



WHAT IN THE WORLD . . .

Yeah, you're looking like a car wreck  
 Dealing with a stacked deck  
 Peter's robbing Paul and they're  
 Drinking with your rent check  
 It's a new world order  
 Walls along the border  
 Kids in cages  
 Executive order  
 Welfare for billionaires  
 People hungry everywhere  
 Stop and frisk, Socialist  
 You ain't goin' anywhere  
 I think it's time we take a  
 Good look in the mirror  
 What in the world...  
 is happening here?

You got your white flag, dime bag  
 So-Co Day Drag  
 Effigies and Refugees  
 A Journalistic Toe Tag  
 You're drunk on tragedy  
 Outrage and blasphemy  
 Dollar short, War Report  
 The madness and the malady  
 Bullets in a black dress  
 Everything is such a mess  
 It's kinda like white noise  
 James Joyce, distress  
 I can hear the horses of Paul Revere  
 What in the world...  
 is happening here?

I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 I'm tired of hearing everything  
 will be O.K.  
 I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya Say?  
 Dark days coming for the U.S.A.

You got your Alt-Right, street fight  
 Fake news website  
 Freedom without liberty  
 Man, it doesn't sit right  
 Clean Coal fires,  
 Climate Change deniers  
 Head full of gasoline...fistful of fire  
 New low, Jim Crow  
 Plead the 5th, you don't know  
 It's not too hard to see  
 That the President's a criminal  
 Iron Eyes Cody,  
 wipe away your tear  
 What in the world  
 is happening here?

Be all that you can never be  
 You can't fight what you can't see  
 And maybe it's the government  
 Or just your ADHD  
 Oxy and Adderall  
 The redneck and the radical  
 Good versus evil  
 These days, it's almost biblical  
 A world full of strangers  
 Echo chambers  
 Lobbyists and rattlesnakes  
 The truth here is in danger  
 Treachery and treason  
 Fictions of fear  
 What in the world...  
 is happening here?

I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 I'm tired of hearing everything  
 will be O.K.  
 I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 Dark days coming for the U.S.A.

You got your hard luck  
 White class  
 Low class-Badass  
 Knockaround guy  
 Who don't give a rats ass  
 Affiliated, Castrated  
 Migrated, Segregated  
 Subterranean  
 Neo Nazi  
 White trash  
 Wages in a flatline  
 Coughing in a coal mine  
 Gaslit, Half-wit  
 It feels like we're out of time  
 Senators and Congressmen  
 Lend me your ear  
 What in the world...  
 is happening here?

I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 I'm tired of hearing  
 everything will be O.K.  
 I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 Dark days coming for the U.S.A.

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 I'm tired of hearing  
 everything will be O.K.  
 I say, Hey! Hey! Whaddaya say?  
 Dark days coming for the U.S.A.

## NEW YORK, TEXAS

She said,  
"Have you ever been to New York,  
Texas?  
I'm not sure anybody really has.  
You see, Mama always said that God  
would bless us...  
If you're grateful for what it is we  
have."

Headed straight  
into the heart of nowhere  
Coffee City, 20 miles behind  
9 weeks now  
And she's already showin'  
I'm not sure what it is  
we hoped to find

But I know...Something's coming  
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'  
Come on let's go...it feels so near  
I wanna take you away babe,  
anywhere but here

It started on a night  
up in Ben Wheeler  
I was battered by a bitter breeze  
But I can't shake the look of that  
dealer  
The moment that I brought him to  
his knees

And she said, "Have you ever been to  
New York, Texas?  
I want someone to tell me if it's real  
You see, Mama always said that God  
would bless us  
If we just stay true to what we  
feel."

And I know...Something's coming  
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'  
Come on let's go...babe do not fear  
I wanna take you away babe,  
anywhere but here

She said, "Don't get any bright  
ideas...smart guy."  
It's like she was reading my mind  
She said, "Don't leave me here  
alone...  
Feels like you're fixin' to go..are you  
fixin' to go?"

I am fortune's fool...  
I only wanna be with you...  
Take me in your wing...  
Can't you see...  
I ruin everything  
Can't you see...I ruin everything...

Pulled over,  
Got a hotel off the highway  
In the morning we would  
get an early start  
I said, "Babe, maybe it's time we try  
things your way"  
She said, "Why you only truthful,  
in the dark?"

I said, "Have you ever been to New  
York, Texas?  
I think maybe it's time for us to go  
Hell, your mama always said that God  
would bless us...  
And bless the wayward runners of  
the road."

But I know...Something's coming  
I can feel it...the engine's runnin'  
Come on let's go  
It all seems so clear  
I wanna take you away babe...  
anywhere but here

Something's coming  
I can feel it...the engine's runnin'  
Come on let's go  
It all seems so clear  
I wanna take you away babe...  
anywhere but here

Anywhere but here...  
Come on let's go...

## BLUE EYED BARMAID

I was seeking shelter from the rain  
So I ducked inside this tavern door  
She said,  
"Can I offer you a drink, sir?"  
I said, "I don't drink anymore."  
She said,  
"Boy, you must get thirsty..."  
I said,  
"You're damn right about that!"  
She said,  
"Can I pour you some coffee?"  
I smiled and removed my hat  
So I pulled up a seat  
I knew that I couldn't compete  
So I thought I might just try to  
anyway  
There she goes, there she goes  
A blue eyed barmaid

She told me about her mother  
And her father left when she was 5  
And then she told me about her  
brother  
Who was lucky to be alive  
You see, he was a soldier  
He did two tours in the war  
And now he's got PTSD  
He's drunk and sleepin' on her floor  
She said, "I pretend I'm Joan Of  
Arc  
Wandering here in the dark  
Looking for some other dragons to be  
slain."  
There she goes, there she goes  
A blue eyed barmaid

She's got this way of speaking  
It's like she's talking to herself  
She said, "I have trouble sleeping  
And accepting peoples help."  
I noticed she was reading Nietzsche  
And I thought, that made perfect  
sense  
She'd never heard of Del Amitri  
But she loved Car Seat Headrest  
And I'm sure there's a trail of men  
Up around each and every bend  
That she leaves scattered along  
the way  
There she goes, there she goes  
A blue eyed barmaid

She said she almost joined the  
circus  
And she said rather blasé  
She said, "There is so much  
beneath the surface  
Where your consciousness does lay."  
hey hey

She's got this wrist tattoo in  
Sanskrit  
And it read, "Be the change"  
She said,  
"I know there are no answers."  
With just the slightest hint of rain  
Then, I said, "I should get goin'..."  
As a few customers came in.  
She said,  
"It's been nice getting to know you.  
Won't you come dance with me  
again?"  
She had that certain something  
That you get tangled in  
She's a memory that will be so long  
to fade  
There she goes, there she goes  
A blue eyed barmaid  
There she goes, there she goes  
A blue eyed barmaid

Hey La Hey  
Hey La Hey  
Hey La Hey...

## THE THINGS YOU WANT

Sam whispered to Rita  
He said,  
"Babe, what's on your mind?"  
She said,  
"You could have done better...  
Yeah, but I don't really mind."  
He asked,  
"Is that Springsteen or Dylan  
That you're quoting from?  
Why is it every time I turn around  
It looks like you were starting to  
run?"  
He said,  
"Don't waste your whole life, baby.  
Don't Think Twice, things ain't  
always that clear.  
Sometimes it seems  
The things you want  
Are already here  
Sometimes it seems  
The things you want  
Are already here."

You see, my Daddy was so quiet  
Yeah, he hardly spoke a word  
I knew something wasn't right  
I could tell the way he hurt  
Then one day I heard him say  
To some guy I didn't know  
That if it weren't for us kids  
He'd have left a long time ago  
And it hurts me to this day  
That he had to live that way  
Did Mama whisper in his ear...

"Sometimes it seems the things you  
want  
Are already here  
Cause sometimes it seems the things  
you want  
Are already here."  
Cause sometimes it seems,  
Mama you're in my dreams  
Cause sometimes it seems  
The things you want  
Are already here

Sing a sweet song of salvation  
Sing a prayer for the mutineer  
Babe, don't you know  
I want you so  
And I think you should know...  
Yeah I want you to know

Sam said, "Nobody's perfect.  
I guess if I had some regrets  
Is that I wasted so much time  
Waiting for things I never get  
How was I to know  
How could I have been so blind  
Maybe I wouldn't be alone  
With all I never seem to find."  
Sometimes it's hard to see  
The things you really need  
When they're standing oh so near

Sometimes it seems  
the things you want  
Are already here  
Cause sometimes it seems  
the things you want  
Are already here  
Cause sometimes it seems  
Mama you're in my dreams  
Cause sometimes it seems  
the things you want  
Are already here.  
Cause sometimes it seems  
the things you want  
Are already here.  
Cause sometimes it seems  
Mama you're in my dreams

## THE VEILS OF VERONICA

She spoke of Simon Peter  
And she told me about the voices  
in her head  
I'd always thought that  
nothin' could defeat her  
She said,  
"I got myself a better plan instead"

And the Veils of Veronica were  
swayin'  
She kept it loaded  
in her bottom drawer  
And the prayers that Veronica  
were praying...  
She said I just don't wanna be here  
anymore

She was Daddy's little girl  
And Daddy always tried to make  
things better  
And he would have given her the  
world  
If only someone could put her back  
together  
And the Veils of Veronica  
were swayin'...  
Hanging in her room,  
behind her door  
And the prayers that Veronica were  
praying...  
She said,  
"I just can't take it anymore  
I just don't wanna be here  
anymore."

She made her way through many  
lovers  
Made her way through many tavern  
doors  
I called her when i heard about her  
brother  
Who checked out of here two days  
before

And the Veils of Veronica were  
weeping  
Weaving a most haunted tapestry  
And the Veils of Veronica, she's  
leaving  
behind the dreams of all she'd never  
be  
Yeah her eyes were like the storms  
out on the sea  
Hanging there, for everyone to see

I heard about the trouble  
in San Francisco  
As we parted ways up in Bend,  
Oregon  
And no matter how hard I try and  
let go  
I just wish that I could talk to her  
again.

And the Veils of Veronica were  
swayin'  
All the while,  
she fought her secret war  
And the prayers that Veronica  
Were praying  
She said,  
"Deliver me out of here, my Lord."  
She said,  
"I just don't wanna be here  
anymore,  
She said,  
I just don't wanna be here..."

The other day I found a present  
I didn't get to give to her on  
Christmas Eve  
It was a scarf that I'd bought in  
Paris  
Now each year I'll leave it for her  
beneath our Christmas Tree

## DIE WITH ME

He told me to touch him  
So I did  
How was I to know  
I was just a kid  
It stayed with me  
For a long, long time  
Just how much of the blame,  
was mine?  
Yeah, I know it changed me  
In ways no one could see  
But that kind of love  
That kind of love  
Is gonna die with me  
It's gonna die with me

The first drink was easy  
I was two-fisted tough  
Three hits were good  
Until it was never enough  
And I watch my little girl sleeping  
How peacefully she dreams  
But that kind of hurt  
That kind of hurt  
Is gonna die with me  
It's gonna die with me

All these scars  
that we seem to carry  
Well tonight, let's set it all afire

Living in this small town  
You can't help but noticing  
That people act so different  
When they see  
different colored skin  
And I hear them at the diner  
Such bitterness and bigotry  
But that kind of talk  
That kinda thought  
Is gonna die with me  
It's gonna die with me  
It's gonna die with me

## CONTENDER

Ever since I was young  
I always thought I'd be the one  
To save the world  
Or at least the girl

When I was just a boy of ten  
In my room I'd pretend  
I was Moses  
With rock star poses

I've been up and I've been down  
I've been kicked all over town  
The good things always slip right  
through my hand  
Hey Charlie man, I coulda been a  
contender  
Aw, I coulda been a contender

You see I always dreamed I could fly  
Break through walls, had X-ray eyes  
I would be the one  
Loved by everyone

And I still believe be a way  
And I'll come back to save the day  
Be your hero babe  
And your heart I'll save  
Things they didn't quite work out  
I became a slave of doubt  
It felt like I was cursed  
among the damned  
Hey Charlie man,  
I could have been a contender  
Not like the pretender that I am

Through the years  
And through the maze  
I tried my best to change my ways  
Tried to become a better man

I screwed things up pretty good  
And anybody that even stood  
fairly close to me  
Became my enemy  
Yeah, I hurt the ones I loved most  
I burned bridges  
from coast to coast  
I just didn't fit  
I was an idiot

I've been weak and I've been strong  
I'll keep fighting all along  
These things I swear  
I'll never understand  
Hey Charlie, man  
I could have been a contender  
Aw, I could have been a contender  
Yeah, I could have been a contender  
Not like the pretender that I am

I could have been something  
I could have been amazing  
I could have been incredible  
I could have been Legendary  
Come on babe take me by the hand  
I could have been a contender

## MOTHER EMANUEL

Mother Emanuel  
Mother Emanuel  
Mother Emanuel

Anthony said, "Hold on, Myra,  
I'll be right there."  
When he got back to the room,  
She was gone  
It was 7:35  
On a quiet Wednesday night  
He'd find out what went wrong  
before too long

You see, down in Charleston this time  
a year,  
at AME, it was bible study night  
Anthony remembers Myra never  
looked more beautiful  
But he didn't get to say goodbye.  
Why oh why

Mother Emanuel, the 17th of June  
Mother Emanuel, he'll be coming soon

At 8pm  
He walked in through the side door  
Took a seat and he listened for an  
hour  
9pm, he stood up and said  
he wanted to start a civil war  
He said, "I'll give you something  
to pray about."  
And then the shots rang out

Mother Emanuel...  
'I become death'  
Mother Emanuel...Jesus wept...  
Mother Emanuel...  
Are you still there?  
Mother Emanuel...Hear my prayer

The blood, it was warm and all  
around her  
Felicia,  
she played dead upon the floor  
Helplessly she laid there and watched  
her son  
take his last breath  
Tawanza took a bullet for his  
mom... 'what's going on?'

Mother Emanuel, 1 Peter 4:8  
Mother Emanuel,  
in the hands of hate  
Mother Emanuel,  
Mercy from above  
Mother Emanuel,  
In the name of love

74 casings on the linoleum  
Around the 9 people in pools of blood  
lie dead  
White man says  
It's all about survival  
It's just fear and hatred in his  
heart and head...that's what he said

Mother Emanuel,  
'Neath the blood-red moon  
Mother Emanuel,  
He'll be coming soon  
Mother Emanuel,  
In the valley of death  
Mother Emanuel,  
Is anybody left?

Seven months later at the hearing  
Felicia confronted  
this desperate man  
She said, "I forgive you son, for the  
evil that you've done  
But it doesn't mean I'll ever  
understand."  
So raise your hand  
Mother Emanuel, 1 Peter 4:8  
Mother Emanuel,  
In the eyes of hate  
Mother Emanuel,  
Mercy from above  
Mother Emanuel,  
In the name of love  
Mother Emanuel, Mother Emanuel  
Mother Emanuel, Mother Emanuel  
Mother Emanuel

## NO MATTER WHAT

Down again...

I got back to my feet before they  
counted ten  
I was burned out and busted from  
my rambling  
Bitching about all the things I could  
have been  
I was still drinkin' then

Here I am

Counting all the ways that I screwed  
up again  
Beaten and battered from a bitter  
wind  
Waiting for that ship never comin' in  
I was still drinkin' then

Yeah but times have changed

I never felt at ease  
Never felt my age  
I was always in a daze  
And looking back it's plain to see  
This ain't the life I thought it'd be  
So when the road starts getting  
rough  
Don't give up, no matter what

Things were crazy man...

I was burning bridges,  
breaking things  
I couldn't mend  
Starting wars and digging holes  
To fall down in  
Gettin' down in beds I should have  
never been  
I was still drinkin' then

I was dodging cars...

Runnin' across the Turnpike  
to another bar  
Stumbling in  
like just another fallen star  
Caught right in the middle  
of a whirlwind  
I was still drinkin' then

Yeah but times have changed

I never felt at ease  
Never felt my age  
I was always filled with rage  
And looking back it's plain to see  
That wasn't who I was meant to be  
One day at a time they say  
A platitude, I know, cliché  
When you feel you've had enough  
Don't give up no matter what

I was an alien...

Snortin' and shootin' into oblivion  
Watching it like a movie someone else  
was in  
I just couldn't see the shape that i  
was in  
I was still drinkin' then

And then something changed

Right through the darkness  
Came a brighter day  
It felt like I'd been saved  
And looking back it's plain to see  
It's a hard life livin' on your knees  
Even when you feel you're cursed  
Things can always get a little worse  
So don't give up no matter what...  
Don't give up no matter what  
Don't give up no matter what  
Don't give up no matter what  
You're worth it...Yeah,  
You're worth it  
You're worth it...  
So don't give up no matter what  
You're worth it

## UNTIL I FOUND YOU

I never knew about the highway  
I had the heart of a runaway  
I never knew what love was  
Until I found you

I never knew understanding  
I never knew real gratitude  
I never really knew what to do  
Until I found you

I never knew what time was  
I never really knew what hope was  
I never even knew what was true  
Until I found you

Until I found you  
I was so haunted by the dreams that  
passed beside me  
Like a ghost  
Until I found you  
Scattered like broken glass  
Were all the things I really needed  
most

I never knew about loyalty  
I never knew about honesty  
I never knew about harmony  
Until I found you

I never knew about language  
I never knew about patience  
I never really knew acceptance  
Until I found you

I never knew about selflessness  
I never knew about loneliness  
I only knew about emptiness  
Until I found you

Until I found you  
It was a struggle  
Against that thing inside of me  
I couldn't kill  
Until I found you  
I was a sickly sailor soldier boy  
Lost on Lonesome Hill

I never knew about heartache  
I never knew about the daybreak  
Life was always like a rattlesnake  
Until I found you

I never knew about tenderness  
I never knew about openness  
I only knew about helplessness  
Until I found you

I never knew about the highway  
I had the heart of a runaway  
I never knew what love was  
Until I found you

POSITIVELY CENTRAL PARK

Once upon a Nightingale  
I've cast the dream of a thousand  
sails  
Hangin' crosses, rusty nails  
Suburban streets and fairytales

I've stood on corners with despair  
And a thousand demons in my hair  
Fear is a fickle carousel  
Well lit the road that leads to hell

Shakespearean monologues  
The pulpit's filled with demagogues  
I try my best to keep my cool  
Sometimes it's smart to play the fool

I'm not sure there's a heaven boys  
Some say it's in Illinois  
If when I die it all goes dark  
Positively Central Park

I'm not sure what's after this  
So can I steal another kiss?  
If you'll love me for eternity  
Would you bury me at Wounded Knee

On every corner of this town  
You watch dreams die  
without a sound  
When the going is getting tough  
Most times I feel i'm not enough

I've drawn your name  
a thousand times  
Across this burnt graffiti sky  
What's in you and what's in me  
Ain't life the strangest mystery?  
I'm not sure there's a heaven though  
I've heard it's up in Idaho  
Hamlet said, " It all goes dark...  
Positively Central Park"

I'm not sure what's after this  
So if this is all there is  
I want you right next to me  
Hand in hand at Wounded Knee

If you knew you just had  
one day left  
Well I bet you wouldn't waste your  
breath  
They say, silence is the voice of God  
Babe, you're all I've built my dreams  
upon

I'm not sure there's a heaven man  
Some say it's in Ireland  
If when I die it all goes dark  
Would you bury me in Central Park

I'm not sure there's a heaven though  
If you wanna babe,  
come on, let's go  
If you'll love me for eternity  
Let's drive on out to Wounded Knee