

## To Chase Away The Birds

Black crows flying in your wheat field  
Babies cryin', all you got's a paper shield  
It don't make much sense to you  
Who said it had to?

Most folks smile away the blues  
I mean I... I guess they do  
You never really know for sure  
But I'm surviving on this hunch that everybody else is hurtin' too

He was crazy  
Crazy but able  
So he excused himself from cleaning up the stable  
This is the way that horses die  
This is the way you learn to lie-  
By sacrificing the real and forgetting how to feel

I loved him like fire  
We both had similar burning desires  
He kept expecting it all to work out down here  
I just hang on to holy fear

Now I know how far out I'm getting here  
But it's a dark night walk- the life of fear  
And I'm trying to choose the words  
That'll chase away the birds  
Good God, just hurry up and come down here

## Scared

Somebody just said something 'bout the devil  
And I looked into your eyes  
Honey, I think I saw a demon wink  
Right through your thin disguise  
Well, that's okay, I could run away and that'd be the end of that  
Except I think I felt one inside me too  
Right behind where I'm hidin' at, and

I'm scared  
Honey, I'm scared  
A stronger man might not be  
Maybe a strong man would stay cool  
But I'm not so sure that strong man wouldn't just be a fool

Now, babe, listen up. I ain't sayin' that you're any worse off than me  
I'm just askin' you to consider the possibility  
That both of us are bound for hell  
I don't want to say this too loud  
Because I know I'll get an argument  
From the thick surrounding crowd, but

Hear me babe this ain't no joke that I'm talkin' about  
I really think there could be a problem that needs some straightening out  
And if there is, it ain't just about guilt and shame  
It's a matter of eternity  
Oh, baby, please please please please listen to me, 'cause

## Get Me Clear

I told a lie  
Could you tell me why?  
Heavy sigh  
You gotta help me die  
Cord of sin  
You said you'd cut it. Can you tell me when?  
Jesus, kiss  
Come and collect me for eternal bliss

Though it's against your nature to be impolite  
Would You please break into my heart tonight  
And steal away my fear?  
Cause it's my nature to just sit and guard it  
Though the prison doors, I'm afraid to depart it  
I'm stuck right here  
You gotta get me clear

I hear a word  
Somebody says something that I know is absurd  
But I give it room  
Now, inside the greenhouse of my heart I got a deadly bloom  
My fist 'round a rose  
My hands all bloody from the thorns there, I suppose  
But I don't let go  
Sometimes I'm a coward. I try not to let it show

## The Razor Light

You set the table in your spirit  
Entertain the devil for a while  
And then you laugh at all his jokes  
Insisting it's alright-  
It's okay to smile  
But you are

Dancing with the demons  
And walking on the wall that borders hell  
Thinking "Right now, I'm not testing God,"  
But always wondering how you'd feel if you just fell

I'd like to say that it was simple  
Like a dog you don't want pregnant so you fix her  
But it's a matter of unconscious sin  
I don't know if you know it, but you're been brewin' up a strychnine elixir  
Because you're

Are you walking darkly  
To avoid the razor light  
Did you lose the taste of flesh and blood  
When you threw up late last night  
Is your soul in some fine limbo  
Between bitterness and lust  
Can you talk about the cross these days  
Without wincing in disgust

## My Little Hands

She plays with my words like they were hers  
Little soldiers in a war against themselves  
She used to rob me of my own intent  
But now I'm keeping my findings from her shelves  
I used to think that honesty was all  
Between the two of us, nothing should go unsaid  
Then she taught me, although I took too long  
That some things should be said to God and then just left for dead

I've got to learn to live alone  
Just lean into the Wing  
I've got to know that there is only One  
For whom I sing  
I've got to learn the difference  
Between me and this place  
Got to let my little hands  
Reach only for Your face

I've felt the pressing of listening  
I've known an empathetic overload  
I've been a mile in so many other shoes  
I forgot my own out on the road  
But I'm coming now to understand  
That where my heart is, there's my treasure  
And the suffering that I am going through  
Will be replaced with a glory that I can't even measure

## Instead

The cosmic finger doesn't stir up rules just to ruin us  
But He also doesn't let us do just whatever we want  
And the eyes of God can see the force that's doin' us  
He's givin' out chances to escape the haunt

### CHORUS

Cause it's a touch of love that can free you of despair  
And forgiveness rolls  
Thank God He's so unfair  
'Cause I should've been dead  
For what's inside my head  
But He killed His Son instead

Obedience can sometimes be monotonous  
So we squander our hours in pettiness and lust  
But God did not put life down here so it could rot in us  
And there's a place we go after ashes and dust

My Jesus, I love thee  
I know Thou art mine  
To Thee all the follies of sin I resign  
My Gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

## Everybody's Guilty

She's got her eye on the wind  
She resents her own skin  
She wants to fly  
She's got a bend in her mind  
She treats herself so unkind  
She don't know why

Innocent Jane  
She's got an innocent name  
But in the still of the night  
Or in the heat of the light  
She'll confess to you  
That everybody's guilty  
She'll confess to you  
That everybody's guilty

Well, everybody can stare  
They won't find nothing there incriminating  
It's all buried inside  
Where it can stay safe and hide  
Latent destruction, lying in waiting

Come on, Jane, throw that stuff away  
You got to let yourself die every day  
Because the thief breaks in to kill and steal  
He don't make no friends and his words ain't real  
He will take you out and beat on you  
And after all of this is through  
He'll make you promise that you'll never tell  
He wants your loyalty in the fires of hell  
You got to run into the arms of someone kinder  
Someone who doesn't care what a woman's put behind her

Just say, "Forgiver of sins,  
Won't you come right on in  
And in the still of the night  
By a sweet candlelight  
Tell me how You came to be the Savior of the guilty  
How You came to be the Savior of the guilty."

## Sweet River Roll

Homebound Henry's got a tumor in his head  
He wakes up every morning after dreaming he was dead  
He used to think that life was boring, but now that's not the case  
He turns to his wife in the evening, he says "Honey I'm afraid I'm gonna lose this race."

Sweet River, roll all over me  
Sweet River, roll all over me

Soaking wet Juliet- she lives in a well full of tears  
Her husband left her for some bimbo after twenty-two years  
Now she's got to start all over, but she's just so terrified  
She thinks it woulda been so much easier if he woulda just died

And I'm lookin' out my car window sittin' in the pouring rain  
Although your house is fifteen miles away, I can still feel your pain  
I've thought and prayed and worked it through about a hundred times or more  
How your soul just cries to everyone to help you get up off the floor  
Right now it's morning, you're probably totally unaware  
Of the flood of kisses you hold back by the way that you despair  
It ain't me I'm talking about here, or anybody else you can touch  
That's all I want to say right now, I don't want to say too much

Except Sweet Jesus, roll all over me  
Sweet Jesus, roll all over me...  
You gotta come down and just set me free

## On A Night That Felt Outdated

Well, this night just feels outdated  
It's a tired reminder of the bad  
When you held on to what you hated  
And you hated what you had  
And your mind was out on the corner  
Sellin' herself as something cheap  
Your pride he says he owns her  
And she's dumb, she follows like a sheep  
She don't know what he does to a lover  
He'll whisper lies in a restless ear  
He tells a wife she don't deserve to hover  
Over a man who doesn't seem to hear

Some things are easy to forget, even if they're bigger than the now  
And she has tried to remember them but she can't remember how  
So she lies on her bed staring up at the cracks in the ceiling  
She's even pinched herself to wake up, but her body's got no feeling

Well he calls her out on the driveway  
He's pullin' her by her hips  
He says you ought to come by my way  
And he kisses her on the lips  
His mouth feels cold to her heart  
Unlike her man who's still asleep in their bed  
But she numbs herself to that part  
And she leans to what she calls her head  
And though her face had turned away for a moment  
And her eyes had flashed a bit with doubt  
She felt the tug of a brilliant showman  
And she was on her way out

It wasn't long before she was out sellin' on the corner like something cheap  
On a night that could feel like hell in the reminders that it made you keep  
Like the one where you were standin' on the driveway  
There was a cold feeling on your lips  
Some woman's saying to ya come my way  
And she's pullin' you by your hips  
But the prodigal did not stay way  
There was a destiny he had to keep  
And I may give my mind a dirty day  
But tonight I got floors to sweep

Some things are easy to forget, even if they're bigger than the now  
And you have tried to remember them but you can't remember how  
So you lie on your bed staring at the cracks in the ceiling  
You've even pinched yourself to wake up, but your body's got no feeling

Waterdeep: [To Chase Away The Birds](#)  
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## You Lay Me Down

The winter of emotions  
Sometimes steals into my head  
It's the tundra of the shutdown  
It's the burying the dead  
And I'd like to make my springtime  
But I have no read recourse  
But to wait on some long loving  
From some deep and pure source

You lay me down  
You whisper somehow  
I can hear it when I'm very still  
You don't ever touch me or chase away the chill  
But one day soon, you will

The art of all my problems  
Is in how they're resolved  
I try until I'm hopeless  
And then a hand so soft  
Is brushing back my hair  
From its clinging to my face  
From crying God I live in  
Such a weak and desperate place

## Hardened

There's a little child drowning in a pond  
And you would have me throw a blanket on  
The surface of the water  
Even though she was your daughter  
And watch just how helplessly she dies  
For the sake of how it looks  
Cause it's like you've read in books  
It's a symbol of the way you see this life

And if a savior came upon a tray of gold  
You'd insist that he had already been sold  
Even though you knew he hadn't  
You're afraid to trade the bad in  
For a good you don't know  
Like a certain generation  
In a proud and headstrong nation  
Who expects God to dance whenever she  
plays the fife

And if you want to talk in terms of the  
survival of the fittest  
Then take a look at the soul's auction house  
and whose the highest bid is  
You understand the fear of man  
But you forgot about the fear of God  
And to the bloody ransom  
That makes an ugly soul turn handsome  
You give a condescending nod

There's a sense of desperation in your touch  
And you say out loud you hate it very much  
But you're addicted to your sadness  
Cause it creates the touch of madness  
The kind you like inside your veins  
Oh, why are you so hardened?  
You know you could be pardoned  
I guess you just will not let go of the reins

The lexicon of death is all you know  
You feel suffocated by the falling snow  
Cause you miss the beauty there  
In the quiet holy air  
And start looking for a desert you can roam  
Your eyes too closed to see  
The secret ministry  
Of the frost upon the window of your home  
Oh, why are you so hardened?  
You know you could be pardoned  
And then you would not feel so alone  
You're not alone.  
You're not alone.  
You're not alone.

## If You Want To Get Free

In the gas station bathroom by the condom machine  
I heard the word of the Lord  
He said "Take off your shoes,  
This is holy ground too  
You know I came for the sick and the bored."  
Beneath the selling of beers  
And the welling up of tears  
Out beyond the beam of the remote control  
There's a whispering voice  
That the humble ear ears  
That says "I am still waiting  
For you to ask just to be made whole."

And the bush it was burning on the mountain top  
And though the leaves never blackened, the fire didn't stop  
That's the way that it works in this old life of sin  
You gotta let the fire burn you just to get clean within

I am so often deterred from my actual intent  
By distractions in a cellophane wrap  
And the cruel voice that taunts me when I open them up  
to find just one more box full of crap  
It's where you're mocked while you abstain  
And then cursed when you give in  
It's all a game that's impossible to beat  
But there's a peaceful refrain God'll sing in your brain  
When you put the nails to your hands and your feet

And the smell of our sacrifices  
Still fills up my head  
There's just a few left at the altar, Lord  
All the rest of them fled  
And we've cried and we've tried  
We've sweat and we've bled  
But we don't just need atonement  
We need to be raised from the dead

When they took down the cross from that dark hillside  
The blood on their hands was the blood from his side  
That's the way that it works, that's the way it must be  
You gotta let His blood stain you if you want to get free  
If you want to get free  
Don't you want to get free  
I think you want to be free