

## The Luckiest Man On The Face Of The Earth

Written by Don Chaffer

You were the best supporting actor  
The unforeseen factor  
You were the guy who yanked the chains behind the stage  
If you had talked a little faster  
Maybe dressed in alabaster  
You'd have been the hero of the age

### CHORUS

Well here's your day in the sun, Lou  
We see it now that you're done, you  
Are the luckiest man on the face of the earth  
The luckiest man on the face of the earth

You always played the second fiddle  
You were the guy just right of middle  
You were the man who drove the car while others slept  
If you had flashed a little fancy  
Maybe been a little dancy  
You'd have been the jewel that they all kept

### BRIDGE

You were consistently alive  
You were the king of the line drive  
There was always something about you, Lou  
And in the face of that disease  
When the muscles start to squeeze  
The life right out of you  
When most men shudder at the dread  
Here's this thing you said  
'Bout being the luckiest man on the face of the earth

## If I Wanted To

Written by Don Chaffer

If I wanted to forget you  
It'd a been easy  
If I wanted to lose you  
It'd a been quick  
Hell, I lost myself  
For four years  
And I might have slipped away  
But I fell sick

It ain't just you then  
Who was in danger  
Of disappearing  
Underneath the waves  
It was everyone and  
Everything I ever loved  
Slipping out of knowing  
Into unmarked graves

### CHORUS

If I wanted to  
If I wanted to  
If I wanted to, I tell myself  
I could have. Is it true?  
Did I want to?

It started as a vow  
In some old tree house  
You swore you'd never be your  
Fathers when you aged  
But you're all sitting at this bar  
Wondering who you are  
And you're becoming those at whom you  
Once were so enraged

And a prison bar don't have to be  
Too strong you know  
It's how many there are side by side  
That keep you in the cell  
The camera dollies out  
From where you're lying in your bunk

But the camera's  
In the prison yard as well

They can tell you that  
You won't amount to nothin', boy  
Or that's what we expect  
From nasty girls like you  
They act like everything is figured out  
But what'll they do when  
That tragedy comes falling on them too

## Cross The Mountain Stream

Written by Don Chaffer

I'll carry my baby cross the mountain stream  
So she can stay close to me  
And when we get over the mountain stream  
Maybe my baby be free

My baby can't really walk no more  
Her legs are too weak and thin  
She never dreamed of crossing that stream  
She never thought she'd get in

### CHORUS

Carry her cross that stream

My daddy fired his stillhouse up  
Deep in the forest hills  
Out come the drink of the devil there  
Drink of a thousand ills  
Carry my daddy cross the mountain stream  
Make him some eyes that are clear  
Silent and brewing or bull hot and flame  
Make that stillhouse disappear

### CHORUS

Carry him cross that stream

Carry me over the mountain stream  
I think I can't do this alone  
So carry me over the mountain stream  
Tell me I'm on my way home

And when we get over the mountain stream  
And everything is complete  
When that great table is set for the feast  
Let all the broken come eat

### CHORUS

Carry me cross that stream

## Bring The Sadness Back In

Written by Don & Lori Chaffer

They were laughing at the bar about the girl with the big butt  
Saying they ain't never seen nothing like that slut  
And how could anybody ever think about bein' with her?

Joey likes to drink and when he drinks he likes to fight  
And his buddies think it makes for a pretty funny Friday night  
When Joey gets all liquored up and takes a swing and causes a stir

### CHORUS

The whole world is full of laughter  
But the high is wearing thin  
I'm praying someone somewhere gently  
Will bring the sadness back in

Underneath the mattress where he keeps his cash  
Is a bunch of magazines he calls his secret stash  
It's a life that he ain't never lived  
But man he'd love to give them dice a roll

And every time he flinches while he's flippin' through the stack  
He tells himself that anything that paper might lack  
Is made up by the fact that  
Every woman there is under his control

### CHORUS

All these promises of freedom  
In the bondages of sin  
I'm praying someone somewhere gently  
Will bring the sadness back in

### BRIDGE

Everybody's aching underneath their skin  
But all of 'em are laughing as they're bein' sworn in  
To testify, so help them God,  
That everybody here's having a blast

## Man I'm Gonna Sing

Written by Don Chaffer

I'm sellin' all my records  
And all my magazines  
Tryin' to lose my memory  
Of all them famous scenes  
Gonna buy a horse now  
And learn to ride that thing  
Gallop in a field somewhere  
And man, I'm gonna sing

Cranked up like a drum head  
I'm thin; I'm 'bout to break  
Somebody save me from myself  
For God Almighty's sake

### OUTRO

Leave the children alone  
Let them come to me

### CHORUS

Hey  
Gonna sell my TV too  
For seventy-five bucks  
Take a bag of stale bread to the pond  
I'm gonna feed some ducks  
I'm gonna lend someone my laptop  
Cause I can't give that thing away  
And then I'm gonna write some letters once  
I figure out what to say

Going camping in December  
Even if I freeze  
Watch the snowfall quietly  
Feel the winter breeze  
Going to the beach soon  
Watch the ocean heave  
And if I fall in love with standing there  
Man, I ain't ever gonna leave

Wish I could get a promise  
That if I want to rest  
That I will learn to do it then  
Feel the peace inside my chest

Cranked up like a drum head  
I'm thin; I'm 'bout to break  
Chased away the boy I was  
Cause he told me I'm a fake

## People Go By Like A Flame

Written by Don Chaffer

I had to take someone to the airport just this morning  
I had forgotten about all the faces  
Everybody that I saw was going to or coming from different places  
But they all looked the same  
Crushed and shy or loud and angry  
Everybody just walked along without looking at anyone

I ran into a friend of mine from my junior high days  
I spent the night at his house once  
I remember that night vividly  
We were nearly strangers now. It'd been so long  
And he was headin' off to Germany  
It was him and his girlfriend, and he was gonna study French there  
Or maybe it was it German

### CHORUS

People go by like a flame  
And you never even know their name  
You might get warm  
You might get burned  
But either way a flame is not the sun  
That rises every day

His girlfriend wasn't there when I showed up  
And I remember thinking how lonely to go to Germany alone  
Then he told me that she'd be there soon  
But it still seemed really sad to me  
He still looked like he was on his own  
Now he was smart. He knew a lot  
But I wanted to ask if him he was okay  
There was just something in his eyes

### BRIDGE

Late at night, the moon is bright  
And the fields are silver-gray  
And no, it's true it ain't no sun  
But it's pretty anyway

## John Henry, Where'd You Go

Written by Don Chaffer

John Henry, where'd you go  
I wonder every time it snows  
See the hammer and the body in the evening light  
Skin of brown  
Under a bed of white

The cracked mountains of those cold cruel mines  
An elegy under the steam drills' whine  
If you listen right at suppertime  
At sunset  
You can hear it chime

### CHORUS

That ringing sound like silver  
That ringing sound like gold  
That ringing sound like angel choirs  
That never grow old

His mother hardly speaks  
Her rocking chair just creaks  
I will sit here in the darkness when the sun falls down  
Eat supper cold  
Listen for that sound

That was one hell of a year  
So I'll make my prayer clear  
Let the hammer crack the suffering tree  
And crack the sky  
So everyone can see

### CHORUS

John Henry shines like silver  
John Henry shines like gold  
John Henry's like the angel choirs  
That never grow old

His mother sings like silver  
His mother shines like gold  
His mother sings that ringing sing sing like angel choirs  
That never grow old

## Against The Window Pane

Written by Don Chaffer

I believe the heart's a theatre,  
And that the actors on its stage  
Are playing dreams but they're imposters  
And that the devil pays their wage.

I believe the passion of that drama  
That we're certain is for real  
Is a diversion for our senses  
While the director comes to steal.

### CHORUS

And ever since I was a little kid, I didn't want to run away,  
But it scared me half to death to think that I might have to stay.  
I've had a hundred scarecrow certainties.  
I've built a wooden drawbridge for my brain.  
But they all burn up  
When I see Your face  
Against the window pane.

I believe that in the passionate,  
There's a part that is divine  
I've seen the cosmos in a woman's smile,  
Tasted eternity in wine.

But I don't just believe in sentiment,  
Or miracles of everyday.  
I believe that there are lepers healed.  
I believe the dead are raised.

### BRIDGE

Jesus was a lover. He had a fire in His eyes  
That could burn away excuses, cremate your alibis.  
He had a gaze that would expose to you all the subtle lies  
That your soul permits your heart to tell concerning all that it denies.

## What You Don't Know

Written by Don Chaffer

Sometime while I was sleeping  
We crossed into Virginia  
I woke up and stepped out of the van  
Ma'am, where's the cigarettes?  
She said, "over there" with a southern drawl  
I said, "do they all talk like you 'round here?"

### CHORUS

Sometimes what you don't know can hurt you  
Sometimes you can't see right from wrong  
You're too blind to see  
And too far down the road  
And now she's gone, gone, gone, gone, gone

Crystalline and hazy  
The memory is crazy  
You never know the way that it might go  
Like laughin' under summer trees  
Or stayin' close when the branches freeze  
I guess this is all I was ever supposed to know

### BRIDGE

Somehow I'm gonna get up from this car wreck  
Somehow I'll get up and walk away  
After two months in intensive care  
And half a year in God knows where  
I am gonna pick up and move on

Last night while I was dreaming  
My daddy came and spoke to me  
He said, son ain't no man ever loved too good this way  
All brain and no feelin'  
Gets you screwed into the ceiling  
Don't try so hard to figure out what to say

### CHORUS

'Cause sometimes what you don't know, it won't hurt you  
And it ain't so hard to see what's right from wrong  
Just open up your eyes  
And take off that disguise  
Boy, the way you dramatize  
Won't make a heart that's wise  
You're a man when you live inside your own skin  
You're a man when you live inside your own skin

Don Chaffer: What You Don't Know

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Up Before The Sun  
Written by Don Chaffer

Up before the sun  
Of all the things I could've chosen  
This is not the one  
Neither sad nor fun  
To be chewing on my fingernails  
Up before the sun

Angry with the Word  
Of all the ways I could've listened  
This is what I heard  
Neither fish nor bird  
To be on the earth and wrestling  
Angry with the word

Trusting in Your heart  
All the things that could've killed me  
Or torn me apart  
Neither end not start  
To be somewhere in the middle of it  
Trusting in your heart

## The Quiet Wonder

Written by Don Chaffer

I'd shake your hand  
If I had one to extend but it was  
Blown off in the war  
The war that ended just a minute ago  
When I came in the front door

When I left town  
'Bout a hundred years ago I didn't  
Think I'd lose my way  
The kind of losing where you wonder at the end  
If you even know your name

### CHORUS

I remember the days  
When we sang  
Sang the tunes of the night  
With the quiet wonder of  
Being so near

I understood  
That the nature of your smile was always  
Etched within the frame  
Of the way that you insisted that you be  
And I thought it was a game

Now you're gone  
And I'm looking at the ground where you  
Held us all aloft  
And the burdens that you carried like a mule  
On your back, tender and soft

### BRIDGE

All the crazy caravans  
The trails of dust and memories  
Rising like the feathers of a bird  
Spread the wings, the family  
Of bleary eyes and hungry for  
The promise which will save us in a Word

## Long On Diagnosis, Short On Cure

Written by Don Chaffer

Last night I heard this old guy play guitar  
He could push you with the music. He could  
take you far  
But he would push you with his right hand  
And always hide his left  
I just had one question for him, "Mister,  
Have you ever been convicted of theft?"

### CHORUS

Cause He'd (They'd) say "This one's close to dying  
This one's fine  
This one's past the turning point.  
He's crossed the line."  
Now he was awful good at triage,  
That's for sure,  
But he was long on diagnosis,  
And short on cure.

A long-winded conversation in a dorm room  
late at night  
Not so much about the truth as whether you  
said it right  
I raised the prospect of hope eternal. I was  
laughed at and scorned.  
They rolled their eyes like dice on a table  
But their number was forlorn.

### BRIDGE

Now, you can take your chance  
Beat your fists on the boards of despair  
You end up with splinters in your knuckles  
Thinking, "unjust, unfair."  
Or you can fall on the altar of sadness  
And call for the knife.  
But either way you're just denying your  
hearing.  
Put your ear to God's chest, and clearly  
It's the pulse of life.

### CHORUS

Now you been close dying  
In fact you've crossed the line  
You done sailed right past the turning point,  
Thinking everything's fine  
But when the gas runs out  
And your sitting there stone cold  
You think, "I was young when all this started  
Now I'm old."

But when the doctor pushes the triage crew aside  
He says, "You're all long on diagnosis  
Short on cure."  
And he turns to you and says,  
"Come on, Darlin' we can make this  
Yes, I'm sure."

## Leave Me Alone

Written by Don Chaffer

Turn out the lights  
Close the door  
I'll not be taking visitors anymore

Shut off the power  
Take down the sign  
And let the machine answer the line

### CHORUS

Leave me alone  
Not because I'm angry  
Just because I need to hear myself breathe  
And be alive  
And wonder why she's gone

Since I was a boy  
Always her voice  
Was ringing in the air around our home

How still the air  
Winter is here  
But missing is her warm familiar tone

### CHORUS

Leave me alone  
I just need a moment  
To myself to quiet down to quiet down and grieve  
And be alive  
And miss her being so nearby she's gone