



Gethsemane (1993)

Just West of Eden

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I wasn't lookin' for somethin' different
I was sailing slowly losing all control
I was goin' down in the dirty water
Deep into the middle of my soul
There like a streak of lightning,
illuminating everything in sight
I surrendered to this senseless fighting
I surrendered to this senseless light
Over top of yonder mountain, over
there where the rainbow ends
I took a drink from the holy fountain
Down around where the river bends
The further I followed this fallen path
The more I trusted in this fear
Then revealed in the aftermath
I didn't know who I was, what, or
where

Just west of Eden, from Chicago to
Gethsemane
Just west of Eden, the flowers smelled
like tragedy
Just west of Eden

Communion came like rollin' water
Like a feast to a hungry beast
I knelt beside a ploughman's daughter
Whose thirst never seemed to cease
The gateway to the wicked led the
lost under their wing
Silence fell upon this hopeless town
and the bells of innocence began to
ring

Just west of Eden, where Cain paved
a pavement of sin
Just west of Eden, the trumpet wailed
and the walls caved in...
Just west of Eden

Graced by the hours and the mindless
traps
In which even the noblest fall
Love's longing flower brought humility
unto us all

I stood engulfed by temptations smile
Searching for the only key
Reverent eyes fell upon my brow
While she moved in the air like poetry
Clutching on to this sword, I hold the
names of all the men
I rip myself from this chord
Falling free to find myself again
I seize the darkness with a sharpened
tongue
Then spit it out at last
I watch the lighthouse from the water
Beware of the coming of the past

Just west of Eden, crucifixions while
the cities burn
Just west of Eden, the priest wailed
and the poet yearned
Just west of Eden, insolence,
prejudice, and cowardice are
learned...
Just west of Eden

Michael McDermott

Moonlit Prayer

These evenings soaked with dreams hung on the lines
of eternity
Stephanie and me we were caught in the light of reality
Fixed on a star like a candle hangin' above me
I'm never gonna stray too far from my savior in second hand blue jeans
It's a losing proposition when you're born on this block
Your eyes can't move and your legs can't talk
I can't even begin to explain the staleness in the air
We were just two lost souls gettin' wasted on a moonlit prayer

Conner and Des sat there so statuesque
On barstools leanin' forward lookin' in need of some rest
The accordion player with that jagged one eyed smile
Said "I'm gonna take a little break and I'll be back in just a while"
While the old songs of Ireland disappeared into the walls
The bandit boy was carvin' his perversions in the stalls
Stumblin' to the street he walked away like he didn't have a care
He was dressed like poisonous sunlight wishin' on a moonlit prayer

Detroit Junior was in a mid life scheme
Another aberration to his real life dream
Slippin' and slidin' and a skatin' with the best
He was always on the corner with Connie in her Guatemalan vest
Tellin' tales of when he was a singer right before the war
He'll never get a chance to tell us why he kicked that chair to the floor
Some kids were at the quarry last night they said hey
saw his ghost with fire in his hair
he was dancin' on the water.....
Under a moonlit prayer

There's balconies and barbers and a mistress in the door
There's a shrine of faith in the window upon the second floor
At the bottom of the hamper is where all of Earl's

money is stashed
And the marks upon the wall mark the day since she's passed
The supermarket junkies are out on parade
With their nickels in their pockets
And their bottles of Chardonnay
Smashing those broken bottles and those bodies into the walls of despair
Disappearing down the alley
Lost in a moonlit prayer

Stephanie accept me just the way I am
For my love is one of limits and of things that I don't understand
In this nameless town and a tainted crown I'm a king without a throne
But I still get overcome with doubt in these nights all alone
I've been lookin' for a sign babe, I haven't got a clue
If you surrender your heart to me
I'll surrender mine to you
Imagine the two of us riding bareback in the distance on a silk white mare
We'll disappear into the sky
Chasin' a moonlit prayer

Need Some Surrender

Margaret quoted Whitman, and talked about the
grass
She had bells around her ankles and spoke of a love
that's sure to last
I knew of all her tragedy
I could see through her veneer
She said, "I wish to Christ that somethin' for once
would just seem clear"
With my life I swore I'd always defend her
Now She's gone and I need some surrender

In between the hours in which daylight fades away
These sad and lonely flowers trampled by decay
Can you understand how it gets so hard to stand
When everything you once held is taken from your
hands
The colors danced across the auburn skies of
November
Now I need some surrender

O come all ye faithful

Have you ever chased a rainbow or thrown darts up
at the moon
Ever followed a fallin' star through the windows of
your room
All the things that we believe in
Will all soon pass away
But I'm wiser than I once was
And gettin' more foolish every day
As a child I played on the streets of promise
With hearts of splendor
I'm older now, and I need some surrender

Leave it Up to the Angels

Have you ever been afraid to move, cuz you thought
somehow you might break
Have you ever heard a voice that you couldn't ignore
Ever had a feelin' that you couldn't shake
I'm frightened by the way I feel, and maybe you are
too
I'm losing faith in everything and everyone but you
And still there's a bitter wind at night that cries
I don't know what it is but there's somethin' goin' on
inside your eyes
Gonna leave it up to the angels

Time and time again I have been kept down,
By the same hands that lift me up
I found some strength in humility, found some comfort
in this drunken cup
I turned to look for you but you weren't anywhere
Baby I'm reminded every time
Every time that bell rings, when I see certain things
Like that crazy heart you drew around your name and
mine
Lookin' through these shades of grey, it gets so hard
to see
But I'm ridin' on a wave in an ocean of uncertainty
Gonna leave it up to the angels

Baby, 'bout time that you choose, you gonna keep me
or you gonna turn me loose,
cuz I don't know what to do
You are the hand that fans the fire
You're the princess in the night of my dreams
You pushed me over the edge of desire
You are the passion at the heart of my screams
You are the stone I know someday could simply break
my heart
You are the wind, you are the waves the could tear
my lowly sails apart
And you tell me that you're feelin' so confused,
I've finally realized that the only thing that we can do
is to
Leave it up to the angels

Surrender

Michael McDermott

A Day Like Tomorrow

Sittin' here in the ghetto of my mind
I see destruction and the bullets flyin'
The only thing I can hear is the sound of angels cryin'
In a day like tomorrow I know we're gonna find our way
The wings that you borrow you got to give back someday
I saw a sunset of sorrow goin' down in your eyes

In a day like tomorrow we'll weave together these pieces of our lives
You spoke of forgiveness with that dagger in your hand
You danced along the water while the wind swept through the sand
You wanna know just how I feel, babe you wouldn't understand

In a day like tomorrow I know we're gonna find our way
The wings that you borrow you got to give back someday
I saw a sunset of sorrow goin' down in your eyes

In a day like tomorrow we'll weave together these pieces of our lives
Your torn by the midwestern storms
Come to me I'll be your shelter
The borders are gettin' bigger, there's silence behind every door
Even my brothers don't recognize me anymore
There's a poisonous water that rushes to each and every shore
In a day like tomorrow I know we're gonna find our way
The wings that you borrow you got to give back someday
I saw a sunset of sorrow goin' down in your eyes
In a day like tomorrow we'll weave together these pieces of our lives

Michael McDermott

One Way To Go

You say your luck's run out
You don't feel like you can make it through
You can't change where it is you come from
But you can change where you're going to

You've been under a lot of pressure
You've been carrying a mighty weight
You find pain in your own pleasure
And find love in the things you hate

Along the waterline everything seemed fine
One thing for certain was clear
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

Are you embarrassed by your transgressions?
Do you wallow in your guilt?
Will you offer up your confessions
Of destroying all you've built?

You beat yourself up every evening
And every morning you feel so dazed
Well, the last train of faith will be leaving
The day your flag of defeat is raised

The way that we were, when we were so sure
Which way we wanted to steer
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

You're so tired of being tired
Yeah, you're angry because you're mad
Beaten and uninspired
Yeah, you're happy because you're sad

You get high from all your falling
You get down when you're not high
You don't hear the voices calling
Imploring you to try

A voice/words from above, answered with love
But are you ready to hear?
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

Michael McDermott

Nights Like These

Silence fell like healing, as I turned to shout
"Won't somebody up there please help me out?"
There's a dead end street around every corner I take
And the daylight displays my greatest mistakes
Hallucinations, body and soul
Each night I feel a little more less in control
She spoke of Whitman and the turnin' of the leaves
Lovers were made for nights like these

I've been waiting on the wonder, I dream does exist
They smile as I'm goin' under and claim I'll be missed
One step away from paradise one step away from
pain
The seeds of despair bloom into weeds of shame
I've seen a fallen rainbow in white and black
I can feel that restless shadow stickin' knives in my
back
But there's penance and passion, patience and peace
Lovers were made for nights like these

Now the cool majestic evening invites me to burn
I've been waitin' for tomorrow but tonight it's my turn
Intoxicated by the banter that the bluebird sings
By the visions of forgiveness when those church bells
ring
I've seen the face of evil, sometimes it looks like mine
I've confronted all my weaknesses, down on my knees

Lovers were made of nights like these
Dreamin' was made for nights like these
Salvation was made for nights like these
Forgiveness was made for nights like these
Lovers were made for nights like these

Michael McDermott

Lantern (for Lawrence Michael Jordan)

No matter how hard it might seem to be
Know I'd be there if you ever needed me
Chambers of sound, love lost and found tonight
There's somethin' in the air, somethin' doesn't feel
right

If I had a map, I'd guide your troubled path
If I had a smile, I'd lend you mine to laugh
If I had a treasure, you know just what I'd do
If I had a lantern, I'd light the way for you

You always said, "Michael, just play the hand you're
dealt"

I don't know if you ever knew how I felt
I wish I could have said the things I always wanted to
say
Well, I'm sayin' them now if you can hear me today

If I had some wings, I'd fly you all around
If I had a some money, I'd buy the whole goddamn
town
If I had the strength then maybe I could have pulled
you through
If I had a lantern, I'd light the way for you
If I had a lantern, I'd light the way for you

One more night of drinkin' and singin' them jukebox
tunes
I'd give everything just to spend one more day with
you
I'll think of you when the rain comes and I'll find your
face in the falling snow
I hope you think of me too, there's one thing you
should know

If I had some sunshine, I'd cast it all on you
If had the power, your dreams would all come true
I know you must be frightened too, don't you know
that I'm scared too
If I had a lantern, I'd light the way for you
If I had a lantern, I'd light the way for you

Don't hide your love...

Somewhere

Gypsy nights, by the light of the lake I ride
I got a hunger and the hunger well it's eatin' me up
inside
I got a serpent in my heart, I got such anger that I just
can't hide
Don't look now if you see me comin' around
I could swear that I'm lost, but it feels like I'm found
The nights begun to fall, I'm feelin' low but walkin' tall
Gonna stare down the face of defeat, gonna face my
fears until they're beat
Somewhere at the end of the street

I waited for the letter to finally bring me some news
It never came and in that moment I know I'd have to
choose
I've lost all the things that mattered, I could possibly
lose
Don't look now, If you see me coming around
Don't look now, If you see me coming around
The sun has gone away, the disciples have been led
astray
Our hero's have turned to cheats
But I'm gonna march to a different beat
Somewhere at the end of the street

I've gotten used to the things I know I should have
said
I've gotten used to the horror I see nightly here in my
head
I've gotten used to knowin' she's sleepin' in another
man's bed
But don't look now if you see me goin' down
Don't look now yeah I'm just comin' around
Gonna rise up and find my way, gonna find myself a
brand new day
Gonna stare down the face of defeat, find a love that
will make me feel complete
Somewhere at the end of the street

Somewhere

Sailor

Time wasted waiting and time contemplating my life
I've been thinkin' and drinkin'
But it feels like I'm sinkin' tonight
Sing alleluia, but don't let 'em fool ya, it's just tempta-
tion
I act as if it doesn't matter, while I step out of time
To the clatter of generations

Like a sailor, I'm driftin'
Into the hungry mouth of the storm
Like an orphan I'm searching for a place that's safe
and warm
Like a scavenger I'll find the pieces
Of our lives which have been torn
Like a sailor I'll surrender unto the sea
Like a fire I'll be reborn

Blue tide tumbles upon itself
The night would never mistake me for someone else
For it knows
Blue desert rumbles my formless track
"I'll be dead before I ever come back" she told me
Driftin' so endlessly, movin' so friendlessly
Under the candlelit moon
If there's a chance for contact send some word
To the dark haired girl on Pine and Third
That I'll be comin' soon

Like a sailor in the dark hand of mystery
I'll search the sea and it's soul
Like a knight I'll guard your frozen gates
With a heart that burns like coal
Like a vagrant I stand bewildered for I know not
which way to got
Like a sailor I'll surrender unto the sea
Like a fire I'll lose control

Marking the days, marking the years
I exit in dreams, dreams and fears of longing
Drifting into this mystical fog
I looked and swore I thought I saw the dawning

Like a sailor, I'm driftin'
Into the hungry mouth of the storm
Like an orphan I'm searching for a place that's safe
and warm
Like a scavenger I'll find the pieces

Of our lives which have been torn
Like a sailor I'll surrender unto the sea
Like a fire I'll be reborn

Michael McDermott

The Idler, The Prophet & A Girl Called Rain

Broken she had spoken, "Here's a token of a lonely one"
The Idler stood beside of her, wonderin' whether to walk or run
"Rain" he said, "Tell me again, how you got your funny name"
She said, "My house is the only one on that street, I live at One South Rainey's Lane"
"Jesus, where is he when you need him" Rain said and threw a penny into the well
"He's usually" spoke the Prophet, "behind you and your just too dumb to tell"
Rain said "Who are you? You look like a drunken fool,
I wasn't talkin' to you anyway"
The Prophet said "I'm no one baby, just like you, but I can spot a joker coming a mile away...hey"
The prophet said "You can turn and you turn, tryin' to find yourself
You turn and you turn 'til there's no one else
You turn and you turn, until you turn insane"
Aching hours and aching days with the Idler, the Prophet and a girl called Rain
The Prophet he was smokin' by the well runnin' his hands through his greasy hair
The Idler wasn't movin' he was gazin' into the stillness of the air
Rain she sat, adjusted her hat, and said somethin' as a city bus roared by
The Prophet said "I'm sorry I didn't catch your name" as he looked into the troubled oceans of her eyes
Rain said "Forget it, now... it doesn't matter anyhow. I'm just a cat out on the ledge"
The Prophet said "Melodrama suits you girl... I just don't think you've got the edge"
The Idler looked twice and he rolled his dice and said "You know what would be nice?...
If you two would shut up for a while"
The Prophet said "That's fine with me"
Rain nodded, she seemed to agree and the Idler began to smile,
Just like a child... The Prophet said,
"You can turn and you turn tryin' to find yourself
You turn and you turn 'til there's no one else
You turn and you turn in baptism of flame"
The wind swept like a revelation with the Idler, the

Prophet and a girl called Rain
The Idler said "Indecision's, ruthless"
as he saw a toothless mother near her child engulf a beer
Rain said "I've fallen so many times these days no one believes it or seems to care"
The Prophet said "Is it all about the future is it all about the fear of livin' with the pain.
Or is it all about weakness, temptations curtain tricks or findin' someone to blame"
The Idler said "I'm gonna call it a night I heard the sage was gettin' somethin' goin'".
Somethin' about russian roulette, on a blackjack bet, wine and blood will be flowin'.
and do me a favor, if you see the president tell him I got somethin' right here for him.
You two run along now, be careful, cuz you never know what kind of trouble two people could get in... remember
"You can turn and you turn tryin' to find yourself
You turn and you turn 'til there's no one else
You turn and you turn , but it's never gonna be the same"
The sky bled of dying dreams above the Idler, the Prophet and a girl called Rain
The Prophet and Rain walked to the water
Castin' stones into the night
They went down Rainey's Lane to Rain's place and made love,
and fell asleep after it was light
Rain woke to the sounds of the parade
The Prophet he was no where in sight
He left a note on the mirror sayin' "Believe in the Rain and the Rain will be alright"
and she could remember him sayin'...
"You can turn and you turn tryin' to find yourself
You turn and you turn 'til there's no one else
You turn and you turn and never understand the pain"
I guess that's the story...
Of the Idler, the Prophet and a girl called Rain

Whiskey & Water

(a song by Lawrence Michael Jordan)

There's just a little place around the corner
It's called the watering hole
My credit's good with the bartender
There ain't a soul in the joint I don't know
They got a real sweet sounding jukebox
And it plays my favorite song, it's called
One more whiskey and water
I play it all night long

Hey what are you doin' on my barstool
Yeah that's my change and those are my cigarettes
Take it easy man don't get excited, stay cool
Besides, you ain't even played my favorite song just
yet it's called
One more whiskey and water
I play it all night long

Excuse me, what's your name in the mirror
I haven't seen you for so long
Is there anything I can get you dear?
Would you like to dance to my favor song, it's called
One more whiskey and water
I play it all night long

Talk is cheap, advice is free
I told you the joke you're tellin' me
Alright, alright, alright... I'm goin'
What the hell did I do with my keys?
By the way while your lockin' up and closin'
Would you mind if we played that tune one more time
please
It's called, one more whiskey and water
And I'll be gone

Michael McDermott