty handed

So I'm living lightly and i'm playing hard

Dancing round the graveyard

(Repeating ?) //

Strangest Dream (WIP)

G/C

(G) Waking up from the (C) strangest dream

(G) Grass was blue and the (C) sky, the sky was green

A wolf was howling at the silent dawn

Scarecrow asked me 'what side you on today',

'If you had to say'

Came up to a burning house

Woman in black came walking out, & said

Are you ready now

Chorus (WIP)

Dreamin my life away

But now I'm awake

da da da da da

End//

She led me back to a darkened room

Music playing, some old forgotten tune

She changed herself right before my eyes

(Into) all the souls that (ever) lived, & never died

Had 'em all inside

Then the room was turning, the record skipped

I held on tight but I lost my grip, lost my grip
()

Chorus again / End/

I was staring out into eternity
Thought this is strange, no one here but me

Floating along like a lost balloon
But you can't be lost when you know
The whole thing's you

Saw myself in that darkened room
Saw myself like the selfless do
Gotta say,
I kind liked the view.

Chorus again / End//

The veil that I tried to look behind
The Grail I wanted so much to find
('was mine' - to make this shorter verse)
I knew
It was always mine

Heard a voice from somewhere say
Looks like you got a choice to make

Stay out here and enjoy the view

Or take/breathe it in, bring it all, back with you

What are you gonna do

NOTES:

The Grail I always wanted to find

or

I was/am the mystery I'd tried to know

i forgot the story that I had/once wrote

I knew/said that once but it was long ago

Times are Changing

Seems like nothing ever stays the same

Can't believe how much has changed

The man in the moon, I guess he transitioned

& the fork and the spoon are changing position

Up is down, and down is up

I heard gravity left town in a pickup truck

{Chorus will go here}

Something about -

I kinda miss the good old days

They weren't always good and we made mistakes

But we could still shake hands at the end of the day

End //

We lost the rhyme, (just) got more reason
Guess forbidden fruit is now in season

The Wise Old Man's at a retirement home
Babe and the bathwater both got thrown

Elbows are flying at the banquet table
Think we'd all be Cain if we were able

Chorus

Song About Absolutely Nothing

Imagine a world that is stranger than this
The only way that it's real is if it doesn't exist

I think I'm a thought, that ran off with itself
But if that's really the case, who would I tell

So, am I living a lie, or just lying to live
Guess the whole world depends on the answer I give

[Chorus will go here Y-T-D]

I wandered the earth, & I searched for the truth
I was getting the feeling, it's an empty pursuit

In the end I found nothing, or was it that found me
I thought, isn't that something, & so I had to leave.

[Chorus will go here Y-T-D]

WIP - Notes

I had wandered in vain

As I searched for the truth

But one this side of town

It's about all you can do

[or - what else can you do]

then could end with

In the end I found nothing

Or was it that found me

Thought isn't this something

so I had to leave

Guess the joke was on me

[or - & the joke was on me]

Song About Everything. - Work in progress.

Saw a figure out in the woods

& the thing kept changing shape

It flashed a thousand forms

As I asked it for its name

It said I'm all that's ever been

And all that's yet to come

I'm everything that's possible

All wrapped up in one

& I'm fed by a fire

That heals just as it burns

But your mind don't work like that

& so we're taking turns

[Chorus here - YTD]

I asked a few more questions

As it shifted all around

And it answered every one (of em')

Yet it never made a sound

Said you asked me for my name

I guess I've never needed one

Like the light of the moon

Or the shadow of the sun

And when you see that death

Is alive within me too

It's then you'll finally know

What's lying there in you

[Chorus]

[Optional]

Then it said it was time to go
Guess it had somewhere to be
But said when you know yourself
You won't be needing me

Far From Home - Work in progress.

Just writing today (Oct 2022) so very crude. Start with chorus..

Chorus

We've wandered so far from
and the land we had had know
(It's) like we've forgotten everything
& No one reminds us that we're kings //

Saw Fred today at the corner of 3rd and main
Didn't know the guy, but hey, he was wearing his name

Had it pinned right there on his fancy little argyle vest
This guy, even his shadow was nicely dressed.

But something was missing you could see it in his eyes
Whatever he was thinking of, it was probably super-sized.

But his poor little dreams, well they were all dressed in rags
Following behind, bottle of wine, stuffed in a paper bag

Dreams are out of style in this plastic town

Usually end up in the recycling or the lost and found

Chorus

We've wandered so far from home

and the land we had had known

(It's) like we've forgotten everything

& No one reminds us that we're kings //

//

There's a heaviness that hangs in the air these days

People looking up but damn sure not to pray

Bookies setting odds, on when the whole thing's gonna crash

At the House of Gifts for the Apocalypse, heard they're only taking cash

& The roads these days roads are lit with neon signs

People are lost but lost damn they're making good time.

Once in a while they look up, see the stars

Have this feeling they're not who they think they are.

Chorus

We've wandered so far from home

and the land we had had know

(It's) Like we've forgotten everything

& No one reminds us that we're kings //

//

or add - wandered far from there home

The land/paradise that they had known

land of riches etc

End

Spoken Word

I was in a lucid dream

I heard Lucifer scream

Saw the angels weeping

And this old man keeping watch - on a hidden cave

As I got up close he raised his hands

Said save yourself, don't go in that cave yourself

But it was too late

I had to know what it was that they saw

I had to feel what they felt

Had to kneel where they knelt

So I went in

and I never came out

(break)

And Icarus, he was warning us

about flying where the angels fly

But this isn't a spark - leaving the flame behind

It's about burning,

It isn't escaping, & its not vanity

Its fully embracing the beauty and horrors of humanity

(including those in me?)

And with that fire

In that light

The demons and angels, will all draw close

And we will know

What means is to die

And be fully alive

Gone So Long (work in progress - raw)

(G) I've always been searching for something more

God knows, (C) I looked everywhere.

I knew there was some kind of higher truth

I just (C) couldn't find the stairs

I'd read my share of Vonnegut, watched some Ridley Scott.

When the final credits rolled, I still

hadn't found Didley squat.

So I went to see my favorite M.D.

Said I got this hole to fill

Told me he had just the thing, so

We shoveled in some pills

Chorus/

(G) Been gone so (C) long

(g) Traveling on my (C) own

(G) Made a few wrong turns

(Had some (C) things to learn
But now (Am) I'm finally coming (C) home //

Met some new age cosmonauts who'd
found some sacred ground
But I got so High I shot right by
& We all came crashing down

Fell back to the earth in a world of hurt
When this wise old soul appeared
He didn't say a single word
He was just holding up a mirror

'Bout the only place I hadn't looked was
Deep within myself
So went on down through the emptiness
& I found something else

Chorus/

(G) Been gone so (C) long
(g) Traveling on my (C) own
(G) Made a few wrong turns
(Had some (C) things to learn
But now (Am) I'm finally coming (C) home //

Death

I had never been afraid of death before
He was rather shy and awfully short

He'd come to visit from the neighboring town
You'd hardly know when he was around.

But the years went by and he grew a bit
Learned his ABC's and arithmetic

& he'd come to visit more often then
Knew he was coming just not sure when

Then I didn't see him for quite some time
Heard he tried to be a poet, just couldn't rhyme

But I guess he found his calling in life
Cause he works a lot, no time for a wife

Then last week he moved down the block
I got a little nervous, kept the doors all locked

& The other night he walked by my place
Dressed in black, something covering his face

Well I might have stopped and prayed before
But this time I called up a realtor

Being honest, I probably cost myself
Just couldn't lie when you asked ... why I was selling

I understand, well thanks for calling mam

Santa Song

As a kid I thought Santa loved all of us the same

So I sent off my list, but the gifts never came

Thought there might be a reason I didn't get a bike

Maybe Santa got drunk or the elves were on strike.

But then I saw Jimmy, this rich kid at school

Got so many gifts, I think the devil would drool

Chorus

I.e. I think Santa just hates poor kids

End//

So the next year I figured I go down to the mall

Because of the miscommunication and all

Well, I sat on his lap, and read him my list

Said I've been good, or (at least) as good as I get.

When I asked for a pony, he just gave me this look

Maybe a refurbished slinky or a coloring book

/Chorus again/

So I followed old Santa as he went out the door
I said why do the rich kids always get more

& wait just a second, where is your sleigh
What's with the U-haul & (the) old Chevrolet

He said life isn't fair, you'll figure that out
And me, I'm retiring, moving down south
.... Now beat it...

/ Working Notes: /

I shortened middle section to 3 verses , took out the lines about Jimmy & just had the "gave me that look' & 'refurbished slinky" lines while he was on Santa's lap..

originally it was:

Well, I sat on his lap and read him my list
Said I've been good, or at least as good as I get

Felt optimistic as I got up to leave
Then I saw Jimmy, he was next after me

Said I'm getting a pony, He just gave me this look
Maybe a refurbished slinky and a coloring book

--

Other ideas for closing line

or

"The world can be cold, You'll figure that out
That's why I'm retiring moving down south"

or

Let me tell you son, this world can be cruel
Hey, you got any cash, kinda low on fuel..

4th verse could be

So Next year I figured I'd go down to the mall
Try and get to the bottom of it all

9th

As for Me, I'm retiring, moving down south
(ie. rather than 'That's why I'm retiring')

Like Everybody Else

(G/C Finger picking 6/3/4/2 - 5/3/4/2)

Picked up the morning paper, its like
Half the worlds on fire
Neighbors thought a flood was coming, so
they moved a little higher

There's still some guy pacing round, up

on the second floor

Waiting for his ship to come in, but he's

A thousand miles from shore

I'm looking out at all the craziness, and

Thinking to myself

Thankfully, I've never been, just like

Everybody else

Harmonica break.

Destruction on the TV screen, that

Stretches out for miles

Ad comes on tries to sell stuff, to

Whiten up my smile

Don't really mind not fitting in, to a

World that's going insane

Glad I found the the eye inside, this

Big 'ol hurricane

So I've got my favorite guitar, and

The words are like my friends

Peace inside, I don't really mind, if I

Don't go out again

Harmonica Break

Never cared for (the) the crowded roads, so I

chose a different path
Left a lot behind (me), but I
Never did look back

No man can be an island, they're i suppose
I suppose
But I kind of like my little beach, & the
Sand between my toes

]I still hear my father asking, & I
Answer to myself
Thankfully I'm never gonna be (just)
Like everybody else.

[Originally just had 2 verses for last section. Skipped "didn't like where life was.....". Better shorter like that?]

Notes:

optional

Didn't like where I was headed.....

left a lot behind (me) but i never did look back

or

Didn't like where life was taken me

Didn't like where the crowd was heading

Herd was heading/going

Didn't like the crowded roads, so I

Chose a different path

without ever looking back

They say no man's an island, they're right

So they started moving higher

Six Deadly Sins (Work in progress)

Laying in my bed late one night

Heard a noise so I flicked on the light

I don't know how they got in

But there were my six deadly sins

Guess one had hid behind gluttony

Who was huge, shirt kept un-buttoning

I said how long are you gonna be staying

This is when I usually do my praying

They just looked at me like I was clueless

Had a change of clothes and a toothbrush

said tell me what I have to do

If I want to be finished with you

Chorus/

They said

Aint about trying to be good

Aint about doing what you should

That's nice but it won't get you far

Gotta remember who you really are

(Trailing off/slowing?)

But any words would just be lying to you

Go in silence and you'll find the truth

Envy and greed, didn't say that much

Lusts, he just looked at me and blushed

& Sloth, well he was too tired to talk

Couldn't believe they all made him walk

But pride, pride had plenty to say

He was still talking late the next day

And they finally finished with wrath

He got angrier if they skipped him till last

I said tell me what I have to do

If I want to be finished with you

Chorus/

They said

Aint about trying to be good

Aint about doing what you should

That's nice but it won't get you far

Gotta remember who you really are

(Trailing off/slowing?)

But any words would just be lying to you

Go in silence and you'll find the truth

Fresh Tracks

(heroin ref - running from past trauma)

Lying there

Blank stare

Fresh tracks, she's running once again

From where it all began

Him

Shadows, torn clothes

Whispers, echo through her mind

Someone left behind

Still

[Chorus YTD]

Windows, who knows

Can't help looking out again

Always wondering

When

Suitcase

New place

Memories, creep across the floor
Knocking at the door
Breathe

Morning at the U.U. Church

I met a Hindu, Jew
Who was a native Sioux
& oh, yeah, part Christian too
I said,
I'm confused

Isn't your soul split all apart
When you pray to a God,
Where do you start
He said they all meet up
In the heart

I said what about all those holy days
Where to go, what to take
How do you keep everything straight
He, said
I just honor every day

Well I've never met a Hindu, Jew
who's a native Sioux,
And a little bit Christian too

& I'm still confused

But I like your views

I might just,

Become one too.

,

Prometheus (G&C fingerpicking right now. Needs other chords for 3rd & 4th lines)

(1st two lines of each stretched out vocally)

(Maybe Dylan like, no chorus and just harmonica breaks in between each one or after 2 sections?)

Pro-me-the-us

Pro-me-the-us

Stolen fire from the angry gods

Gave it to us 'fore he was caught

A thief, is what he was

They say, he should have known

Yeah they say, he should have known

Pass the gifts on down the line

Juest gonna be a matter of time

Should have stayed amongst his own

They thought, he might confess

They thought that he might confess

Aint no time for saving face

With the mortals burning down the place

Yeah, He sure has made a mess

They chained him to a rock

Yeah, they chained him to a rock

Thought he hadn't hurt no one
Look around the damage is done
No turning back the clock

Then Zeus, comes down one day
Old Zeus, he comes down one day
Said he'll let Prometheus go
If he (just) gives back the thing he stole
What do you think he should say
What do you think he should say
He's still thinking to this day

Working Notes:

Or take out the 3rd section completely.

2nd Zeus line could be
Zeus he's still there today.

Short, Simple, & Sweet

SPOKEN WORD

{Wrote this in response to a 'modern' poet criticizing my simplistic words and rhyme... & I actually do like flowery words sometimes, just not that day.]

Poetry, I don't know much about poetry

If I need to laugh, or something hurts,
I get out a pen, throw down some words
Work in some rhythm, add a little rhyme
Help the soul get its footing in time

But I rarely use fancy, flowery words
Sometimes they're like leprechaun turds
Just smell up the place, if they're not real anyways

I try to get down to the heart of a thing
Strip away everything....
Keep it short, simple and sweet.

Love, Life, Laugh, Truth, God, Joy, Death, Birth
All short, little words
One syllable words

But "devil", now for the devil you need two
He's one step removed
Complicating the truth
That guy can't go anywhere
Without putting on airs
Seems a bit overdressed to me

I'll go to the ball,
Wearing nothing at all
They might ask me to leave
But they'll know I was there.

And poetry, what is poetry anyways
It doesn't tell you much of anything
Just a nice little way of remembering
It's what the words are pointing to,
And you only feel that
If it's already in you

So, I'll keep writing as I do,
My own little words
Step 'round the leprechaun turds
Stay light on my feet ...
Short, simple, and sweet

Heart of Darkness

(Tribute to Joseph Conrad -
Spoken word with Synth)

The mystery, the horror,
They're hardly around anymore
Been sanitized and sterilized, stuffed (away) in a bottom drawer

We're afraid of the sharp side of the knife
The edges of our lives
The ledges we have inside

So we huddle together, smooth each other out
Live on the surface of ourselves
With our tame desires, and our flameless fires.

& the mystery, when the mystery calls

We have our teachers and gurus

Our spiritual books up on the shelf

Comforting concepts

To protect us from the thing itself

And, so we live, half alive

Sure, there's the occasional rebel, wanders out past the edge of the herd

Dressed defiantly, staring boldly into the night, laughing at it all

As long as the others are (pause) somewhere in sight

But the Mystery , the Mystery

knows us too well

Better than we know ourselves

See right through all of this

Just waiting & whispering

Waiting, whispering

But If we're ready

If we're truly ready

They'll take us to the realm of transformation

Of trials and tribulations

Through valleys and forests

Past prisons and palaces

And finally, (pause) to face the horror

They'll lead us to the room where darkness dwells

The discarded hopes and dreams,

The corpses and smells
The den of monsters and madness
Whatever your terror, it'll find you there
And it's no longer you, anymore in the mirror
As distinction itself disappears
Virtue and vice are closer than identical twins
Swear they've traded places when you look back again
Just confusion and chaos
Confusion and chaos

Then suddenly there's a strange calm
And you think maybe it'll be OK
You turn back towards the door
Take a cautious step,
And fall through the floor

Falling into the mouth of the darkest darkness
For what feels like forever
It leaves you defenseless
Stripping your senses
And still your trying...to taste
The thing that's swallowing you whole
But down here it's all gotta go

And when you've given it up
Given it all
Yourself and your soul
Your belief and your doubt
Something catches you, breaks your fall,

Raises you up and ushers you out

Leads you out into the light, like you've never seen before

And you feel like you can finally live

For the first time, you feel like you can finally live

No longer afraid of the day or the night

Of death or of life

But for that you need the mystery,

And you have to face the horror

And they're hardly around anymore

Been sanitized, sterilized and stuffed away in a Bottom drawer

We're afraid of the sharp side of the knife

The edges of our lives

The ledges we have inside

And so we live ... and so we die

Dry Desert Air

(Work in progress)

Not even sure now, what I was hoping to find

But the glitter is gone from what I left behind

I've swallowed so much of this dry desert air

I don't feel a thing tonight, not even despair

I want to sink my teeth into something that's real

Or get bit myself just to have something to feel

Chorus YTD

The morning comes & I miss the dark empty night

Cause out here, everything comes into sight

& My shadow is harsh in this hot desert sun

Some things in this life you can never outrun

I've wandered so far from where I used to live

(But) am I a pilgrim out here or just a fugitive

Or maybe I'm just a little of each

Out of touch, hope (I'm) not out of reach

Working Notes:

Or maybe for now, I'm a bit/little of each

Out of touch, not out of reach..... I pray at least

Out of touch, hope I'm not out of reach

I hope, god I pray.... I'm not out of reach

I'm out of touch, (but) am I out of reach?

[I'm so far now from where I used to live

Am I a pilgrim out here or (just) a fugitive]

[Pilgrim now)

There's nothing behind me, there's nothing ahead
Like I'm wandering around, In the land of the dead

[Working notes]

Cause i'm seeing some things I don't really like

Primal Scream

There's a monster, there's a martyr, a serpent & a saint
There's the love of the Carpenter but there's nails & there is pain

Swirling contradictions, in some strange cosmic stew
I always thought I knew myself, but now I haven't got a clue

[Chorus possibility - slower, stretched out?]

The moon is climbing high, now
The moon is climbing high.....(pause).....
Don't close your eyes ///

So, what's gonna happen now, (that) the veil's been stripped away
Should I run, should I scream, should I be, kneeling down to pray

Somethings calling me closer, as the flames are climbing higher
(But) You can see the light and still not know (just) who lit the fire

[Chorus]

The moon is climbing high, now
The moon is climbing high..... (pause)

Don't close your eyes ///

Is it heaven, is it hell, is it up to me to choose

There's (just) a fine line sometimes, between a halo and a noose

Cause there's chaos in the cauldron, & its boiling up again

There'll either be a feast tonight, or just a whole lot of pain

The Game of Love

She.... don't go out no more

Rarely sees... the other side of the door

It's a crying shame

There's no one's to blame

In the game of love

You saw... something in his eyes

But you knew.... that the stakes are high

It might break your heart

If you lay your cards

In the game of love

Chorus YTD

The heart... they say it has to fall

There's no joy... up above it all

So you hold your breath

Stepping off the edge

In the game of love

Sometimes... It can feel so right

But your afraid... & you don't know why

Cause you just can't tell

It's one big wishing well

In the game of love

Chorus YTD

& still.... still you take the chance

No way... you're sitting out the dance

As the music starts

You offer up your heart

To the game of love

Grey Side of Black

He's a fast talking

Jay-walking

Rebel without a pause

Hurrying off

So he don't get caught

For the trouble he never quite caused

Chorus//

But man, he tries so hard

Ya know he tries so hard

But he just Isn't that dark //

(Note: last line speeds up then rolls to next verse)

He's a dime store devil

Not quite on the level

Of the guys he's trying to be like

Might give you a scare

With the pitchfork there

On the side of his Swiss army knife

Chorus //

He's got one foot across

To the land of the lost

He knows he can always get back

He'd rather be

Out here with me

Hanging, on the grey side of black

Me and Delilah Sue (W.I.P)

I was a cocky college kid back then, she was 21

In the blink of an eye she blew mind, & I didn't have a clue

Me and Delilah Sue

Me and Delilah Sue

I'd known my share of girls but I, never felt that spark
Me & her it was like fireworks, on the dark side of the moon
Me and Delilah Sue
Me and Delilah Sue

Chorus YTD

(Theme - think about her still, guess I always will)

I knew my way around this world but I was always looking down
In those blue eyes, I saw the sky, & a bit of heaven too
Me and Delilah Sue
Me and Delilah Sue

I'd pictured how my life would go, (my) selfish little dreams
All that changed, got a brand-new frame, big enough for two
Me and Delilah Sue
Me and Delilah Sue

Chorus YTD

Our fire burned bright but in the end wasn't meant to last
But I won't forget the time we spent, when everything seemed new
Me and Delilah Sue
Me and Delilah Sue

Then just last week, saw her again, she was back in town
Kinda strange, how life has changed, but I still remember you
Me and Delilah Sue

Me and Delilah Sue

(Note: could do first line of closing lines as "with her husband and her kids")

Costs Too Damn Much To Care

(Leonard Cohen feel to this)

I really wanted to love you

The sentiment was there

I just couldn't afford to

Costs too (damn) much to care

If you open that door

God knows what might walk thru

Misery and heartache,

Maybe A tragedy or two

For a while I've tried leaving

It open just a crack

But it really isn't loving/living

If your loving like that

Chorus YTD Here

Tried my hands at dreaming

(Had em) stacked as high as the moon

But the the thing about dreams, is that

They end up costing you too

If you open (up) that window
God knows what will float in
(There's) some falling hopes & memories
That I don't care to see again

For a while I've tried leaving
It open just a crack
But it really isn't dreaming
If your dreaming like that

[Alt version to the 'open that door' line is
"what might walk in - especially the neighborhood I've been living in"]

House of Tortured Souls

Late one night I was caught in a pouring rain
So, I ducked into a place down on loser's lane
It's the house of tortured souls
& underachieving ghosts
So I went right in

It's the strangest looking crowd you'll ever see
That's o.k. they're the same kind of strange as me
It's the last house on the block,
Thank God it wasn't locked
'Cause I fit right in

But at least I'm not alone

This place kinda feels like home

Hanging out at the house of tortured souls

I look over and I see a one-legged prayer
Having a helluva a time trying to make it up the stairs
Been trying the whole damn night
It's not his leg, he's afraid of heights
A bit ironic I guess

There's a scrawny little lad, they called him hope
Staring at his shoes and mumbling about a rope
Glad he made it in
Would've got carried off by the wind
He was so damn frail

But at least we're not alone

This place kinda feels like home

Hanging out at the house of tortured souls

The road to heaven was more than a little rough
We're all broken down & aint carrying all that much
Just dilapidated dreams
Emaciated screams
And a sack of dust

But at least we're not alone

This place kinda feels like home

Hanging out at the house of tortured souls

The River

Saw a gal I hadn't seen in quite some time
A lifetime ago she was more than a friend of mine

Got a couple of kids now, probably a few less dreams
Sometimes the past is farther than it seems

No use cursing the river as it flows
Aint to point trying to grab ahold

They say you want the things that you can't have
Worse still if it's something you already had

The greener grass, for a while, was on my side
But life has a way of moving all the lines

No use cursing the river as it flows
Aint to point trying to grab ahold

Time, they say, is the cruelest of all thieves
Takes the love, but the heavier stuff he leaves
And he never looks behind him once he's gone
But I'm not quite as good at moving on

No use cursing the river as it flows
Aint to point trying to grab ahold

It's Complicated

I have an amazing girlfriend

Crazy in love

Still, it's complicated

But not in the usual ways

Not the kind going around today

She's a mysterious gal, dark and exotic

& me, well, I'm just gray and neurotic

But things are moving fast

It's scary sometimes

I know you can't be head over heels

& keep your feet on the ground

You have to fall in love

You don't inch your way down

Love is messy, I get it

The whole situation, just needs some punctuation

We just come from such different worlds

She lives in the moment, has to be free

& Me. I like a little more certainty

'Cause I'm wound up pretty tight

Don't know how I ended up

With a wild eyed Capricorn

& I tried giving her a ring

She just said something.
Some line about a saddle and a unicorn
Drives me crazy sometimes

I know you can't be head over heels
& still keep your feet on the ground
You gotta to fall in love
You don't inch your way down
Works better if you let go, I get it
I just wish there were some guardrails
On the corners I didn't see coming
But I guess it wouldn't be love then

Finding My Voice

They say time will tell
But it don't know me well
So, I'm not sure about that

Besides, talk is cheap
It can't afford me
& Probably don't want what I have

I heard a lot of stuff growing up, but I had to find my own truth, my own way. Not listen too much to what others say. They'll tell you things like -

Good comes to those who wait
& then they say I procrastinate

I wish they'd make up their minds

& Only fools rush in

That's why I'm late again

But I am never behind

Yeah, I had to walk my own path, & knock down some walls along the way. Cause the world wants to put you in a box, tell you to stay inside the lines. Or they say -

It's black or it's white

It's either day or its night

But I like it right around dawn

That's when I make my way

Through fields of grey

You won't see the path that I'm on

It's hard not to lose yourself in this world, or even know who that is sometimes. There are so many pressures and distractions. But eventually -

I had to cut through the noise

Find my own voice

Still wasn't that easy for me

Had two of 'em inside

One of them lied

& The other was too afraid to speak

Scene of the Crime (San Antonio)

Had to hit the road, without looking back
18 years old, both feet on the gas

Running of from the scene of the crime
All my childhood dreams in a chalk outline

Had enough of this place
Time to get away

Chorus / (The 'San' is stretched out ie Saaaaan
San Antonio
San Antonio
It was time to go //

Next fifteen years I just moved around
Same old me in a bunch of different towns

I was hittin the bottle but it was kicking my ass
Saw my own reflection in the empty glass

Didn't like what I'd become
Worse than what I was running from

Chorus /
San Antonio
San Antonio
I (just) had to go //

But, I swore to God I'd never look back
Let a sleepin dog lie, Let the past be the past

But something inside kept gnawing at me
(If) you don't deal with that stuff, it'll never let you be

Almost out of towns
I should probably turn around

Chorus/
San Antonio
San Antonio
I guess I'm coming home /

[Music interlude]
[Then ending, could be in different meter/music etc after interlude]

Most of my life I've been doing time
So I'm heading back to the scene of the crime
Face what I have to face
Give back the guilt...
That isn't mine

San Antonio
San Antonio
I'm coming home

Haiku x2

Curious Spider

Empty space webbed world awaits

Restless inside her

Synchronicity

Cloaked in anonymity

God just winked at me

Same old Story

Shadows moving slowly across the floor

I hardly notice the light anymore

Just a muddled mess of forgetfulness

I hear whispers from beyond the door

Been stuck in this room for so long now

I don't even know I can find my way out

I'm just tired of feeling confined

Is it a prison of my own design

Or am I staying in here because I was told to

Either way it's getting old

I keep telling this story 'cause it's a familiar one

Don't even remember who I first heard it from

Get hypnotized

By repeating the lines

Go back to the start as soon as I'm done

I've been trapped in these pages for so long now
I don't even know I can find my way out
I'm just tired of feeling confined
Is it a prison of my own design
Or am I staying in here 'cause I was told to
Either way, it's getting old

Loving to Die

I said I was dying to love her
But I was really loving to die
Trapped so deep within myself
Tangled up inside

I never could get out
& no sunlight made it in
But she led me to the place
Where the lines are thin

Couldn't wait to get across
Burning with desire
The heat of love, I told myself
But it was (just) a funeral pyre

Sweet, sweet release

Sweet, sweet release

I need relief

I'd been busy stacking stones
Built a temple to myself
When the door closed, it made a sound
Like the gates of hell

The rooms were cold and empty
Like I'd always felt inside
& I knew she'd felt that too
When she came to me that night

The longing in her touch
The hunger in our breath
It's like all our lives we'd been waiting
For a little taste of death
(or - to taste a little death)

Sweet, sweet release

Sweet, sweet release

I need relief

To Be Alive (spoken word)

W.I.P. – super rough draft – just writing now

It seems like I spent most of my life searching, trying desperately to find something that felt true, something I could really believe in, something I could sink my teeth into. That didn't taste like rotten fruit, or leave me hungry again in an hour or two. Something that didn't fill me in a way that I'd end up regretting my choice or feeling like I swallowed one of societies sweet poisons.

All I wanted is to experience something that felt real, beginning middle and end.

I travelled to the seedy side of town. Watched the wayward wander the back alleys and cold dark streets. Trying to scrape up the currency so they could feed their raw desires, or be warmed by the flames of forbidden fires. Chasing sporadic highs, of the surface/superficial kind, to get away from the pain, or to draw near something that at least felt authentic, temporarily true at least. But the problem with those highs, though they occasionally did reach staggering eights, a cloud or two below where the angels fly, is that they always came down, landing back on the same unsteady, sinking ground. Back to struggle and survival. Sadly, I have to admit that their lives did feel a somewhat more real than what I had seen in other parts of town. Less pretense, less protest against their lower nature, which they knew was real too.

They were feeling for the pulse of life at least, getting closer to experiencing the heartbeat of life, albeit on the shadow/shadier side.

Still, I knew I couldn't stay there.

Next, I tried the college campus. Spent years feeding my mind with undigestible food. Trying to fatten myself up for a life of passionless pursuit. All the while I had a sneaking suspicion that the answers that I was looking for might not be in that stack of books. So I tried to ask the clever doctors of philosophy. But they'd spent most of their time mulling over the mysteries of life, tucked away in their ivory towers. Safely above the messiness of life, the dirt, the smells, but cut off from the scent of the flowers too.

I knew I had to leave that place as well.

So, I made my way over to the plastic part of town. The park avenue crowd. Living loud but weeping silently at night when the emptiness of their lives surfaced again, with no one else around.

And the glamor gals, walking the streets like they're aisles in a Nieman Marcus store. Always needing more. Or at least something shinier than what they had before. Never leaving home without their high heels, to elevate them just a bit, keep things a little less real, those couple inches just enough to lift them safely off the ground, undisturbed by the heart beating just beneath the city streets.

I knew the place wasn't for me

So, I wandered into my share of chapels. Sat silently on Sundays, listening to the priest, talking down to his flock from his lofty little perch. Offering comforting words about the far side of death. Or whatever was coming next. But I had to wonder if he'd ever really lived. Or at lived and died, inside, as many times as some of the folks he was talking to, or some of the souls down on skid row that I knew.

& he seemed to be speaking about the divine as if it was all light and love, all up above us. As much as I tried, it just didn't feel true to me.

Then I met some artists, and they said they had felt like that too. That God wasn't just above us. That he was down here too. Down in the mud, a mixture of laughter and blood. Part of it all. Talking to them I felt as close to home as I had ever felt. So thankful I found them. But these weren't the artists that you find painting pretty pictures in gardens or on a peaceful mountainside, I guess they might spend some time there too, but usually there closer to the busy intersections of life, or more likely still, they're camping out along the fault lines, the place where worlds collide. They're just waiting for the moment when all hell breaks loose, knowing full well that heaven is in there too. The violent collisions, throwing off sparks, made all the more brilliant by the surrounding darkness. & these souls/artists are capturing the reflections on canvass, or the blank page, (or strumming along on their guitars.) And in the process,

they're changed too, transformed by the small part they play in the most divine of all dramas. Their feet then anchored on the earth, feeling not only the heartbeat of the world but of eternity.

Yeah, it's the artists are the ones who finally showed me the way of life. They taught me that to truly live you have to stay close to the ground. That it's OK if there is some chaos around. That's part of creation. If you try to push that away you deprive yourself of something real, vital. That you don't have to be afraid of that. As long, of course, as you stay on the side of the sparks and don't go wandering off blindly into the darkness.

It's the artists who taught me that. And that's how I live today. & I can honestly say that I've never felt so full, and so alive. I truly feel alive today.

Really Prayed?

(Latest is on spoken word comp area of website)

I don't know if I've ever really prayed

I mean really prayed

(Totally) willing, open, honest

It's not that I don't believe

Not at all

The truth is I'm just really afraid

It's not a dread of his judgment and wrath

For all my faults and sins

I don't think he works like that

I'm not afraid of what he'd do to me

But what I'd have to do for him

As long as I'm not sure that he's there

Or if he's just the man upstairs

Then, I have the rest of the place to myself

I can wander the rooms, and do as I please

But/if I invite him in, open the door fully

Some things may have to change

Furniture might get rearranged

And I'm kinda used to how it is now

So, I hang on to my little (stash) of doubt

(at the same time I'm) While I'm questioning his distance, wondering where he's been

But the truth is, (I've been pushing him away) (I've been) keeping him out

I'm the one who's been keeping him out

Just another way of keeping him out

So I push him away a bit

My way of keeping him out

And then wonder, why I have doubt