

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Cactus Tree -----

[Verse 1]

There's a man who's been out sailing
In a decade full of dreams
And he takes her to a schooner
And he treats her like a queen
Bearing beads from California
With their amber stones and green
He has called her from the harbor
He has kissed her with his freedom
He has heard her off to starboard
In the breaking and the breathing
Of the water weeds
While she was busy being free

[Verse 2]

There's a man who's climbed a mountain
And he's calling out her name
And he hopes her heart can hear three thousand miles
He calls again
He can think her there beside him
He can miss her just the same
He has missed her in the forest
While he showed her all the flowers
And the branches sang the chorus
As he climbed the scaly towers
Of a forest tree
While she was somewhere being free

[Verse 3]

There's a man who's sent a letter
And he's waiting for reply
He has asked her of her travels
Since the day they said goodbye
He writes "Wish you were beside me
We can make it if we try"
He has seen her at the office
With her name on all his papers
Through the sharing of the profits
He will find it hard to shake her
From his memory
And she's so busy being free

[Verse 4]

There's a lady in the city
And she thinks she loves them all

There's the one who's thinking of her
There's the one who sometimes calls
There's the one who writes her letters
With his facts and figures scrawl
She has brought them to her senses
They have laughed inside her laughter
Now she rallies her defenses
For she fears that one will ask her
For eternity
And she's so busy being free

[Verse 5]

There's a man who sends her medals
He is bleeding from the war
There's a jousting and a jester and a man who owns a store
There's a drummer and a dreamer
And you know there may be more
She will love them when she sees them
They will lose her if they follow
And she only means to please them
And her heart is full and hollow
Like a cactus tree
While she's so busy being free

[Outro]

Like a cactus tree
Being free

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- I Had a King -----

[Verse 1]

I had a king in a tenement castle
Lately he's taken to painting the pastel walls brown
He's taken the curtains down
He's swept with the broom of contempt
And the rooms have an empty ring
He's cleaned with the tears
Of an actor who fears for the laughter's sting-

[Chorus]

I can't go back there anymore
You know my keys won't fit the door
You know my thoughts don't fit the man
They never can, they never can

[Verse 2]

I had a king dressed in drip-dry and paisley
Lately he's taken to saying I'm crazy and blind

He lives in another time
Ladies in gingham still blush
While he sings them of wars and wine
But I in my leather and lace
I can never become that kind

[Chorus]

I can't go back there anymore
You know my keys won't fit the door
You know my thoughts don't fit the man
They never can, they never can

[Verse 3]

I had a king in a salt-rusted carriage
Who carried me off to his country for marriage too soon
Beware of the power of moons
There's no one to blame
No there's no one to name as a traitor here
The king's on the road
And the queen's in the grove till the end of the year

[Chorus]

I can't go back there anymore
You know my keys won't fit the door
You know my thoughts don't fit the man
They never can, they never can

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Marcie -----

[Verse 1]

Marcie in a coat of flowers
Steps inside a candy store
Reds are sweet and greens are sour
Still no letter at her door
So she'll wash her flower curtains
Hang them in the wind to dry
Dust her tables with his shirt and
Wave another day goodbye

[Verse 2]

Marcie's faucet needs a plumber
Marcie's sorrow needs a man
Red is autumn green is summer
Greens are turning and the sand
All along the ocean beaches
Stares up empty at the sky
Marcie buys a bag of peaches
Stops a postman passing by

And summer goes
Falls to the sidewalk like string and brown paper
Winter blows
Up from the river there's no one to take her
To the sea

[Verse 3]

Marcie dresses warm its snowing
Takes a yellow cab uptown
Red is stop and green's for going
Sees a show and rides back down
Down along the Hudson River
Past the shipyards in the cold
Still no letter's been delivered
Still the winter days unfold
Like magazines
Fading in dusty grey attics and cellars
Make a dream
Dream back to summer and hear how
He tells her
Wait for me

[Outro]

Marcie leaves and doesn't tell us
Where or why she moved away
Red is angry green is jealous
That was all she had to say
Someone thought they saw her Sunday
Window shopping in the rain
Someone heard she bought a one-way ticket
And went west again

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Michael from Mountains -----

[Verse 1]

Michael wakes you up with sweets
He takes you up streets and the rain comes down
Sidewalk markets locked up tight
And umbrellas bright on a grey background
There's oil on the puddles in taffeta patterns
That run down the drain
In colored arrangements
That Michael will change with a stick that he found

[Chorus]

Michael from mountains
Go where you will go to
Know that I will know you

Someday I may know you very well

[Verse 2]

Michael brings you to a park
He sings and its dark when the clouds come by
Yellow slickers up on swings
Like puppets on strings hanging in the sky
They'll splash home to suppers in wallpapered kitchens
Their mothers will scold
But Michael will hold you
To keep away cold till the sidewalks are dry-

[Chorus]

Michael from mountains
Go where you will go to
Know that I will know you
Someday I may know you very well

[Chorus]

Michael leads you up the stairs
He needs you to care and you know you do
Cats come crying to the key
And dry you will be in a towel or two
There's rain in the window
There's sun in the painting that smiles on the wall
You want to know all
But his mountains have called so you never do-

[Outro]

Michael from mountains
Go where you will go to
Know that I will know you
Someday I may know you very well
Someday I will know you very well

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Nathan La Franer -----

[Verse 1]

I hired a coach to take me from confusion to the plane
And though we shared a common space I know I'll never meet again
The driver with his eyebrows furrowed in the rear-view mirror
I read his name and it was plainly written Nathan La Franer
I asked him would he hurry
But we crawled the canyons slowly
Through the buyers and the sellers
Through the burglar bells and the wishing wells
With gangs and girly shows
The ghostly garden grows

[Verse 2]

The cars and buses bustled thru the bedlam of the day
I looked through window-glass at streets and Nathan grumbled at the grey
I saw an aging cripple selling Superman balloons
The city grated through chrome-plate
The clock struck slowly half-past-noon
Through the tunnel tiled and turning
Into daylight once again I am escaping
Once again goodbye
To symphonies and dirty trees
With parks and plastic clothes
The ghostly garden grows

[Verse 3]

He asked me for a dollar more
He cursed me to my face
He hated everyone who paid to ride
And share his common space
I picked my bags up from the curb
And stumbled to the door
Another man reached out his hand
Another hand reached out for more
And I filled it full of silver
And I left the fingers counting
And the sky goes on forever
Without meter maids and peace parades

[Outro]

You feed it all your woes
The ghostly garden grows
You feed it all your woes
The ghostly garden grows

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Night in the City -----

[Verse 1]

Light up light up
Light up your lazy blue eyes
Moon's up nights up
Takin' the town by surprise
Night time night time
Day left an hour ago
City light time
Must you get ready so slow
There are places to come from and places to go

[Chorus]

Night in the city looks pretty to me
Night in the city looks fine
Music comes spilling out into the street
Colors go flashing in time

[Verse 2]

Take off take off
Take off your stay-at-home shoes
Break off shake off
Chase off those stay-at-home blues
Stairway stairway
Down to the crowds in the street
They go their way
Looking for faces to greet
But we run on laughing with no one to meet

[Chorus 2]

Night in the city looks pretty to me
Night in the city looks fine
Music comes spilling out into the street
Colors go waltzing in time

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Sisotowbell Lane -----

[Verse 1]

Sisotowbell Lane
Noah is fixing the pump in the rain
He brings us no shame
We always knew that he always knew
Up over the hill
Jovial neighbours come down when they will
With stories to tell
Sometimes they do
Yes sometimes we do
We have a rocking chair
Each of us rocks his share
Eating muffin buns and berries
By the steamy kitchen window
Sometimes we do
Our tongues turn blue

[Verse 2]

Sisotowbell Lane
Anywhere else now would seem very strange
The seasons are changing
Everyday in everyway
Sometimes it is spring
Sometimes it is not anything

A poet can sing
Sometimes we try
Yes we always try
We have a rocking chair
Somedays we rock and stare
At the woodlands and the grasslands and the badlands 'cross the river
Sometimes we do
We like the view

[Verse 3]
Sisotowbell Lane
Go to the city you'll come back again
To wade through the grain
You always do
Yes we always do
Come back to the stars
Sweet well water and pickling jars
We'll lend you the car
We always do
Yes sometimes we do
We have a rocking chair
Someone is always there
Rocking rhythms while they're waiting with the candle in the window
Sometimes we do
We wait for you

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- Song to a Seagull -----

[Verse 1]
Fly silly seabird
No dreams can possess you
No voices can blame you
For sun on your wings
My gentle relations
Have names they must call me
For loving the freedom
Of all flying things
My dreams with the seagulls fly
Out of reach out of cry

[Verse 2]
I came to the city
And lived like old Crusoe
On an island of noise
In a cobblestone sea
And the beaches were concrete
And the stars paid a light bill
And the blossoms hung false

On their store window trees
My dreams with the seagulls fly
Out of reach out of cry

[Verse 3]

Out of the city
And down to the seaside
To sun on my shoulders
And wind in my hair
But sandcastles crumble
And hunger is human
And humans are hungry
For worlds they can't share
My dreams with the seagulls fly
Out of reach
Out of cry

[Verse 4]

I call to a seagull
Who dives to the waters
And catches his silver-fine
Dinner alone
Crying where are the footprints
That danced on these beaches
And the hands that cast wishes
That sunk like a stone
My dreams with the seagulls fly
Out of reach
Out of cry

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- The Dawntreader -----

[Verse 1]

Peridots and periwinkle blue medallions
Gilded galleons spilled across the ocean floor
Treasure somewhere in the sea and he will find where
Never mind their questions there's no answer for
The roll of the harbour wake
The songs that the rigging makes
The taste of the spray he takes
And he learns to give
He aches and he learns to live
He stakes all his silver
On a promise to be free
Mermaids live in colonies
All his seadreams come to me

[Verse 2]

City satins left at home I will not need them
I believe him when he tells of loving me
Something truthful in the sea your lies will find you
Leave behind your streets he said and come to me
Come down from the neon nights
Come down from the tourist sights
Run down till the rain delights you
You do not hide
Sunlight will renew your pride
Skin white by skin golden
Like a promise to be free
Dolphins playing in the sea
All his seadreams come to me

[Verse 3]

Seabird I have seen you fly above the pilings
I am smiling at your circles in the air
I will come and sit by you while he lies sleeping
Fold your fleet wings I have brought some dreams to share
A dream that you love someone
A dream that the wars are done
A dream that you tell no one but the grey sea
They'll say that you're crazy
And a dream of a baby
Like a promise to be free
Children laughing out to sea
All his seadreams come to me
All his seadreams come to me

----- 1968 Song to a Seagull -----
----- The Pirate of Penance -----

[Verse 1]

The pirate anchored on a Wednesday
And why he came to port I wonder
To see a lady so my friends say
She dances for the sailors
In a smoky cabaret bar underground
Down in a cellar in a harbour town
I know he told her love was treasure
And they would reap the fullest bounty
He only comes to port for pleasure
So when the winds of morning
Blew the curtains in she woke and found he'd gone
I saw his sails unfurling Thursday dawn
The pirate he will sink you with a kiss
He'll steal your heart and sail away
Saturday early we met in the cove near the forest
He'll leave you drowning in the flotsam

Of a broken promise in the bay
Dancing we wakened the dawn and the birds into chorus
He came again to see her
Yes I think they told me it was Saturday
Ask Penance Crane she was out in her garden she saw us
I was at sea then

[Verse 2]

I didn't see them
I don't believe what you are saying
It isn't true I hardly knew him
Is this some game that you are playing
Go ask the dancer she's the one who saw him last
The one who drew him here
He hasn't come to me since spring last year
There was a time when he would
Bring me silks and sandalwood and Persian lace
Then came another "goodbye" and another "Please don't go"
And he would hold me close
And tell my sailing stories by the fireplace
All night I dance and all day I keep watch with my sorrow
I was at sea I tell you I was
Nowhere near the mentioned murder place
Searching for sails that don't come
And I guess but I don't know

[Outro]

Go ask the dancer
She knows the answer
I don't know
She knows the answer
I don't know
She knows the answer
I don't know

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- Both Sides Now -----

[Intro]

[Verse 1]

Rows and floes of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way

[Verse 2]

But now they only block the sun
They rain and snow on everyone

So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

[Chorus]
I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down, and still somehow
It's cloud illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

[Verse 3]
Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels
The dizzy dancing way you feel
As every fairy tale comes real
I've looked at love that way

[Verse 4]
But now it's just another show
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away

[Chorus]
I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take, and still somehow
It's love's illusions I recall
I really don't know love at all

[Verse 5]
Tears and fears and feeling proud
To say "I love you" right out loud
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds
I've looked at life that way

[Verse 6]
But now old friends are acting strange
They shake their heads, they say I've changed
Well something's lost, but something's gained
In living every day

[Chorus]
I've looked at life from both sides now
From win and lose and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life
At all

[Chorus]
I've looked at life from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow

It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life
At all

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- Chelsea Morning -----

[Verse 1]
Woke up, it was a Chelsea morning
And the first thing that I heard
Was a song outside my window
And the traffic wrote the words
It came ringing up like Christmas bells
And rapping up like pipes and drums

[Chorus]
Oh, won't you stay
We'll put on the day
And we'll wear it till the night comes

[Verse 2]
Woke up, it was a Chelsea morning
And the first thing that I saw
Was the sun through yellow curtains
And a rainbow on the wall
Blue, red, green and gold to welcome you
Crimson crystal beads to beckon

[Chorus]
Oh, won't you stay
We'll put on the day
There's a sun show every second

[Bridge]
Now the curtain opens
On a portait of today
And the streets are paved with passersby
And pigeons fly
And papers lie
Waiting to blow away

[Verse 3]
Woke up, it was a Chelsea morning
And the first thing that I knew
There was milk and toast and honey
And a bowl of oranges, too
And the sun poured in like butterscotch
And stuck to all my senses

[Chorus]

Oh, won't you stay
We'll put on the day
And we'll talk in present tenses

[Outro]

When the curtain closes
And the rainbow runs away
I will bring you incense owls by night
By candlelight
By jewel-light
If only you will stay
Pretty baby, won't you
Wake up, it's a Chelsea morning

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- I Don't Know Where I Stand -----

[Verse 1]

Funny day, looking for laughter and finding it there
Sunny day, braiding wild flowers and leaves in my hair
Picked up a pencil and wrote "I love you" in my finest hand
Wanted to send it, but I don't know where I stand

[Verse 2]

Telephone, even the sound of your voice is still new
All alone in California and talking to you
And feeling too foolish and strange to say the words that I had planned
I guess it's too early, 'cause I don't know where I stand

[Verse 3]

Crickets call, courting their ladies in star-dappled green
Thickets tall, until the morning comes up like a dream
All muted and misty, so drowsy now I'll take what sleep I can
I know that I miss you, but I don't know where I stand
I know that I miss you, but I don't know where I stand

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- I Think I Understand -----

[Verse 1]

Daylight falls upon the path, the forest falls behind
Today I am not prey to dark uncertainty
The shadow trembles in its wrath, I've robbed its blackness blind
And tasted sunlight as my fear came clear to me

[Chorus]

I think I understand
Fear is like a wilderland

Stepping stones or sinking sand

[Verse 2]

Now the way leads to the hills, above the steeple's chime
Below me sleepy rooftops round the harbor
It's there I'll take my thirsty fill of friendship over wine
Forgetting fear but never disregarding her

[Chorus]

Oh, I think I understand
Fear is like a wilderland
Stepping stones and sinking sand

[Verse 3]

Sometime voices in the night will call me back again
Back along the pathway of a troubled mind
When forests rise to block the light that keeps a traveler sane
I'll challenge them with flashes from a brighter time

[Chorus]

Oh, I think I understand
Fear is like a wilderland
Stepping stones or sinking sand

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- Roses Blue -----

[Verse 1]

I think of tears, I think of rain on shingles
I think of rain, I think of roses blue
I think of Rose, my heart begins to tremble
To see the place she's lately gotten to
Gotten to, gotten to

[Verse 2]

She's gotten to mysterious devotions
She's gotten to the zodiac and Zen
She's gotten into tarot cards and potions
She's laying her religion on her friends
On her friends, on her friends

[Verse 3]

Friends who come to ask her for their future
Friends who come to find they can't be friends
Because of signs and seasons that don't suit her
She'll prophesy your death, she won't say when
Won't say when, won't say when

[Verse 4]

When all the black cards come you cannot barter
No, when all your stars are stacked you cannot win
She'll shake her head and treat you like a martyr
It is her blackest spell she puts you in
Puts you in, puts you in

[Verse 5]

In sorrow she can lure you where she wants you
Inside your own self-pity there you swim
In sinking down to drown her voice still haunts you
And only with your laughter can you win
Can you win, can you win

[Verse 6]

You win the lasting laurels with your laughter
It reaches like an arm before you sink
To win the solitary truth you're after
You dare not ask the priestess how to think
How to think, how to think

[Verse 7]

I think of tears, I think of rain on shingles
I think of rain, I think of roses blue
I think of Rose, my heart begins to tremble
To see the place she's lately gotten to
Gotten to, gotten to

----- 1969 Clouds -----

----- Songs To Aging Children Come -----

[Verse 1]

Through the windless wells of wonder
By the throbbing light machine
In a tea leaf trance or under
Orders from the king and queen

[Chorus]

Songs to aging children come
Aging children, I am one

[Verse 2]

People hurry by so quickly
Don't they hear the melodies
In the chiming and the clicking
And the laughing harmonies

[Chorus]

Songs to aging children come
Aging children, I am one

[Verse 3]

Some come dark and strange like dying
Crows and ravens whistling
Lines of weeping, strings of crying
So much said in listening

[Chorus]

Songs to aging children come
Aging children, I am one

[Verse 4]

Does the moon play only silver
When it strums the galaxy
Dying roses will they will their
Perfumed rhapsodies to me

[Outro]

Songs to aging children came
This is one

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- That Song about the Midway -----

[Verse 1]

I met you on a midway at a fair last year
And you stood out like a ruby in a black man's ear
You were playin' on the horses; you were playin' on the guitar strings;
You were playin' like a devil wearin' wings
Wearin' wings, you looked so grand wearin' wings
Do you tape them to your shoulders just to sing?
Can you fly? I heard you can, can you fly?
Like an eagle doin' your huntin' from the sky

[Verse 2]

I followed with the sideshows to another town
And I found you in a trailer on the camping grounds
You were betting on some lover; you were shaking up the dice;
And I thought I saw you cheatin' once or twice
Once or twice, I heard your bid once or twice
Were you wond'rin' was the gamble worth the price?
Pack it in, I heard you did, pack it in
Was it hard to fold a hand you knew could win?

[Verse 3]

So lately you've been hidin', it was somewhere in the news;
And I'm still at these races with my ticket stubs and my blues;
And a voice calls out the numbers and it sometimes mentions mine;
And I feel like I've been workin' overtime

Over time, I've lost my fire, over time

[Verse 4]

Always playin' one more hand for one more dime
Slowin' down, I'm gettin' tired, slowin' down;
And I envy you the valley that you've found
Cause I'm midway down the midway
Slowin' down
Down, down, down

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- The Fiddle And The Drum -----

[Intro]

And so once again
My dear Johnny my dear friend
And so once again you are fightin' us all
And when I ask you why
You raise your sticks and cry, and I fall
Oh, my friend
How did you come
To trade the fiddle for the drum

[Verse 1]

You say I have turned
Like the enemies you've earned
But I can remember
All the good things you are
And so I ask you please
Can I help you find the peace and the star
Oh, my friend
What time is this
To trade the handshake for the fist

[Verse 2]

And so once again
Oh, America my friend
And so once again
You are fighting us all
And when we ask you why
You raise your sticks and cry and we fall
Oh, my friend
How did you come
To trade the fiddle for the drum

[Outro]

You say we have turned
Like the enemies you've earned
But we can remember

All the good things you are
And so we ask you please
Can we help you find the peace and the star
Oh my friend
We have all come
To fear the beating of your drum

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- The Gallery -----

[Verse 1]
When I first saw your gallery
I liked the ones of ladies
Then you began to hang up me
You studied to portray me
In ice and greens
And old blue jeans
And naked in the roses
Then you got into funny scenes
That all your work discloses

[Chorus 1]
"Lady, don't love me now I am dead
I am a saint, turn down your bed
I have no heart," that's what you said
You said, "I can be cruel
But let me be gentle with you"

[Verse 2]
Somewhere in a magazine
I found a page about you
I see that now it's Josephine
Who cannot be without you
I keep your house in fit repair
I dust the portraits daily
Your mail comes here from everywhere
The writing looks like ladies'

[Chorus 2]
"Lady, please love me now, I am dead
I am a saint, turn down your bed
I have no heart," that's what you said
You said, "I can be cruel
But let me be gentle with you"

[Verse 3]
I gave you all my pretty years
Then we began to weather
And I was left to winter here

While you went west for pleasure
And now you're flying back this way
Like some lost homing pigeon
They've monitored your brain, you say
And changed you with religion

[Chorus 3]

"Lady, please love me now I was dead
I am no saint, turn down your bed
Lady, have you no heart," that's what you said
Well, I can be cruel
But let me be gentle with you

[Outro]

When I first saw your gallery
I liked the ones of ladies
But now their faces follow me
And all their eyes look shady

----- 1969 Clouds -----
----- Tin Angel -----

[Verse 1]

Varnished weeds in window jars
Tarnished beads on tapestries
Kept in satin boxes are
Reflections of love's memories
Letters from across the seas
Roses dipped in sealing wax
Valentines and maple leaves
Tucked into a paperback
Guess I'll throw them all away
I found someone to love today

[Verse 2]

Dark with darker moods is he
Not a golden Prince who's come
Through columbines and wizardry
To talk of castles in the sun
Still I'll take a chance and see
I found someone to love today

[Verse 3]

There's a sorrow in his eyes
Like the angel made of tin
What will happen if I try
To place another heart in him
In a Bleecker Street cafe
I found someone to love today

I found someone to love today

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Big Yellow Taxi -----

[Verse 1]

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel, a boutique, and a swingin' hot spot

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)

[Verse 2]

They took all the trees, put 'em in a tree museum
And they charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)

[Verse 3]

Hey farmer, farmer, put away the DDT now
Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and the bees, please

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)

[Verse 4]

Late last night, I heard the screen door slam
And a big yellow taxi took away my old man

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
I said, don't it always seem to go

That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot
(Shoo-bop-bop-bop-bop)
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Blue Boy -----

[Verse 1]
Lady called the blue boy, love
She took him home
Made himself an idol, yes
So he turned to stone
Like a pilgrim she travelled
To place her flowers
Before his granite grace
And she prayed aloud for love
To waken in his face
In his face, oh

[Verse 2]
Sometimes in the evening
He would read to her
Roll her in his arms
And give his seed to her
She would wake in the morning
Without him
And go to the window
And look out through the pane
But the statue in her garden
He always looked the same
He looked the same, ah

[Verse 3]
Bring her boots of leather
And she will dance for him
Shyly from a feather fan
She'll glance for him
Here he comes after midnight
To find her again
He will come few times more
Till he finds a lady statue
Standing in a door
In her door

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Conversation -----

[Verse 1]

He comes for conversation
I comfort him sometimes
Comfort and consultation
He knows that's what he'll find
I bring him apples and cheeses
He brings me songs to play
He sees me when he pleases
I see him in cafes
And I only say, "Hello"
And turn away before his lady knows
How much I want to see him
She removes him, like a ring
To wash her hands
She only brings him out to show her friends
I want to free him

[Verse 2]

Secrets and sharing soda
That's how our time began
Love is a story told to a friend
It's second hand
But I'll listen to his questions
I'll give my answers when they're found
He says she keeps him guessing
But I know she keeps him down
She speaks in sorry sentences
Miraculous repentances
I don't believe her
Tomorrow he will come to me
And he'll speak his sorrows endlessly and he'll ask me why
Why can't I leave her?

[Outro]

He comes for conversation
I comfort him sometimes
Comfort and consultation
He knows that's what he'll find
He knows that's what... he'll find

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- For Free -----

[Verse 1]

I slept last night in a good hotel
I went shopping today for jewels
The wind rushed around in the dirty town
And the children let out from the schools

I was standing on a noisy corner
Waiting for the walking green
Across the street he stood
And he played real good
On his clarinet for free

[Verse 2]

Now me I play for fortunes
And those velvet curtain calls
I got a black Limousine and two gentlemen
Escorting me to the halls
And I'll play if you have the money
Or if you're a friend to me
But the one man band
By the quick lunch stand
He was playing real good for free

[Verse 3]

Nobody stopped to hear him
Though he played so sweet and high
They knew he had never been on their TV
So they passed his music by
I meant to go over and ask for a song
Maybe put on a harmony
I heard his refrain
As the signal changed
He was playing real good for free

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Ladies of the Canyon -----

[Verse 1]

Trina wears her wampum beads
She fills her drawing book with lines
Sewing lace on widows weeds
And filigree on leaf and vine
Vine and leave are filigree
And her coat's a second hand one
Trimmed with antique luxury
She is a lady of the canyon

[Verse 2]

Annie sits you down to eat
She always makes you welcome in
Cats and babies round her feet
And all are fat and none are thin
None are thin and all are fat
She may bake some brownies today
Saying "You are welcome back"

She is another canyon lady

[Verse 3]

Estrella, circus girl
Comes wrapped in songs and gypsy shawls
Songs like tiny hammers hurled
At bevelled mirrors in empty halls
Empty halls and bevelled mirrors
Sailing seas and climbing banyans
Come out for a visit here
To be a lady of the canyon

[Verse 4]

Trina takes her pins and her threads
And she weaves a pattern all her own
Annie bakes her cakes and her breads
And she gathers flowers for her home
For her home she gathers flowers
And Estrella, dear companion
Colors up the sunshine hours
Pouring music down the canyon
Coloring the sunshine hours
They are the ladies of the canyon

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Morning Morgantown -----

[Verse 1]

When morning comes to Morgantown
The merchants roll their awnings down
The milk trucks make their morning rounds
In morning Morgantown
We'll rise up early, with the sun
To ride the bus while everyone is yawning
And the day is young
In morning Morgantown

[Chorus]

Morning Morgantown
Buy your dreams, a dollar down
Morning any town you name
Morning's just the same

[Verse 2]

We'll find a table in the shade
And sip our tea and lemonade
And watch the morning on parade
In morning Morgantown
Ladies in their rainbow fashions

Colored stop and go lights flashing
We'll wink at total strangers passing
In morning Morgantown

[Chorus]

Morning Morgantown
Buy your dreams, a dollar down
Morning in any town you name
Morning's just the same

[Verse 3]

I'd like to buy you everything
A wooden bird with painted wings
A window full of colored rings
In morning Morgantown
But the only thing I have to give
To make you smile, to win you with
Are all the mornings still to live
In morning Morgantown

[Chorus]

Morning Morgantown
Buy your dreams, a dollar down
Morning any town you name
Morning's just the same
Morning's just the same

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Rainy Night House -----

[Verse 1]

It was a rainy night
We took a taxi to your mother's home
She went to Florida and left you
With you father's gun, alone
Upon her small white bed
I fell into a dream
You sat up all the night and watched me
To see, who in the world I might be

[Verse 2]

I am from the Sunday school
I sing soprano in the upstairs choir
You are a holy man
On the FM radio
I sat up all the night and watched thee
To see, who in the world you might be

[Verse 3]

You called me beautiful
You called your mother - she was very tanned
So you packed your tent and went
To live out in the Arizona sand
You are a refugee
From a wealthy family
You gave up all the golden factories
To see, who in the world you might be

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- The Arrangement -----

[Chorus]

You could have been more than a name on the door
On the thirty-third floor in the air
More than a credit card
Swimming pool in the backyard

[Verse 1]

While you still have the time you could get away and find
A better life, you know the grind
Is so ungrateful
Racing cars, whisky bars
No one cares who you really are

[Verse 2]

You're the keeper of the cards
Yes I know it gets hard
Keeping the wheels turning
And the wife she keeps the keys
She is so pleased to be
A part of the arrangement

[Chorus]

You could have been more than a name on the door
On the thirty-third floor in the air
More than a consumer
Lying in some room trying to die
More than a credit card
Swimming pool in the backyard

[Outro]

You could have been more than a name on the door
You could have been more than a name on the door
You could have been more
You could have been more
You could have been more

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----

----- The Circle Game -----

[Verse 1]

Yesterday a child came out to wander
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder
And tearful at the falling of a star

[Chorus]

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

[Verse 2]

Then the child moved ten times round the seasons
Skated over ten clear frozen streams
Words like "when you're older" must appease him
And promises of someday make his dreams

[Chorus]

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

[Verse 3]

Sixteen springs and sixteen summers gone now
Cartwheels turn to car wheels through the town
And they tell him take your time it won't be long now
Till you drag your feet to slow the circles down

[Chorus]

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

[Verse 4]

So the years spin by and now the boy is twenty

Though his dreams have lost some grandeur coming true
There'll be new dreams maybe better dreams and plenty
Before the last revolving year is through

[Chorus]

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- The Priest -----

[Verse 1]

The priest sat in the airport bar
He was wearing his father's tie
And his eyes looked into my eyes so far
Whenever the words ran dry
Behind the lash and the circles blue
He looked as only a priest can: through
And his eyes said me and his eyes said you
And my eyes said, "Let us try"

[Verse 2]

He said, "You wouldn't like it here
No, it's no place you should share
The roof is ripped with hurricanes
And the room is always bare
I need the wind and I seek the cold"
He reached past the wine for my hand to hold
And he saw me young, and he saw me old
And he saw me sitting there

[Verse 3]

Then he took his contradictions out
And he splashed them on my brow
So which words was I then to doubt
When choosing what to vow
Should I choose them all-should I make them mine
The sermons, the hymns and the valentines
And he asked for truth and he asked for time
And he asked for only now
Now the trials are trumpet scored
Oh will we pass the test

Or just as one loves more and more
Will one love less and less
Oh come let's run from this ring we're in
Where the Christians clap and the Germans grin
Saying let them lose, crying let them win
Oh make them both confess

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Willy -----

[Verse 1]
Willy is my child, he is my father
I would be his lady all my life
He says he'd love to live with me
But for an ancient injury
That has not healed
He said I feel once again
Like I gave my heart too soon
He stood there looking through the lace
At the face on the conquered moon
And counting all the cars up the hill
And the stars on my window sill
There are still more reasons why
I love him

[Verse 2]
Willy is my joy, he is my sorrow
Now he wants to run away and hide
He says our love cannot be real
He cannot hear the chapel's pealing silver bells
But you know it's hard to tell
When you're in the spell if it's wrong or if it's real
But you're bound to lose
If you let the blues get you scared to feel
And I feel like I'm just being born
Like a shiny light breaking in a storm
There are so many reasons why I love him
Willy is my child, he is my father

----- 1970 Ladies of the Canyon -----
----- Woodstock -----

[Verse 1]
I came upon a child of God
He was walking along the road
And I asked him, "Where are you going?"
And this he told me

I'm going on down to Yasgur's Farm

I'm gonna join in a rock and roll band
I'm gonna camp out on the land
I'm gonna get my soul free

[Chorus]
We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden

[Verse 2]
Then can I walk beside you?
I have come here to lose the smog
And I feel to be a cog in something turning

Well maybe it is just the time of year
Or maybe it's the time of man
I don't know who I am
But you know life is for learning

[Chorus]
We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden

[Bridge]
By the time we got to Woodstock
We were half a million strong
And everywhere there was song and celebration

And I dreamed I saw the bombers
Riding shotgun in the sky
And they were turning into butterflies
Above our nation

[Chorus]
We are stardust
Billion year old carbon
We are golden
Caught in the devil's bargain
And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden

(To some semblance of a garden.)

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- A Case of You -----

[Verse 1]
Just before our love got lost you said
"I am as constant as a northern star"

And I said, "Constantly in the darkness
Where's that at?
If you want me I'll be in the bar"
On the back of a cartoon coaster
In the blue TV screen light
I drew a map of Canada
Oh, Canada
With your face sketched on it twice

[Chorus]
Oh, you are in my blood like holy wine
You taste so bitter and so sweet
Oh, I could drink a case of you, darling
And I would still be on my feet
Oh, I would still be on my feet

[Verse 2]
Oh, I am a lonely painter
I live in a box of paints
I'm frightened by the devil
And I'm drawn to those ones that ain't afraid
I remember that time you told me, you said
"Love is touching souls"
Surely you touched mine
'Cause part of you pours out of me
In these lines from time to time

[Chorus]
Oh, you are in my blood like holy wine
You taste so bitter and so sweet
Oh, I could drink a case of you, darling
Still I'd be on my feet
I would still be on my feet

[Verse 3]
I met a woman
She had a mouth like yours
She knew your life
She knew your devils and your deeds
And she said
"Go to him, stay with him if you can
But be prepared to bleed"

[Chorus]
Oh, but you are in my blood, you are my holy wine
You're so bitter, bitter and so sweet
Oh, I could drink a case of you, darling
Still I'd be on my feet
I would still be on my feet

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- All I Want -----

[Verse 1]

I am on a lonely road and I am traveling
Traveling, traveling, traveling
Looking for something, what can it be?
Oh, I hate you some, I hate you some, I love you some
Oh, I love you when I forget about me
I want to be strong, I want to laugh along
I want to belong to the living
Alive, alive, I want to get up and jive
I want to wreck my stockings in some jukebox dive
Do you want, do you want, do you want to dance with me, baby?
Do you want to take a chance
On maybe finding some sweet romance with me, baby?
Well, come on

[Verse 2]

All I really, really want our love to do
Is to bring out the best in me and in you too
All I really, really want our love to do
Is to bring out the best in me and in you
I want to talk to you, I want to shampoo you
I want to renew you again and again
Applause, applause, life is our cause
When I think of your kisses, my mind see-saws
Do you see, do you see, do you see how you hurt me, baby?
So I hurt you too
Then we both get so blue

[Verse 3]

I am on a lonely road and I am traveling
Looking for the key to set me free
Oh, the jealousy, the greed is the unraveling
It's the unraveling
And it undoes all the joy that could be
I want to have fun, I want to shine like the sun
Want to be the one that you want to see
I want to knit you a sweater
Want to write you a love letter
I want to make you feel better
I want to make you feel free
Want to make you feel free
I want to make you feel free

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- Blue -----

[Verse 1]

Blue

Songs are like tattoos
You know I've been to sea before
Crown and anchor me
Or let me sail away

[Verse 2]

Hey, blue

There is a song for you
Ink on a pin
Underneath the skin
An empty space to fill in

[Bridge]

Well, there's so many sinking now
You gotta keep thinking
You can make it through these waves
Acid, booze, and ass
Needles, guns, and grass
Lots of laughs
Lots of laughs

Everybody's saying that
Hell's the hippest way to go
Well, I don't think so
But I'm gonna take a look around it, though
Blue, I love you

[Verse 3]

Blue, there is a shell for you
Inside you'll hear a sigh
A foggy lullaby
There is your song from me

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- California -----

[Verse 1]

Sitting in a park in Paris, France
Reading the news and it sure looks bad
They won't give peace a chance
That was just a dream some of us had
Still a lot of lands to see
But I wouldn't wanna stay here
It's too old and cold and settled in its ways here

[Chorus]

Oh, but California
California, I'm coming home
I'm going to see the folks I dig
I'll even kiss a Sunset pig
California, I'm coming home

[Verse 2]

I met a redneck on a Grecian isle
Who did the goat dance very well
He gave me back my smile
But he kept my camera to sell
Oh, the rogue, the red red rogue
He cooked good omelets and stews
And I might have stayed on with him there

[Chorus]

But my heart cried out for you, California
Oh, California, I'm coming home
Oh, make me feel good rock 'n roll band
I'm your biggest fan
California, I'm coming home

[Bridge]

Oh, it gets so lonely
When you're walking
And the streets are full of strangers
All the news of home you read
Just gives you the blues
Just gives you the blues

[Verse 3]

So I bought me a ticket
I got on a plane to Spain
Went to a party down a red dirt road
There were lots of pretty people there
Reading Rolling Stone, reading Vogue
They said, "How long can you hang around?"
I said a week, maybe two
Just until my skin turns brown

Then I'm going home to California
California, I'm coming home
Oh, will you take me as I am
Strung out on another man
California, I'm coming home

Oh, it gets so lonely
When you're walking
And the streets are full of strangers

All the news of home you read
More about the war
And the bloody changes
Oh, will you take me as I am?
Will you take me as I am?
Will you?
Will you take me as I am?
Hmmm mmmmm
Take me as I am

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- Carey -----

[Verse 1]

The wind is in from Africa
Last night I couldn't sleep
Oh, you know it sure is hard to leave here, Carey
But it's really not my home
My fingernails are filthy
I got beach tar on my feet
And I miss my clean white linen
And my fancy French cologne

[Chorus]

Oh, Carey, get out your cane
And I'll put on some silver
Oh, you're a mean old Daddy
But I like you fine

[Verse 2]

Come on down to the Mermaid Cafe and I will
Buy you a bottle of wine
And we'll laugh and toast to nothing
And smash our empty glasses down
Let's have a round for these freaks and these soldiers
A round for these friends of mine
Let's have another round for the bright red devil
Who keeps me in this tourist town

[Chorus]

Come on, Carey, get out your cane
I'll put on some silver
Oh, you're a mean old Daddy
But I like you
I like you, I like you, I like you

[Verse 3]

Maybe I'll go to Amsterdam
Or maybe I'll go to Rome

And rent me a grand piano
And put some flowers 'round my room
But let's not talk about fare-thee-wells now
The night is a starry dome
And they're playin' that scratchy rock and roll
Beneath the Matala Moon

[Chorus]
Come on, Carey, get out your cane
And I'll put on some silver
You're a mean old Daddy
But I like you

[Verse 4]
The wind is in from Africa
Last night I couldn't sleep
Oh, you know it sure is hard to leave here
But it's really not my home
Maybe it's been too long a time
Since I was scramblin' down in the street
Now they got me used to that clean white linen
And that fancy French cologne

[Chorus]
Oh, Carey, get out your cane
I'll put on my finest silver
We'll go to the Mermaid Cafe
Have fun tonight
I said, oh, you're a mean old Daddy
But you're out of sight

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- Little Green -----

[Verse 1]
Born with the moon in Cancer
Choose her a name she will answer to
Call her green and the winters cannot fade her
Call her green for the children who've made her
Little green, be a gypsy dancer

[Verse 2]
He went to California
Hearing that everything's warmer there
So you write him a letter and say "Her eyes are blue"
He sends you a poem and she's lost to you
Little green, he's a non-conformer

[Chorus]

Just a little green
Like the color when the spring is born
There'll be crocuses to bring to school tomorrow
Just a little green
Like the nights when the Northern lights perform
There'll be icicles and birthday clothes
And sometimes there'll be sorrow

[Verse 3]
Child with a child pretending
Weary of lies you are sending home
So you sign all the papers in the family name
You're sad and you're sorry but you're not ashamed
Little green, have a happy ending

[Chorus]
Just a little green
Like the color when the spring is born
There'll be crocuses to bring to school tomorrow
Just a little green
Like the nights when the Northern lights perform
There'll be icicles and birthday clothes
And sometimes there'll be sorrow

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- My Old Man -----

[Verse 1]
My old man
He's a singer in the park
He's a walker in the rain
He's a dancer in the dark

[Chorus]
We don't need no piece of paper
From the city hall
Keeping us tied and true
My old man
Keeping away my blues

[Verse 2]
He's my sunshine in the morning
He's my fireworks at the end of the day
He's the warmest chord I ever heard
Play that warm chord, play and stay, baby

[Chorus]
We don't need no piece of paper
From the city hall

Keeping us tied and true
My old man
Keeping away my blues

[Bridge]
But when he's gone
Me and them lonesome blues collide
The bed's too big
The frying pan's too wide

[Verse 3]
Then he comes home
And he takes me in his loving arms
And he tells me all his troubles
And he tells me all my charms

[Chorus]
We don't need no piece of paper
From the city hall
Keeping us tied and true, no
My old man
Keeping away my blues

[Bridge]
But when he's gone
Me and them lonesome blues collide
The bed's too big
The frying pan's too wide

[Verse 4]
My old man
He's a singer in the park
He's a walker in the rain
He's a dancer in the dark

[Chorus]
We don't need no piece of paper
From the city hall
Keeping us tied and true, no
My old man
Keeping away my lonesome blues

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- River -----

[Verse 1]
It's coming on Christmas
They're cutting down trees
They're putting up reindeer

And singing songs of joy and peace
Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on

[Verse 2]

But it don't snow here
It stays pretty green
I'm gonna make a lot of money
Then I'm gonna quit this crazy scene
I wish I had a river I could skate away on

[Chorus]

I wish I had a river so long
I would teach my feet to fly
Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on
I made my baby cry

[Verse 3]

He tried hard to help me
You know, he put me at ease
And he loved me so naughty
Made me weak in the knees
Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on

[Verse 4]

I'm so hard to handle
I'm selfish and I'm sad
Now I've gone and lost the best baby
That I ever had
I wish I had a river I could skate away on

[Chorus]

I wish I had a river so long
I would teach my feet to fly
Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on
I made my baby say goodbye

[Verse 5]

It's coming on Christmas
They're cutting down trees
They're putting up reindeer
And singing songs of joy and peace
I wish I had a river I could skate away on

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- The Last Time I Saw Richard -----

[Verse 1]

The last time I saw Richard was Detroit in '68
And he told me, "All romantics meet the same fate someday

Cynical and drunk and boring someone in some dark cafe
"You laugh," he said, "you think you're immune
Go look at your eyes, they're full of moon
You like roses and kisses and pretty men to tell you
All those pretty lies, pretty lies
When you gonna realize they're only pretty lies?
Only pretty lies, just pretty lies"

[Verse 2]

He put a quarter in the Wurlitzer
And he pushed three buttons and the thing began to whirr
And a bar maid came by in fishnet stockings and a bow tie
And she said "Drink up now, it's gettin' on time to close."
"Richard, you haven't really changed," I said, it's just that
Now you're romanticizing some pain that's in your head
You got tombs in your eyes, but the songs you punched are dreamy
Listen, they sing of love so sweet, love so sweet
When you gonna get yourself back on your feet?
Oh and love can be so sweet, love so sweet

[Verse 3]

Richard got married to a figure skater
And he bought her a dishwasher and a coffee percolator
And he drinks at home now most nights with the TV on
And all the house lights left up bright
I'm gonna blow this damn candle out
I don't want nobody comin' over to my table
I got nothing to talk to anybody about
All good dreamers pass this way someday
Hidin' behind bottles in dark cafes
Dark cafes, only a dark cocoon
Before I get my gorgeous wings and fly away
Only a phase, these dark cafe days

----- 1971 Blue -----
----- This Flight Tonight -----

[Verse 1]

Look out the left, the captain said
The lights down there, that's where we'll land
I saw a falling star burn up
Above the Las Vegas sands
It wasn't the one that you gave to me
That night down south between the trailers
Not the early one
That you can wish upon
Not the northern one
That guides in the sailors

[Chorus]

Oh, starbright, starbright
You've got the lovin' that I like all right
Turn this crazy bird around
I shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

[Verse 2]

You got the touch so gentle and sweet
But you've got that look so critical
Now I can't talk to you, baby, I get so weak
Sometimes I think love is just mythical
Up there's the heavens
Down there's a town
Blackness everywhere and little lights shine
Oh, blackness, blackness dragging me down
Come on, light the candle in this poor heart of mine

[Chorus]

Oh, starbright, starbright
You've got the lovin' that I like all right
Turn this crazy bird around
I shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

[Verse 3]

I'm drinking sweet champagne
Got the headphones up high
Can't numb you out
Can't drum you out of my mind
They're playing "Goodbye, baby
Baby, goodbye
Ooh ooh, love is blind"
Up go the flaps, down go the wheels
I hope you got your heat turned on, baby
I hope they finally fixed your automobile
I hope it's better when we meet again, baby

[Chorus]

Starbright, starbright
You've got the lovin' that I like all right
Turn this crazy bird around
Shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Banquet -----

[Verse 1]

Come to the dinner gong
The table is laden high
Fat bellies and hungry little ones

Tuck your napkins in
And take your share
Some get the gravy
And some get the gristle
Some get the marrow bone
And some get nothing
Though there's plenty to spare

[Chorus 1]
I took my share down by the sea
Paper plates and Javex bottles on the tide
Seagulls come down
And they squawk at me
Down where the water-skiers glide

[Verse 2]
Some turn to Jesus
And some turn to heroin
Some turn to rambling round
Looking for a clean sky
And a drinking stream
Some watch the paint peel off
Some watch their kids grow up
Some watch their stocks and bonds
Waiting for that big deal
American Dream

[Chorus 2]
I took my dream down by the sea
Yankee yachts and lobster pots and sunshine
And logs and sails
And Shell Oil pails
Dogs and tugs and summertime
Back in the banquet line
Angry young people crying

[Outro]
Who let the greedy in
And who left the needy out
Who made this salty soup
Tell him we're very hungry now
For a sweeter fare
In the cookie I read
"Some get the gravy
And some get the gristle
Some get the marrow bone
And some get nothing
Though there's plenty to spare"

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Baran grill -----

[Verse 1]

Three waitresses all wearing
Black diamond earrings
Talking about zombies
And Singapore slings
No trouble in their faces
Not one anxious voice
None of the crazy you get
From too much choice
The thumb and the satchel
Or the rented Rolls-Royce
And you think she knows something
By the second refill
You think she's enlightened
As she totals your bill
You say "Show me the way
To Baran grill"

[Verse 2]

Well some say it's in service
They say "Humble Makes Pure"
You're hoping it's near Folly
'Cause you're headed that way for sure
And you just have to laugh
'Cause it's all so crazy
Ah, her mind's on her boyfriend
And eggs over easy
It's just a trick on you
Her mirrors and your will
So you ask the truck driver
On the way to the till
But he's just a slave
To Baran grill

[Verse 3]

The guy at the gaspumps
He's got a lot of soul
He sings Merry Christmas for you
Just like Nat King Cole
And he makes up his own tune
Right on the spot
About whitewalls and windshields
And this job he's got
And you want to get moving
And you want to stay still
But lost in the moment

Some longing gets filled
And you even forget to ask
"Hey, Where's Baran grill?"

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Blonde in the Bleachers -----

[Verse 1]
The blonde in the bleachers
She flips her hair for you
Above the loudspeakers
You start to fall
She follows you home
But you miss living alone
You can still hear sweet mysteries
Calling you
The bands and the roadies
Lovin' 'em and leavin' 'em
It's pleasure to try 'em
It's trouble to keep 'em
'Cause it seems like you've gotta give up
Such a piece of your soul
When you give up the chase
Feeling it hot and cold
You're in rock 'n' roll
It's the nature of the race
It's the unknown child
So sweet and wild
It's youth
It's too good to waste

[Verse 2]
She tapes her regrets
To the microphone stand
She says, "You can't hold the hand
Of a rock 'n' roll man
Very long
Or count on your plans
With a rock 'n' roll man
Very long
Compete with the fans
For your rock 'n' roll man
For very long
The girls and the bands
And the rock 'n' roll man"

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Cold Blue Steel And Sweet Fire -----

[Verse 1]

Cold Blue Steel out of money
One eye for the beat police
Sweet Fire calling
"You can't deny me
Now you know what you need"
Underneath the jungle gym
Hollow-grey-fire-escape-thief
Looking for Sweet Fire
Shadow of Lady Release

[Chorus]

"Come with me
I know the way" she says
"It's down, down, down the dark ladder
Do you want to contact somebody first?
Leave someone a letter?
You can come now
Or you can come later"

[Verse 2]

A wristwatch, a ring, a downstairs screamer
Edgy - black cracks of the sky
"Pin-cushion-prick-
Fix this poor bad dreamer!"
"Money" cold shadows reply
Pawnshops crisscrossed and padlocked
Corridors spit on prayers and pleas
Sparks fly up from Sweet Fire
Black soot of Lady Release

[Chorus]

"Come with me
I know the way" she says
"It's down, down, down the dark ladder
Do you want to contact somebody first?
Does it really matter
You can come now
Or you can come later?"

[Verse 3]

Red water in the bathroom sink
Fever and the scum brown bowl
Blue Steel still begging
But it's indistinct
Someone's HI-Fi drumming Jelly Roll
Concrete concentration camp
Bashing in veins for peace
Cold Blue Steel and Sweet Fire

Fall into Lady Release

[Chorus]

"Come with me
I know the way" she says
"It's down, down, down the dark ladder
Do you want to contact somebody first?
I mean what does it really matter?
You're going to come now
Or you're going to come later"

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Electricity -----

[Verse 1]

The Minus is loveless
He talks to the land
And the leaves fall
And the pond over-ices
She don't know the system, Plus
She don't understand
She's got all the wrong fuses and splices
She's not going to fix it up
Too easy

[Verse 2]

The masking tape tangles
It's sticky and black
And the copper
Proud headed Queen Lizzie
Conducts little charges
That don't get charged back
Well the technical manual's busy
She's not going to fix it up too easy
And she holds out her flashlight
And she shines it on me
She wants me to tell her
What the trouble might be
Well I'm learning
It's peaceful
With a good dog and some trees
Out of touch with the breakdown
Of this century
They're not going to fix it up
Too easy

[Verse 3]

We once loved-together
And we floodlit that time

Input-output-electricity
But the lines overloaded
And the sparks started flying
And the loose wires
Were lashing out at me
She's not going to fix that up
Too easy
But she holds out her candle
And she shines it in
And she begs him to show her
How to fix it again
While the song that he sang her
To soothe her to sleep
Runs all through her circuits
Like a heartbeat
She's not going to fix it up
Too easy

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- For the Roses -----

[Verse 1]

I heard it in the wind last night
It sounded like applause
Did you get a round resounding for you
Way up here
It seems like many dim years ago
Since I heard that face to face
Or seen you face to face
Though tonight I can feel you here
I get these notes
On butterflies and lilac sprays
From girls who just have to tell me
They saw you somewhere

[Verse 2]

In some office sits a poet
And he trembles as he sings
And he asks some guy
To circulate his soul around
On your mark red ribbon runner
The caressing rev of motors
Finely tuned like fancy women
In thirties evening gowns
Up the charts
Off to the airport
Your name's in the news
Everything's first class
The lights go down

And it's just you up there
Getting them to feel like that

[Verse 3]

Remember the days when you used to sit
And make up your tunes for love
And pour your simple sorrow
To the soundhole and your knee
And now you're seen
On giant screens
And at parties for the press
And for people who have slices of you
From the company
They toss around your latest golden egg
Speculation well who's to know
If the next one in the nest
Will glitter for them so

[Verse 4]

I guess I seem ungrateful
With my teeth sunk in the hand
That brings me things
I really can't give up just yet
Now I sit up here the critic
And they introduce some band
But they seem so much confetti
Looking at them on my TV set
Oh the power and the glory
Just when you're getting a taste for worship
They start bringing out the hammers
And the boards
And the nails

[Outro]

I heard it in the wind last night
It sounded like applause
Chilly now
End of summer
No more shiny hot nights
It was just the arbutus rustling
And the bumping of the logs
And the moon swept down black water
Like an empty spotlight

----- 1972 For the Roses -----

----- Judgement of the Moon and Stars (Ludwig's Tune) -----

[Verse 1]

No tongue in the bell

And the fishwives yell
But they might as well be mute
So you get to keep the pictures
That don't seem like much
Cold white keys under your fingers
Now you're thinking
"That's no substitute
It just don't do it
Like the song of a warm warm body
Loving your touch"

[Verse 2]

In the court they carve your legend
With an apple in its jaw
And the women that you wanted
They get their laughs
Long silk stockings
On the bedposts of refinement
You're too raw
They think you're too raw
It's the judgement of the moon and stars
Your solitary path
Draw yourself a bath
Think what you'd like to have
For supper
Or take a walk
A park
A bridge
A tree
A river
Revoked but not yet cancelled
The gift goes on
In silence
In a bell jar
Still a song

[Verse 3]

You've got to shake your fists at lightning now
You've got to roar like forest fire
You've got to spread your light like blazes
All across the sky
They're going to aim the hoses on you
Show 'em you won't expire
Not till you burn up every passion
Not even when you die
Come on now
You've got to try
If you're feeling contempt
Well then you tell it

If you're tired of the silent night
Jesus well then you yell it
Condemned to wires and hammers
Strike every chord that you feel
That broken trees
And elephant ivories conceal

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Lesson In Survival -----

[Verse 1]
Lesson in Survival
Spinning out on turns
That gets you tough
Guru books-the Bible
Only a reminder
That you're just not good enough
You need to believe in something
Once I could in our love

Black road
Double yellow line
Friends and kin
Campers in the kitchen
That's fine sometimes
But I know my needs
My sweet tumbleweed
I need more quiet times
By a river flowing
You and me
Deep kisses
And the sun going down

[Verse 2]
Maybe it's paranoia
Maybe it's sensitivity
Your friends protect you
Scrutinize me
I get so damn timid
Not at all the spirit
That's inside of me
Oh baby I can't seem to make it
With you socially
There's this reef around me

I'm looking way out at the ocean
Love to see that green water in motion
I'm going to get a boat
And we can row it

If you ever get the notion
To be needed by me
Fresh salmon frying
And the tide rolling in

[Verse 3]

I went to see a friend tonight
'Was very late when I walked in
My talking as it rambled
Revealed suspicious reasoning
The visit seemed to darken him
I came in as bright
As a neon light
And I burned out
Right there before him

I told him these things
I'm telling you now
Watched them buckle up
In his brow
When you dig down deep
You lose good sleep
And it makes you
Heavy company
I will always love you
Hands alike
Magnet and iron
The souls

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Let The Wind Carry Me -----

[Verse 1]

Papa's faith is people
Mama she believes in cleaning
Papa's faith is in people
Mama she's always cleaning
Papa brought home the sugar
Mama taught me the deeper meaning
She don't like my kick pleat skirt
She don't like my eyelids painted green
She don't like me staying up late
In my high-heeled shoes
Living for that Rock'n'Roll dancing scene
Papa says "Leave the girl alone, Mother
She's looking like a Movie Queen"

[Verse 2]

Mama thinks she spoilt me

Papa knows somehow he set me free
Mama thinks she spoilt me rotten
She blames herself
But papa he blesses me
It's a rough road to travel
Mama let go now
It's always called for me
Sometimes I get that feeling
And I want to settle
And raise a child up with somebody
I get that strong longing
And I want to settle
And raise a child up with somebody
But it passes like the summer
I'm a wild seed again
Let the wind carry me

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- See You Sometime -----

[Verse 1]

Where are you now
Are you in some hotel room
Does it have a view?
Are you caught in a crowd
Or holding some honey
Who came on to you?
Why do you have to be so jive
Ok hang up the phone
It hurts
But something survives
Though it's undermined
I'd still like to see you sometime

[Verse 2]

I'm feeling so good
And my friends all tell me
That I'm looking fine
I run in the woods
I spring from the boulders
Like a mama lion
I'm not ready to
Change my name again
But you know I'm not after
A piece of your fortune
And your fame
Cause I tasted mine
I'd just like to see you sometime

[Bridge]

Pack your suspenders
I'll come meet your plane
No need to surrender
I just want to see you again

[Verse 3]

We're in for more rain
I could sure use some sunshine on my apple trees
It seems such a shame
We start out so kind and end so heartlessly
I couldn't take them all on then
With a headful of questions and hypes
So when the hopes got so slim
I just resigned
But I'd still like to see you sometime
I'd sure like to see you

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- Woman of Heart and Mind -----

[Verse 1]

I am a woman of heart and mind
With time on her hands
No child to raise
You come to me like a little boy
And I give you my scorn and my praise
You think I'm like your mother
Or another lover or your sister
Or the queen of your dreams
Or just another silly girl
When love makes a fool of me

[Verse 2]

After the rush when you come back down
You're always disappointed
Nothing seems to keep you high
Drive your bargains
Push your papers
Win your medals
Fuck your strangers
Don't it leave you on the empty side
I'm looking for affection and respect
A little passion
And you want stimulation-nothing more
That's what I think
But you know I'll try to be there for you
When your spirits start to sink

[Verse 3]

All this talk about holiness now
It must be the start of the latest style
Is it all books and words
Or do you really feel it?
Do you really laugh?
Do you really care?
Do you really smile
When you smile?
You criticize and you flatter
You imitate the best
And the rest you memorize
You know the times you impress me most
Are the times when you don't try
When you don't even try

----- 1972 For the Roses -----
----- You Turn Me On, I'm a Radio -----

[Verse 1]

If you're driving into town
With a dark cloud above you
Dial in the number
Who's bound to love you
Oh honey, you turn me on
I'm a radio
I'm a country station
I'm a little bit corny
I'm a wildwood flower
Waving for you
I'm a broadcasting tower
Waving for you
And I'm sending you out
This signal here
I hope you can pick it up
Loud and clear

[Verse 2]

I know you don't like weak women
You get bored so quick
And you don't like strong women
'Cause they're hip to your tricks
It's been dirty for dirty
Down the line
But you know I come when you whistle
When you're loving and kind
But if you've got too many doubts
If there's no good reception for me
Then tune me out, 'cause honey

Who needs the static
It hurts the head
And you wind up cracking
And the day goes dismal
From "Breakfast Barney"
To the sign-off prayer
What a sorry face you get to wear

[Verse 3]

I'm going to tell you again now
If you're still listening there
If you're driving into town
With a dark cloud above you
Dial in the number
Who's bound to love you
If you're lying on the beach
With the transistor going
Kick off the sandflies, honey
The love's still flowing
If your head says forget it
But your heart's still smoking
Call me at the station
The lines are open

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Car on a Hill -----

[Verse 1]

I've been sitting up waiting for my sugar to show
I've been listening to the sirens and the radio
He said he'd be over three hours ago
I've been waiting for his car on the hill
He makes friends easy
He's not like me
I watch for judgement anxiously
Now where in the city can that boy be

[Chorus]

Waiting for a car
Climbing
Climbing
Climbing the hill

[Verse 2]

He's a real good talker, I think he's a friend
Fast tires come screaming around the bend
But there's still no buzzer, they roll on
And I'm waiting for his car on the hill
It always seems so righteous at the start

When there's so much laughter
When there's so much spark
When there's so much sweetness in the dark

[Chorus]
Waiting for a car
Climbing
Climbing
Climbing the hill

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Court and Spark -----

[Verse 1]
Love came to my door
With a sleeping roll
And a madman's soul
He thought for sure I'd seen him
Dancing up a river in the dark
Looking for a woman
To court and spark

[Verse 2]
He was playing on the sidewalk
For passing change
When something strange happened
Glory train passed through him
So he buried the coins he made
In People's Park
And went looking for a woman
To court and spark

[Chorus 1]
It seemed like he read my mind
He saw me mistrusting him and still acting kind
He saw how I worried, sometimes
I worry sometimes

[Verse 3]
"All the guilty people," he said
"They've all seen the stain
On their daily bread
On their Christian names
I cleared myself, I sacrificed my blues
And you could complete me
I'd complete you."

[Verse 4]
His eyes were the color of the sand

And the sea
And the more he talked to me, you know
The more he reached me
But I couldn't let go of L.A
City of the fallen angels

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Down to You -----

[Verse 1]
Everything comes and goes
Marked by lovers and styles of clothes
Things that you held high
And told yourself were true
Lost or changing as the days come down to you
Down to you
Constant stranger
You're a kind person
You're a cold person too
It's down to you
It all comes down to you

[Verse 2]
You go down to the pick up station
Craving warmth and beauty
You settle for less than fascination
A few drinks later you're not so choosy
When the closing lights strip off the shadows
On this strange new flesh you've found
Clutching the night to you like a fig leaf
You hurry
To the blackness
And the blankets
To lay down an impression
And your loneliness

[Verse 3]
In the morning there are lovers in the street
They look so high
You brush against a stranger
And you both apologize
Old friends seem indifferent
You must have brought that on
Old bonds have broken down
Love is gone
Oooh love is gone
Written on your spirit this sad song
Love is gone

[Verse 4]

Everything comes and goes
Pleasure moves on too early
And trouble leaves too slow
Just when you're thinking
You've finally got it made
Bad news comes knocking
At your garden gate
Knocking for you
Constant stranger
You're a brute you're an angel
You can crawl you can fly too
It's down to you
It all comes down to you

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Free Man in Paris -----

[Verse 1]

The way I see it he said
You just can't win it
Everybody's in it for their own gain
You can't please 'em all
There's always somebody calling you down
I do my best and I do good business
There's a lot of people asking for my time
They're trying to get ahead
They're trying to be a good friend of mine

[Chorus]

I was a free man in Paris
I felt unfettered and alive
There was nobody calling me up for favours
And no one's future to decide
You know I'd go back there tomorrow
But for the work I've taken on
Stoking the star maker machinery
Behind the popular song

[Verse 2]

I deal in dreamers
And telephone screamers
Lately I wonder what I do it for
If I had my way
I'd just walk through those doors
And wander down the Champs-Elysees
Going cafe to cabaret
Thinking how I'll feel when I find
That very good friend of mine

[Chorus]

I was a free man in Paris
I felt unfettered and alive
Nobody was calling me up for favours
No one's future to decide
You know I'd go back there tomorrow
But for the work I've taken on
Stoking the star maker machinery
Behind the popular song

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Help Me -----

[Verse 1]

Help me, I think I'm falling in love again
When I get that crazy feeling, I know I'm in trouble again
I'm in trouble 'cause you're a rambler and a gambler
And a sweet talking ladies man and you love your lovin'
But not like you love your freedom

[Verse 2]

Help me, I think I'm falling in love too fast
It's got me hoping for the future and worrying about the past
'Cause I've seen some hot hot blazes
Come down to smoke and ash
We love our lovin' but not like we love our freedom

[Verse 3]

Didn't it feel good, we were sitting there talking
Or lying there not talking, didn't it feel good
You dance with the lady with the hole in her stocking
Didn't it feel good
Didn't it feel good

[Verse 4]

Help me, I think I'm falling in love with you
Are you going to let me go there by myself
That's such a lonely thing to do
Both of us flirting around flirting and flirting, hurting too
We love our lovin' but not like we love our freedom

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Just Like This Train -----

[Verse 1]

I'm always running behind the time
Just like this train
Shaking into town

With the brakes complaining
I used to count lovers like railroad cars
I counted them on my side
Lately I don't count on nothing
I just let things slide

[Chorus 1]

The station master's shuffling cards
Boxcars are banging in the yards
Jealous lovin'll make you crazy
If you can't find your goodness
'Cause you lost your heart

[Verse 2]

I went looking for a cause
Or a strong cat without claws
Or any reason to resume
And I found this empty seat
In this crowded waiting room
Everybody waiting
Old man sleeping on his bags
Women with that teased up kind of hair
Kids with the jitters in their legs
And those wide, wide open stares

[Chorus 2]

And the kids got Cokes and chocolate bars
There's a thin man smoking a fat cigar
Jealous lovin'll make you crazy
If you can't find your goodness
'Cause you've lost your heart

[Bridge]

What are you going to do now
You've got no one
To give your love to

[Verse 3]

Well I've got this berth and this pull down blind
I've got this fold up sink
And these rocks and these cactuses going by
And a bottle of German wine to drink
Settle down into the clickety clack
With the clouds and the stars to read
Dreaming of the pleasure I'm going to have
Watching your hairline recede, my vain darling

[Chorus 3]

Watching your hair and clouds and stars

I'm rocking away in a sleeping car
This jealous lovin's bound to make me crazy
I can't find my goodness
I lost my heart
Oh, sour grapes because I lost my heart

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- People's Parties -----

[Verse 1]
All the people at this party
They've got a lot of style
They've got stamps of many countries
They've got passport smiles
Some are friendly, some are cutting
Some are watching it from the wings
Some are standing in the centre
Giving to get something

[Verse 2]
Photo beauty gets attention
Then her eye paint's running down
She's got a rose in her teeth
And a lampshade crown
One minute she's so happy
Then she's crying on someone's knee
Saying laughing and crying
You know it's the same release

[Verse 3]
I told you when I met you I was crazy
Cry for us all beauty
Cry for Eddie in the corner
Thinking he's nobody
And Jack behind his joker
And stone-cold Grace behind her fan
And me in my frightened silence
Thinking I don't understand

[Verse 4]
I feel like I'm sleeping
Can you wake me
You seem to have a broader sensibility
I'm just living on nerves and feelings
With a weak and a lazy mind
And coming to people's parties
Fumbling deaf dumb and blind

[Verse 5]

I wish I had more sense of humor
Keeping the sadness at bay
Throwing the lightness on these things
Laughing it all away
Laughing it all away
Laughing it all away

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Raised on Robbery -----

[Verse 1]
He was sitting in the lounge of the Empire Hotel
He was drinking for diversion
He was thinking for himself
A little money riding on the Maple Leafs
Along comes a lady in lacy sleeves
She says: "Let me sit down
You know, drinkin' alone's a shame
(It's a shame, it's a crying shame)
Look at those jokers
Glued to that damn hockey game
Hey honey, you've got lots of cash
Bring us 'round a bottle
And we'll have some laughs

[Chorus 1]
Gin's what I'm drinking
I was raised on robbery"

[Verse 2]
I'm a pretty good cook
I'm sitting on my groceries
Come up to my kitchen
I'll show you my best recipe
I try and I try but I can't save a cent
I'm up after midnight cooking
Trying to make my rent

[Chorus 2]
I'm rough but I'm pleasin'
I was raised on robbery

[Verse 3]
We had a little money once
They were pushing through a four lane highway
Government gave us three thousand dollars
You should have seen it fly away
First he bought a '57 Biscayne
He put it in a ditch

He drunk up all the rest
That son of a bitch

[Chorus 3]
His blood's bad whiskey
I was raised on robbery

[Verse 4]
You know you ain't bad looking
I like the way you hold your drinks
Come home with me honey
I ain't asking for no full length mink
Hey, where you going? Don't go yet
Your glass ain't empty and we just met

[Chorus 4]
You're mean when you're loaded
I was raised on robbery

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Same Situation -----

[Verse 1]
Again and again the same situation
For so many years
Tethered to a ringing telephone
In a room full of mirrors
A pretty girl in your bathroom
Checking out her sex appeal
I asked myself when you said you loved me
Do you think this can be real?

[Verse 2]
Still I sent up my prayer
Wondering where it had to go
With heaven full of astronauts
And the Lord on death row
While the millions of his lost and lonely ones
Call out and clamour to be found
Caught in their struggle for higher positions
And their search for love that sticks around

[Verse 3]
You've had lots of lovely women
Now you turn your gaze to me
Weighing the beauty and the imperfection
To see if I'm worthy
Like the church, like a cop, like a mother
You want me to be truthful

Sometimes you turn it on me like a weapon though
And I need your approval

[Verse 4]

Still I sent up my prayer
Wondering who was there to hear
I said, "Send me somebody
Who's strong and somewhat sincere"
With the millions of the lost and lonely ones
I called out to be released
Caught in my struggle for higher achievements
And my search for love
That don't seem to cease

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Trouble Child -----

[Verse 1]

Up in a sterilized room
Where they let you be lazy
Knowing your attitude's all wrong
And you got to change
And that's not easy
Dragon shining with all values known
Dazzling you, keeping you from your own
Where is the lion in you
To defy him when you're this weak
And this spacey

[Verse 2]

So what are you going to do about it
You can't live life and you can't leave it
Advice and religion, you can't take it
You can't seem to believe it
The peacock is afraid to parade
You're under the thumb of the maid
You really can't give love in this condition
Still you know how you need it

[Verse 3]

They open and close you
Then they talk like they know you
They don't know you
They're friends and they're foes too
Trouble child
Breaking like the waves at Malibu

[Verse 4]

So why does it come as such a shock

To know you really have no one
Only a river of changing faces
Looking for an ocean
They trickle through your leaky plans
Another dream over the dam
And you're lying in some room
Feeling like your right to be human
Is going over too
Well, some are gonna knock you
And some'll try and clock you
You know it's really hard to talk sense to you
Trouble child
Breaking like the waves at Malibu

----- 1974 Court and Spark -----
----- Twisted -----

[Chorus 1]
My analyst told me
That I was right out of my head
The way he described it
He said I'd be better dead than live
I didn't listen to his jive
I knew all along
That he was all wrong
And I knew that he thought
I was crazy but I'm not
Oh no

[Chorus 2]
My analyst told me
That I was right out of my head
He said I need treatment
But I'm not that easily led
He said I was the type
That was most inclined
When out of his sight
To be out of my mind
And he thought I was nuts
No more ifs or ands or buts

[Verse 1]
They say as a child
I appeared a little bit wild
With all my crazy ideas
But I knew what was happening
I knew I was a genius
What's so strange when you know
That you're a wizard at three

I knew that this was meant to be

[Verse 2]

Now I heard little children
Were supposed to sleep tight
That's why I got into the vodka one night
My parents got frantic
Didn't know what to do
But I saw some crazy scenes
Before I came to
Now do you think I was crazy
I may have been only three
But I was swinging

[Verse 3]

They all laugh at angry young men
They all laughed at Edison and also at Einstein
So why should I feel sorry
If they just couldn't understand
The idiomatic logic
That went on in my head
I had a brain, it was insane
Oh, they used to laugh at me
When I refused to ride
On those double decker buses
All because there was no driver on the top

[Chorus 3]

My analyst told me
That I was right out of my head
But I said, "Dear doctor
I think that it's you instead
Because I, I got a thing
That's unique and new
To prove it I'll have
The last laugh on you
'Cause instead of one head
I got two
And you know two heads are better than one"

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- Don't Interrupt the Sorrow -----

[Chorus 1]

Don't interrupt the sorrow
Darn right
In flames our prophet witches
Be polite
A room full of glasses

He says, "Your notches, liberation doll"
And he chains me with that serpent
To that Ethiopian wall

[Verse 1]
Anima rising
Queen of Queens
Wash my guilt of Eden
Wash and balance me
Anima rising
Uprising in me tonight
She's a vengeful little goddess
With an ancient crown to fight

[Verse 2]
Truth goes up in vapors
The steeples lean
Winds of change patriarchs
Snug in your bible belt dreams
God goes up the chimney
Like childhood Santa Claus
The good slaves love the good book
A rebel loves a cause

[Verse 3]
I'm leaving on the 1:15
You're darn right
Since I was seventeen
I've had no one over me
He says "Anima rising-
So what-
Petrified wood process
Tall timber down to rock!"

[Chorus 2]
Don't interrupt the sorrow
Darn right
He says, "We walked on the moon
You be polite"
Don't let up the sorrow
Death and birth and death and birth and death and birth
He says, "Bring that bottle kindly
And I'll pad your purse-
I've got a head full of quandary
And a mighty, mighty, mighty thirst"

[Verse 4]
Seventeen glasses
Rhine wine

Milk of the Madonna
Clandestine
He don't let up the sorrow
He lies and he cheats
It takes a heart like Mary's these days
When your man gets weak

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- Edith and the Kingpin -----

[Verse 1]

The big man arrives
Disco dancers greet him
Plainclothes cops greet him
Small town, big man, fresh lipstick glistening
Sophomore jive
From victims of typewriters
The band sounds like typewriters
The big man he's not listening
His eyes hold Edith
His left hand holds his right
What does that hand desire
That he grips it so tight

[Verse 2]

Edith in the ring
The passed-over girls are conferring
The man with the diamond ring is purring
All claws for now withdrawn
One by one they bring
His renegade stories to her
His crimes and his glories to her
In challenge they look on
Women he has taken grow old too soon
He tilts their tired faces
Gently to the spoon

[Verse 3]

Edith in his bed
A plane in the rain is humming
The wires in the walls are humming
Some song - some mysterious song
Bars in her head
Beating frantic and snowblind
Romantic and snowblind
She says - his crime belongs
Edith and the Kingpin
Each with charm to sway
Are staring eye to eye

They dare not look away
You know they dare not look away

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- Harry's House/Centerpiece -----

[Verse 1]

Heatwaves on the runway
As the wheels set down
He takes his baggage off the carousel
He takes a taxi into town
Yellow schools of taxi fishes
Jonah in a ticking whale
Caught up at the light in the fishnet windows
Of Bloomingdale's
Watching those high fashion girls
Skinny black models with Raven curls
Beauty parlor blonds with credit card eyes
Looking for the chic and the fancy
To buy

[Verse 2]

He opens up his suitcase
In the continental suite
And people thirty stories down
Look like colored currents in the street
A helicopter lands on the Pan Am roof
Like a dragonfly on a tomb
And business men in button downs
Press into conference rooms
Battalions of paper-minded males
Talking commodities and sales
While at home their paper wives
And paper kids
Paper the walls to keep their gut reactions hid

[Verse 3]

Yellow checkers for the kitchen
Climbing ivy for the bath
She is lost in House and Gardens
He's caught up in Chief of Staff
He drifts off into the memory
Of the way she looked in school
With her body oiled and shining
At the public swimming pool

[Chorus 1]

The more I'm with you, pretty baby
The more I feel my love increase

I'm building all my dreams around you
Our happiness will never cease
Cause nothing's any good without you
Baby you're my centerpiece

[Chorus 2]
We'll find a house and garden somewhere
Along a country road a piece
A little cottage on the outskirts
Where we can really find release
Cause nothing's any good without you
Baby you're my centerpiece

[Outro]
Shining hair and shining skin
Shining as she reeled him in
To tell him like she did today
Just what he could do with Harry's House
And Harry's take home pay

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- In France They Kiss on Main Street -----

[Verse 1]
Downtown
My darling dime store thief
In the War of Independence
Rock 'n' roll rang sweet as victory
Under neon signs
A girl was in bloom
And a woman was fading
In a suburban room
I said take me to the dance
Do you want to dance?
I love to dance
And I told him
They don't take chances
They seem so removed from romance
They've been broken in churches & schools
And molded to middle class circumstance

[Chorus]
And we were rollin'
Rollin'
Rock 'n' rollin'

[Verse 2]
Downtown
The dance halls and cafes

Feel so wild you could break somebody's heart
Just doing the latest dance craze
Gail and Louise
In those push up brassieres
Tight dresses and rhinestone rings
Drinking up the band's beers
Young love was kissing under bridges
Kissing in cars
Kissing in cafes
And we were walking down Main Street
Kisses like bright flags hung on holidays
In France they kiss on Main Street
Amour, mama, not cheap display

[Chorus]

And we were rollin'
Rollin'
Rock 'n' rollin'

[Verse 3]

Downtown
In the pinball arcade
With his head full of pool hall pitches
And songs from the hit parade
He'd be singing "Bye, Bye, Love"
While he's racking up his free play
Let those rock 'n' roll choir boys
Come and carry us away
Sometimes Chickie had the car
Or Ron had the car
Or Lead Foot Melvin with his hotwire head
We'd all go looking for a party
Looking to raise Jesus up from the dead
And I'd be kissing in the back seat
Thrilling to the Brando-like things that he said

[Chorus]

And we'd be rollin'
Rollin'
Rock 'n' rolling

[Outro]

Rollin'
Rollin'
Rock 'n' rollin'
Rollin'
Rollin'
Rock 'n' rollin'

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- Shades of Scarlett Conquering -----

[Verse 1]

Out of the fire like Catholic saints
Comes Scarlett and her deep complaint
Mimicking tenderness she sees
In sentimental movies
A celluloid rider comes to town
Cinematic lovers sway
Plantations and sweeping ballroom gowns
Take her breath away

[Verse 2]

Out in the wind in crinolines
Chasing the ghosts of Gable and Flynn
Through stand-in boys and extra players
Magnolias hopeful in her auburn hair
She comes from a school of southern charm
She likes to have things her way
Any man in the world holding out his arm
Would soon be made to pay

Friends have told her not so proud
Neighbors trying to sleep and yelling "not so loud"

[Verse 3]

Lovers in anger "block of ice"
Harder and harder just to be nice
Given in the night to dark dreams
From the dark things she feels
She covers her eyes in the x-rated scenes
Running from the reels

[Verse 4]

Beauty and madness to be praised
'cause it is not easy to be brave
To walk around in so much need
To carry the weight of all that greed
Dressed in stolen clothes she stands
Cast iron and frail
With her impossibly gentle hands
And her blood-red fingernails

[Outro]

Out of the fire and still smoldering
She says "a woman must have everything"
Shades of scarlett conquering
She says "a woman must have everything"

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- Shadows and Light -----

[Verse 1]

Every picture has its shadows
And it has some source of light
Blindness, blindness and sight
The perils of benefactors
The blessings of parasites
Blindness, blindness and sight
Threatened by all things
Devil of cruelty
Drawn to all things
Devil of delight
Mythical devil of the ever-present laws
Governing blindness, blindness and sight

[Verse 2]

Suntans in reservation dining rooms
Pale miners in their lantern rays
Night, night and day
Hostage smile on presidents
Freedom scribbled in the subway
It's like night, night and day
Threatened by all things
God of cruelty
Drawn to all things
God of delight
Mythical god of the everlasting laws
Governing day, day and night

[Verse 3]

Critics of all expression
Judges in black and white
Saying it's wrong, saying it's right
Compelled by prescribed standards
Or some ideals we fight
For wrong, wrong and right
Threatened by all things
Man of cruelty - mark of Cain
Drawn to all things
Man of delight - born again, born again
Man of the laws, the ever-broken laws
Governing wrong, wrong and right
Governing wrong, wrong and right
Wrong and right

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----

----- Sweet Bird -----

[Chorus 1]

Out on some borderline
Some mark of in between
I lay down golden-in time
And woke up vanishing

[Verse 1]

Sweet bird you are
Briefer than a falling star
All these vain promises on beauty jars
Somewhere with your wings on time
You must be laughing
Behind our eyes
Calendars of our lives
Circled with compromise
Sweet bird of time and change
You must be laughing
Up on your feathers laughing

[Chorus 2]

Golden in time
Cities under the sand
Power, ideals and beauty
Fading in everyone's hand

[Verse 2]

Give me some time
I feel like I'm losing mine
Out here on this horizon line
With the earth spinning
And the sky forever rushing
No one knows
They can never get that close
Guesses at most
Guesses based on what each set of time and change is touching

[Outro]

Guesses based on what each set of time and change is touching
Guesses based on what each set of time and change is touching

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----

----- The Boho Dance -----

[Verse 1]

Down in the cellar in the Boho Zone
I went looking for some sweet inspiration, oh well
Just another hard-time band

With Negro affectations
I was a hopeful in rooms like this
When I was working cheap
It's an old romance, the Boho dance
It hasn't gone to sleep

[Chorus]
But even on the scuffle
The cleaner's press was in my jeans
And any eye for detail
Caught a little lace along the seams

[Verse 2]
And you were in the parking lot
Subterranean by your own design
The virtue of your style inscribed
On your contempt for mine
Jesus was a beggar, he was rich in grace
And Solomon kept his head in all his glory
It's just that some steps outside the Boho dance
Have a fascination for me

[Chorus]
A camera pans the cocktail hour
Behind a blind of potted palms
And finds a lady in a Paris dress
With runs in her nylons

[Verse 3]
You read those books where luxury
Comes as a guest to take a slave
Books where artists in noble poverty
Go like virgins to the grave
Don't you get sensitive on me
'Cause I know you're just too proud
You couldn't step outside the Boho dance now
Even if good fortune allowed

[Chorus]
Like a priest with a pornographic watch
Looking and longing on the sly
Sure it's stricken from your uniform
But you can't get it out of your eyes

[Chorus]
Nothing is capsulized in me
On either side of town
The streets were never really mine
Not mine these glamour gowns

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- The Hissing Of Summer Lawns -----

He bought her a diamond for her throat
He put her in a ranch house on a hill
She could see the valley barbecues
From her window sill
See the blue pools in the squinting sun
Hear the hissing of summer lawns

He put up a barbed wire fence
To keep out the unknown
And on every metal thorn
Just a little blood of his own
She patrols that fence of his
To a latin drum
And the hissing of summer lawns
Darkness
Wonder makes it easy
Darkness
With a joyful mask
Darkness
Tube's gone, darkness, darkness, darkness
No color no contrast

A diamond dog
Carrying a cup and a cane
Looking through a double glass
Looking at too much pride and too much shame
There's a black fly buzzing
There's a heat wave burning in her master's voice
Hissing summer lawns

He gave her his darkness to regret
And good reason to quit him
He gave her a roomful of Chippendale
That nobody sits in
Still she stays with a love of some kind
It's the lady's choice
The hissing of summer lawns

----- 1975 The Hissing of Summer Lawns -----
----- The Jungle Line -----

[Verse 1]
Rousseau walks on trumpet paths
Safaris to the heart of all that jazz
Through I bars and girders-through wires and pipes

The mathematic circuits of the modern nights
Through huts, through Harlem, through jails and gospel pews
Through the class on Park and the trash on Vine
Through Europe and the deep deep heart of Dixie blue
Through savage progress cuts the jungle line

[Verse 2]

In a low-cut blouse she brings the beer
Rousseau paints a jungle flower behind her ear
Those cannibals-of shuck and jive
They'll eat a working girl like her alive
With his hard-edged eye and his steady hand
He paints the cellar full of ferns and orchid vines
And he hangs a moon above a five-piece band
He hangs it up above the jungle line

[Verse 3]

The jungle line, the jungle line
Screaming in a ritual of sound and time
Floating, drifting on the air-conditioned wind
And drooling for a taste of something smuggled in
Pretty women funneled through valves and smoke
Coy and bitchy, wild and fine
And charging elephants and chanting slaving boats
Charging, chanting down the jungle line

[Verse 4]

There's a poppy wreath on a soldier's tomb
There's a poppy snake in a dressing room
Poppy poison-poppy tourniquet
It slithers away on brass like mouthpiece spit
And metal skin and ivory birds
Go steaming up to Rousseau's vines
They go steaming up to Brooklyn Bridge
Steaming, steaming, steaming up the jungle line

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- A Strange Boy -----

[Verse 1]

A strange boy is weaving
A course of grace and havoc
On a yellow skateboard
Thru midday sidewalk traffic
Just when I think he's foolish and childish
And I want him to be manly
I catch my fool and my child
Needing love and understanding

[Verse 2]

What a strange strange boy
He still lives with his family
Even the war and the navy
Couldn't bring him to maturity

[Verse 3]

He keeps referring back to school days
And clinging to his child
Fidgeting and bullied
His crazy wisdom holding onto something wild
He asked me to be patient
Well I failed
"Grow up!" I cried
And as the smoke was clearing he said
"Give me one good reason why"

[Verse 4]

What a strange strange boy
He sees the cars as sets of waves
Sequences of mass and space
He sees the damage in my face

[Verse 5]

We got high on travel
And we got drunk on alcohol
And on love the strongest poison and medicine of all
See how that feeling comes and goes
Like the pull of moon on tides
Now I am surf rising
Now parched ribs of sand at his side

[Verse 6]

What a strange strange boy
I gave him clothes and jewelry
I gave him my warm body
I gave him power over me

[Verse 7]

A thousand glass eyes were staring
In a cellar full of antique dolls
I found an old piano
And sweet chords rose up in waxed New England halls
While the boarders were snoring
Under crisp white sheets of curfew
We were newly lovers then
We were fire in the stiff blue-haired house rules

----- 1976 Hejira -----

----- Amelia -----

[Verse 1]

I was driving across the burning desert
When I spotted six jet planes
Leaving six white vapor trails across the bleak terrain
It was the hexagram of the heavens
It was the strings of my guitar
Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 2]

The drone of flying engines
Is a song so wild and blue
It scrambles time and seasons if it gets thru to you
Then your life becomes a travelogue
Of picture post card charms
Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 3]

People will tell you where they've gone
They'll tell you where to go
But till you get there yourself you never really know
Where some have found their paradise
Others just come to harm
Oh, Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 4]

I wish that he was here tonight
It's so hard to obey
His sad request of me to kindly stay away
So this is how I hide the hurt
As the road leads cursed and charmed
I tell Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 5]

A ghost of aviation
She was swallowed by the sky
Or by the sea like me she had a dream to fly
Like Icarus ascending
On beautiful foolish arms
Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 6]

Maybe I've never really loved
I guess that is the truth
I've spent my whole life in clouds at icy altitude
And looking down on everything
I crashed into his arms
Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 7]

I pulled into the Cactus Tree Motel
To shower off the dust
And I slept on the strange pillows of my wanderlust
I dreamed of 747s
Over geometric farms
Dreams Amelia - dreams and false alarms

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Black Crow -----

[Verse 1]

There's a crow flying
Black and ragged
Tree to tree
He's black as the highway that's leading me
Now he's diving down
To pick up on something shiny
I feel like that black crow
Flying
In a blue sky

[Verse 2]

I took a ferry to the highway
Then I drove to a pontoon plane
I took a plane to a taxi
And a taxi to a train
I've been traveling so long
How'm I ever going to know my home
When I see it again
I'm like a black crow flying
In a blue blue sky

[Verse 3]

In search of love and music
My whole life has been
Illumination
Corruption
And diving diving diving diving
Diving down to pick up on every shiny thing
Just like that black crow flying
In a blue sky

[Verse 4]

I looked at the morning
After being up all night
I looked at my haggard face in the bathroom light
I looked out the window

And I saw that ragged soul take flight
I saw a black crow flying
In a blue sky
Oh I'm like a black crow flying
In a blue sky

----- 1976 Hejira -----

----- Blue Motel Room -----

[Verse 1]

I've got a blue motel room
With a blue bedspread
I've got the blues inside and outside my head
Will you still love me
When I call you up when I'm down
Here in Savannah it's pouring rain
Palm trees in the porch light like slick black cellophane
Will you still love me
When I call you up when I get back to town
I know that you've got all those pretty girls coming on
Hanging on your boom-boom-pachyderm
Will you tell those girls that you've got German Measles
Honey, tell them you've got germs
I hope you'll be thinking of me
Because I'll be thinking of you
While I'm traveling home alone
Tell those girls that you've got Joni
She's coming back home

[Verse 2]

I've got road maps
From two dozen states
I've got coast to coast just to contemplate
Will you still love me
When I get back to town
It's funny how these old feelings hang around
You think they're gone
No, no
They just go underground
Will you still love me
When I get back to L.A. town
You and me, we're like America and Russia
We're always keeping score
We're always balancing the power
And that can get to be a cold cold war
We're going to have to hold ourselves a peace talk
In some neutral cafe
You lay down your sneaking round the town honey
And I'll lay down the highway

[Verse 3]

I've got a blue motel room
With a blue bedspread
I've got the blues inside and outside my head
Will you still love me
When I get back to town

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Coyote -----

[Verse 1]

No regrets Coyote
We just come from such different sets of circumstance
I'm up all night in the studios
And you're up early on your ranch
You'll be brushing out a broodmare's tail
While the sun is ascending
And I'll just be getting home with my reel-to-reel
There's no comprehending
Just how close to the bone and the skin and the eyes
And the lips you can get
And still feel so alone
And still feel related
Like stations in some relay
You're not a hit and run driver no no
Racing away
You just picked up a hitcher
A prisoner of the white lines on the freeway

[Verse 2]

We saw a farmhouse burning down
In the middle of nowhere
In the middle of the night
And we rolled right past that tragedy
Till we turned into some road house lights
Where a local band was playing
Locals were up kicking and shaking on the floor
And the next thing I know
That coyote's at my door
He pins me in a corner and he won't take no
He drags me out on the dance floor
And we're dancing close and slow
Now he's got a woman at home
He's got another woman down the hall
He seems to want me anyway
Why'd you have to get so drunk
And lead me on that way
You just picked up a hitcher

A prisoner of the white lines on the freeway

[Verse 3]

I looked a coyote right in the face
On the road to Baljennie near my old home town
He went running thru the whisker wheat
Chasing some prize down
And a hawk was playing with him
Coyote was jumping straight up and making passes
He had those same eyes just like yours
Under your dark glasses
Privately probing the public rooms
And peeking thru keyholes in numbered doors
Where the players lick their wounds
And take their temporary lovers
And their pills and powders to get them thru this passion play
No regrets Coyote
I just get off up aways
You just picked up a hitcher
A prisoner of the white lines on the freeway

[Verse 4]

Coyote's in the coffee shop
He's staring a hole in his scrambled eggs
He picks up my scent on his fingers
While he's watching the waitresses' legs
He's too far from the Bay of Fundy
From appaloosas and eagles and tides
And the air conditioned cubicles
And the carbon ribbon rides
Are spelling it out so clear
Either he's going to have to stand and fight
Or take off out of here
I tried to run away myself
To run away and wrestle with my ego
And with this flame
You put here in this Eskimo
In this hitcher
In this prisoner
Of the fine white lines
Of the white lines on the free free way

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Furry Sings The Blues -----

[Verse 1]

Old Beale Street is coming down
Sweeties' Snack Bar boarded up now
And Egles the Tailor and the Shine Boy's gone

Faded out with ragtime blues
Handy's cast in bronze
And he's standing in a little park
With a trumpet in his hand
Like he's listening back to the good old bands
And the click of high heeled shoes
Old Furry sings the blues
Propped up in his bed
With his dentures and his leg removed
And Ginny's there
For her kindness and Furry's beer
She's the old man's angel overseer

[Verse 2]

Pawn shops glitter like gold tooth caps
In the grey decay
They chew the last few dollars off
Old Beale Street's carcass
Carrion and mercy
Blue and silver sparkling drums
Cheap guitars eye shades and guns
Aimed at the hot blood of being no one
Down and out in Memphis Tennessee
Old Furry sings the blues
You bring him smoke and drink and he'll play for you
It's mostly muttering now and sideshow spiel
But there was one song he played
I could really feel

[Verse 3]

There's a double bill murder at the New Daisy
The old girl's silent across the street
She's silent waiting for the wrecker's beat
Silent staring at her stolen name
Diamond boys and satin dolls
Bourbon laughter ghosts history falls
To parking lots and shopping malls
As they tear down old Beale Street
Old Furry sings the blues
He points a bony finger at you and says
"I don't like you"
Everybody laughs as if it's the old man's standard joke
But it's true
We're only welcome for our drink and smoke

[Verse 4]

W. C. Handy I'm rich and I'm fey
And I'm not familiar with what you played
But I get such strong impressions of your hey day

Looking up and down old Beale Street
Ghosts of the darktown society
Come right out of the bricks at me
Like it's a Saturday night
They're in their finery
Dancing it up and making deals
Furry sings the blues
Why should I expect that old guy to give it to me true
Fallen to hard luck
And time and other thieves
While our limo is shining on his shanty street
Old Furry sings the blues

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Hejira -----

[Verse 1]

I'm traveling in some vehicle
I'm sitting in some cafe
A defector from the petty wars
That shell shock love away
There's comfort in melancholy
When there's no need to explain
It's just as natural as the weather
In this moody sky today
In our possessive coupling
So much could not be expressed
So now I'm returning to myself
These things that you and I suppressed
I see something of myself in everyone
Just at this moment of the world
As snow gathers like bolts of lace
Waltzing on a ballroom girl

[Verse 2]

You know it never has been easy
Whether you do or you do not resign
Whether you travel the breadth of extremities
Or stick to some straighter line
Now here's a man and a woman sitting on a rock
They're either going to thaw out or freeze
Listen
Strains of Benny Goodman
Coming through the snow and the pinewood trees
I'm porous with travel fever
But you know I'm so glad to be on my own
Still somehow the slightest touch of a stranger
Can set up trembling in my bones
I know no one's going to show me everything

We all come and go unknown
Each so deep and superficial
Between the forceps and the stone

[Verse 3]

Well I looked at the granite markers
Those tribute to finality to eternity
And then I looked at myself here
Chicken scratching for my immortality
In the church they light the candles
And the wax rolls down like tears
There's the hope and the hopelessness
I've witnessed thirty years
We're only particles of change I know I know
Orbiting around the sun
But how can I have that point of view
When I'm always bound and tied to someone
White flags of winter chimneys
Waving truce against the moon
In the mirrors of a modern bank
From the window of a hotel room

[Verse 4]

I'm traveling in some vehicle
I'm sitting in some cafe
A defector from the petty wars
Until love sucks me back that way

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Refuge of the Roads -----

[Verse 1]

I met a friend of spirit
He drank and womanized
And I sat before his sanity
I was holding back from crying
He saw my complications
And he mirrored me back simplified
And we laughed how our perfection
Would always be denied
"Heart and humor and humility"
He said "Will lighten up your heavy load"
I left him for the refuge of the roads

[Verse 2]

I fell in with some drifters
Cast upon a beachtown
Winn Dixie cold cuts and highway hand me downs
And I wound up fixing dinner

For them and Boston Jim
I well up with affection
Thinking back down the roads to then
The nets were overflowing
In the Gulf of Mexico
They were overflowing in the refuge of the roads

[Verse 3]
There was spring along the ditches
There were good times in the cities
Oh radiant happiness
It was all so light and easy
Till I started analyzing
And I brought on my old ways
A thunderhead of judgment was
Gathering in my gaze
And it made most people nervous
They just didn't want to know
What I was seeing in the refuge of the roads

[Verse 4]
I pulled off into a forest
Crickets clicking in the ferns
Like a wheel of fortune
I heard my fate turn turn turn
And I went running down a white sand road
I was running like a white-assed deer
Running to lose the blues
To the innocence in here
These are the clouds of Michelangelo
Muscular with gods and sungold
Shine on your witness in the refuge of the roads

[Verse 5]
In a highway service station
Over the month of June
Was a photograph of the earth
Taken coming back from the moon
And you couldn't see a city
On that marbled bowling ball
Or a forest or a highway
Or me here least of all
You couldn't see these cold water restrooms
Or this baggage overload
Westbound and rolling taking refuge in the roads

----- 1976 Hejira -----
----- Song For Sharon -----

[Verse 1]

I went to Staten Island, Sharon
To buy myself a mandolin
And I saw the long white dress of love
On a storefront mannequin
Big boat chuggin' back with a belly full of cars
All for something lacy
Some girl's going to see that dress
And crave that day like crazy

[Verse 2]

Little Indian kids on a bridge up in Canada
They can balance and they can climb
Like their fathers before them
They'll walk the girders of the Manhattan skyline
Shine your light on me Miss Liberty
Because as soon as this ferry boat docks
I'm headed to the church
To play Bingo
Fleece me with the gamblers' flocks

[Verse 3]

I can keep my cool at poker
But I'm a fool when love's at stake
Because I can't conceal emotion
What I'm feeling's always written on my face
There's a gypsy down on Bleecker Street
I went in to see her as a kind of joke
And she lit a candle for my love luck
And eighteen bucks went up in smoke

[Verse 4]

Sharon, I left my man
At a North Dakota junction
And I came out to the "Big Apple" here
To face the dream's malfunction
Love's a repetitious danger
You'd think I'd be accustomed to
Well I do accept the changes
At least better than I used to do

[Verse 5]

A woman I knew just drowned herself
The well was deep and muddy
She was just shaking off futility
Or punishing somebody
My friends were calling up all day yesterday
All emotions and abstractions
It seems we all live so close to that line

And so far from satisfaction

[Verse 6]

Dora says "Have children"
Mama and Betsy say "Find yourself a charity
Help the needy and the crippled or put some time into Ecology"
Well there's a wide wide world of noble causes
And lovely landscapes to discover
But all I really want to do right now
Is find another lover

[Verse 7]

When we were kids in Maidstone, Sharon
I went to every wedding in that little town
To see the tears and the kisses
And the pretty lady in the white lace wedding gown
And walking home on the railroad tracks
Or swinging on the playground swing
Love stimulated my illusions
More than anything

[Verse 8]

And when I went skating after Golden Reggie
You know it was white lace I was chasing
Chasing dreams
Mama's nylons underneath my cowgirl jeans
He showed me first you get the kisses
And then you get the tears
But the ceremony of the bells and lace
Still veils this reckless fool here

[Verse 9]

Now there are twenty-nine skaters on Wollman Rink
Circling in singles and in pairs
In this vigorous anonymity
A blank face at the window stares and
Stares and stares and stares andstares
And the power of reason
And the flowers of deep feeling
Seem to serve me
Only to deceive me

[Verse 10]

Sharon you've got a husband
And a family and a farm
I've got the apple of temptation
And a diamond snake around my arm
But you still have your music
And I've still got my eyes on the land and the sky

You sing for your friends and your family
I'll walk green pastures by and by

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----

I'm Don Juan's reckless daughter
I came out two days on your tail
Those two bald-headed days in November
Before the first snowflakes sail
Out on the vast and subtle plains of mystery
A split tongue spirit talks
Noble as a nickel chief
Striking up an old juke box
And he says:
"Snakes along the railroad tracks."
He says, "Eagles in jet trails ..."
He says, "Coils around feathers and talons on scales ..."
Gravel under the belly plates ..."
He says, "Wind in the Wings ..."
He says, "Big bird dragging its tail in the dust ..."
Snake kite flying on a string."

I come from open prairie
Given some wisdom and a lot of jive!
Last night the ghosts of my old ideas
Reran on channel five
And it howled so spooky for its eagle soul
I nearly broke down and cried
But the split tongue spirit laughed at me
He says, "Your serpent cannot be denied."
Our serpents love the whisky bars
They love the romance of the crime
But didn't I see a neon sign
Fester on your hotel blind
And a country road come off the wall
And swoop down at the crowd at the bar
And put me at the top of your danger list
Just for being so much like you are!

You're a coward against the altitude--
You're a coward against the flesh--
Coward--caught between yes and no
Reckless this time on the line for yes, yes, yes!
Reckless brazen in the play
Of your changing traffic lights
Coward--slinking down the hall
To another restless night
As we center behind the eight ball

As we rock between the sheets
As we siphon the colored language
Off the farms and the streets
Here in Good-Old-God-Save-America
The home of the brave and the free
We are all hopelessly oppressed cowards
Of some duality
Of restless multiplicity
(Oh say can you see)

Restless for streets and honky tonks
Restless for home and routine
Restless for country-safety-and her
Restless for the likes of reckless me
Restless sweeps like fire and rain
Over virgin wilderness
It prowls like hookers and thieves
Through bolt locked tenements
Behind my bolt locked door
The eagle and the serpent are at war in me
The serpent fighting for blind desire
The eagle for clarity
What strange prizes these battles bring
These hectic joys-these weary blues
Puffed up and strutting when I think I win
Down and shaken when I think I lose

There are rivets up here in this eagle
There are box cars down there on your snake
And we are twins of spirit
No matter which route home we take
Or what we forsake
We're going to come up to the eyes of clarity
And we'll go down to the beads of guile
There is danger and education
In living out such a reckless life style
I touched you on the central plains
It was plane to train my twin
It was just plane shadow to train shadow
But to me it was skin to skin
The spirit talks in spectrums
He talks to mother earth to father sky
Self indulgence to self denial
Man to woman
Scales to feathers
You and I
Eagles in the sky
You and I
Snakes in the grass

You and I
Crawl and fly
You and I

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Dreamland -----

[Verse 1]

It's a long, long way from Canada
A long way from snow chains
Donkey vendors slicing coconut
No parkas to their name
Black babies covered in baking flour
The cook's got a carnival song
We're going to lay down someplace shady
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

[Verse 2]

Walter Raleigh and Chris Columbus
Come a-marching out of the waves
And claim the beach and all concessions
In the name of the suntan slave
I wrapped that flag around me
Like a Dorothy Lamour sarong
And I lay down thinking national
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

[Verse 3]

Goodtime Mary and a fortune hunter
All dressed up to follow the drums
Mary in a feather hula-hoop
Miss Fortune with a rose on her big game gun
All saints, all sinners shining
Heed those trumpets all night long
Propped up on a samba beat
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

[Verse 4]

Tar baby and the Great White Wonder
Talking over a glass of rum
Burning on the inside
With the knowledge of things to come
There's gambling out on the terrace
And midnight ramblin' on the lawn
As they lead toward temptation
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

[Verse 5]

In a plane flying back to winter
In shoes full of tropic sand
A lady in a foreign flag
On the arm of her Marlboro Man
The hawk howls in New York City
Six foot drifts on Myrtle's lawn
As they push the recline buttons down
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

[Verse 6]

La, la, la la
Da, da, da, da
African sand on the trade winds
And the sun on the Amazon
As they push the recline buttons down
With dreamland coming on

[Refrain]

Dreamland, dreamland
Dreamland, dreamland

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Jericho -----

I'll try to keep myself open up to you
That's a promise that I made to love
When it was new
"Just like Jericho" I said
"Let these wall come tumbling down"
I said it like I finally found the way

To keep the good feelings alive
I said it like it was something to strive for

I'll try to keep myself open up to you
And approve your self expression
I need that, too
I need your confidence, baby
And the gift of your extra time
In turn I'll give you mine
Sweet darling, it's a rich exchange
It seems to me
It's a warm arrangement!

Anyone will tell you
Just how hard it is to make and keep a friend
Maybe they'll short sell you
Or maybe it's you
Judas, in the end
When you just can no longer pretend
That you're getting what you need
Or you're giving out anything for them to grow and feed on

I'll try to keep myself open up to you
It gets easier and easier to do
Just like Jericho
Let these walls come tumbling down now
Let them fall right on the ground
Let all these dogs go running free
The wild and the gentle dogs
Kenneled in me

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Off Night Backstreet -----

Maybe I'm just kidding myself when I say I love you
I don't know--
Loving without trusting
You get--frostbite and sunstroke
I wish I felt nothing!
You pimp--laughing and strutting her to my chartered seat
Your old off night back street

It's been stinger to stinger, darling
It's been heart to heart
You still keep me from finishing
Any new love I start
Now she's moved in with you
She's keeping your house neat
And your sheets sweet

And I'm your off night back street

I can feel your fingers
Feeling my face
There are some lines you put there
And some you erase
Maybe I'm just dramatizing
I don't care
It's home--it can be heaven
When we play fair
But these sentimental journeys
Late at night--
High in some back room you're calling me
To be your off night back street

You give me such pleasure
You bring me such pain
Who left her long black hair
In our bathtub drain?

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Otis And Marlana -----

Marlana under Foster Grants
She's undercover from the dawns advance
That girl is travel-drained
And the neon mercury vapor stained
Miami sky
It's red as meat
It's a cheap pink rose
Otis in the driver's seat
Watches the street lights fade away
On louvered blocks in green sea air
In fluorescent fossil yards
Slippers are shuffling into folding chairs
Freckled hands are shuffling cards

They've come for fun and sun
While Muslims stick up Washington ...

Otis empties out the trunk
On the steps of that celebrated dump
Sleazing by the sea
Bow down to her royal travesty--
In her ballrooms heads of state--
In her bedrooms rented girls--
Always the grand parades of cellulite
Jiggling to her golden pools
Through flock and cupid colonnades

They jiggle into surgery
Hopefully beneath the blade
They dream of golden beauty ...

They've come for fun and sun
While Muslims stick up Washington ...

Marlena, white as stretcher sheet
Watches it all from her 10th floor balcony
Like it's her opera box
All those Pagliacci summer frocks
Otis is fiddling with the TV dial
All he gets are cartoons and reruns
She taps her glass with an emery file
Watching three rings in the sun
The golden dive, the fatted flake
And sizzle in the mink oil
It's all a dream
She has awake
Checked into Miami Royal
Where they've come for fun and sun
While Muslims hold up Washington ...
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Overture - Cotton Avenue -----

[Verse 1]
A red sun came rolling down a grey sky
And the frogs and dogs and night birds then
Started up singing sweet country lullaby
You see that patch of city lights
Somewhere in there's Cotton Avenue
That's where I'm going to take myself tonight
With a spit shine on my dancing shoes

[Chorus]
If you got a place like that to go
You just have to go there
If you got no place special
Well then, you just go no place special

[Verse 2]
I guess it's just the summer in the young blood
Ripe and juicy in the young blood

Teasing to go down to Cotton Avenue
To hear the shiny shiny music
See all the shiny people dancing to it
Anytime you go to Cotton Avenue

[Chorus]
If you got a place like that to go
You know you got to go there
If you got no place special
Well then you just go no place special

[Verse 3]
You see that summer storm brewing in the southern sky
By the time it hits here I'll be dancing high and dry
To rhythm and blues on Cotton Avenue
Poor boys'll be hanging around outside in the street
They got all the latest words
They're dancing to the latest beat
While they're hustling and sizing you
On Cotton Avenue

[Chorus]
If you got a place like that to go
You just have to go there
If you've got no place special
Well my dear
You just go no place special

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Paprika Plains -----

It fell from midnight skies
It drummed on the galvanized
In the washroom, women tracked the rain
Up to the make-up mirror
Liquid soap and grass
And Jungle Gardenia crash
On Pine-Sol and beer ...
It's stifling in here ...
I've got to get some air ...
I'm going outside to get some air

Back in my hometown
They would have cleared the floor
Just to watch the rain come down!
They're such sky oriented people--
Geared to changing weather ...
I'm floating off in time
I'm floating off

I'm floating off in time

When I was three feet tall
And wide eyed open to it all
With their tasseled teams they came
To McGee's General Store
All in their beaded leathers
I would tie on colored feathers
And I'd beat the drum like war ...
I would beat the drum like war
I'd beat the drum
I'd beat the drum like war

But when the church got through
They traded their beads for bottles
Smashed--on Railway Avenue
And they cut off their braids
And lost some link with nature
I'm floating into dreams
I'm floating off
I'm floating into my dreams

I dream paprika plains
Vast and bleak and God forsaken
Paprika plains
And a turquoise river snaking

(Where crows gaze--vigilant on wires
Where cattle graze the grasses
Far from the digits of business hours
The moon clock wanes and waxes--
But here all time is stripped away
Nowhere on these plains
Is a sprout or an egg in evidence
To measure loss or gain ...
Only a little Indian band
Come down from some windy mesa
No women to make them food and child
No expressions on their faces
I'm low in a helicopter
And the wind from whirling blades
Flaps their woven blankets
And flags their raven braids
How came they to this emptiness?
How came they to this dream?
How came I to this view
From a flying machine
Of earth and air and water
And a band of Indian men

Without herds or flocks or crops
Or families or fires to tend?
Like a phoenix up from ashes now
A blanket figure springs
With a fist raised up to turquoise skies
Like liberty
And at the point of vanishing
Where the sky and the earth meet
A bomb blooms
Deadly mushroom
White
Gold
Heat
Like a phoenix up from ashes
Up from violent mysteries
And growing 'till the giant blast
Is to it like a golfer's tee
There comes a child's beach ball
And memory takes me back
To the beach to toss it up
To the garage to get it patched
A pink and yellow beach ball
Rolling
Grand
Detached
Turning the blues and greens of earth
From space probe photographs
I float out of the hovercraft
Naked as infancy
And weightless
And drifting
Horizontally
Like a filing to a magnet
Like the long descent of rain
I am drawn
I fall against the ball
And lose paprika plains
I suckle at my mother's breast
I embrace my mother earth
I remember perforated blinds
Over the crib of my birth
And just as Eve succumbed
To reckless curiosity
I take my sharpest fingernail
And slash the globe to see
Below me--
Vast Paprika plains
And the snake the river traces
And a little band of Indian men

With no expressions on their faces.)

The rain retreats
Like troops to fall on other fields and streets
Meanwhile they're sweet talking and name calling
And brawling on the fringes of the floor
I spot you through the smoke
With your eyes on fire
From J&B and coke
As I'm coming through the door
I'm coming back
I'm coming back for more!
The band plugs in again
You see that mirrored ball begin to sputter lights
And spin
Dizzy on the dancers
Geared to changing rhythms
No matter what you do
I'm floating back
I'm floating back to you!

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- Talk To Me -----

There was a moon and a street lamp
I didn't know I drank such a lot
'Till I pissed a tequila-anaconda
The full length of the parking lot!
Oh, I talk too loose
Again I talk too open and free
I pay a high price for my open talking
Like you do for your silent mystery

Come and talk to me
Please talk to me
Talk to me, talk to me
Mr. Mystery

We could talk about Martha
We could talk about landscapes
I'm not above gossip
But I'll sit on a secret where honor is at stake!
Or we could talk about power
About Jesus and Hitler and Howard Hughes
Or Charlie Chaplin's movies
Or Bergman's nordic blues
Please just talk to me
Any old theme you choose
Just come and talk to me

Mr. Mystery, talk to me

You could talk like a fool-I'd listen
You could talk like a sage
Anyway the best of my mind
All goes down on the strings and the page
That mind picks up all these pictures
It still gets my feet up to dance
Even though it's covered with keyloids
From the "slings and arrows of outrageous romance"
I stole that from Willy the Shake!
You know--"Neither a borrower nor a lender be"
Romeo, Romeo talk to me!

Is your silence that golden?
Are you comfortable in it?
Is it the key to your freedom
Or is it the bars on your prison?
Are you gagged by your ribbons?
Are you really exclusive or just miserly?
You spend every sentence as if it was marked currency!
Come and spend some on me--
Shut me up and talk to me!
I'm always talking!
Chicken squawking!
Please talk to me

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- The Silky Veils Of Ardor -----

I am a poor wayfaring stranger
Traveling through all these highs and lows
I heard there was no sickness
And no toil or danger
Just mercy and plenty
Where peaceful waters flow
Where peaceful waters flow

Come all you fair and tender school girls
Be careful now--when you court young men
They are like the stars
On a summer morning
They sparkle up the night
And they're gone again
Daybreak--gone again

If I'd only seen through the silky veils of ardor
What a killing crime this love can be
I would have locked up my heart

In a golden sheath of armor
And kept its crazy beating
Under strictest secrecy
High security

I wish I had the wings
Of Noah's pretty little white dove
So I could fly this raging river
To reach the one I love
But I have no wings
And the water is so wide
We'll have to row a little harder
It's just in dreams we fly
In my dreams we fly!

----- 1977 Don Juan's Reckless Daughter -----
----- The Tenth World -----

Baila mi rumba
Batela, goza y mira mama
Baila, mira mama
Batela, goza, mira eh
Rumbando bello es que yo voy
Bailala bailala bailala
Bailala baila baila
Eh eh mama
[??????]
Baila baila my rumbo[?]
Ele eh ele eh
Bailala bailala baila
Din din baragadin dan dan [this is onomatopoeia]
Baila baila baila baila
Venezolano en Nueva York
En California y en todos lados
Te la traigo
Para que vos...para que gozes gozes cosa buena
Gozes con todo el mundo
El africano y todo el mundo
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Gringos!
Izquierdo! Izquierdo! Vamos, oye!
[onomatopoeic sounds, interjections, sighs, whistling, bits of dialogue among the
musicians that sound like instructions or encouragement to keep on playing and
dancing]
Me voy

Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy

[More chanting and onomatopoeia]

[Translation:]

Dance to my rumba

Beat it [maybe a drum?], enjoy, look mama [maybe meaning "look at me and learn the steps."]

Dance, look mama

Beat it, enjoy, look

Dancing the rumba beautifully. That's how I go

Hey hey mama

Dance to it, dance

Dance

Dance this way [This a tentative translation, the expression I hear is actually unidiomatic]

Dance to it, dance

A Venezuelan in New York [maybe referring to himself]

In California and everywhere

I bring it to you [the rumba]

So that you will enjoy a good thing

Enjoy it with the rest of the world

With the African and the rest of the world

Dance to it

Gringos! [This is funny. "Gringo" is a pejorative way that some South Americans have to refer to Anglo-Saxons. It's clear that some North Americans are actually dancing to the music in]

----- 1979 Mingus -----

----- Chair in the Sky -----

The rain

Slammed hard

As bars

It caught me

By surprise

Mutt of the planet

And

Shook

Me

Down

For alibis

I'm waiting

For the keeper to release me

Debating this sentence

Biding my time
In memories
Of old friends of mine...
In daydreams of Birdland
I see my soul on fire
Burning up the bandstand
Next time
I'll be bigger
I'll be better than ever
I'll be happily attached
To my cold hard cash
But now
Manhattan holds me
To a chair in the sky
With the Bird in my ears
And boats in my eyes
Going
By

There's things I wish I'd done
Old friends
I'm gonna miss
Beautiful lovers
I
Never
Got the chance
To kiss...

Daydreamin' drugs the pain of living
Processions of missing
Lovers and friends
Fade in
And they fade out again
In
Daydreams of rebirth
I see myself in style
Raking in what I'm worth
Next time
I'll be bigger
I'll be better than ever
I'll be resurrected royal
I'll be rich as Standard Oil
But now
Manhattan holds me
To a chair in the sky
With the Bird in my ears
And boats in my eyes
Going by

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Coin In The Pocket (Rap) -----

Charles: "I never hit too, too hard, uh, y'know. All my life, uh y'know, just everything I touched, turned to gold. I'm not, I'm not rich but, y'know, I've always had a few, some dollars in my pockets"

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Funeral (Rap) -----

"..led an enormous band."

Swede: "Oh, But I know he's very lucky too, because when Mingus dies there's gonna be the same funeral they had for Duke Ellington... in a big church and the whole country's going to say, wow, he was so far out, you know what i mean?"

Charles: "No man, no big church! I'm going to be buried man - I got my shit all figured out!"

Swede: "You're going to get a big funeral - you're famous!"

Charles: "Vedanta Society, India, I'm going to be buried in India!"

Swede: "I know, but you're going to get a big funeral in this country, and they'll play your music for two days"

Charles: "Who's going to do that?"

Swede: "It's far out isn't it, y'know what I mean?"

Charles: "...You want me to hurry up, man"

Swede: "No I don't want you to hurry up, but in the future, I know you're going to get a beautiful funeral - I can see it!"

Charles: "But I got it all planned, man!"

Swede: "...You're going to be here many more years."

Charles: "You know the Vedanta Society in India.. Yuga?"

Swede: "Yeah"

Charles: "Well I'm going to be buried by that church"

Swede: "Yeah?"

Charles: "So they gotta find another place to do it, that's all."

Swede: "...Plenty of time to go. You have another fifty years... you're lucky!"

Charles: "Uh, Duke lived to be 77 years old right?"

Swede: "Right!"

Charles: "I'm gonna cut him!"

Swede: "Coltrane was very strong, you know..."

Charles: "I'm gonna cut Duke!"

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- God Must Be a Boogie Man -----

He is three
One's in the middle unmoved
Waiting
To show what he sees
To the other two
To the one attacking--so afraid
And the one that keeps trying to love and trust

And getting himself betrayed
In the plan--oh
The divine plan
God must be a boogie man!

One's so sweet
So overly loving and gentle
He lets people in
To his innermost sacred temple
Blind faith to care
Blind rage to kill
Why'd he let them talk him down
To cheap work and cheap thrills
In the plan--oh
The insulting plan
God must be a boogie man!

Which would it be
Mingus one or two or three
Which one do you think he'd want the world to see
Well, world opinion's not a lot of help
When a man's only trying to find out
How to feel about himself!
In the plan-oh
The cock-eyed plan
God must be a boogie man!
He is three

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Goodbye Pork Pie Hat -----

When Charlie speaks of Lester
You know someone great has gone
The sweetest swinging music man
Had a Porkie Pig hat on
A bright star
In a dark age
When the bandstands had a thousand ways
Of refusing a black man admission
Black musician
In those days they put him in an
Underdog position
Cellars and chittlins'

When Lester took him a wife
Arm and arm went black and white
And some saw red
And drove them from their hotel bed
Love is never easy

It's short of the hope we have for happiness
Bright and sweet
Love is never easy street!
Now we are black and white
Embracing out in the lunatic New York night
It's very unlikely we'll be driven out of town
Or be hung in a tree
That's unlikely!

Tonight these crowds
Are happy and loud
Children are up dancing in the streets
In the sticky middle of the night
Summer serenade
Of taxi horns and fun arcades
Where right or wrong
Under neon
Every feeling goes on!
For you and me
The sidewalk is a history book
And a circus
Dangerous clowns
Balancing dreadful and wonderful perceptions
They have been handed
Day by day
Generations on down

We came up from the subway
On the music midnight makes
To Charlie's bass and Lester's saxophone
In taxi horns and brakes
Now Charlie's down in Mexico
With the healers
So the sidewalk leads us with music
To two little dancers
Dancing outside a black bar
There's a sign up on the awning
It says "Pork Pie Hat Bar"
And there's black babies dancing...
Tonight!

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Happy Birthday 1975 (Rap) -----

Man: "Ready?"
Sue: "Alright!"

Chorus: "Happy Birthday to Charles, Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday dear Charles..."

Sue: "Play that weird minor chord..."

Chorus: "Happy birthday to you..."

Sue: "Play that minor chord!"

Charles & Chorus: "How old are you, How old are you"

Charles: "Fifty-four, motherfucker"

Chorus: ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-

Sue: "Fifty-three"

Charles Singing: "How old are you?"

Sue: "Fifty-three Charles!"

Charles: "Fifty-four!"

Sue: "Fifty-three"

Swede: "How old are you now - tell me honestly..."

Sue: "Fifty-three! He was born in 1922"

Swede: "1922.."

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- I's A Muggin' (Rap) -----

I's a muggin, boom bada yada
Bom ba doo boo, we boopa dooboop
I's a muggin'

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Lucky (Rap) -----

Charles: "I was lucky, man. God blessed me, y'know? I was blessed by God."

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- Sweet Sucker Dance -----

I almost closed the door
Cancelled on everything we opened up for
Tonight the shadows had their say
Their sad notions of the way
Things really are
Damn these blues!
They'd turn my heart against you
Since I was fool enough
To find romance
I'm trying to convince myself
This is just a dance!

We move in measures
Through loves' changing faces
Needy and nonchalant
Greedy and gracious

Through petty dismissals
And grand embraces
Like it was only a dance!

We are survivors
Some get broken
Some get mended
Some can't surrender
They're too well defended
Some get lucky
Some are blessed
And some pretend
This is only a dance!

We're dancing fools
You and me
Tonight it's a dance of insecurity
It's my solo
While you're away
Shadows have the saddest thing to say

Love
We can't live without it
Why do we go out and get it
Just to turn around and doubt it
Like we're scared to care
It's hard to talk about it
Aw--it's only a dance
Tonight the shadows had their say
There's a sucker born a day
I heard them say
Born to lose
Am I a sucker to love you?

You're such a sweet love
You're a proud man
You're a treasure
Time passes gracefully
Living can be such a pleasure
You make it easy to take it in measures
Like it was only a dance!

We're dancing fools
You and me
Tonight it's a dance of insecurity
It's my solo
Blue way
And shadows have the saddest things to say

We are survivors
Some get broken
Some get mended
Some can't surrender
They're too well defended
Some get lucky
Some are blessed
And some pretend
It's only a dance!

----- 1979 Mingus -----
----- The Dry Cleaner From Des Moines -----

I'm down to a roll of dimes
I'm stalking the slot that's hot
I keep hearing bells all around me
Jingling in the lucky jackpots
They keep you tantalized
They keep you reaching for your wallet
Here in fools' paradise!

I talked to a cat from Des Moines
He said he ran a cleaning plant
That cat was clanking with coin
Well, he must have had a genie in a lamp
'Cause every time, I dropped a dime, I blew it
He kept ringing bells
Nothing to it!

He got three oranges
Three lemons
Three cherries
Three plums
I'm losing my taste for fruit
Watching the dry cleaner do it
Like Midas in a polyester suit
It's all luck!
It's just luck!
You get a little lucky and you make a little money!

I followed him down the strip
He picked out a booth at Circus Circus
Where the cowgirls fill the room
With their big balloons
The Cleaner was pitching with purpose!
He had Dinos and Pooh Bears
And lions, pink and blue there
He couldn't lose there!

Des Moines was stacking the chips
Raking off the tables
Ringing the bandit's bells
This is a story that's a drag to tell
(In some ways)
Since I lost every dime
I laid on the line
But the cleaner from Des Moines
Could put a coin
In the door of a John
And get twenty for one
It's just luck!

----- 1979 Mingus -----

----- The Wolf That Lives In Lindsey -----

Of the darkness in men's minds
What can you say
That wasn't marked by history
Or the T.V. news today
He gets away with murder
The blizzards come and go
The stab and glare and buckshot
Of the heavy heavy snow
It comes and goes
It comes and goes

His grandpa loved an empire
His sister loved a thief
And lindsey loved the ways of darkness
Beyond belief
Girls in chilly blouses
The blizzards come and go
The stab and glare and buckshot
Of the heavy heavy snow
It comes and goes
It comes and goes

The cops don't seem to care
For derelicts or ladies of the night
They're weeds for yanking out of sight
If you're smart or rich or lucky
Maybe you'll beat the laws of man
But the inner laws of spirit
And the outer laws of nature
No man can
No--no man can

There lives a wolf in Lindsey

That raids and runs
Through the hills of Hollywood
And the downtown slums
He gets away with murder
The blizzards come and go
The stab and glare and buckshot
Of the heavy heavy snow
It comes and goes
It comes and goes

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- (You're So Square) Baby, I Don't Care -----

You're so square--baby
You're so square . .
Oh, you don't like greasy diners
You don't like sleazy bands
You just want to go
To a movie show
And sit there holding hands
You're so square
Baby I don't care

You don't like going to parties
To toot and talk all night long
You just want to park
Where it's nice and dark
And kiss me, sweet and strong
You're so square
Baby I don't care

You don't know any dance steps
That are new
But nobody else can love me
Like you do

I don't know why my heart flips
I only know it does
I wonder why
I love you baby
I guess it's just because
You're so square
Darlin' I don't care

Oh, I don't know why my heart flips
I only know it does
I wonder why
I love you baby
I guess it's just because

You're so square
I don't care

You're so square

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Be Cool -----

If there's one rule to this game
Everybody's gonna name
It's... be cool
If you're worried or uncertain
If your feelings are hurtin'
You're a fool
If you can't keep cool

Charm 'em
Don't alarm 'em
Keep things light
Keep your worries out of sight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

If your heart is on the floor
'Cause you've just seen your lover
Comin' through the door with a new fool
Be cool
Don't you sweat it
Start right in right now tryin' to forget it
Be cool

Don't get riled
Smile keep it light
Be your own best friend tonight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

Don't get jealous
Don't get over-zealous
Keep your cool
Don't whine
Kiss off that flaky valentine
You're nobody's fool
Be cool fool
Be cool

(Lots of other fish in the sea)

Play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

So if there's one rule to this game
Everybody's gonna name
It's... be cool
If you're worried or uncertain
If your feelings are hurtin'
You're a fool if you can't keep cool

They want you to
Charm 'em
Don't alarm 'em
Keep things light
Keep your worries out of sight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Chinese Cafe / Unchained Melody -----

[Verse 1]
Caught in the middle
Carol, we're middle class
We're middle aged
We were wild in the old days
Birth of rock n' roll days
Now your kids are coming up straight
My child's a stranger, I bore her
But I could not raise her
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long

[Chorus]
Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing, "Oh my love, my darling"
One more time

[Verse 2]
Uranium money
Is booming in the old home town now

It's putting up sleek concrete
Tearing the old landmarks down now
Paving over brave little parks
Ripping off Indian land again
How long, how long
Short-sighted business man
Ah nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long

[Chorus]
Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing, "You give your love so sweetly"
One more time

[Verse 3]
Christmas is sparkling
Out on Carol's lawn
This girl of my childhood games
With kids nearly grown and gone
Grown so fast
Like the turn of a page
We look like our mothers did now
When we were those kids' age
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long

[Chorus]
Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing, "Oh my love, my darling
I've hungered for your touch
A long lonely time
And time goes by so slowly
And time can do so much
Are you still mine?
I need your love
I need your love
God speed your love to me"

[Outro]
(Time goes - where does the time go
I wonder where the time goes)

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Ladies Man -----

Well, I've heard of heartbreakers
But you take the cake
Ladies' man
You could charm the diamonds
Off a rattlesnake
Ladies' man
Ladies bring it on over
When you give 'em the glance
They don't stand a chance
First, you unfold them
Then you pigeon-hole 'em
Ladies' man

Well it sure takes a lot of
Good natured self-control
Ladies' man
When I'm so hot for you and
You're so cold, so cold
Ladies' man
Why do you keep on trying to
Make a man of me
Couldn't you just love me--
Like you love cocaine
Cocaine head games

Cross my heart I swear
I'm not trying to trick you
No tricks
Ladies' man
It's just a straight ahead feeling
I have for you
Nothing slick
Ladies' man
I guess you learn to refuse
What you think you can't handle
You're acting like a vandal
Wrecking the dream
At the first bad scene
Ladies' man
Ladies' man
Ladies' man
Ladies' man

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Love -----

Although I speak in tongues
Of men and angels
I'm just sounding brass

And tinkling cymbals without love

Love suffers long
Love is kind!
Enduring all things
Love has no evil in mind

If I had the gift of prophecy
And all the knowledge
And the faith to move the mountains
Even if I understood all of the mysteries
If I didn't have love
I'd be nothing

Love never looks for love
Love's not puffed up
Or envious
Or touchy
Because it rejoices in the truth
Not in iniquity
Love sees like a child sees

As a child I spoke as a child
I thought and I understood as a child
But when I became a woman
I put away childish things
And began to see through a glass darkly

Where as a child I saw it face to face
Now I only know it in part
Fractions in me
Of faith and hope and love
And of these great three
Love's the greatest beauty
Love
Love
Love

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Man To Man -----

No demands
Just pleasurable sensations
Hand in hand
No far reaching plans
No, no-hand in hand
Well I keep on trying to understand
Daylight bright
How come I keep moving

From man to man to man?
Giving my sweet love--
Tasting sweet love--
Woman to man

Sometimes it's easy
You drift with the empty gladness
Like it all belongs
Sometimes it's low down sadness
Like it's all gone so wrong
When I saw you standing there
I said to myself
M-m-m here's a place
I could break down and care
I'll give him my sweet love--
Taste his sweet love--
Real sweet love--
Woman to man

I don't like to lie
But I sure can be phony when I get scared
I put my nose up in the air
Stoney, stoney when I get scared
When I saw you standing there
I was scared
I thought
Oh--I hope he can care--
I sure hope I can care--
I hope we can really care--
And share woman to man
Cause I've been moving
Man to man to man to man to man
Oh what am I looking for?
Man to man to man to man
A lot of good guys gone through my door
Man to man to man to man
To man to man to man
Man to man to man to man
Woman to man

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Moon At The Window -----

It takes cheerful resignation
Heart and humility
That's all it takes
A cheerful person told me
Nobody's harder on me than me
How could they be

And, nobody's harder on you than you

Betsy's blue
She says-"Tell me something good!"
You know I'd help her out if I only could
Oh, but sometimes the light
Can be so hard to find
At least the moon at the window--
The thieves left that behind

People don't know how to love
They taste it and toss it
Turn it off and on
Like a bathtub faucet
Oh sometimes the light
Can be so hard to find--
At least the moon at the window--
The thieves left that behind

I wish her heart
I know these battles
Deep in the dark
When the spooks of memories rattle
Ghosts of the future
Phantoms of the past
Rattle, rattle, rattle
In the spoon and the glass

Is it possible to learn
How to care and yet not care--
Since love has two faces
Hope and despair
And pleasure always turns to fear
I find--
At least the moon at the window--
The thieves left that behind
At least they left the moon
Behind the blind
Moon at the window

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Solid Love -----

We got a break
Unbelievable
We got a break
Right in the middle of this
Hollywood heartache
We got this solid love

All around the town
Good hearts are going under
Love bandits con and plunder
Let nobody put asunder this solid love . .

We got a chance
Hot dog darlin'
We got a chance
No more, no more
Fly-by-night romance
We got this solid love
Love has always made me
Feel so uneasy
I couldn't relax and just be me
More like some strange disease
Than this solid love . .

Tested and blessed, darlin'
I'm gonna give you my very best
You're my hope
You're my happiness
You
Open my heart you do
You open my heart
You do
Yes you do

We got a break
Unbelievable
We got a break
Right in the middle of this
Hollywood heartache
We got this solid love
All around the town
Good hearts are going under
Love bandits con and plunder
Let nobody put asunder this solid love . .

We got a chance
Hot dog darlin'
We got a chance
No more, no more
Fly-by-night romance
We got this solid love
Love has always made me
Feel so uneasy
I couldn't relax and just be me
More like some strange disease
Than this solid love . .

Tested and blessed, darlin'
I'm gonna give you my very best
You are my happiness
You
Open my heart up you do

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Underneath The Streetlight -----

Yes I do--I love you!
I swear on the stars above I do!
I swear on the streetlight on the corner
Shoving back the shadows!
One shadow cursing
Another shadow laughing
Underneath the streetlight
I don't know where they're coming from
I just see 'em passing
Underneath the streetlight . .

Yes I do--I love you!
I swear on the buildings above I do!
I swear on a billion yellow and T.V. blue windows!
Gayboys with their pants so tight
Out in the neon light
Underneath the street light
A m- m- madman-madman
Kicking over garbage cans
Underneath the streetlight . .

Yes I do--I love you!
I swear on the blinkin' planes above I do!
I swear on the truck at the stoplight
With his airbrakes moaning!
All night the trucks roll
Up to the tunnel-toll
Underneath the streetlight
They come rollin', rollin'
Rollin' for a living
Underneath the streetlight . .

Yes I do--I love you!
I swear on the disco sparkle dark I do!
I swear on the be-bop boys
Chasing the black bird
Rock 'n' roll broadcast
Movin' up now full blast
Underneath the streetlight

They come dancin', dancin'
Really rock 'n rollin'
Underneath the streetlight
Yes I do--I love you
I really love you
Yes I do--yes I do
I love you!

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- Wild Things Run Fast -----

He came, she smiled
She thought she had him tamed
But he was just as wild
Eating from her hand at last

Wild things run fast

In the dark he could see
The trap that was lying
In her sweet company
Eating from her hand at last

Wild things run fast

Winter beat the pines about
He heard the heater
Cutting in and out
While she dreamed away

In the night, it snowed
Fast tracks in the powder white
Leading out to the road
Winding from her tender grasp

Wild things run fast
Wild things run fast
Wild things run fast

What makes you run?
Wild thing, I thought you loved me

----- 1982 Wild Things Run Fast -----
----- You Dream Flat Tires -----

It came to pass
Like lightening striking from above
Electric flash
Just like lightening striking from above

Struck by precious love
Precious, precious love
So hopeless and so inspired
Why do you dream flat tires
When you dream flat tires?
You dream flat tires

With a jack and a spare you're there
Trying to get to where love is
Coming in on a wing and a prayer
Trying to get to where love is
'Cause love is precious love
You said it was precious
When first you felt my fire
Before you dreamed flat tires
You dreamed flat tires
You dream flat tires

"Woman she bounce back easy
But a man could break both his legs"
Are you telling me that to tease me?
Or just to hear me beg
"Please don't go!"

Cause I know that you love me
But, when are you going to let love be
Just a vague flirtation
Or extra special company?
'Cause love is precious love
Everybody knows it's precious
When first they feel that fire
Before they dream flat tires
They dream flat tires
They dream flat tires

"Woman she bounce back easy
But a man could break both his legs"
Do you tell me that to tease me
Or just to hear me beg
"Please don't be cold"

I know that you love me
But, what are you going to let love do?
(Flat tires, love, love is precious, flat tires
Love, love is precious, flat tires, love
Love is precious)

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Dog Eat Dog -----

[Intro]

Dog eat dog

[Verse 1]

It's dog eat dog

I'm just waking up

The dove is in the dungeon

And the white-washed hawks pedal hate and call it love

[Verse 2]

Dog eat dog

Holy hope in the hands of

Snakebite evangelists and racketeers

And big wig financiers

[Verse 3]

Dog eat dog

On prime time crime the victim begs

Money is the road to justice

And power walks it on crooked legs

[Verse 4]

Prime time crime

Holy hope in the hands of

Snakebite evangelists and racketeers

And big wig financiers

[Bridge]

Where the wealth's displayed

Thieves and sycophants parade

And where it's made

The slaves will be taken

Some are treated well

In these games of buy and sell

And some like poor beast

Are burdened down to breaking

[Verse 5]

Dog eat dog

It's dog eat dog, ain't it flim flam, man

Dog eat dog, you can lie, cheat, skim, scam

Beat 'em any way you can

[Verse 6]

Dog eat Dog

You'll do well in this land of

Snakebite evangelists and racketeers

You could get to be

A big wig financier

[Bridge]

Land of snap decisions
Land of short attention spans
Nothing is savored
Long enough to really understand
In every culture in decline
The watchful ones among the slaves
Know all that is genuine will be
Scorned and conned and cast away

[Outro]

Dog eat dog
People looking, seeing nothing
Dog eat dog
People listening, hearing nothing
Dog eat dog
People lusting, loving nothing
Dog eat dog
People stroking, touching nothing
Dog eat dog
Knowing nothing
Dog eat dog

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Ethiopia -----

Hot winds and hunger cries--Ethiopia
Flies in your babies' eyes--Ethiopia
Walking sticks on burning plains
Betrayed by politics
Abandoned by the rains
On and on--the human need
On and on--the human greed profanes
Ethiopia--Ethiopia--Ethiopia

Your top soil flies away--Ethiopia
We pump ours full of poison spray--Ethiopia
Between the brown skies and sprinkling lawns
I hear the whine of chain saws
Hacking rain forests down
On and on--insanities
On and on--Short sighted greed abounds
Ethiopia--Ethiopia--Ethiopia

Little garden planet-oasis in space
Some hearts hurt--they can hardly stand it
Famine phantoms at the garden gates

Ethiopia--Ethiopia--Ethiopia

Every Sunday on T.V.--Ethiopia
You suffer with such dignity--Ethiopia
A T.V. star with a P.R. smile
Calls your baby "it" while strolling
Through your tragic trials
On and on--stupidity
On and on--the basic needs are defiled
Good air--good water--good earth
Ethiopia--Ethiopia--Ethiopia

Little garden planet--oasis in space
Some hearts hurt--they can hardly stand the waste
Ethiopia--Ethiopia--Ethiopia

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Fiction -----

I can't decide
I don't know
Which way to go?
The options multiply
The choices grow
Which way to go?
What should I buy?
What should I be?
Which way to go?
(Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief)
So much comes at you
Too much for me
Which way to go?

Elusive dreams and vague desires
Fanned to fiery needs by golden boys
In ad empires
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Fiction of the boob tube
Fiction of the papers
Fiction of the image and the image makers
Fiction of the magazines
Fiction of the movies
Fiction of the "Buy me," "Watch me," "Listen to me"

I can't decide
I'm so confused
Which way to go?
I'm being useful here
I'm being used
Which way to go?
Some line gets drawn
What line is this?
Which way to go?
Could be a threshold or a precipice
Which way to go?

Elusive dreams and vague desires
Fanned to fiery needs by sexy boys
In flaming T.V. fires
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Fiction of obedience
Fiction of rebellion
Fiction of the goody-goody and the hellion
Fiction of destroyers
Fiction of preservers
Fiction of peacemakers and shit disturbers

Fiction of the moralist
Fiction of the nihilist
Fiction of the innovator and the stylist
Fiction of the killjoy
Fiction of the charmer
Fiction of the clay feet and the shining armour
Fiction of the declaimers
Fiction of the rebukers
Fiction of the pro and the no nukers
Fiction of the gizmo
Fiction of the data
Fiction of the this is this and that is that -- Ahh!

I can't decide
I don't know
Which way to go?
The more you learn
The less you know
Which way to go?

Some follow blind
And never know
Which way to go?
To lead you need some place to go
Which way to go?

Elusive dreams and vague desires
Fanned to fiery needs by deadly deeds
In falling empires
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Truth
Fiction
Fiction of the diplomat
Fiction of the critic
Fiction of the Pollyanna and the cynic
Fiction of the coward
Fiction of the hero
Fiction of the monuments reduced to zero

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Good Friends (demo) -----

I have to come and see you
Maybe once or twice a year
I think nothing would suit me better right now
Than some downtown atmosphere
Sitting with you in some local zoo
Not another job would do
Synchronized and vital
Good friends, me and you

The sun goes down in Jersey
Rises over Little Italy
We could talk it up 'til the block gets up
Swapping stories
Kicking on down to Chinatown
Kicking 'em at the OTB
Always synchronized and vital
Good friends, you and me

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel

Now it's cloak and dagger
Walk on eggshells and analyze

Every particle of difference
Gets like mountains in our eyes
So far off, so frequently
Always synchronized and vital

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel

Sometimes change comes at you
Like a broadside accident
We get minor cuts and bruises
We could hammer out these dents
Sitting around in some local zoo
Watching it like a movie
Always synchronized and vital
Good friends, you and me

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Good Friends -----

I have to come and see you
Maybe once or twice a year
I think nothing would suit me better right now
Than some downtown atmosphere
In the dance halls and the galleries
Or betting in the OTB
Synchronized like magic
Good friends, you and me

The sun goes down in Jersey
Rises over Little Italy
We could talk it up till the block gets up
Swapping stories
Sitting around in some all night zoo
Watching it run like a movie
Synchronized like magic
Good friends, you and me

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel

But now it's cloak and dagger
Walk on eggshells and analyze
Every particle of difference
Gets like mountains in our eyes
You say, "You're unscrupulous!"

You say, "You're naive!"
Synchronized like magic
Good friends, you and me

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel

Sometimes change comes at you
Like a broadside accident
There is chaos to the order
Random things you can't prevent
There could be trouble around the corner
There could be beauty down the street
Synchronized like magic
Good friends, you and me

No hearts of gold, no nerves of steel
No blame for what we can and cannot feel
No nerves of steel, no hearts of gold
No blame for what we can and can't control

Good friends, you and me
Good friends, you and me

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Impossible Dreamer -----

The street was loud
From an angry crowd and
I thought of you, I thought of you
Dreamer
Land of the free
No hungry bellies
Impossible
Impossible dreamer

In the darkest part of the night
Blue shadows conjure you
And in the brightest height of the daylight
Sometimes I blink 'cause I think I see you
Dreaming like you do

The moon was bright
Like day for night
And I thought of you
I thought of you
Dreamer
No acid rain
Love without pain

Impossible
Impossible Dreamer

In the darkest part of the night
Blue shadows conjure you
And at the brightest height of the daylight
Sometimes I blink 'cause I think I see you
Dreaming like you do

The room was dark
And full of sharks
And I thought of you
I thought of you
Dreamer
Give peace a chance
Don't think just dance
Impossible
Impossible dreamer

In the darkest part of the night
Blue shadows conjure you
And at the brightest height of the daylight
Sometimes I blink 'cause I think I see you
Dreaming like you do

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Lucky Girl -----

I'm a lucky girl
I found my friend
I've been all around the world
Mission Impossible
Chasing the rainbow's end
Wise guys
Shy guys
And sly lover boys
With big bad bedroom eyes ...
I never loved a man I trusted
As far as I could pitch my shoe
'Til I loved you

You're my lucky star
You're my magician
You make the night prowling disappear
Vanished from the star-war-bars
Empty repetition
I get my heart full here
Playboys
Stray boys

And "Say, hey, hey" boys'll treat you like a toy
I never loved a man I trusted
As far as I could pitch my shoe
'Til I loved you

Cheaters
Woman beaters
And Huck Finn shucksters hopping parking meters
I never loved a man
I trusted
As far as I could pitch my shoe
'til I loved you

I'm a lucky girl
I found my friend
I been all around the world
Mission Impossible
Chasing the rainbow's end
Wise guys
Booby-prize guys
And sly lover boys
With big bad bedroom eyes ...
I never loved a man I trusted
As far as I could throw my shoe
'Til I loved you

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Shiny Toys -----

Shiny toys (right on time)
Shiny toys (right on time)
Shiny toys

I'm reading people rags in the checkout lane
Look, here's a hunk, here's a honey!
Celebrated people and their claims to fame
Here's a boy and his money
And pictures of the winners in the latest
Ratepoll games

Whatever makes you "Yahoo!"
Whatever makes your time feel satisfyin'
Whatever makes you ("oh, I'm so excited")
Whatever makes you feel like you're right on time

Party night
Good bands all over town (good, good, good)
Mega lights and supersonic sounds (good, good, good)
Flashy boys and girls that really play (good, good, good)

Shiny toys
When it's over don't you hate to have to put your toys away?

Shiny toys ("I love my Porsche")
Shiny toys ("I love my Porsche")
Shiny toys
Simple joys

Walking on the beach at the end of the day
Between the sand and the seagulls
Watching the glorious sun setting on the bay
Here comes a boy and his beagle
Walking with a man in a toupee
And a man with his head shaved

Whatever makes you ("mmm, mmm!")
Whatever makes your time feel satisfyin'
Whatever makes you ("mmmm, mmmmm!")
Whatever makes you feel like you're right on time

Party night
Super bands all over town (good, good, good)
Super lights and supersonic sounds (good, good, good)
Flashy boys and girls that really play (good, good, good)
Shiny toys
When it's over don't you hate to have to put your toys away?

Shiny toys (right on time)
Shiny toys (right on time)
Shiny toys (right on time)
Shiny toys (right on time)

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Smokin' (Empty, Try Another) -----

Nicotine Attack!
Nicotine, Nicotine!
Try Another
Try Another
Try Another
Empty, empty try another

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----
----- Tax Free -----

[Verse]
Front rooms
Back rooms
Slide into tables

Crowd into bathrooms
Joke around
Cheap talk
Deep talk
Talk, talk, talk around the clock
Crawl home
Lie down
Teeth chatter
Heart pounds
I don't feel so good
I don't feel so good
Push a button to escape

[Pre-Chorus: Joni Mitchell & evangelist]
Preacher on the tube crying "Lord!"
There's evil in this land
Rock and roll music!
"Cast down these dope-fiends
And there noisy bands!"
Damn their souls!

[Chorus]
Preacher preaching love like vengeance
Preaching love like hate
Calling for large donations
Promising estates
Rolling lawns and angel bands
Behind the pearly gates
You know, he will have his in this life
But yours will have to wait
He's immaculately tax free

[Post-Chorus: Joni Mitchell, evangelist & man]
Multiple hundreds of thousands of
Tax free
Hundreds of millions of dollars
Tax free
A hundred billion dollars!
And who is paying the price?
Who, who
Your children are

[Verse: Joni Mitchell & evangelist]
Pissed off
Jacked up
Scream into the mic
Spit into the loving cup
Strut like a rooster
March like a man

God's hired hands and the devil bands
Packing the same grandstands
Different clothes (pot in their pockets!)
Different hair (sexually active!)
Raise a screaming guitar or a bible in the air
Theatre of anguish
Theatre of glory
God's hired hands and the devil bands

[Pre-Chorus]
Oh come let us adore me!
Lord, there's danger in this land
You get witch hunts and wars
When church and state hold hands

(Fuck it!)

[Chorus]
Tonight I'm going dancing
With the drag queens and the punks
Big beat deliver me
From this sanctimonious skunk
We're no flaming angels
And he's not heaven sent
How can he speak for the Prince of Peace
When he's hawk-right militant
And he's immaculately tax free

[Post-Chorus: Joni Mitchell & evangelist]
Our nation has lost its guts!
Save me
Our nation has lost its strength
Tax free
Our nation has whimpered and cried
Save me
And petted the Castros
Tax free
The Khomeinis' and the Kaddafis'
Save me
For so long
Tax free
That we don't know how to act like a man
Save me
I think that we should turn the United States Marines
Loose on that little island south of Florida and
Stop that problem!
I am preachin' love, I am!

----- 1985 Dog Eat Dog -----

----- The Three Great Stimulants -----

I picked the morning paper off the floor
It was full of other people's little wars
Wouldn't they like their peace
Don't we get bored
And we call for the three great stimulants
Of the exhausted ones
Artifice, brutality and innocence
Artifice and innocence

No tanks have ever rumbled through these streets
And the drone of planes at night has never frightened me
I keep the hours and the company that I please
And we call for the three great stimulants
Of the exhausted ones
Artifice, brutality and innocence
Artifice and innocence

Oh and deep in the night
Our appetites find us
Release us and bind us
Deep in the night
While madmen sit up building bombs
And making laws and bars
They'd like to slam free choice behind us

I saw a little lawyer on the tube
He said, "it's so easy now, anyone can sue"
"Let me show you how your petty aggravations can profit you!"
Call for the three great stimulants
Of the exhausted ones
Artifice, brutality and innocence
Artifice and innocence

Oh and deep in the night
Appetites find us
Release us and blind us
Deep in the night
While madmen sit up building bombs
And making laws and bars
They're gonna slam free choice behind us

Last night I dreamed I saw the planet flicker
Great forests fell like buffalo
Everything got sicker
And to the bitter end
Big business bickered
And they call for the three great stimulants

Of the exhausted ones
Artifice, brutality and innocence
Artifice and innocence

Oh these times, these times
Oh these changing times
Change in the heart of all mankind
Oh these troubled times

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- A Bird That Whistles -----

[Verse]

I took a house by the water
Took a man on a mountainside
Pretty house by the water
Lovely lover by the waterside
Last time I saw that man
He hung down his head and cried

[Chorus]

Corrina, Corrina
Do you have to go
Corrina, Corrina
Tell me why do you have to go
Just made me come to love you girl
Now you pack your things and go
Leave me this bird that whistles
Leave me this bird that sings

[Outro]

I got a bird that whistles
I got a bird that's singin'
If I don't have you darlin'
Birds don't mean nothin'

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- Cool Water -----

[Verse 1]

All day I face the barren waste
Without a taste of water
Cool water
Old Dan and I
Our throats slate dry
Our spirits cry out for water
Cool clear water

[Verse 2]

Keep on movin' Dan
Some devils had a plan
Buried poison in the sand
Don't drink it man
It's in the water
Cool clear water

[Verse 3]
In my mind I see
A big green tree
And a river flowin' free
Waitin' up ahead
For you and me
Cool clear water

[Verse 4]
The nights are cool and I'm a fool
Each star is a pool of water
Cool water
But come the dawn
We carry on
We won't last long without water
Cool clear water

[Verse 5]
Keep on movin' Dan
We're still in no-man's land
Dry bones and sand
People never planned here for water
Cool clear water

[Verse 6]
In my mind I see
A big green tree
And a river flowin' free
Waiting up ahead for you and me
Cool clear water

[Verse 7]
The shadows sway
They seem to say
Tonight we pray for water
Cool water
And way up there
If you care
Please show us where
There's good water
Cool clear water

Songwriter: Bob Nolan

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- Dancin' Clown -----

No, you couldn't call Jesse a babe in the woods
He's just weak in self-defense
'Cause he's so thin skinned
He can't take a joke at his expense
"You're a push button window," says Rowdy Yates
"I can run you up and down
Anytime I want
I can make you my dancin'--
My dancin' clown!"
You're my dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin'
My dancin' clown
Dancin'
You're my dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin' dancin'
My dancin' clown

Rowdy Yates is as bold as Jove--
He's all chide and snide and bluff--
Stuck in the romantic tradition
Of acting rough and tough
"You're always charging thru," says Jesse
Nervous, lookin' all around--
To see who's seein' him bein' a dancin'
A dancin' clown
He's a dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin'
A dancin' clown
Dancin'
He's a dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin' dancin'
A dancin' clown

Cherchez la femme
Whenever love comes around
Someone's a dancin' clown
Cherchez la femme
Whenever hearts start to pound
Someone's a dancin' clown

Down the street comes last-word Suzie--
She's high yellow--lookin' top nice
You hear the swoosh of jungle blades
And the crackle of northern ice

"Hot damn!" says Rowdy--lookin' up
"Yum!" says Jesse lookin' down
"How would you like to be her dancin'
Her dancin' clown?"
Be her dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin'
Her dancin' clown
Dancin'
Be her dancin' clown
Dancin' dancin' dancin'
Her dancin' clown

Cherchez la femme
Whenever love comes to town
Someone's a dancin' clown
Cherchez la femme
Wherever hearts start to pound
Someone's a dancin' clown

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- Lakota -----

I am Lakota!
Lakota!
Looking at money man--
Diggin' the deadly quotas--
Out of balance--
Out of hand
We want the land!
Lay down the reeking ore!
Don't you hear the shrieking in the trees?
Everywhere you touch the earth--she's sore
Every time you skin her all things weep
Your money mocks us--
Restitution--what good can it do?--
Kennelled in metered boxes
Red dogs in debt to you

I am Lakota!
Lakota!
Fighting among ourselves
All we can say with one whole heart
Is we won't sell--
No we'll never sell
We want the land!
The lonely coyote calls
In the woodlands--footprints of the deer
In the barrooms--poor drunk bastard falls
In the courtrooms--deaf ears--sixty years

You think we're sleeping--but
Quietly like rattlesnakes and stars
We have seen the trampled rainbows
In the smoke of cars

I am Lakota
Brave
Sun pity me
I am Lakota
Broken
Moon pity me
I am Lakota
Grave
Shadows stretching
Lakota
Oh pity me
I am Lakota
Weak
Grass pity me
I am Lakota
Faithful
Rocks pity me
I am Lakota
Meek
Standing water
Lakota
Oh pity me

I am Lakota!
Lakota!
Standing on sacred land
We never sold these Black Hills
To the missile-heads--
To the power plants
We want the land!
The bullet and the fence--broke Lakota
The black coats and the booze--broke Lakota
Courts that circumvent--choke Lakota
Nothing left to lose
Tell me grandfather
You spoke the fur and feather tongues--
Do you hear the whimpering waters
When the tractors come?

Repeat Chorus

Sun pity me
Mother earth
Mother

Moon pity me
Father sky
Father
Shadows
Stretching on the forest floor
Mother earth
Oh pity me
Father sky
Father
Grass pity me
Mother earth
Mother
Rocks pity me
Father sky
Father
Water
Standing in a wakan manner
Mother earth
Oh pity me

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- My Secret Place -----

[Intro]
My secret
My secret

[Verse 1: Joni Mitchell]
I'm going to take you to my special place
It's a place that you
Like no one else I know
Might appreciate

[Chorus: Joni Mitchell and Peter Gabriel]
I don't go there with anyone, but
You're a special case
For my special place
My special place
For my secret place

[Refrain: Joni Mitchell]
My secret
My secret place
For my secret place
My secret
My secret place
For my secret place

[Verse 2: Joni Mitchell]

People talk to tell you something
Or to take up space
Guess I'm only talking
To be talking to your pretty face

[Pre-Chorus: Joni Mitchell and Peter Gabriel]
I don't talk much to anyone, but
You're a special case
My special place
My secret place

[Bridge: Joni Mitchell]
I was born and raised in New York City
I'm just getting used to Colorado
Oh street bravado
Carry me
Why did you bring me to a place so wild and pretty?
Are there pigeons in this park?
Muggers after dark?
In these golden trees
In the secret place?

[Refrain: Joni Mitchell]
My secret
My secret place
For my secret place
My secret
My secret place
For my secret place

[Verse 3: Peter Gabriel and Joni Mitchell]
I'm going to take you to my special place
It's a place no amount of hurt and anger can deface
I put things back together there
It all falls right in place
In my special space
My special place

[Bridge: Joni Mitchell]
Once I saw a film in New York City
That was shot in Colorado
Girl meets desperado
In the trembling mountain trees
Out of all of the girls that you see
In bleachers and cafe windows
Sitting--flirting with someone
Looking to have some fun
Why did you pick me?
For the secret place

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- Number One -----

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Number one, number one
Honey tell me when your working day is done
Were you reaching for the high rung
Reaching to be number one?

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

You get a car, you want a boat
You want an eenie-meenie-miney, miney-moe
Oh, there must be more to living
Than a mortgage and a lawn to mow

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Sweaty work and lucky breaks
And blood and tears is all it takes to be a winner!

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

People cheer and people gasp
People want your autograph when you're a winner

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher
Got to be a winner, trophy winner
Get to hold your head up higher

Win or lose, win or lose
To the loser for the heartsy blue
To the victor [?] spoiler
Honey, did you win or lose?

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Sweaty work and lucky breaks
And blood and tears is all it takes to be a winner!

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

People cheer and people gasp
People want your autograph when you're a winner

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher (number one)
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Run, run, run, run, let's see you run
We'll be betting by the starting gun
Shall we shower you with flowers
Or shall we shun ya when your race is run?

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Will we shower you with flowers
Or will we shun ya when your race is run?

Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher

Will they shower you with flowers
Or will they shun ya when your race is run?

(Number one)
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher (number one)
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher (number one)
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher (number one)
Got to be a winner, trophy winner (number one)
Get to hold your head up higher (number one)

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- Snakes and Ladders -----

[Verse 1]
He
In a shopping mall
Finally met the perfect girl

She is all that matters
The only one in all the world
Like a Barbie doll
Oh love is snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Verse 2]

She
Just to have and hold
Is the perfect air-brushed angel
Makes you hot just looking at her
Stapled into all his braincells
Like a centerfold
Oh love is snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Chorus]

Get to the top and slide back down
Get to the bottom climb back up
Buy the townhouse
Call the preacher
Get to the bottom climb back up
Get to the top and slide back down
Get to the bottom climb back up
Set up credit for the lovely creature
The lovely creature

[Verse 3]

He
On a corporate climb
Set his sights on power for her
On a silver platter
He gave up happy hour for her
Perrier and lime
Oh love is snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Verse 4]

She
In a handsome world
Put her mind to social graces
All the privileged chatter
Setting pretty table places
For the girls in pearls
Oh love is snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Chorus]

Get to the top and slide back down

Get to the bottom climb back up
Buy the carphone
Call the broker
Get to the bottom climb back up
Get to the top and slide back down
Get to the bottom climb back up
Buy the wife a diamond choker
A diamond choker

[Bridge]

True love true love true love
He's so nervous
New love new love new love
When he's with her
Oh he's wasting away
True love true love true love
It's so curious
New love new love new love
Just to kiss her
To kiss her to kiss her to kiss her
To kiss her to kiss her to kiss her
To kiss her he has to shave

[Verse 5]

She
In the gilded mirrors
In the swing of fancy places
Where the black ties flatter
Started seeing other faces
Young fogie financiers
Oh love is snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Verse 6]

See
In the crimes of time
How the seasons steal away
How the rungs are shattered
First you're green then you're grey
Still the snakes unwind
Still playin' snakes and ladders
Snakes and ladders

[Chorus]

Get to the top and slide back down
Get to the bottom climb back up
Sell the vineyard
Call the lawyer
Get to the bottom climb back up

Get to the top and slide back down
Get to the bottom climb back up
Gather garbage to destroy her
To destroy her

[Outro]

Ladders ladders ladders
The perfect girl
Ladders ladders ladders
The paper chase Love is snakes and ladders
Ladders ladders ladders
The social whirl
Ladders ladders
The rat race
Barbie doll

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- The Beat of Black Wings -----

[Verse 1]

I met a young soldier
He said his name was Killer Kyle
He was shakin' all over
Like a night-frightened child
This is his story
It's a tough one for me to sing
Hard as the squawk and the flap
And the beat of, the beat of black wings

[Verse 2]

"They gave me a gun," he said
"They gave me a mission
For the power and the glory
Propaganda, piss on 'em
There's a war zone inside me
I can feel things exploding
I can't even hear the fucking music playing
For the beat of
The beat of black wings."

[Verse 3]

He said, "I never had nothin'
Nothin' I could believe in
My girl killed our unborn child
Without even grievin'!
I put my hands on her belly
To feel the kid kickin', damn!
She'd been to some clinic
Oh, the beat of black wings."

[Verse 4]

"They want you, they need you
They train you to kill
To be a pin on some map
Some vicarious thrill
The old hate the young
That's the whole heartless thing
The old pick the wars
We die in 'em
To the beat of, the beat of black wings."

[Verse 5]

There's a man drawing pictures
On the sidewalk with chalk
Just as fast as he draws 'em
Rain come down and wash 'em off
"Keep the drinks comin' girl
'Til I can't feel anything
I'm just a chalk mark in a rainstorm
I'm just the beat of black wings."

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- The Reoccurring Dream -----

This is the reoccurring dream
Born in the dreary gap between
What we have now
And what we wish we could have
More fulfilling--and less frustrating!
Out of the envy in our eyes
Look!
Glamorous picture people rise
Radiant!
Gleaming down from screens and pages
Ooh--glamour--before your very eyes!
Isn't it true--isn't it true?
Good question--I know--who cares
Look here they tell you
If you had this
If you had that
Latest styles and colors
If we had that for us mmmmm
Wouldn't it be fabulous
If you had that house, car, bottle, jar
Your lovers would look like movie stars
Movie stars, movie stars, movie stars
Order your youth secrets of the stars
Call now--just \$9.99

Our discontent is their delight
They offer relief for the purchase price
Love in a bottle
Love on four wheels
Is that our new car Charles?
Isn't it true--isn't it true?
We guarantee it--pick up your phone and dial
See here they sell you
If you had this
If you had that
I want a new truck!--More power!
If you use this shampoo
True love will come to you
If you had that house, car, bottle, jar
Your lovers would look like movie stars
Movie stars, movie stars, movie stars
Hollywood's greatest legends
Recognize this?
Dreamer
Soft sexy hair
Dream on
He's going to love me in this ruby, ruby lipstick
Others will notice!--Sexy!--Who cares!
Recognize this?
Dreamer
Latest styles and colors
Oh, dream on, dream on, dream on
The fashion looks you've been hoping for
Sexy--sexy
Recognize this?
Dreamer
So special
Dream on
We will have happiness in heaven
The place you dreamed of retiring to--
Who cares
Recognize this?
Dreamer
I know that glamour is--sexy
Oh dream on dreamer
What could go wrong?
Dream on
Who cares!
Recognize this?
Dreamer
I'm afraid I can't go below two million
Dream on
Life would be easy if I had that new appliance
Food processors for all of us

Who cares!
Recognize this?
Dreamer
There are lots of strings
Dream on
We can solve everything in science
Naturally
Science
It's a picture of how to get what you want out of life
Recognize this?
I love it
Dreamer
Isn't there some other way?
Who cares!

----- 1988 Chalk Mark in a Rain Storm -----
----- The Tea Leaf Prophecy (Lay Down Your Arms) -----

[Intro]
Study war no more
Lay down your arms
Study war no more
Lay 'em down lay 'em down now
Study war no more
Lay down your arms
Study war no more

[Verse 1]
Newsreels rattle the Nazi dread
The able-bodied have shipped away
Molly McGee gets her tea-leaves read
You'll be married in a month they say
"These leaves are crazy!
Look at this town there's no men left!
Just frail old boys and babies
Talking to teacher in the treble clef"

[Chorus]
She plants her garden in the spring
She does the winter shovelling
Tokyo Rose on the radio
She says she's leavin' but she don't go

[Verse 2]
Out of the blue just passin' thru
A young flight sergeant, on two weeks leave
Says "Molly McGee no one else will do!"
And seals the tea-leaf prophecy
Oh these nights are strong and soft

Private passions and secret storms
Nothin' about him ticks her off
And he looks so cute in his uniform

[Chorus]
She plants her garden in the spring
He does the winter shovelling
But summer's just a sneeze
In a long long bad winter cold
She says "I'm leavin' here" but she don't go

[Verse 3]
"Sleep little darlin'!
This is your happy home
Hiroshima cannot be pardoned!
Don't have kids when you get grown
Because this world is shattered
The wise are mourning
The fools are joking
Oh what does it matter?
The wash needs ironing
And the fire needs stoking"

[Chorus]
She plants her garden in the spring
He does the winter shovelling
The three of 'em laughing 'round the radio
She says "I'm leavin' here" but she don't go

[Chorus]
She plants her garden in the spring
They do the winter shovelling
They sit up late and watch "The Johnny Carson Show"
She says "I'm leavin' here but she don't go"

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Cherokee Louise -----

[Verse 1]
Cherokee Louise is hiding in this tunnel
In the Broadway bridge
We are crawling on our knees
We've got flashlights and batteries
We got cold cuts from the fridge

[Chorus]
Last year about this time
We used to climb up in the branches
Just to sway there in some breeze

Now the cops on the street
They want Cherokee Louise

[Verse 2]
People like to talk
Tongues are waggin' over fences
They're waggin' on the phones
All their doors are locked
God she can't even come to our house
But I know where she'll go

[Chorus]
To the place where you can stand
And press your hands like it was bubble bath
In dust piled high as me
Down under the street
My friend Cherokee Louise

[Bridge]
Ever since we turned thirteen
It's like a minefield
Walking to the door
Going out to get your third degree
And comin' in you get the Third World War

[Verse 3]
Tuesday after school
We put our pennies on the rails
And when the train rolled by
We were jumpin' round like fools
Going "Look no heads or tails"
Going "Look my lucky prize"

[Chorus]
Then she runs home to her foster dad
He open up his zipper
And he yanks her to her knees
Oh please be here - please
My friend Cherokee Louise

[Verse 4]
Cherokee Louise is hiding in this tunnel
In the Broadway bridge
We're crawling on our knees
I've got Archie and Silver Screen
I know where she is

[Chorus]
She's in the place where you can stand

And press your hands like it was bubble bath
In dust piled high as me
Down under the street
My friend, poor Cherokee Louise

[Outro]
Oh Cheeroke Louise, poor Cherokee Louise
Cherokee Louise, Cherokee Louise

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Come In From the Cold -----

[Verse 1]
Back in 1957
We had to dance a foot apart
And they hawk-eyed us from the sidelines
Holding their rulers without a heart
And so with just a touch of our fingers
Ah, it could make our circuitry explode
All we ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
We were so young
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 2]
We really thought we had a purpose
We were so anxious to achieve
We had hope
The world held promise
For a slave to liberty
Freely I slaved away for something better
And I was bought and sold
And all I ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
We were so sure
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 3]
I feel your legs under the table

Leaning into mine
I feel renewed
I feel disabled
By these bonfires in my spine
I don't know who the arsonist was
Which incendiary soul
But all I ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
You were too warm
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 4]
I am not some stone commission
Like a statue in a park
I am flesh and blood and vision
I am howling in the dark
Long blue shadows of the jackals
Are falling on a pay phone by the road
Oh, all they ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
I was so low
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 5]
Is this just vulgar electricity
Is this the edifying fire
It was so pure
Does your smile's covert complicity
Debase as it admires
Just a flu with a temperature
Are you just checking out your mojo
Or am I just fighting off growing old
Just a high fever
All I ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold

It was so pure
Please come in
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 6]
I know we never will be perfect
Never entirely clear
When the moon shines
We get hurt and we just panic
And we strike out
Out of fear
You were only being kind
I fear the sentence of this solitude
Two hundred years on hold
For my loving crime
Oh and all we ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
When the moon shines
Oh come in
Come in from the cold

[Verse 7]
When I thought life had some meaning
When I thought I had some choice
I was running blind
And I made some value judgments
In a self-important voice
I was outta' line, outta line
But then absurdity came over me
And I longed to lose control
Into no mind
Oh all I ever wanted
Was just to come in from the cold

[Chorus]
Come in
Come in from the cold
Come in
You were so kind
Please come in
So kind
Come in from the cold
Come in come in
Come in from the cold

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- It's All over Now, Baby Blue -----

You better leave now, take what you need, the past is past
Whatever you wanna keep, you better grab it fast
Over there's your orphan with her gun
Cryin' like a fire in the sun
Look out the saints are comin' through
Ohh and it's all over now, Baby Blue

The highway is for gamblers, better use good sense
Take what you have gathered from coincidence
The empty-handed painter from your streets
Is drawing crazy patterns on your sheets
The sky of blue is moving over you
Ohh it's all over now, Baby Blue

All your seasick sailors, they are rowing home
Your reindeer navigators, they are going home
The vagabond who's rapping at your door
Is standing in the clothes that you once wore
Strike another match go start anew
Ohh because it's all over now, Baby Blue

Leave your stepping stones behind, something calls for you
Pities against no mind, they will not follow you
Your lover fool has just walked through the door
Has taken all his blankets from your floor
Your fancy rug is moving under you
Ohh and it's all over now, Baby Blue

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Night Ride Home -----

[Verse 1]
Once in a while
In a big blue moon
There comes a night like this
Like some surrealist
Invented this 4th of July
Night ride home

[Verse 2]
Hula girls
And caterpillar tractors in the sand
The ukulele man
The fireworks
This 4th of July

Night ride home

[Chorus]

I love the man beside me
We love the open road
No phones 'til Friday
Far from the overkill
Far from the overload

[Verse 3]

Back at the bar
The band tears down
But out here in the headlight beams
The silver powerlines
Gleam
On this 4th of July
Night ride home

[Verse 4]

Round the curve
And a big dark horse
Red taillights on his hide
Is keeping right alongside
Rev for stride
4th of July
Night ride home

[Chorus]

I love the man beside me
We love the open road
No phones 'til Friday
Far from the undertow
Far from the overload

[Outro]

Once in awhile
In a big blue moon
There comes a night like this
Like some surrealist
Invented this 4th of July
Night ride home

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Nothing Can Be Done -----

[Verse 1]

Must I forgive you
Each time
And say you don't know what your're doing

There are no victimless crimes
I know of
Out here in these graffiti ruins
My love

[Verse 2]

Oh I am not old
I'm told
But I am not young
Oh and nothing can be done
Don't start
My heart
Is a smoking gun
Oh and nothing can be done

[Verse 2]

I heard you leaving
Late last night
I heard you screaming down the mountain
Like you were running red lights
(Red lights)
You had some trash-can-rock-band pounding

[Chorus]

Oh I am not old
I'm told
But I am not young
Oh and nothing can be done
Don't start
My heart
Is a smoking gun
Oh and nothing can be done

[Verse 3]

Must I surrender
With grace
The things I loved when I was younger
(Sweet embrace)
Must I remember your face
So well
What do I do here with this hunger

[Chorus]

Oh I am not old
I'm told
But I am not young
Oh and nothing can be done
Don't start
My heart

Is a smoking gun
Oh and nothing can be done

[Outro]
Nothing can be done
Nothing can be done
Oh nothing can be done

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Passion Play (When All the Slaves Are Free) -----

[Verse 1]
Magdalene is trembling
Like a washing on a line
Trembling and gleaming
Never before was a man so kind
Never so redeeming

[Chorus 1]
Enter the multitudes
In Exxon blue
In radiation rose
Ecstasy
Now you tell me
Who you gonna get to do the dirty work
When all the slaves are free?
(Who're you gonna get)

[Verse 2]
I am up a sycamore
Looking through the leaves
A sinner of some position
Who in the world can this heart healer be
This magical physician

[Chorus 2]
Enter the multitudes
In Exxon blue
In radiation rose
Misery
Now you tell me
Who you gonna get to do the dirty work
When all the slaves are free?
(Who're you gonna get)

[Refrain]
Enter the multitudes
The walking wounded
They come to this diver of the heart

Of the multitudes
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done

[Verse 3]

Oh, climb down, climb down he says to me
From the middle of unrest
They think is light is squandered
But he sees a stray in the wilderness
And I see how far I've wandered

[Chorus 3]

Enter the multitudes
In Exxon blue
In radiation rose
Apathy
Now you tell me
Who you gonna get to do the dirty work
When all the slaves are free?
(Who're you gonna get)

[Refrain]

Enter the multitudes
The walking wounded
They come to this diver of the heart
Of the multitudes
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done

[Verse 4]

Oh, all around the marketplace
The buzzing of the flies
The buzzing and the stinging
Divinely barren
And wickedly wise
The killer nails are ringing

[Chorus 4]

Enter the multitudes
In Exxon blue
In radiation rose
Tragedy
Now you tell me
Who you gonna get to do the dirty work
When all the slaves are free?
(Who're you gonna get)

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Ray's Dad's Cadillac -----

[Intro]

Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Ray's Dad's Cadillac

[Verse 1]

Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Rollin' past the rink
Past the record shack
Pink fins in the falling rain
Rollin'
To the blue lights past the water mains

[Chorus]

Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Weekends we'd get
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Rock 'n roll in the dashboard
Romance in the back of
Ray's Dad's Cadillac

[Verse 2]

Ray's dad teaches math
Zero
I'm a dunce
I'm a decimal in his class
Last night's kisses won't erase
Zero
I just can't keep the numbers in their place

[Chorus]

Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Last night we had
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Rock 'n roll in the dashboard
Romance in the back of
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Ray's Dad's Cadillac

[Bridge]

When it comes to mathematics
I got static in the attic
"No sir, nothin's clear!"
I'll be blackboard blind on Monday
Dreamin' of blue runways
On the edge of here
A little atmosphere

[Verse 3]

Blue lights out on airport road
Motown, in a field in a farmer's grove
Big planes comin' overhead
Lowdown
You can see the bolts
You can see the tire treads

[Chorus]
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Weekends we'd get
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Oh, little darlin'
Rock 'n roll in the dashboard
Romance in the back of
Ray's Dad's Cadillac

[Outro]
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Ray's Dad's Cadillac
Ray's Dad's Cadillac

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Slouching Towards Bethlehem -----

[Verse 1]
Turning and turning
Within the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer
Things fall apart
The centre cannot hold
And a blood dimmed tide
Is loosed upon the world

[Verse 2]
Nothing is sacred
The ceremony sinks
Innocence is drowned
In anarchy
The best lack conviction
Given some time to think
And the worst are full of passion
Without mercy

[Chorus]
Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And the wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast
Its hour come at last

Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born
Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born

[Verse 3]

Hoping and hoping
As if with my weak faith
The spirit of this world
Would heal and rise
Vast are the shadows
That straddle and strafe
And struggle in the darkness
Troubling my eyes

[Verse 4]

Shaped like a lion
It has the head of a man
With a gaze as blank
And pitiless as the sun
As it's moving its slow thighs
Across the desert sands
Through dark indignant
Reeling falcons

[Chorus]

Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And the wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast
Its hour come at last
Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born
Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born
Head of a man, shape of a lion

[Verse 5]

Raging and raging
It rises from the deep
Opening its eyes
After twenty centuries
Vexed to a nightmare
Out of a stony sleep
By a rocking cradle
By the Sea of Galilee

[Chorus]

Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And the wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast
Its hour come at last

Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born
Slouching towards Bethlehem to be born
Head of a man, shape of a lion

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- The Only Joy in Town -----

[Verse 1]

I want to paint a picture
Botticelli style
Instead of Venus on a clam
I'd paint this flower child
"You are the air my flowers breathe"
He calls, and the ladies turn around
On the first day of Spring
I'm looking at the only joy around

[Chorus]

He's the only joy around
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy I found
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy in town

[Verse 2]

The Spanish steps are crowded
Bunch of bodies brooding there
Dead pan side-walk vendors
Hustling vacant stares
Making all the more exceptional
This fool in a flower crown
On the first day of Spring
I'm looking at the only joy in town

[Chorus]

He's the only joy around
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy I found
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy in town
(The Botticelli black boy)
(The Botticelli black boy)

[Verse 3]

With the fuchias in his hair
Is breathing in women like oxygen
On the Spanish stairs
In my youth I would have followed him
All through this terra-cotta town

On the first day of Spring
We'd dance and sing
And be the only joy around

[Chorus]

We'd be the only joy around
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy in town
(The Botticelli black boy)
He's the only joy I've found
All day

[Verse 4]

At night these streets are empty
Where does everybody go
Where are the brash and tender rooms
In Roman candle glow
Where are Fellini's circus'
La Dolce Vita clowns
On the first day of Spring
I'm looking
At the only joy around

[Chorus]

The only joy around
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy I found
(The Botticelli black boy)
He's the only joy in town

[Outro]

(The Botticelli black boy)
He is the only joy in town
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy I found
(The Botticelli black boy)
The only joy I found
(The Botticelli black boy)
He is the only joy in town
(The Botticelli black boy)

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- The Windfall (Everything for Nothing) -----

[Intro]

So you want me to buy you a car
Why? Because Elvis did?
Darlin' come on

[Verse 1]

Because Elvis gave 'em cars
You think I'm cheap
And you're hard done by
Look-you live here like a star
Rent free suite
Big blue pool that you sun by
Trips to tropic shores
Clothes from fancy stores
You want too much
You want too badly
You want everything for nothing

[Verse 2]

Going to the church
You chant
For my downfall
Chanting for my house
My friends
You want it all
The pillows on my bed
The visions in my head
You want too much
You want too badly
You want everything for nothing

[Chorus]

In the land of litigation
The courts are like game shows
Take what's behind the curtain
The jury cries
I'm not going to be the jackpot
At the end of your perjured rainbow
Not if local justice has even one good eye

[Verse 3]

Oh it's not like I was blind
I saw
But I took no action
As you began to climb
Green clawed
Dissatisfaction
It wasn't hard to guess
That the end would be a mess
You want too much
You want too badly
You want everything for nothing

[Chorus]

In the land of mass frustration
The judges are sleeping
Counting wooly little lawyers
And grinding their teeth
Outside my sleepless window
The Hollywood sirens are shrieking
While down some searchlit alley runs
Some lost belief

[Outro]

Oh I'm tangled in your lies
Your scam
Your spider web
Spit spun between the trees
Doors slam
You want my head
You'd eat your young alive
For a jaguar in the drive
You lie too much
You lie too badly
You want everything for nothing

----- 1991 Night Ride Home -----
----- Two Grey Rooms -----

[Verse 1]

Tomorrow is Sunday
Now there's only one day left to go
Till you walk by
Below my window
The weekends drive me mad
Holidays are oh too sad
'Cause you don't go
Below my window

[Chorus]

No one knows I'm here
One day I just disappeared
And I took these two grey rooms up here
With a view
When you walk by
Below my window

[Verse 2]

You look so youthful
Time has been untruthful
Heaven knows I loved you
30 years ago
Hot days your shirt's undone

Rainy days you run
Oh and then you fade so fast
Below my window

[Chorus]
No one knows I'm here
One day I just disappeared
And I took these two grey rooms up here
With a view
Only when you walk by
Below my window
When you walk by

[Outro]
Below my window
Below my window
Hey hey
Below my window
Below my window
Below my window

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Borderline -----

[Verse 1]
Everybody looks so ill at ease
So distrustful so displeased
Running down the table
I see a borderline
Like a barbed wire fence
Strung tight, strung tense
Prickling with pretense
A borderline

[Verse 2]
Why are you smirking at your friend?
Is this to be the night when
All well-wishing ends?
All credibility revoked?
Thin skin, thick jokes!
Can we blame it on the smoke
This borderline?

[Verse 3]
Every bristling shaft of pride
Church or nation
Team or tribe
Every notion we subscribe to
Is just a borderline

Good or bad, we think we know
As if thinking makes things so!
All convictions grow along a borderline

[Verse 4]

Smug in your jaded expertise
You scathe the wonder world
And you praise barbarity
In this illusionary place
This scared hard-edged rat race
All liberty is laced with
Borderlines

[Verse 5]

Every income, every age
Every fashion-plated rage
Every measure, every gauge
Creates a borderline
Every stone thrown through glass
Every mean-streets-kick ass
Every swan caught on the grass
Will draw a borderline

[Verse 6]

You snipe so steady
You snub so snide
So ripe and ready
To diminish and deride
You're so quick to condescend
My opinionated friend
All you deface, all you defend
Is just a borderline
Just a borderline
Another borderline
Just a borderline

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- How Do You Stop -----

[Verse 1: Joni Mitchell]

Hard bodies
Soft emotions
So fast
So smart
The world is at your feet
But what about your heart?
Fame and fortune can't hold you tight
In the late late hours of the night

[Chorus: Joni Mitchell and Seal]

How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?
You choose and you lose
If you hesitate
How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?
You think love will wait
So you don't hold on
And then it's gone
How do you stop

[Verse 2: Joni Mitchell]

You've had success
Lots of fancy friends
You've tasted the good life
You thought it would never end
One day you're too young
Then you're in your prime
Then you're looking back at the hands of time

[Chorus: Joni Mitchell and Seal]

How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?
You choose and you lose
If you hesitate
How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?
Late
You think love will wait
So you don't hold on
And then it's gone
How do you stop

[Bridge: Joni Mitchell and Seal]

How do you stop a runaway train?
How do you stop
How do you stop the driving rain?
How do you stop the ripening corn?
How do you stop
How do you stop a baby being born?

[Chorus: Joni Mitchell and Seal]

How do you stop
Before it's too late?

Too late
You choose and you lose
If you hesitate
How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?
How do you stop?
How do you stop
You're lost if you hesitate
How do you stop
How do you stop
Love from slipping away?
How do you stop
How do you stop
Before it's too late?

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Last Chance Lost -----

[Verse 1]

Last chance lost
In the tyranny of a long good-bye
Last chance lost
We talk of us with deadly earnest eyes
Last chance lost
We talk of love in terms of sacrifice and compromise
Last chance
Last chance lost

[Verse 2]

Last chance lost
The hero cannot make the change
Last chance lost
The shrew will not be tamed
Last chance lost
They bicker on the rifle range
Blame takes aim
Last chance
Last chance lost

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Not to Blame -----

[Verse 1]

The story hit the news
From coast to coast
They said you beat the girl
You loved the most
Your charitable acts

Seemed out of place
With the beauty
With your fist marks on her face
Your buddies all stood by
They bet their fortunes
And their fame
That she was out of line
And you were not to blame

[Verse 2]
Six hundred thousand doctors
Are putting on rubber gloves
And they're poking
At the miseries made of love
They say they're learning
How to spot
The battered wives
Among all the women
They see bleeding through their lives
I bleed
For your perversity
These red words that make a stain
On your white-washed claim that
She was out of line
And you were not to blame

[Verse 3]
I heard your baby say
When he was only three
"Daddy, let's get some girls
One for you and one for me."
His mother had the frailty
You despise
And the looks
You love to drive to suicide
Not one wet eye around
Her lonely little grave
Said: "He was out of line, girl
You were not to blame."

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Sex Kills -----

[Verse 1]
I pulled up behind a Cadillac
We were waiting for the light
I took a look at his license plate
It said 'Just Ice'
Is justice just ice?

Governed by greed and lust
Just the strong doing what they can
And the weak suffering what they must

[Chorus]

Oh, and the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
Sex kills
Oh, sex kills

[Verse 2]

Doctors' pills give you brand new ills
And the bills bury you like an avalanche
And lawyers haven't been this popular
Since Robespierre slaughtered half of France
And Indian chiefs with their old beliefs
Know the balance is undone, crazy ions
You can feel it out in traffic
Everyone hates everyone

[Chorus]

And the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
Sex kills
Oh, sex kills

[Verse 3]

All these jack-offs at the office
The rapist in the pool
Oh, and the tragedies in the nurseries
Little kids packing guns to school
The ulcerated ozone
These tumors of the skin
This hostile sun beating down
On the massive mess we're in

[Chorus]

And the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
Sex kills
Sex kills
Sex kills
Oh, sex kills
Sex kills

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----

----- Sunny Sunday -----

[Verse 1]

She pulls the shade
It's just another sunny Sunday
She dodges the light like Blanche DuBois
Bright colors fade away on such a
Sunny Sunday
She waits for the night to fall

[Verse 2]

Then she points a pistol through the door
And she aims at the streetlight
While the freeway hisses
Dogs bark as the gun falls to the floor
The streetlight's still burning
She always misses
But the day she hits
That's the day she'll leave
That one little victory, that's all she needs

[Verse 3]

She pulls the shade
It's just another sunny Monday
She waits for the night to fall

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----

----- The Magdalene Laundries -----

[Verse 1]

I was an unmarried girl
I'd just turned twenty-seven
When they sent me to the sisters
For the way men looked at me
Branded as a jezebel
I knew I was not bound for Heaven
I'd be cast in shame
Into the Magdalene Laundries

[Verse 2]

Most girls come here pregnant
Some by their own fathers
Bridget got that belly by her parish priest
We're trying to get things white as snow
All of us woe-begotten daughters
In the streaming stains
Of the Magdalene Laundries

[Verse 3]

Prostitutes and destitutes
And temptresses like me
Fallen women
Sentenced into dreamless drudgery
Why do they call this heartless place
Our Lady of Charity?
Oh charity!

[Verse 4]
These bloodless brides of Jesus
If they had just once glimpsed their groom
Then they'd know, and they'd drop the stones
Concealed behind their rosaries
They wilt the grass they walk upon
They leech the light out of a room
They'd like to drive us down the drain
At the Magdalene Laundries

[Verse 5]
Peg O'Connell died today
She was a cheeky girl
A flirt
They just stuffed her in a hole!
Surely to God you'd think at least some bells should ring!
One day I'm going to die here too
And they'll plant me in the dirt
Like some lame bulb
That never blooms come any spring
Not any spring
No, not any spring
Not any spring

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- The Sire of Sorrow (Job's Sad Song) -----

[Verse 1]
Let me speak, let me spit out my bitterness
Born of grief and nights without sleep and festering flesh
Do you have eyes?
Can you see like mankind sees?
Why have you soured and curdled me?

[Refrain]
Oh you tireless watcher
What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread
And everything I fear
Come true?

[Verse 2]

Once I was blessed
I was awaited like the rain
Like eyes for the blind
Like feet for the lame
Kings heard my words
And they sought out my company
But now the janitors of Shadowland flick their brooms at me

[Refrain]

Oh you tireless watcher
What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread
And everything I fear
Come true?

[Verse 3]

(Man is the sire of sorrow)
I've lost all taste for life
I'm all complaints
Tell me why do you starve the faithful?
Why do you crucify the saints?
And you let the wicked prosper
You let their children frisk like deer
And my loves are dead or dying, or they don't come near
(We don't despise your chastening
God is correcting you)
Oh and look who comes to counsel my deep distress
Oh, these pompous physicians
What carelessness!
(Oh all this ranting, all this wind
Filling our ears with trash)
Breathtaking ignorance adding insult to injury!
They come blaming and shaming
(Evil doer)
And shattering me
(This vain man wishes to seem wise
A man born of asses)

[Refrain]

Oh you tireless watcher
What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread
And everything I fear
Come true?

[Verse 4]

Already on a bed of sighs and screams
And still you torture me with visions

You give me terrifying dreams!
Better I was carried from the womb straight to the grave
I see the diggers waiting, they're leaning on their spades
(Man is the sire of sorrow
Sure as the sparks ascend)
Where is hope while you're wondering what went wrong?
Why give me light and then this dark without a dawn?
(Evil is sweet in your mouth
Hiding under your tongue)
Show your face
(What a long fall from grace)
Help me understand
What is the reason for your heavy hand?
(You're stumbling in shadows
You have no name now)
Was it the sins of my youth?

[Refrain]

What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?
(Oh your guilt must weigh so greatly)
Everything I dread and everything I fear come true
(Man is the sire of sorrow)
Oh you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Turbulent Indigo -----

[Verse 1]

You wanna make Van Goghs
Raise 'em up like sheep
Make 'em out of Eskimos
And women if you please
Make 'em nice and normal
Make 'em nice and neat
You see him with his shotgun there?
Bloodied in the wheat?
Oh what do you know about
Living in Turbulent Indigo?

[Verse 2]

Brash fields, crude crows
In a scary sky
In a golden frame
Roped off
Tourists guided by
Tourists talking about the madhouse
Talking about the ear
The madman hangs in fancy homes

They wouldn't let him near
He'd piss in their fireplace
He'd drag them through Turbulent Indigo

[Verse 3]

"I'm a burning hearth" he said
"People see the smoke
But no one wants to warm themselves
Sloughing off a coat
And all my little landscapes
All my yellow afternoons
Stack up around this vacancy
Like dirty cups and spoons
No mercy Sweet Jesus
No mercy from Turbulent Indigo"

----- 1994 Turbulent Indigo -----
----- Yvette In English -----

[Verse 1]

He met her in a French cafe
She slipped in sideways like a cat
Sidelong glances
What a wary little stray!
She sticks in his mind like that
Saying, "Avez-vous un allumette?"
With her lips wrapped around a cigarette
Yvette in English saying
"Please have this
Little bit of instant bliss."

[Verse 2]

He's fumbling with her foreign tongue;
Reaching for words and drawing blanks
A loud mouth is stricken deaf and dumb
In a bistro on the left bank
"If I were a painter," Picasso said
"I'd paint this girl from toe to head!"
Yvette in English saying
"Please have this
Little bit of instant bliss."

[Verse 3]

Burgundy nocturne tips and spills
They trot along nicely in the spreading stain
New chills, new thrills
For the old uphill battle
How did he wind up here again?
Walking and talking

Touched and scared
Uninsulated wires left bare
Yvette in English going
"Please have this
Little bit of instant bliss."

[Verse 4]
What blew her like a leaf his way?
(Up in the air and down to Earth)
First she flusters
Then she frays
So quick to question her own worth
Her cigarette burns her fingertips
As it falls like fireworks she curses it
Then sweetly in English she says
"Please have this
Little bit of instant bliss."

[Verse 5]
He sees her turn and walk away
Skittering like a cat on stone
Her high heels clicking
What a wary little stray!
She leaves him by the Seine alone
With the black water and the amber lights
And the bony bridge between left and right
Yvette in English saying
"Please have this
Little bit of instant bliss."

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Face Lift -----

I went so numb on Christmas day
I couldn't feel my hands or feet
I shouldn't have come
She made me pay
For gleaming with Donald down her street
She put blame on him
And shame on me
She made it all seem so tawdry and cheap
"Oh, let's be nice, Mama, open up your gifts
You know, happiness is the best facelift"

I mean, after all, she introduced us
Oh, but she regrets that now
Shacked up downtown
Making love without a license
Same old sacred cow

She said, "Did you come home to disgrace us?"
I said, "Why is this joy not allowed?
For God's sake, I'm middle-aged, Mama
And time moves swift
And you know happiness is the best facelift"

Oh, love takes so much courage
Love takes so much shit
He said "You've seen too many movies, Joni"
She said "Snap out of it!"
Oh, the cold winds blew at our room with a view
All helpful and hopeful and candlelit
We kissed the angels and the moon eclipsed
You know, Happiness is the best facelift

We pushed the bed up to the window
To see the Christmas lights
On the east bank across the steaming river
Between the bridges lit up Paris-like
This river has run through both our lives
Between these banks of our continuing delights
Bless us, don't let us lose the drift
You know, Happiness is the best facelift

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Harlem In Havana -----

[Verse 1]
At the far end of the midway
By the double ferris wheel
There's a band that plays so snakey
You can't help how you feel
Emmie Mae ran away
With a man as dark as night
You can see him, if you go there
Second trumpet to the right
They play "Night Train"
So snakey
Black girls dancing
Long and lanky
Barkers barking
Step right up, folks

[Chorus]
The show is about to begin
It's Harlem in Havana time
Step right in
Silver spangles
See 'em dangle in the farm boy's eyes

Hootchie kootchie
Auntie Ruthie would've cried
If she knew we were on the inside

[Verse 2]

When Emmie Mae ran away
She came back a bottle blonde
God! The gossips had a gourmet feast
Chomping on how she was born
But miracle of miracles
'Cause we were underage
She got us nearly front row seats
To the right side of the stage
See that tall girl?
That's a man
That one, too
Big yellow feather fan
Barkers barking
Step right up, folks

[Chorus]

The show is about to begin
It's Harlem in Havana time
Step right in!
Silver spangles
See 'em dangle in the farm boy's eyes
Hootchie kootchie
Auntie Ruthie would've died
If she knew we were on the inside

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Lead Balloon -----

[Verse 1]

"Kiss my ass!" I said
And I threw my drink
Tequila trickling
Down his business suit
Must be the Irish blood
Fight before you think
Turn it now
You can't cowlow
You can't undo it

[Chorus]

It's his town
And that went down
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon

He said "Sic her, Rover"
That went over
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon

[Verse 2]
An angry man is just an angry man
But an angry woman
Bitch!
I had to ask him for a helping hand
It came with the heart
Of a Bonaparte
Of a frozen fish

[Chorus]
It's his town
And that went down
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
He said "Sic her, Rover"
That went over
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon

[Chorus]
Lead balloon, lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon, lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon, lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon

[Chorus]
It's his town
And that went down
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead balloon
He said "Sic her, Rover"
That went over
Like a lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead lead lead lead balloon
Lead balloon

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Love Puts On A New Face -----

[Verse 1]

He said "You think you're a lady
But I know you're a woman
We are as young as the night"
I said "No telephones ringing
No company coming
Just the lap of the lake and the firelight"
And the lonely loon and the crescent moon
What a pocket of heavenly grace

[Refrain]

But in France they say
Everyday
Love puts on a new face
Love has many faces

[Verse 2]

About a month or so later he said
"Why can't you be happy
You make me feel helpless when you get this way"
I said "I'm up to my neck in alligators
Jaws gnashing at me
Each one trying to pull a piece away"
Darling, you can't slay these beasts of prey
Some bad dreams even love can't erase

[Refrain]

But in France they say
Everyday
Love puts on a new face
Love has many faces

[Verse 3]

He said "I wish you were with me here
The leaves are electric
They burn on the river bank
Countless heatless flames"
I said "Send me some pictures then
And I'll paint pyrotechnic
Explosions of your autumn till we meet again
I miss your touch and your lips so much
I long for our next embrace"

[Refrain]

But in France they say
Everyday
Love puts on a new face
Love puts on a new face
Love has many faces

Many many faces

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Man From Mars -----

[Verse 1]

Since I lost you
I can't get through the day
Without at least one big boo-hoo
The pain won't go away
What am I gonna do?
Man from Mars
This time you went too far

[Verse 2]

I fall apart
Everytime I think of you
Swallowed by the dark
There is no center to my life now
No grace in my heart
Man from Mars
This time you went too far

[Verse 3]

I call and call
The silence is so full of sounds
You're in them all
I hear you in the water
And the wiring in the walls
Man from Mars
This time you went too far

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- My Best To You -----

[Verse 1]

So here's to you
May your dreams come true
May old Father Time
Never be unkind
And through the years
Save your smiles and your tears
They're just souvenirs
They'll make music in your heart
Remember this
Each new day is a kiss
Sent from up above
With an angel's love
So here's to you

May your skies be blue
And your love blessed
That's my best to you

[Verse 2]

Remember this
Each new day is a kiss
Sent from up above
With an angel's love
So here's to you
May your skies be blue
And your love blessed
That's my very best to you

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- No Apologies -----

[Verse 1]

The general offered
No apologies
He said "The soldiers erred in judgement
They should have hired a hooker"
No apologies
To the outraged Japanese
No "Sorry little girl"
The pigs just took her

[Refrain]

Tire skids and teethmarks
What happened to this place?
Lawyers and loan sharks
Are laying America to waste

[Verse 2]

Freddie said that "Juan thinks, I think
He's the devil"
What a lofty title
For such a petty little tyrant
Bigger beasts abound
And they kick this world around
At this crazy speed
With violence and greed

[Refrain]

Tire skids and teethmarks
What happened to this place?
Lawyers and loan sharks
Are laying America to waste

[Verse 3]

So what makes a man a man
In these tough times
As drug lords buy up the banks
And war lords radiate the oceans
Ecosystems fail
Snakes and snails and puppy tails
Are wagging in the womb
Beneath the trampled moon

[Refrain]

Tires kids and teethmarks
What happened to this place?
Lawyers and loan sharks
Are laying America to waste

[Outro]

The general offered
No apologies

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Stay In Touch -----

This is really something
People will be envious
But our roles aren't clear
So we musn't rush
Still, we're burning brightly
Clinging like fire to fuel
I'm grinning like a fool
Stay in touch
We should stay in touch
Oh! Stay in touch
In touch

Part of this is permanent
Part of this is passing
So we must be loyal and wary
Not to give away too much
Til we build a firm foundation
And empty out old habits
Old habits
Stay in touch
We should stay in touch
Oh! Stay in touch
In touch

During times like these
The wise or influential

They can bear the imperfections
They can keep the money
No doubt about it
No doubt that's essential
No doubt that's always been a tricky one for me
So, we should just surrender
Let fate and duty shape us
Let light hearts remake us
Let the worries hush
In the middle of this continent
In the middle of our time on Earth
We perceive one another
Stay in touch
We should stay in touch
Oh! Stay in touch
In touch

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Taming The Tiger -----

[Verse 1]

I stepped outside to breathe the air
And stare up at the stars
Big dipper hanging there
Over the rented car
Over the rented car
I'm a runaway from the record biz
From the hoods in the hood and the whiny white kids

[Chorus]

Boring, the old man is snoring
And I'm taming the tiger
(You can't tame the tiger)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
Nice, kitty kitty
Tiger, tiger burning bright

[Verse 2]

Sophia says "It's hard to catch
And harder still to ride
The time to watch the beast the best
Is when it's purring at your side"
Purring at your side
Accolades and honors
One false move and you're a goner

[Chorus]

Boring, the old man is snoring
And I'm taming the tiger

(You can't tame the tiger)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
Nice, kitty kitty
Tiger, tiger burning bright

[Verse 3]
The moon shed light
On my hopeless plight
As the radio blared so bland
Every disc, a poker chip
Every song just a one night stand
Formula music, girly guile
Genuine junkfood for juveniles
Up and down the dial
Mercenary style

[Verse 4]
I watched the stars chuck down their spears
And a plane went blinking by
And I thought of Anna
Wild and dear
Like fireworks in the sky
Fireworks in the sky
I'm so sick of this game
It's hip, it's hot
Life's too short, the whole thing's gotten

[Chorus]
Boring, the old man is snoring
And I'm taming the tiger
(You can't tame the tiger)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
Nice, kitty kitty
(Boring)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
(You can't tame the tiger)
Oh, be nice, kitty kitty
(Boring)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
Nice, kitty kitty
(Boring, boring)
Tiger, tiger burning bright
(Fight to the light, fight to the light)
In the forest of the night

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- The Crazy Cries Of Love -----

It was a dark and a stormy night

Everyone was at the wing-ding
They weren't the wing-ding type
So they went up on the train bridge
Where the weather was howling
And oh, oh, my my
When that train comes rolling by
No paper thin walls, no folks above
No one else can hear
The crazy cries of love

They were laughing, they were dancing in the rain
They knew their love was a strong one
When they heard the far off whistle of a train
They were hoping it was going to be a long one
Cuz oh, oh, my my
When that train comes rolling by
No paper thin walls, no folks above
No one else can hear
The crazy cries of love

In the back booth of an all night cafe
Two dripping raincoats are hanging
Outside in the weather
The shade on the streetlight is clanging
And they smile ear to ear and eye to eye
Ice cream is melting on a piece of pie
Oh, my my
No one else can hear
The cries of love

Every kiss was sweet and strong
Every touch was totally tandem
As the train come a-rumbling along
They sang a lover's song of wild abandon
And oh, oh, my my
When that train comes rolling by
No paper thin walls, no folks above
No one else can hear
The crazy cries of love
No paper thin walls, no folks above
No one else can hear
The crazy cries of love

----- 1998 Taming the Tiger -----
----- Tiger Bones -----

[Instrumental]

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----

----- A Case of You [Both Sides Now Version] -----

Sorry, we didn't mean for that to happen!

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----

----- Answer Me, My Love -----

Answer me
Oh my love
Just what sin have I been guilty of
Tell me how I came to lose your love
Please answer me sweetheart

You were mine yesterday
I believed that love was here to stay
Won't you tell me how I've gone astray
Please answer me my love

If you're happier without me
I'll try not to care
But if you still think about me
Please listen to my prayer

You must know that I've been true
Won't you say that we can start anew
In my sorrow now I turn to you
Please answer me my love

If you're happier without me
I'll try not to care
But if you still think about me
Please listen to my prayer

You must know that I've been true
Won't you say that we can start anew
In my sorrow now I turn to you
Please answer me my love
Answer me my love

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----

----- At Last -----

At last, my love has come along
My lonely days are over, and life is like a song
At last, the skies above are blue
My heart was wrapped in clover
The night I looked at you

I found a dream that I could speak to
A dream that I could call my own
I found a thrill to press my cheek to
A thrill I'd never known
You smiled, and then the spell was cast
And here we are in Heaven, for you are mine at last

I found a dream that I could speak to
A dream that I could call my own
I found a thrill to press my cheek to
A thrill that I had never known
You smiled, and then the spell was cast
And here we are in Heaven
For you are mine at last

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Both Sides Now (Orchestral Version 2000) -----

Rows and flows of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way
But now they only block the sun
They rain and snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down, and still somehow
It's cloud illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

Moons and Junes and ferris wheels
The dizzy dancing way that you feel
As every fairy tale comes real;
I've looked at love that way
But now it's just another show
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away

I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take, and still somehow
It's love's illusions that I recall
I really don't know
I really don't know love at all

Tears and fears and feeling proud

To say "I love you" right out loud
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds
I've looked at life that way
But now old friends are acting strange
They shake their heads, they tell me that I've changed
Well something's lost but something's gained in living every day

I've looked at life from both sides now
From win and lose, and still somehow
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life at all
It's life's illusions I recall
I really don't know life
I really don't know life at all

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Comes Love -----

Comes a rain storm
Put your rubbers on your feet
Comes a snow storm
You can get a little heat
Comes love
Nothing can be done

Comes a fire
Firemen come and rescue me
Blow a tire
You can patch the inner tube
Comes love
Nothing can be done

Don't try hidin'
'Cause it isn't any use
You'll just start slidin'
When your heart turns on the juice

Comes a heat wave
You can hurry to the store
Come a summons
Hide yourself behind a door
Comes love
Nothing can be done

Comes a headache
You can lose it in a day
Comes a toothache
See your dentist right away
Comes love

Nothing can be done

Comes the measles
You can quarrantine the room
Comes a mousie
You can chase it with a broom
Comes love
Nothing can be done

That's all brother
If you've ever been in love
That's all brother
And you know just what I'm speakin' of

Comes a nightmare
You can always stay awake
Comes depression
You could get another break
Comes love
Nothing can be done
Nothing can be done

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Don't Go To Strangers -----

Build your dreams
To the stars above
But when you need someone true to love
Don't go to strangers
Lover come to me

Play with fire
Get your fingers burned
But when there's no place left to turn
Don't go to strangers
Lover come to me

You give the call to follow your heart
You'll follow your heart, I know
I've been around
I'm an old hand
I'll understand if you have to go

So make your mark
For your friends to see
But when you need more than company
Don't go to strangers
Lover come to me

Don't go to strangers
Lover come to me

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Don't Worry 'bout Me -----

Don't worry 'bout me
I'll get along
Forget about me
Just be happy my love

Let's say that our little show is over
And so the story ends
Why not call it a day the sensible way
And still be friends

Look out for yourself
That should be the rule
Give your heart and your love
To whomever you love
Darlin' don't be a fool

Why do we cling to this old faded thing
That used to be
So if you can forget
Then don't worry 'bout me

Why should we cling to some old faded thing
That used to be
So if you can forget
Then you don't worry 'bout me

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- I Wish I Were In Love Again -----

The sleepless nights
The daily fights
The quick toboggan when you reach the heights
I miss the kisses and I miss the bites
I wish I were in love again

The broken dates
The endless waits
The lovely loving and the hateful hates
The conversations with the flying plates
I wish I were in love again

No more pain
No no more strain

Now I'm sane
But I'd rather be punch drunk

The flying fur of cat and cur
The fine mismatching of a him and her
I've learned my lesson but
I wish I were in love again

The furtive sigh
The blackened eye
The words I love you 'til the day I die
The self-deception that believes that lie
I wish I were in love again

When love congeals
It soon reveals
The faint aroma of performing seals
The double-crossing of a pair of heels
I wish I were in love again

No more care
No more despair
Now I'm all there
But I'd rather be punch drunk

Believe me sir, I much prefer
The classic battle of a him and her
I don't like quiet and I wish I were
In love again
In love again

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Sometimes I'm Happy -----

Sometimes I'm happy
Sometimes I'm blue
My disposition depends on you
I never mind the rain from the skies
As long as I have the sun in your eyes

Sometimes I love you
Sometimes I hate you
When I hate you
It's because I love you
That's how I am
So what can I do
I'm happy when I'm with you

Sometimes I'm happy

Sometimes I'm blue
My disposition depends on you
I never mind the rain from the skies
As long as I have the sun in your eyes

Sometimes I love you
Sometimes I hate you
When I hate you
It's because I love you
That's how I am
So what can I do
I'm happy when I'm with you

I'm happy when I'm with you
I'm happy when I'm with you
I'm happy when I'm with you
I'm happy when I'm with you

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- Stormy Weather -----

Don't know why
There's no sun up in the sky
Stormy weather
Since my man and I ain't together
Keeps rainin' all of the time

Life is bare
Gloom and misery everywhere
Stormy weather
Just can't get my poor self together
I'm so weary all the time
All the time

So weary all the time
Since you went away
The blues stepped up and met me
If they're here to stay
That old rocking chair's going to get me
Every night I pray
That the Lord above will let me
Walk in the sunlight once more

I can't go on
Everything I had is gone
Stormy weather
Since my man and I, we ain't together
Keeps rainin' all the time

Keeps rainin' all the time

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- You're My Thrill -----

You're my thrill
You do something to me
You send chills right through me
When I look at you
'Cause you're my thrill

You're my thrill
How my pulse increases
I just go to pieces
Every time I look at you
I can't keep still

Nothing seems to matter
Here's my heart on a silver platter
Oh where is my will
Why this strange desire
Flaming higher and higher
Every time I look at you
I can't keep still
You're my thrill

Oh where's my will
Why this strange desire
Flaming higher and higher
Every time I look at you
I can't keep still
Oh you're my thrill

----- 2000 Both Sides Now -----
----- You've Changed -----

You've changed
The sparkle in your eyes is gone
Your smile is just a careless yawn
You're breaking my heart
You've changed

You've changed
Your kisses now are so blase
You're bored with me in every way
I can't understand
You've changed

You've forgotten the words I love you

And the memories that we've shared
You've ignored all the stars up above you
I can't realize that you ever cared
You've changed

You're not the angel I once knew
No need to tell me, I know we're through
It's all over now
You've changed

You've forgotten the words I love you
And the memories that we've shared
You ignore all the stars up above you
I can't realize that you ever cared
You've changed

You're not the angel I once knew
No need to tell me, I know we're through
It's all over now
You've changed

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Amelia -----

[Verse 1]
I was driving across the burning desert
When I spotted six jet planes
Leaving six white vapor trails across the bleak terrain
It was the hexagram of the heavens
It was the strings of my guitar
Amelia it was just a false alarm

[Verse 2]
The drone of flying engines
Is a song so wild & blue
It scrambles time & seasons if it gets through to you
Then your life becomes a travelogue
Of picture post card charms
Oh Amelia, it was just a false alarm

[Verse 3]
People'll tell you where they've gone
They'll tell you where to go
But till you get there yourself you'll never really know
Where some have found their paradise
Other's just come to harm
Oh Amelia, it was just a false alarm

[Verse 4]

I wish that he was here tonight
It's so hard to obey
His sad request of me to kindly stay away
So this is how I hide the hurt
As the road leads cursed and charmed
I tell "Amelia, it was just a false alarm"

[Verse 5]
A ghost of aviation
She was swallowed by the sky
Or by the sea like me she had a dream to fly
Like Icarus ascending
On beautiful foolish arms
Amelia, it was just a false alarm

[Verse 6]
Maybe I've never really loved
I guess that is the truth
I've spent my whole life in clouds at icy altitude
And looking down on everything
I crashed into his arms
Amelia, it was just a false alarm

[Verse 7]
I pulled into the Cactus Tree Motel
To shower off the dust
And I slept on the strange pillows of my wanderlust
I dreamed of 747s
Over geometric farms
Dreams, Amelia
Dreams and false alarms

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Be Cool -----

If there's one rule to this game
Everybody's gonna name
It's be cool
If you're worried or uncertain
If your feelings are hurtin'
You're a fool if you can't keep cool
Charm 'em
Don't alarm 'em
Keep things light
Keep your worries out of sight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

If your heart is on the floor
Cause you've just seen your lover
Comin' through the door with a new fool
Be cool
Don't get riled
Smile-keep it light
Be your own best friend tonight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

Don't get jealous
Don't get over-zealous
Keep your cool
Don't whine
Kiss off that flaky valentine
You're nobody's fool
Be cool fool
Be cool
(Lots of other fish in the sea)

Play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

So if there's one rule to this game
Everybody's gonna name
It's--be cool
If you're worried or uncertain
If your feelings are hurtin'
You're a fool if you can't keep cool
They want you to
Charm 'em
Don't alarm 'em
Keep things light
Keep your worries out of sight
And play it cool
Play it cool
Fifty-fifty
Fire and ice

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Borderline -----

Everybody looks so ill at ease

So distrustful so displeased
Running down the table
I see a borderline
Like a barbed wire fence
Strung tight strung tense
Prickling with pretense
A borderline

Why are you smirking at your friend?
Is this to be the night when
All well-wishing ends?
All credibility revoked?
Thin skin thick jokes!
Can we blame it on the smoke
This borderline?

Every bristling shaft of pride
Church or nation
Team or tribe
Every notion we subscribe to
Is just a borderline
Good or bad we think we know
As if thinking makes things so!
All convictions grow along a borderline

Smug in your jaded expertise
You scathe the wonder world
And you praise barbarity
In this illusionary place
This scared hard-edged rat race
All liberty is laced with
Borderlines

Every income every age
Every fashion-plated rage
Every measure every gauge
Creates a borderline
Every stone thrown through glass
Every mean-streets-kick ass
Every swan caught on the grass
Will draw a borderline

You snipe so steady
You snub so snide
So ripe and ready
To diminish and deride!
You're so quick to condescend
My opinionated friend
All you deface all you defend

Is just a borderline
Just a borderline
Another borderline
Just a borderline

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Cherokee Louise -----

Cherokee Louise is hiding in this tunnel
In the Broadway bridge
We're crawling on our knees
We've got flashlights and batteries
We've got cold cuts from the fridge

Last year about this time
We used to climb up in the branches
Just to sway there in some breeze
Now the cops on the street
They want Cherokee Louise

People like to talk
Tongues are waggin' over fences
Waggin' over phones
All their doors are locked
God she can't even come to our house
But I know where she'll go

To the place where you can stand
And press your hands like it was bubblebath
In dust piled high as me
Down under the street
My friend
Poor Cherokee Louise

Ever since we turned thirteen
It's like a minefield
Walking to the door
Going out you get the third degree
And comin' in you get the third world war

Tuesday after school
We put our pennies on the rails
And when the train went by
We were jumpin' round like fools
Goin' "Look no heads or tails"
Goin' "Look my lucky prize"

She runs home to her foster dad

He opens up a zipper
And he yanks her to her knees
Oh please be here please
My friend
Poor Cherokee Louise

Cherokee Louise is hiding in this tunnel
In the Broadway bridge
We're crawling on our knees
We've got Archie and Silver Screen
I know where she is

The place where you can stand
And press your hand like it was bubblebath
In dust piled high as me
Down under the street
My friend
Poor Cherokee Louise
Oh Cherokee Louise

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Chinese Cafe -----

Caught in the middle
Carol we're middle class
We're middle aged
We were wild in the old days
Birth of rock 'n' roll days
Now your kids are coming up straight
And my child's a stranger
I bore her
But I could not raise her
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long

Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing "Oh my love, my darling"
One more time

Uranium money
Is booming in the old home town now
It's putting up sleek concrete
Tearing the old landmarks down now
Paving over brave little parks
Ripping off Indian land again
How long how long

Short sighted business men
Ah nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long

Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing "You give your love, so sweetly"
One more time

Christmas is sparkling
Out on Carol's lawn
This girl of my childhood games
With kids nearly grown and gone
Grown so fast
Like the turn of a page
We look like our mothers did now
When we were those kids' age
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Nothing lasts for long
Down at the Chinese Cafe
We'd be dreaming on our dimes
We'd be playing
"Oh my love, my darling
I've hungered for your touch
A long lonely time
And time goes by so slowly
And time can do so much
Are you still mine?
I need your love
I need your love
God speed your love to me"
(Time goes - where does the time go
I wonder where the time goes)

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- For the Roses -----

I heard it in the wind last night
It sounded like applause
Did you get a round resounding for you
Way up here
It seems like many dim years ago
Since I heard that face to face
Or seen you face to face
Though tonight I can feel you here
I get these notes

On butterflies and lilac sprays
From girls who just have to tell me
They saw you somewhere

In some office sits a poet
And he trembles as he sings
And he asks some guy
To circulate his soul around
On your mark red ribbon runner
The caressing rev of motors
Finely tuned like fancy women
In thirties evening gowns
Up the charts
Off to the airport
Your name's in the news
Everything's first class
The lights go down
And it's just you up there
Getting them to feel like that

Remember the days when you used to sit
And make up your tunes for love
And pour your simple sorrow
To the soundhole and your knee
And now you're seen
On giant screens
And at parties for the press
And for people who have slices of you
From the company
They toss around your latest golden egg
Speculation well who's to know
If the next one in the nest
Will glitter for them so

I guess I seem ungrateful
With my teeth sunk in the hand
That brings me things
I really can't give up just yet
Now I sit up here the critic
And they introduce some band
But they seem so much confetti
Looking at them on my TV set
Oh the power and the glory
Just when you're getting a taste for worship
They start bringing out the hammers
And the boards
And the nails

I heard it in the wind last night

It sounded like applause
Chilly now
End of summer
No more shiny hot nights
It was just the arbutus rustling
And the bumping of the logs
And the moon swept down black water
Like an empty spotlight

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- God Must Be A Boogie Man -----

He is three
One's in the middle unmoved
Waiting
To show what he sees
To the other two
To the one attacking so afraid
And the one that keeps trying to love and trust
And getting himself betrayed
In the plan oh
The divine plan
God must be a boogie man!

One's so sweet
So overly loving and gentle
He lets people in
To his innermost sacred temple
Blind faith to care
Blind rage to kill
Why'd he let them talk him down
To cheap work and cheap thrills
In the plan oh
The insulting plan
God must be a boogie man!

Which would it be
Mingus one or two or three
Which one do you think he'd want the world to see
Well world opinion's not a lot of help
When a man's only trying to find out
How to feel about himself
In the plan oh
The cock-eyed plan
God must be a boogie man!

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Heijira -----

I'm traveling in some vehicle
I'm sitting in some cafe
A defector from the petty wars
That shell shock love away
There's comfort in melancholy
When there's no need to explain
It's just as natural as the weather
In this moody sky today
In our possessive coupling
So much could not be expressed
So now I'm returning to myself
These things that you and I suppressed
I see something of myself in everyone
Just at this moment of the world
As snow gathers like bolts of lace
Waltzing on a ballroom girl

You know it never has been easy
Whether you do or you do not resign
Whether you travel the breadth of extremities
Or stick to some straighter line
Now here's a man and a woman sitting on a rock
They're either going to thaw out or freeze
Listen
Strains of Benny Goodman
Coming through the snow and the pinewood trees
I'm porous with travel fever
But you know I'm so glad to be on my own
Still somehow the slightest touch of a stranger
Can set up trembling in my bones
I know no one's going to show me everything
We all come and go unknown
Each so deep and superficial
Between the forceps and the stone

Well I looked at the granite markers
Those tribute to finality to eternity
And then I looked at myself here
Chicken scratching for my immortality
In the church they light the candles
And the wax rolls down like tears
There's the hope and the hopelessness
I've witnessed thirty years
We're only particles of change I know I know
Orbiting around the sun
But how can I have that point of view
When I'm always bound and tied to someone
White flags of winter chimneys

Waving truce against the moon
In the mirrors of a modern bank
From the window of a hotel room

I'm traveling in some vehicle
I'm sitting in some cafe
A defector from the petty wars
Until love sucks me back that way

----- 2002 Travelogue -----

----- Judgement of the Moon and Stars (Ludwig's Tune) -----

No tongue in the bell
And the fishwives yell
But they might as well be mute
So you get to keep the pictures
That don't seem like much
Cold white keys under your fingers
Now you're thinking
"That's no substitute
It just don't do it
Like the song of a warm warm body
Loving your touch"

In the court they carve your legend
With an apple in its jaw
And the women that you wanted
They get their laughs
Long silk stockings
On the bedposts of refinement
You're too raw
They think you're too raw
It's the judgement of the moon and stars
Your solitary path
Draw yourself a bath
Think what you'd like to have
For supper
Or take a walk
A park
A bridge
A tree
A river
Revoked but not yet cancelled
The gift goes on
In silence
In a bell jar
Still a song

You've got to shake your fists at lightning now
You've got to roar like forest fire
You've got to spread your light like blazes
All across the sky
They're going to aim the hoses on you
Show 'em you won't expire
Not till you burn up every passion
Not even when you die
Come on now
You've got to try
If you're feeling contempt
Well then you tell it
If you're tired of the silent night
Jesus well then you yell it
Condemned to wires and hammers
Strike every chord that you feel
That broken trees
And elephant ivories conceal

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Just Like This Train -----

I'm always running behind the time
Just like this train
Shaking into town
With the brakes complaining

I used to count lovers like railroad cars
I counted them on my side
Lately I don't count on nothing
I just let things slide

The station master's shuffling cards
Boxcars are banging in the yards
Jealous lovin'll make you crazy
If you can't find your goodness
'Cause you lost your heart

I went looking for a cause
Or a strong cat without claws
Or any reason to resume
And I found this empty seat
In this crowded waiting room
Everybody waiting
Old man sleeping on his bags
Women with that teased up kind of hair
Kids with the jitters in their legs
And those wide, wide open stares

And the kids got cokes and chocolate bars
There's a thin man smoking a fat cigar
Jealous lovin'll make you crazy
If you can't find your goodness
'Cause you've lost your heart

What are you going to do now
You've got no one
To give your love too

Well I've got this berth and this pull down blind
I've got this fold up sink
And these rocks and these cactus going by
And a bottle of German wine to drink
Settle down into the clickety clack
With the clouds and the stars to read
Dreaming of the pleasure I'm going to have
Watching your hairline recede
My vain darling
Watching your hair and clouds and stars
I'm rocking away in a sleeping car
This jealous lovin's bound to make me crazy
I can't find my goodness
I lost my heart
Oh sour grapes
Because I lost my heart

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Love -----

Although I speak in tongues
Of men and angels
I'm just sounding brass
And tinkling cymbals without love

Love suffers long
Love is kind!
Enduring all things
Love has no evil in mind

If I had the gift of prophecy
And all the knowledge
And the faith to move the mountains
Even if I understood all of the mysteries
If I didn't have love
I'd be nothing

Love never looks for love
Love's not puffed up
Or envious
Or touchy
Because it rejoices in the truth
Not in iniquity
Love sees like a child sees

As a child I spoke as a child
I thought and I understood as a child
But when I became a woman
I put away childish things
And began to see through a glass darkly

Where as a child I saw it face to face
Now I only know it in part
Fractions in me
Of faith and hope and love
And of these great three
Love's the greatest beauty
Love
Love
Love

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Otis and Marlena -----

Marlena under Foster Grants
She's undercover from the dawns advance
That girl is travel drained
And the neon mercury vapor stained
Miami sky
It's red as meat
It's a cheap pink rose
Otis in the driver's seat
Watches the street lights fade away
On louvered blocks in green sea air
In fluorescent fossil yards
Slippers are shuffling into folding chairs
Freckled hands are shuffling cards

They've come for sun and fun
While Muslims stick up Washington

Otis empties out the trunk
On the steps of that celebrated dump
Sleazing by the sea
Bow down to her royal travesty

In her ballrooms heads of state
In her bedrooms rented girls
Always the grand parades of cellulite
Jiggling to her golden pools
Through flock and cupid colonnades
They jiggle into surgery
Hopefully beneath the blade
They dream of golden beauty

They've come for sun and fun
While Muslims stick up Washington

Marlena white as stretcher sheet
Watches it all from her tenth floor balcony
Like it's her opera box
All those Pagliacci summer frocks
Otis is fiddling with the TV dial
All he gets are cartoons and reruns
She taps her glass with an emery file
Watching three rings in the sun
The golden dive the fatted flake
And sizzle in the mink oil
It's all a dream
She has awake
Checked into Miami Royal
Where they've come for sun and fun
While Muslims hold up Washington
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on
Dream on

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Refuge of the Roads -----

I met a friend of spirit
A drunk with sage's eyes
And I sat before his sanity
I was holding back from crying
He saw my complications
And he mirrored me back simplified
And we laughed how our perfection
Would always be denied
"Heart and humor and humility"
He said "Will lighten up your heavy load"
I left him for the refuge of the roads

I fell in with some drifters
Cast upon a beachtown
Winn Dixie cold cuts and highway hand me downs
And I wound up fixing dinner
For them and Boston Jim
I well up with affection
Thinking back down the roads to then
The nets were overflowing
In the Gulf of Mexico
They were overflowing in the refuge of the roads

There was spring along the ditches
There were good times in the cities
Oh radiant happiness
It was all so light and easy
Till I started analyzing
And I brought on my old ways
A thunderhead of judgment was
Gathering in my gaze
And it made most people nervous
They just didn't want to know
What I was seeing in the refuge of the roads

I pulled off into a forest
Crickets clicking in the ferns
Like a wheel of fortune
I heard my fate turn turn turn
And I went running down a white sand road
I was running like a white-assed deer
Running to lose the blues
To the innocence in here
These are the clouds of Michelangelo
Muscular with gods and sungold
Shine on your witness in the refuge of the roads

In a highway service station
Over the month of June
Was a photograph of the earth
Taken coming back from the moon
And you couldn't see a city
On that marbled bowling ball
Or a forest or a highway
Or me here least of all
You couldn't see these cold water restrooms
Or this baggage overload
Westbound and rolling taking refuge in the roads

----- Sex Kills -----

I pulled up behind a Cadillac
We were waiting for the light
And I took a look at his license plate
It said "Just Ice"
Is justice just ice?
Governed by greed and lust?
Just the strong doing what they can
And the weak suffering what they must?
And the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
And sex kills
Sex kills

Doctors' pills give you brand new ills
And the bills bury you like an avalanche
And lawyers haven't been this popular
Since Robespierre slaughtered half of France!
And Indian chiefs with their old beliefs know
The balance is undone crazy ions
You can feel it out in traffic
Everyone hates everyone!
And the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
And sex kills
Sex kills

All these jackoffs at the office
The rapist in the pool
Oh and the tragedies in the nurseries
Little kids packin' guns to school
The ulcerated ozone
These tumors of the skin
This hostile sun beating down on
This massive mess we're in!
And the gas leaks
And the oil spills
And sex sells everything
And sex kills
Sex kills
Sex kills
Sex kills
Sex kills

----- 2002 Travelogue -----

----- Slouching Towards Bethlehem -----

Turning and turning
Within the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer
Things fall apart
The center cannot hold
And a blood dimmed tide
Is loosed upon the world

Nothing is sacred
The ceremony sinks
Innocence is drowned
In anarchy
The best lack conviction
Given some time to think
And the worst are full of passion
Without mercy

Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And the wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast
Its hour come at last
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born

Hoping and hoping
As if by my weak faith
The spirit of this world
Would heal and rise
Vast are the shadows
That straddle and strafe
And struggle in the darkness
Troubling my eyes

Shaped like a lion
It has the head of a man
With a gaze as blank
And pitiless as the sun
And it's moving its slow thighs
Across the desert sands
Through dark indignant
Reeling falcons

Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast

Its hour come at last
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born

Raging and raging
It rises from the deep
Opening its eyes
After twenty centuries
Vexed to a nightmare
Out of a stony sleep
By a rocking cradle
By the Sea of Galilee

Surely some revelation is at hand
Surely it's the second coming
And wrath has finally taken form
For what is this rough beast
Its hour come at last
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born
Slouching toward Bethlehem to be born

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- The Circle Game -----

Yesterday a child came out to wonder
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder
And tearful at the falling of a star

Then the child moved ten times round the seasons
Skated over ten clear frozen streams
Words like when you're older must appease him
And promises of someday make his dreams

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

Sixteen springs and sixteen summers gone now
Cartwheels turn to car wheels thru the town
And they tell him take your time it won't be long now
Till you drag your feet to slow the circles down

And the seasons they go round and round

And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

So the years spin by and now the boy is twenty
Though his dreams have lost some grandeur coming true
There'll be new dreams maybe better dreams and plenty
Before the last revolving year is through

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- The Dawntreader -----

Peridots and periwinkle blue medallions
Gilded galleons spilled across the ocean floor
Treasure somewhere in the sea and he will find where
Never mind their questions there's no answer for
The roll of the harbor wake
The songs that the rigging makes
The taste of the spray he takes
And he learns to give
He aches and he learns to live
He stakes all his silver
On a promise to be free
Mermaids live in colonies
All his seadreams come to me

City satins left at home I will not need them
I believe him when he tells of loving me
Something truthful in the sea your lies will find you
Leave behind your streets he said and come to me
Come down from the neon nights
Come down from the tourist sights
Run down till the rain delights you
You do not hide
Sunlight will renew your pride
Skin white by skin golden
Like a promise to be free

Dolphins playing in the sea
All his seadreams come to me

Seabird I have seen you fly above the pilings
I am smiling at your circles in the air
I will come and sit by you while he lies sleeping
Fold your fleet wings I have brought some dreams to share
A dream that you love someone
A dream that the wars are done
A dream that you tell no one but the grey sea
They'll say that you're crazy
And a dream of a baby
Like a promise to be free
Children laughing out to sea
All his seadreams come to me

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- The Last Time I Saw Richard -----

The last time I saw Richard was Detroit in '68
And he told me all romantics meet the same fate someday
Cynical and drunk and boring someone in some dark cafe
You laugh he said you think you're immune
Go look at your eyes they're full of moon
You like roses and kisses and pretty men to tell you
All those pretty lies pretty lies
When you gonna realize they're only pretty lies
Only pretty lies just pretty lies

He put a quarter in the Wurlitzer and he pushed
Three buttons and the thing began to whirr
And a bar maid came by in fishnet stockings and a bow tie
And she said "Drink up now it's getting' on time to close"
"Richard, you haven't really changed" I said
It's just that now you're romanticizing some pain that's in your head
You got tombs in your eyes but the songs you punched are dreaming
Listen, they sing of love so sweet, love so sweet
When you gonna get yourself back on your feet?
Oh and love can be so sweet Love so sweet

Richard got married to a figure skater
And he bought her a dishwasher and a coffee percolator
And he drinks at home now most nights with the TV on
And all the house lights left up bright
I'm gonna blow this damn candle out
I don't want nobody comin' over to my table
I got nothing to talk to anybody about
All good dreamers pass this way some day

Hidin' behind bottles in dark cafes dark cafes
Only a dark cocoon before I get my gorgeous wings and fly away
Only a phase these dark cafe days

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- The Sire of Sorrow (Job's Sad Song) -----

Let me speak let me spit out my bitterness
Born of grief and nights without sleep and festering flesh
Do you have eyes?
Can you see like mankind sees?
Why have you soured and curdled me?
Oh you tireless watcher! What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?

Once I was blessed; I was awaited like the rain
Like eyes for the blind, like feet for the lame
Kings heard my words, and they sought out my company
But now the janitors of Shadowland flick their brooms at me
Oh you tireless watcher! What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?

(Antagonists: Man is the sire of sorrow)
I've lost all taste for life
I'm all complaints
Tell me why do you starve the faithful?
Why do you crucify the saints?
And you let the wicked prosper
You let their children frisk like deer
And my loves are dead or dying, or they don't come near
(Antagonists: We don't despise your chastening
God is correcting you)

Oh and look who comes to counsel my deep distress
Oh, these pompous physicians
What carelessness!
(Antagonists: Oh all this ranting all this wind
Filling our ears with trash)
Breathtaking ignorance adding insult to injury!
They come blaming and shaming
(Antagonists: Evil doer)
And shattering me
(Antagonists: This vain man wishes to seem wise
A man born of asses)
Oh you tireless watcher! What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?

(Antagonists: We don't despise your chastening)

Already on a bed of sighs and screams
And still you torture me with visions
You give me terrifying dreams!
Better I was carried from the womb straight to the grave
I see the diggers waiting, they're leaning on their spades

(Antagonists: Man is the sire of sorrow
Sure as the sparks ascend)
Where is hope while you're wondering what went wrong?
Why give me light and then this dark without a dawn?
(Antagonists: Evil is sweet in your mouth
Hiding under your tongue)
Show your face!
(Antagonists: What a long fall from grace)
Help me understand!
What is the reason for your heavy hand?
(Antagonists: You're stumbling in shadows
You have no name now)
Was it the sins of my youth?
What have I done to you?
That you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true?
(Antagonists: Oh your guilt must weigh so greatly)
Everything I dread and everything I fear come true
(Antagonists: Man is the sire of sorrow)
Oh you make everything I dread and everything I fear come true

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Trouble Child -----

Up in a sterilized room
Where they let you be lazy
Knowing your attitude's all wrong
And you got to change
And that's not easy
Dragon shining with all values known
Dazzling you-keeping you from your own
Where is the lion in you to defy him
When you're this weak
And this spacey

So what are you going to do about it
You can't live life and you can't leave it
Advice and religion you can't take it
You can't seem to believe it
The peacock is afraid to parade
You're under the thumb of the maid
You really can't give love in this condition
Still you know how you need it

They open and close you
Then they talk like they know you
They don't know you
They're friends and they're foes too
Trouble child
Breaking like the waves at Malibu

So why does it come as such a shock
To know you really have no one
Only a river of changing faces
Looking for an ocean
They trickle through your leaky plans
Another dream over the dam
And you're lying in some room
Feeling like your right to be human
Is going over too
Well some are going to knock you
And some'll try to clock you
You know it's really hard
To talk sense to you
Trouble child
Breaking like the waves at Malibu

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- Woodstock -----

I came upon a child of God
He was walking along the road
And I asked him where are you going
And this he told me
I'm going on down to Yasgur's farm
I'm going to join in a rock 'n' roll band
I'm going to camp out on the land
I'm going to try an' get my soul free

We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves
Back to the garden

Then can I walk beside you
I have come here to lose the smog
And I feel to be a cog in something turning
Well maybe it is just the time of year
Or maybe it's the time of man
I don't know who I am
But you know life is for learning

We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves
Back to the garden

By the time we got to Woodstock
We were half a million strong
And everywhere there was song and celebration
And I dreamed I saw the bombers
Riding shotgun in the sky
And they were turning into butterflies
Above our nation

We are stardust
Billion year old carbon
We are golden
Caught in the devil's bargain
And we've got to get ourselves
Back to the garden

----- 2002 Travelogue -----
----- You Dream Flat Tires -----

It came to pass
Like lightning striking from above
Electric flash
Just like lightening striking from above
Struck by precious love
Precious precious love
So hopeless and so inspired
Why do you dream flat tires
When you dream flat tires?
You dream flat tires

With a jack and a spare you're there
Trying to get to where love is
Coming in on a wing and a prayer
Trying to get to where love is
'Cause love is precious love
You said it was precious
When first you felt my fire
Before you dreamed flat tires
You dreamed flat tires
You dream flat tires

"Woman she bounce back easy
But a man could break both his legs"

Are you telling me this to tease me?
Or just to hear me beg
"Please don't go!"

Cause I know that you love me
But when are you going to let love be
Just a vague flirtation
Or extra special company?
'Cause love is precious love
Everybody knows it's precious
When first they feel that fire
Before they dream flat tires
They dream flat tires
They dream flat tires

"Woman she bounce back easy
But a man could break both his legs"
Do you tell me that to tease me
Or just to hear me beg
"Please don't be cold"

I know that you love me
But what are you going to let love do?
(Flat tires love love is precious flat tires
love love is precious flat tires love
love is precious)

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Bad Dreams -----

[Verse 1]
The cats are in the flower bed
A red hawk rides the sky
I guess I should be happy
Just to be alive
But we have poisoned everything
And oblivious to it all
The cell phone zombies babble
Through the shopping malls

[Chorus]
While condors fall from Indian skies
Whales beach and die in sand
Bad dreams are good
In the great plan

[Verse 2]
You cannot be trusted
Do you even know you're lying

It's dangerous to kid yourself
You go deaf and dumb and blind
You take with such entitlement
You give bad attitude
You have no grace
No empathy
No gratitude

[Chorus]
You have no sense of consequence
Oh my head is in my hands
Bad dreams are good
In the great plan

[Bridge]
Before that altering apple
We were one with everything
No sense of self and other
No self-consciousness
But now we have to grapple
With our man-made world backfiring
Keeping one eye on our brother's deadly selfishness

[Verse 3]
And everyone's a victim!
Nobody's hands are clean
There's so very little left of wild Eden Earth
So near the jaws of our machines
We live in these electric scabs
These lesions once were lakes
No one knows how to shoulder the blame
Or learn from past mistakes

[Chorus]
So who will come to save the day?
Mighty Mouse?
Superman?
Bad dreams are good in the great plan

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Big Yellow Taxi 2007 -----

[Verse 1]
So they paved paradise
And put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel
A boutique
And a swinging night spot

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise
Put up a parking lot

[Verse 2]

They took all the trees
Put 'em in a tree museum
And they charged all the people
An arm and a leg just to see 'em

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise
Put up a parking lot

[Verse 3]

Hey farmer
Put away your DDT
Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and bees
Please

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
You don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise
And they put up a parking lot

[Verse 4]

Late last night
I heard the screen door slam
And a big yellow taxi come and took away my old man

[Chorus]

Don't it always seem to go
You don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise
Put up a parking lot
Put up a parking lot

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Hana -----

[Verse 1]

Hana steps out of a storm
Into a stranger's warm, but

Hard-up kitchen
She sees what must be done
So she takes off her coat
Rolls up her sleeves
And starts pitchin' in

[Verse 2]
Hana has a special knack
For getting people back on the right track
'Cause she knows
They all matter
So she doesn't argue or flatter
She doesn't fight the slights
She takes it on the chin
Like a champ

[Verse 3]
Hana says when life's a drag
Don't cave in
Don't put up a white flag
Raise up
A white banner
In this manner-
Straighten your back
Dig in your heals
And get a good grip on your grief!

[Verse 4]
Hana says, "Don't get me wrong
This is no simple Sunday song
Where God or Jesus comes along
And they save ya."
You've got to be braver than that
You tackle the beast alone
With all its tenacious teeth!
Light the lamp

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- If I Had a Heart -----

[Verse 1]
Holy war
Genocide
Suicide
Hate and cruelty
How can this be holy?
If I had a heart I'd cry

[Verse 2]

These ancient tales
The good go to heaven
And the wicked ones burn in hell
Ring the funeral bells!
If I had a heart I'd cry

[Chorus]
There's just too many people now
Too little land
Much too much desire
You feel so feeble now
It's so out of hand
Big bombs and barbed wire
We've set our lovely sky
Our lovely sky
On fire!

[Chorus]
There's just too many people now
And too little land
Too much rage and desire
It makes you feel so feeble now
It's so out of hand
Big bombs and barbed wire
Can't you see
Our destiny?
We are making this Earth
Our funeral pyre!

[Outro]
Holy Earth
How can we heal you?
We cover you like a blight
Strange birds of appetite
If I had a heart I'd cry
If I had a heart I'd cry
If I had a heart I'd cry

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- If -----

[Verse 1]
If you can keep your head
While all about you
People are losing theirs and blaming you
If you can trust yourself
When everybody doubts you
And make allowance for their doubting too

[Verse 2]

If you can wait
And not get tired of waiting
And when lied about
Stand tall
Don't deal in lies
And when hated
Don't give in to hating back
Don't need to look so good
Don't need to talk too wise

[Verse 3]

If
If you can dream
And not make dreams your master
If you can think
And not make intellect your game
If you can meet
With triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same

[Verse 4]

If
If you can force your heart
And nerve and sinew
To serve you
After all of them are gone
And so hold on
When there is nothing in you
Nothing but the will
That's telling you to hold on!
Hold on!

[Verse 5]

If
If you can bear to hear
The truth you've spoken
Twisted and misconstrued
By some smug fool
Or watch your life's work
Torn apart and broken down
And still stoop to build again
With worn out tools

[Verse 6]

If
If you can draw a crowd
And keep your virtue
Or walk with Kings

And keep the common touch
If neither enemies nor loving friends
Can hurt you
If everybody counts with you
But none too much

[Verse 7]
If
If you can fill the journey
Of a minute
With sixty seconds worth of wonder and delight
Then
The Earth is yours
And Everything that's in it
But more than that
I know
You'll be alright
You'll be alright

[Outro]
Cause you've got the fight, you've got the insight
You've got the fight, you've got the insight
You've got the fight, you've got the insight

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Night of the Iguana -----

[Verse 1]
The tour bus came yesterday
The driver's a mess today
It's a dump of a destiny
But it's got a view

[Verse 2]
Now the kid in the see-through blouse
She's moving in hard on his holy vows
Since the preacher's not dead
Dead drunk will have to do!

[Chorus]
Night of the iguana
The jasmine is so mercilessly sweet
Night of the iguana
Can you hear the castanets?
The widow is dancing
Down on the beach

[Verse 3]
The starlight is steaming

He'd like to be dreaming
His senses are screaming
Not to be denied

[Verse 4]
But if the spell of the night should win
He could lose his bus
For the same sweet sin
That took his church from him
Then how will he survive?

[Chorus]
Night of the iguana
The jasmine is so mercilessly sweet
Night of the iguana
Can you hear the castanets?
It's the widow and her lover-boys
Down on the beach

[Verse 5]
Oh, the night is so fragrant
These women so flagrant
They could make him a vagrant
With the flick of a shawl

[Verse 6]
The devil's in sweet sixteen
The widow's good looking but she gets mean
He's burning like Augustine
With no help from God at all
Night of the iguana

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- One Week Last Summer -----

[Instrumental]

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Shine -----

[Chorus]
Oh, let your little light shine
Let your little light shine

[Verse 1]
Shine on Vegas and Wall Street
Place your bets
Shine on the fishermen
With nothing in their nets

Shine on rising oceans and evaporating seas
Shine on our Frankenstein technologies
Shine on science
With its tunnel vision
Shine on fertile farmland
Buried under subdivisions

[Chorus]
Oh, let your little light shine
Oh, let your little light shine

[Verse 2]
Shine on the dazzling darkness
That restores us in deep sleep
Shine on what we throw away
And what we keep
Shine on Reverend Pearson
Who threw away
The vain old God
Kept Dickens and Rembrandt and Beethoven
And fresh plowed sod
Shine on good earth, good air, good water
And a safe place
For kids to play
Shine on bombs exploding
Half a mile away

[Chorus]
Oh, let your little light shine
Let your little light shine

[Verse 3]
Shine on world-wide traffic jams
Honking day and night
Shine on another asshole
Passing on the right!
Shine on the red light runners
Busy talking on their cell phones
Shine on the Catholic Church
And the prisons that it owns
Shine on all the Churches
They all love less and less
Shine on a hopeful girl
In a dreamy dress

[Chorus]
Oh, let your little light shine
Shine, shine, shine
Let your little light shine

[Verse 5]

Shine on good humor
Shine on good will
Shine on lousy leadership
Licensed to kill
Shine on dying soldiers
In patriotic pain
Shine on mass destruction
In some god's name!
Shine on the pioneers
Those seekers of mental health
Craving simplicity
They traveled inward
Past themselves

[Outro]

May all their little lights shine
May all their little lights shine

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- Strong and Wrong -----

[Verse 1]

Strong and wrong you win
Only because
That's the way its always been
Men love war!
That's what history' s for
A mass-murder mystery
His story

[Verse 2]

Strong and wrong
You lose everything
Without the heart
You need
To hear a robin sing
Where have all the songbirds gone?
Gone!
All I hear are crows in flight
Singing might is right
Might is right!

[Chorus]

Oh the dawn of man comes slow
Thousands of years
And here we are
Still worshiping

Our own ego

[Verse 3]

Strong and wrong
What is God's will?
Onward Christian soldiers
Or thou shall not kill
Men love war!
Is that what God is for?
Just a Rabbit's foot?
Just a lucky paw
For shock and awe?
Shock and awe!

[Chorus]

The dawn of man comes slow
Thousands of years
Here we are
Still worshiping
Our own ego

[Outro]

Strong and wrong
Strong and wrong

----- 2007 Shine -----
----- This Place -----

[Verse 1]

Sparkle on the ocean
Eagle at the top of a tree
Those crazy crows always making a commotion
This land is home to me

[Verse 2]

I was talking to my neighbor
He said, "When I get to heaven, if it is not like this
I'll just hop a cloud and I'm coming right back down here
Back to this heavenly bliss."

[Chorus]

You see those lovely hills
They won't be there for long
They're gonna tear 'em down
And sell them to California
Here come the toxic spills
Miners poking all around
When this place looks like a moonscape
Don't say I didn't warn ya...

[Post-Chorus]

Money, money, money...
Money makes the trees come down
It makes mountains into molehills
Big money kicks the wide wide world around

[Verse 3]

Black bear in the orchard
At night he's in my garbage cans
He's getting so bold but no one wants to shoot him
He's got a right to roam this land

[Instrumental Bridge]

[Verse 4]

I feel like Geronimo
I used to be as trusting as Cochise
But the white eyes lies
He's out of whack with nature
And look how far his weapons reach!

[Verse 5]

Spirit of the water
Give us all the courage and the grace
To make genius of this tragedy unfolding
The genius to save this place

[Instrumental Outro]