

## Michael McDermott - Orphans

### Tell Tale Heart

Hey there mama, don't you worry your head  
Let's make the most of our time, in this world we live  
I got a hunger in my soul, i got a fuse that's lit  
Let's go out tonight and see what we can get

We're sitting at the light  
A long way from right  
So sad, so scared, so scarred  
These are the secrets of a tell tale heart

I feel a little like, Mr Dorian Gray  
There are things that i feel, that I'll never say  
Man, It feels like it's all just slipping away  
Misdeeds come with a pretty price to pay

Babe, before we go  
I think you should know  
My bite's worse than my bark  
These are the secrets of a tell tale heart

It's like the weight of the world is upon us now  
We haven't even come that far  
Can we put it back together, somehow  
In the backseat of this car?

Got one in the chamber  
I got one in my hand  
I'm feelin' just a little like Bobby Sands  
There's a part of me you'll never understand  
I'm runnin' out of moves, and I'm runnin' out of plans

Come on Babe, tonight we'll slay  
Those monsters in the dark  
Holdin' the secrets of this tell tale heart  
These are the secrets of a tell tale heart

## The Last Thing I Ever Do

Our brokenness was on display  
I never wanted it this way  
What's that line in that Shakespeare play  
That parting is such sweet sorrow?  
There's no great story, I wish it were  
There's no great scene, it's all a blur  
I can't even say for sure  
Of where I'll be tomorrow

Once more into the breach  
I will return  
There I'll be born anew  
I will break these chains around me tonight  
If it's the last thing I ever do

Katie pulled up a stool  
Let out a sigh  
She said " What is it with this guy?  
It seems no matter how hard I try  
His heart just isn't in it."  
She said " These men, are all the same  
They play with love like a parlor game and  
I'm the moth drawn to the flame, and  
It's gone within a minute."

She said, " So long I've lived here half alive  
Bound together with sticks and glue  
I will break these chains around me tonight  
If it's the last thing I ever do."

I've been pushed and overrun  
Been mocked, mistreated and overcome  
I'll make right, all I've done wrong  
I'll sing to you my love in song

I will rise into the nighttime sky  
Take you in my arms so true  
I will break these chains around me tonight  
If it's the last thing I ever do

Sometimes I wish upon a star  
Thinking about where you are  
You left me with, a little scar  
That I carry everywhere

## Ne'er Do Well

If I were Michaelangelo  
I would hide my work in shame  
I bet even Miss Browning  
Would help me count the ways

If I were a sailor  
I sailed the stormy seas  
If I were your jailer  
I would give you all my keys

As I stand outside this wishing well  
Searching for a dime  
Some might say I'm a ne'er do well  
But at least you still are mine

I recall the feeling  
Of firing my father's gun  
I dreamt we were two outlaws  
Livin' life out on the run

If I were a cowboy  
I rode the open plain  
I'd sit beside the campfire light and write  
Your name in purple sage

If there is a heaven  
Do you think they'd let us in  
Do you think there's true forgiveness  
Will they wash away my sin

If I were still a drunkard  
I would share with you my wine  
If i were still in shadows  
I'd stand to watch you shine

As I check into another cheap hotel  
Man, they all look and smell the same  
Sometimes I just say Ne'er Do Well  
When they ask me for my name

I stand outside the gates of hell  
Waiting to pass on through  
Some might say I'm a ne'er do well  
But at least I still got you  
Yeah, at least I still got you

## Meadowlark

Burned out from the road  
I'm too tired to talk about it  
I wanna go home  
I'm feelin' kind of sick about it  
All the things I wrote  
My judgement still seems so clouded  
You just seem to float  
I'm beside you and I'm drowning

It's a long way from home  
Its gettin' further all the time  
I feel so alone  
In these lonely rooms of wrong and rhyme  
My hands they are slipping  
Down this ever thinning line  
Waiting for the dawn  
I do my best to keep holdin' on

The further that you go  
Between the borderlines of faith and fear  
The less you seem to know  
The more things seem crystal clear  
The more that you get  
The less you feel you really have  
The more you regret  
The more you feel under attack

It's a long way from home  
Further than I've ever been  
I feel so alone  
In this god forsaken state I'm in  
The tether is ripping  
I'm falling behind  
So far gone  
I'll do my best to keep holdin' on

Every once in a while  
I'll tell myself I'll be ok  
You're just a few miles  
And a world away

Every now and then  
I can finally get all the voices  
To silence in my head  
It's a symphony of lousy choices  
And the stupid things I've said  
It's a minefield of darkened forces and  
Unfamiliar beds  
That sets me off on uncharted courses

It's a long way from home

Further than I've ever been  
I feel so alone  
Right back in this town again  
The scales they are tipping  
I'm losing my mind  
Waiting for your call  
I'll do my best to keep holdin' on  
I'll do my best to keep holdin' on

### Sometimes When It Rains in Memphis

Overton Square  
I saw you there  
In that parking lot  
With dreams in your hair  
You said you wanted to get out  
Go anywhere  
Anywhere they didn't know you

Nights on McClean  
Seemed like a dream  
Drivin' around  
More drunk than we seemed  
Feelin' so lost  
Abandoned In-between  
So many things I wanted to show you

Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
I can still hear you call  
Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
We didn't know how far we'd fall

Desperate days over in Cooper Young  
Runnin' like outlaws  
We didn't know what from  
Maybe it was that we were just too dumb  
To know these were the best days of our lives

Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
I can still hear you call  
Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
We didn't know how far we'd fall

Nights cuddled close in that hideaway bar  
Right here, above my left eye...  
I still go that scar  
When you threw that vodka lemonade mason jar  
We laughed as the blood poured down

Madness on Madison  
In a rented white sedan  
Molly's La Casita, you were holding my hand  
There were things about each other

I guess, we'd never understand  
Still, sometimes, I can't help but miss you

Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
I can still hear you call  
Sometimes when it rains in Memphis  
We didn't know how far we'd fall

### Givin' Up The Ghost

Once we were like warriors  
Once we were like kings  
Once we were so young and pure  
Flew on dirty wings  
Fields of your surrender  
Seem like a dream to me now  
What you said, I still remember  
While you were burning down the house

We're givin' up the ghost  
I believe that it's time  
I've been trying so long  
Trying so hard  
But still can't get it right  
We got so close  
But we couldn't read the signs  
Of what mattered most  
And what we couldn't leave behind  
We're givin' up the ghost

After all that we have been through  
After all was said and done  
Remember that the hunter  
Is the hunted one  
Seven years of hunger  
Seven years under the gun  
These days all I do is wonder  
Who we've become

We're givin' up the ghost  
I believe that its time  
Its waiting out there  
It's ours to find  
We got so close  
We couldn't read the sign  
We're givin' up the ghost  
The bells are ringing tonight  
We're givin' up the ghost

Scarlet are the curtains  
That hang inside your room  
I know that you've been hurtin'  
I've been hurtin' too

There's a shadow of a gunman  
Standing next to your bed  
There's a killer on the loose  
He's runnin' free in your head  
Be careful what you wish for  
Be careful what you seek  
Sometimes the strongest  
Appear as the weak  
Sometimes betrayal, is the form of a kiss  
Fear is a jail, when you're feelin' like this  
There's a time to retreat, a time to advance  
So give me one last chance

We're givin' up the ghost  
I believe that its time  
Let's tear down those walls  
That we couldn't climb  
We got so close  
We couldn't read the sign  
Of what matters most  
and what we couldn't leave behind  
We're givin' up the ghost

#### Black Tree, Blue Sky

It felt as if i had somebody  
Tuggin' at my coat  
I was penniless and desperate  
On a sinking boat  
I turned to my oppressor  
To find me, standing there  
I sought my confessor  
It seemed she didn't care  
I looked at her and she at me  
We both looked away  
There was something on our minds  
I guess, we couldn't seem to say  
She smiled and drank her coffee  
In my oversized shirt  
Something deep inside, I guess  
She couldn't hide the hurt

I kissed her on the forehead  
As I put on my coat  
The first thing that I saw outside  
Black Tree, Blue Sky

I've been so out of my mind  
That I woke up in different States  
Somehow checked into cheap motels  
With negotiated rates  
Sometimes there was blood,  
Broken glass, Broken mirrors

Left behind strangers' clothes  
Are the strangest souvenirs  
The night can be so hopeful  
The night can be so free  
In the morning, all you want to do is die  
Black Tree, Blue Sky

I passed by a church I use to pray at  
When I was young  
All the faith that I once had  
Has completely come undone  
In-between the raindrops  
Is where I find a home  
Guided by the darkness  
That looms when I'm alone

I have blown through fortunes  
That were not quite fit a king  
I ain't got much to show  
Sometimes, I feel it sting  
I have opened up my heart  
Only to be hurt  
I've beckoned the Universe  
For the silence to be heard

She must have slipped it in my pocket  
As I put on my coat  
All that was written on it was "Goodbye...  
Black Tree, Blue Sky."

### The Wrong Side of Town

Hey there baby  
I must be crazy coming here  
It seems lately  
I ain't thinking very clear  
I was hoping  
That maybe you'd change your mind  
I ain't joking  
For tonight I think it's ours to find

Come on baby  
Will you ride with me downtown  
Let's get crazy  
Drink our troubles down  
You always save me  
Every time I start to drown  
I'll be waiting  
Tonight on the wrong side of town

Hey there babe  
I must be crazy asking you  
It seems lately

It's all I really wanna do  
I was hoping  
Yeah, that maybe you'd agree  
The doors wide open  
If you wanna take a ride with me

Come on baby  
Will you ride with me downtown  
Let's get crazy  
Drink our troubles down  
You always save me  
Every time I start to drown  
I'll be waiting  
Tonight on the wrong side of town

Feelin' foolish  
The way I always seem to  
All I know is  
I just wanna be with you  
It was my fault  
For doing all the things that I did  
It was your fault  
For loving me through all of it

Let's confront it  
Let's stare into the great abyss  
No more running  
In desperate, lonely nights like this  
If you ain't coming  
I can't say I blame you none  
I've been wondering  
Who it is we really have become

Come on baby  
Will you ride with me downtown  
Let's get crazy  
Drink our troubles down  
You always save me  
Every time I start to drown  
I'll be waiting  
Tonight on the wrong side of town

### Full Moon Goodbye

I know this heart, better than you  
I know its scars, and what it's been through  
I know it's hard, these things that we do  
I'm sorry for those dreams, that never came true

There's something I feel that, nobody knows  
How the loneliness echo's like a murder of crows  
We stood face to face, we looked eye to eye  
In the pale light of mercy with you

In a full moon goodbye

Forgiveness is hard, regrets are so cheap  
There's a war in your heart, and demon filled sleep  
Your heart was a stone, I wasn't meant to keep  
Your love is a prayer, that I will never repeat

I'll carve your initials on the gates of my heart  
So no one would enter, no one dare to start  
I'd give my life for you babe, I don't even know why  
I let go of your hand, my love, in a full moon goodbye

Funny is not the word, it's not funny at all  
I feel so absurd, still here, climbing up the walls  
There's white noise, and detours, and songs I can't sing  
I'm not even sure, what the hell, is wrong with me

I will confess, I was a mess  
The night I spilled wine, and blood on your dress  
It hurts more than I, than I could have guessed  
I want you to know, that I wish you the best

There's something I feel that, nobody knows  
How the loneliness echoes like a murder of crows  
Did fate play a hand, or did we just collide  
In the pale light of mercy, with you and a full moon goodbye

I know this heart, better than you

### Richmond

That house had been in my family  
Over 100 years  
My father always made sure  
We spent our summers there  
When my brother said he'd sold it  
I shed me some tears  
Now I'm goin' back to Richmond

I'm goin' back to Richmond  
I wonder if she's there  
I remember summer nights out on  
The James River Pier  
My brother always came through  
In buying us beer  
Now I'm goin' back to Richmond

I got voices in my head telling me, I'm insane  
"Why the hell not?" is now my favorite refrain

My grandfather worked down in the Chesterfield mines  
My father moved up north in 1949  
"Give me Liberty or Death" he'd say

When he drank moonshine  
I'm goin' back to Richmond

I'm goin' back to Richmond  
I'll leave later this week  
Gonna buy Colonial Downs  
and start a new winning streak  
I'll sit there by myself and hear  
*Reveille* on repeat  
Now I'm goin' back to Richmond

Funny when you try to make sense of the past  
Funny how you see the things, you thought would last

Maybe I'll rent a room this weekend  
Down in Shockoe Slip  
Maybe I'll lie low and bum around town a bit  
Maybe I'll go and watch her working  
See who she is hangin' with  
I'm goin' back to Richmond

The person that you were and the one you became  
Someday come face to face, down on memory lane

If she's really happy then I'll be on my way  
Come Monday, pick up the money  
Waiting down at the bank  
Maybe I'll leave a little note beneath her wiper blade  
That reads, "I hope all is forgiven, remember slow dancing to *Nightswimming*  
I'll never forget you or Richmond."

### Los Angeles, A Lifetime Ago

Hey Little Santa Monica  
You're looking good,  
Baby How've you been?  
I can't remember when I saw you last  
Was it the night, I took it on the chin  
I was bruised and bedeviled  
Up in Beachwood Canyon that day  
I had my foot on the pedal  
Yet I couldn't seem to drive away....no way  
I don't know what I was thinking  
It's hard to say now, I know  
That was Los Angeles, A lifetime ago

Polly stumbled into Bordners  
She'd been up for 36 hours straight  
She said "You know, this time tomorrow  
I'll be married to a guy, from a fly over State."  
Bella always came to see me  
At least every couple of days

I remember that night down on Melrose  
When she smiled and said " I think it's better this way, so long babe."  
Some dreams don't die easy  
Some dreams don't ever seem to grow  
That was Los Angeles, a lifetime ago

I was high, up on Highland  
Trying to make it back to the 101  
The pirates over on Mansfield  
Had so much fun, until it all came undone

Some angels just ride easy  
Some angels fall so hard  
If by chance, you don't believe me  
Take a walk down Hollywood Boulevard  
Tony Ciao Ciao moved downtown  
Cassidy and Me in Silver Lake  
We got so tired of hanging around  
Just waiting on our big break, which never came  
A part of me still lives there  
Where the Santa Ana winds still blow  
That was Los Angeles, a lifetime ago  
Midnight at Formosa  
Hey Johnny Mercer is on the radio  
That was Los Angeles, a lifetime ago

#### What If Today Were My Last

What if today were my last  
Would I be happy with the way that I lived  
Would I be proud I stood up to the wicked  
Or be sad with what I didn't give  
Would I take what I learned out of loving  
Repair all the prayers of the past  
You never really know what's coming  
What if today were my last

What if today I did laugh  
My spirit did dance like a child  
What if I found you a fallen rainbow  
Gave it to you with a ribbon and smiled  
Was I generous enough with my heart  
Did I wear my pride like a mask  
What if today I were to meet my maker  
What if today, were my last

Once we were like warriors  
Those days soon came to pass  
Once we were like sunshine  
What if today, were my last

What if today were my last  
Would I be happy with the way that I lived  
Would my friends all raise a glass  
My trespasses, they would forgive  
Would there be such tears and laughter  
Boy, it all goes by so fast  
Today, I'm gonna make me some changes  
What if today, were my last