

## *The Princes of Serendip: What She Said*

### *Lyrics*

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#### **The morning after**

Oh you can't unmake your decisions  
You can only look back in regret  
One lifetime to grow up, one lifetime to screw up  
That's everything you can expect  
And you can't cancel the morning after  
It'll last for a year or two yet.

And you can't explode like a fungus  
When you're growing too big for your skin  
You can only pretend that there's some sort of end that  
You're heading for when you're so clever and splendid  
But you can't cancel the morning after  
Shuts you down, shuts you up, shuts you in.

You can't sit there licking your finger  
To determine which way the shit flies  
And you can't take for granted the things that you've wanted  
Will ever materialize  
And you can't cancel the morning after  
With its infinite room for surprise.

And you can't do it over and over  
When it doesn't turn out how you planned  
As soon as you do it you'll know that you blew it  
Don't try to unscrew it, just go on and rue it  
'Cause you can't cancel the morning after  
100% out of hand.

And you can't make the hurt any better  
It sticks with you whatever you do  
Now you've just made it worse and you're stuck with the mess  
And you're stuck with the clean-up too  
'Cause you can't cancel the morning after  
It's something you've got to live through.

And you can't help but think it's suspicious  
When you're born your first move is to cry  
You may say you're not next to be facing your destiny  
Bragging it's best to be dragged out protesting  
But you can't cancel the morning after  
Except for the day that you die.

### **A Japanese fan**

My mind wouldn't work – my legs wouldn't walk – as if something were holding onto me  
I looked around and soon I found the reason for my infirmity  
There in the swoon of the afternoon you turned and you smiled the old way  
And now I know each place I go you'll be there to turn and smile at me

You held in your hand a Japanese fan and it shook like the leaves of the ginkgo  
And the faster it trembled the more it resembled the evanescent rainbow  
All I could do was call out to you but the fluttering blew my wishes away  
Come home I said – you turned your head – you smiled and you closed the window

Your song still floats thin from the shadows within – in the lap of my hearth I perceive you  
Though the story never stop nor the shadows give you up I shall not deny nor deceive you  
Warm in the arms of my fading dreams – come home – come home – you know the way  
I'm all your own – you're warm – I'm home – how could I desire to leave you

### **Young before my time**

Over the upland brow I came to you alone  
Yes I'm a poor and downy girl young before my time

I was only a child that day  
I found the door and I climbed the tower  
Then I told you no goodbye  
And then I flew

In the ruin of all you knew  
Still you wove the world your song  
This is here to let you know  
I'll carry on

When I finally make it to you  
Through the long and woeful day  
When you're safely by my side  
I'll rest on you

This was the song of the robin the day  
Oh oh the day  
The very day she danced back down and around and around to her nest and found  
Oh oh they were gone

### **More than you know**

Underneath the photograph  
Message from your childhood  
All you need is love you say  
As well you should  
Sitting on the fallen tree  
Moss is soft and feels good  
Learning how to take the air  
Cutting all the dead wood down  
And I know that you have more to go  
And I know that you have more to show  
And I know that you have more than you know

Everyone's in no man's land  
There isn't any garden  
Sometimes when you play the fool  
It hits you hard  
Sometimes when you turn your head  
The path behind is frozen  
Sawdust running through your hands  
Brings you back to heart and home  
And I know ...

Somewhere on the spinning globe  
Love is freshly woken  
Why not catch a floating spark  
While growing old  
Half the world is always dark  
Half your life was stolen  
Too much says the wide eyed owl  
Mend us cry your broken dreams  
And I know ...

### **What the man in the mirror said to me**

Who's that making faces at me in the mirror  
Acting like I'm all you can see of the world?  
You know I've never met you before, and you know I'd never want to if it wasn't for one fact  
There's something in your gestures that's more like a parody of me than you would use if you had tact  
You're tempting me to show you the door: did your mother or another tell you opposites attract?  
Why are you determined to say that you know me?  
Can't you tell that you're in the way of my dreams?  
You're dancing to the beat of my heart, but if you're the big magician, what am I, the talking drum?  
There's nothing that can tear us apart like the evident desire you have to be there when I come  
Of all the awkward moments to start it's today you're making eyes at me as if I'd struck you dumb

And that's what the man in the mirror said to me on the first day  
That's what the man in the mirror said to me

No-one has the right to agree with illusion  
Might as well be learning to pee in the wind

Your dirty little secrets are far from the mysteries of life as they're revealed in every glance  
The message was to come as you are but the dose of harsh reality is pomp and circumstance  
Be careful how you prop up the bar: there's a lesson to be learned from finding lobsters in your pants

And that's what the man in the mirror said to me on the next day ...

Always looking at me, wondering how to get me  
If you try to hit me than you'll only break the glass  
When you're hot I'm freezing, when you're cold I'm steaming  
When you're mad I'm easy, when you're soft I'm hard as brass  
Take a break from cursing, take a break from flirting  
I can show no mercy 'cause I haven't got the class  
Baby, I'll be catching your eye forever  
Even on the day that you die I'll be there  
You're doomed to be a lifelong voyeur, always lurking in a netherworld where nothing gets achieved  
Where nothing good or bad can occur without checking with headquarters to make sure that it's perceived  
I tell you things are not what they were: in an age of video you must be seen to be believed

And that's what the man in the mirror said to me on the last day ...

### **Sam Sparrow**

Up flew Sam Sparrow to his only nest  
Never mind how – he didn't know  
Bringing a crumb to his only love  
Turning to go – feeling a pull  
Stay home and tell me what you saw along the way

Under the ginkgo a silent man  
Fed me a crust from a foreign land  
And here where we live I bring you his gift  
Oh more bring me more was there more along the way

Down flew Sam Sparrow and he took no rest  
Strong in the will – strong on the wing  
Oh where is the sailor with the open hand?  
Oh where's the sailor with the rough and open hand?

He's safe in the shadows of the butterfly tree  
Look how he sways – wet on the face  
Oh where's my lover oh and where's my friend  
How long before I can no longer stand  
The breeze from the sea it reminds me of my home  
The salt you may lick from my hand  
I'm feeling light as a little fluff of down  
Oh home bring me home the sun has nearly gone

So Sam Sparrow settled on the sailor's head  
Pecked at his hat – plucked off a thread  
Carried it back to his waiting love  
Oh love I've brought you what I found along the way

## **Flora arise**

Flora arise  
Waking and stretching  
Go for the sun  
Making and fetching  
Take care my love  
Hard times are coming  
I will hold on  
I am your cousin  
Flora arise

What of the time  
When the troubles of life they come crowding  
How to stay true to the vision inside  
Everything grows  
Everything changes, reacts and remembers  
Everything dies

Flora arise ...

And as you strive  
For the light of content and fulfillment  
And as you struggle to make it alive  
Hold out your hand  
Know that I'm with you in step and in feeling  
Here by your side

Flora arise...

## **What she said**

She said the dust of the whirlwind of my seventh mother  
cut deep wedges in my cheekbones here and here  
I prefer to sleep half drowned in soft blankets  
but now I lie wakeful under a heavy quilt of clay and rubble  
broken broken my dream of another world  
broken my skull broken the cage around my heart

my headdress of gold and lapis lazuli will outlive me forever  
but my silver comb will succumb to the acid secretions of my decomposing body  
I walked into the burial vault with my seven stoned sisters at my side  
and though I too had drunk the sickly draught my head was clear as we sang  
closer closer to our dream of another world  
closely we follow you our husband our guide

the oxen clumsily backed their heavy cart down the ramp  
the creaking and bellowing ringing around and around our underground chamber  
the slaves guarding the sealed door stood impassively by their spears  
never speaking a word of their strange language  
she said I'll be silent and still for sixty times sixty years

then a probing pick will find me and I'll tell my story slowly and silently  
I thought my king would lead me through the darkness to a shining world  
but he's left me frozen in the hot clay  
my journey's unfinished and I'm unfulfilled  
broken broken my dream of the gods and their world  
broken my eyes or has the world gone dark

### **You are the Moon**

The walk through the day is a long lonely journey  
The world has no room for the needs of the heart  
But the Moon comes to say there's a reason for living  
You and I face to face and my dreams can start

And you are the Moon and the moon is my lover  
The world's full of joy whenever you're here  
You call out my name and we fly through the heavens  
Then the dark takes command and you disappear

Fly on through the night – I'll be waiting and watching  
I'm sure of the promise in the crescent of your smile  
And while you are gone on your own lonely journey  
You'll stay on in the glow of my moonstruck eyes

There's a sound like a sigh – it's my memories waking  
Long ago far away you first cast your spell  
Through the mist shone a face that I've never lost sight of  
I'm caught up in your tides and you're shining still

And you are the Moon ...

Fly on through the night – I'll be waiting and watching  
I'm sure of the promise in the crescent of your smile  
And though you are gone on your own lonely journey  
In the heart of my heart you're deep inside

### **The 7 deadly plastics**

These are the 7 deadly plastics  
Let each one take a bow.  
This is number 1 and it's PET  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
It leaches many poisons such as acetaldehyde  
They fed it to their rats 'til half of them died  
They shot it in the mouse's gut and in the dog's vein  
Made 'em sick in the liver and blood and eyes and kidney and bladder and brain.

These are the 7 deadly plastics  
Let each one take a bow.

This is number 2, HDPE,  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
Like all the other plastics, they make it using toxics  
It generates a flood of hazardous waste  
And the people in the factories get headaches, numb extremities,  
Emphysema, tumours, liver damage in the workplace.

... And this is number 3 and it's PVC  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
Hormone disruptor, liver and testicle cancer,  
Birth defects and learning disabilities  
It's in Barbie dolls and teething rings, mother's milk and food wrappings  
It fills the air with dioxins and PCBs.

... And this is number 4, LDPE,  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
And they make it using benzene, which gives you leukemia,  
Fatigue, headaches, nausea, nervousness, insomnia  
And they make it using several other nasty things besides  
Including hexane and carcinogenic hydroperoxides.

... This is number 5 and it's polypropylene  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
And they dope it up with chromium and colour it with lead  
So it messes up your body while it messes up your head.

... This is number 6 and it's polystyrene  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
Menstrual and neurotoxic dislocation  
Spreading through the food and drink of every nation  
It makes your fat cells its long term home  
And it reaches in your ovary and tweaks a chromosome.

... And this is number 7 and it's polycarbonate  
And it's bad for you and it's bad for me  
It gets you in the endocrine, hits babies much the worst  
So we make sure that they drink it in with every baby thirst  
Yes it's used to make their baby bottles – oh what joy  
Pretty polycarbonate for every girl and boy.

These are the 7 deadly plastics  
You know them all by now  
But before you start to wonder why they're here and what they're for  
You'll be pleased to know that there are 90,000 more.

### **Each leaf has a story**

My lover he left me and not of my choosing  
He heard the drum and went off to war  
And oh did he think then of all he was losing  
And I've lost more oh darling come home

*Chorus:* Each leaf has a story, grows gold, knows glory  
And falls back to the common ground

They gave me the bullet that shattered his body  
Upon my breast I'm wearing it still  
And so he stays with me through good days and bad days  
The long day's toil the weary night's rest

It's forty years gone since we up and got married  
How proud we stood my lover and I  
And the music was sweet but the whole thing was hurried  
He made his vow and marched off for good

And I see him now yes he's standing before me  
With head held high my lover he stands  
In the form of his grandson and mine here before me  
The same fine hands and wandering eye

### **Old lady elephant and young lady mouse**

Old lady elephant lies on the ground  
Blind and lame, tired and dazed,  
Shorn of both her tusks  
She doesn't know how long gone  
Not long now to go

Young lady mouse soon ventures out  
Oh how her nose is atwitch  
So small so brave – she's the elephant's friend

Old lady elephant, why lie you down?  
You are our crown and our joy  
Without you all the world will be bare

Old lady elephant breathes through the dusk  
Young lady mouse, please help me out  
You are my only hope now  
I have nobody else to show me home  
I'm so far from home – here comes night  
All is calm and cool

Truly says the mouse I know your pain and I empathize with you  
But when I try to lift you up, you're more than I can bear – I know what to do  
Let me go for now and I'll fetch my friends and you'll soon be home again



Here come the mice, rabbits and rats,  
Squirrels and butterflies too  
Each to their place, sharing their strength  
Lift her an inch from the ground  
Staggering once, steadying twice  
Now they're beginning to move

And as they heave and hump and huff  
Wafted by a thousand wings  
Young lady mouse she sweetly sings

We'll carry together the old lady elephant  
We'll carry together the old lady elephant  
We'll carry the old lady elephant back home

And so they strive and never bow  
They do their best and do it now  
And all the while they sing their song

We'll carry ...

And so we'll strive and never bow  
We'll do our best and do it now  
And it helps to sing along

We'll carry ...

## **Jaiya**

I don't know whence nor how you arrived  
With your coat full of seeds of barley  
I brushed them all away and I blew them to the wind  
And I saw you were sleek and hardy  
So I fed you cream and I fed you crust  
And I set you to dig my garden

Jaiya

At the waning of the day you declared I want no pay  
Though I've only the coat I'm wearing  
But I crave one night in a real feather bed  
For the winter is surely nearing

Jaiya

So I warmed my bed with you and your coat  
Unaware of the first snow falling  
But the night grew long as the winter itself  
You arose with the spring, still yawning

Jaiya

And the way you left was the way you came  
No word, no where, no warning  
And who knows whether or when you'll be back  
In day, night, dusk or morning

Jaiya

## **The old man and you**

An old man lived all alone inside a nutshell  
floating up and down on the sea  
didn't have much but knew how to be  
you know that everywhere he moved those fish were laughing  
you were standing on the stony shore  
and he called out to you from afar

so you say you be good  
so you say you be free  
so you say you believe in we

and along the stony shore you found a seashell  
dragged it through the foam to the sea  
and you set sail most gracefully  
and you sailed beyond the islands of contentment  
to the land of the roving swan  
and a voice from afar drew you on

so you say you be good ...

when you found that aged man inside his nutshell  
all he did was show you an egg  
and he said that's for you when you're big  
all the silver and the gold inside this eggshell  
where's the spoon you need to scoop them out?  
however else will you stay afloat?

So you say you be good  
so you say you be free  
so you say you believe in we  
so we say we be good  
so we say we be free  
so we say we believe in we

## **To a Barred Owl**

Once upon a tranquil afternoon  
Underneath a carnival of clouds  
Through the summer haze I briefly saw you  
Sitting on a chestnut oak

Now I'm in a dark and lonely room  
Living out the winter's icy heart  
Every time I close my eyes I'm with you  
Sleeping in your hidden lair

I want you to know that you're still on my mind  
The days come and go, and you're still on my mind  
I'm high and I'm low, but you're still on my mind

All the tales of glory are newly told  
Yes they're newly told

I wonder if you have a place to go  
Now that we're disturbing your repose  
Bringing our machines to clear the forest  
Cutting down your chestnut oak

I want you to know that I'm still on your side  
The days come and go, and I'm still on your side  
I'm high and I'm low, but I'm still on your side  
All our crooked pathways are overgrown  
Yes they're overgrown

I want you to know that I'm fine on my own  
The days come and go, and I'm fine on my own  
I'm high and I'm low, but I'm fine on my own  
The chestnut oak has fallen and I'm fallen too  
Yes I'm fallen too

Once upon a tranquil afternoon  
Underneath a carnival of clouds  
Through the summer haze I briefly saw you  
Sitting on a chestnut oak

### **All you have**

When I was a young spark  
no-one showed me how to make a flame  
and how not to how not to burn to ash

now every time I strike a match  
I know I'll set the house to shame  
I'm so sorry I'm so sorry my child

so here's the sun and here's the glass  
I'll help you earn your middle name  
I love playing I love playing with you

and when I'm just a glimmer  
you'll feel me burning just the same  
as you mumble as you mumble this song

Stop at the door  
pause before you're gone at last  
you're on your own at last  
hoping for more  
all you have is all you're going to get

All you have is yours  
you know you'll never have it twice

it burns through you it burns through you

there's nothing you can do  
nor can I resist your happy face  
I've no muscle I've no muscle for that

because of you I'm here  
because of you I know my place  
you're my precious you're my precious

Why did I do that and that and that and that  
(glum glum glum)  
echoes through the whispering gallery  
(glum glum glum)  
choppy surface wet sweet depths  
all in your own sweet stony voice  
(glum glum glum)  
(glum glum glum)

we spat a twisted span of dribble  
the ropewalk split the skull for sure  
but one day my true will come dream  
one day the curfew on laughter will be lifted  
the lonely heron will reclaim her lonely nest

Stop at the door  
tell me how I let you down  
how I put you down  
hoping for more  
all you get is all you have in the world

you're waiting for the moment  
when every doubt has left your mind  
and you'll never you'll never be there

I'm giving you no answers  
nothing to seek is what you find  
there's no heaven there's no heaven

and when you see me trying  
to be okay to be around  
you'll know better you'll know better what I mean

Stop at the door  
no-one had to pull you here  
or had to call you here  
hoping for more  
nowhere to go and that's where you are

Now my blood has cooled into rock  
(glum glum glum)

run your fingers through my gravel  
everything everywhere's bursting with passion  
crashing and cracking  
simplest pebbles flow the fastest

the iron age is almost over  
only a billion or so years to run  
swelling your cheeks  
living on tiptoes  
sing when you're almost almost asleep  
when you're almost almost asleep  
(glum glum glum)

### **Miranda**

When Miranda caught me hiding in the cupboard on the landing  
She was tender and confiding – didn't worry or scold  
It was soon she had me telling all the troubles I was feeling  
I found myself forgetting I was young she was old

Older than old but now I'm older still  
Older than old but still I know her well

And I told her of the morning when my world was just beginning  
How my memory of talking it just slipped away  
I was huffing I was humming but the words they were not coming  
Till at last I took to shrugging for what could I say

So in time she left me nodding in my nest among the bedding  
And the morning found me waking without my young fears  
And as once more the Sun was climbing and the air itself was shining  
She still sang in the offing that I was in hers

### **Plutonium POPs**

In a million years when they drill underground and they find  
A radioactive and poisonous stratum of slime  
They'll scratch on whatever they scratch on when thinking and say  
Plutonium POPs for breakfast and lunch and dinner every day

Let's dig up the nastiest muck we can find underground  
If there isn't enough then we'll just have to dig further down  
When we've cooked it up good it's a thousand times worse than before  
So have some more here's some more help us to spread it around  
More – spread it some more  
Plutonium POPs for breakfast and lunch and dinner more and more

Though it's wrong and we know it we don't want to know what we know  
We've killed everything else but our bank accounts prosper and grow  
Our children are all born malformed that is those who are born

And it's you that can change it it's you that we're trying to warn  
You – yes I mean you  
You spread it yourself and there's others that spread it on you  
Plutonium pops for breakfast and lunch and dinner ...

***The Princes of Serendip: What She Said***

*Lyrics*

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