



Michael McDermott (1995)

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Bells

It's been a long time girl, since I
slipped inside your world
It's almost like I've never even been
there
Though the battle's just begun I feel
the damage has been done
And I know there's nothing left that
we could repair
Sermons were sung and seven psalms
were hung
On the walls of my dyin' faith
I'm just waitin' for them bells to ring

There's a statesman in the yard,
preachin' like some bandit bard
But me, I move along most unaffected
I never noticed the decay or when
things didn't go my way
Life's everything I ever expected
With my warrior mask and ignoble
task
Listen to the hunter, whispering
He's just waitin' for, just waitin' for
them bells to ring

Singin' hey hey la, hey la hey, hey
hey la, hey la hey
Just waitin' for them bells to ring
If I gave you my heard, could you
heal it
If I gave you my song, would you sing
it
Lets sing it all night long

Though the lines have been drawn, in
the breaking of the dawn
I will cross this bridge prepared to
fight
And though my blood may soon be
shed, I feel that peace lies up ahead
Near the belfry's healing light
And ring if it does, like Picasso's
peaceful dove
I will fly free, far away.
I'm just waitin' for, waitin' for them

bells to ring

Singin' hey hey la, hey la hey, hey
hey la, hey la hey
Just waitin' for them bells to ring

Ringin' out from the mountains
Ringin' out from the valleys
Ringin' out for my homeland
And the blood in the alley
Ringin' out for the drunk ones
Ringin' out for the sober
Ringin' out for the lover, who knows
that its over
Ringin' out for the hungry
Ringin' out for the homeless
Ringin' out for the righteous
Ringin' out for the hopeless
Ringin' out in the blackness
Ringin' out for the soldier
Ringin' out for the future, waitin' over
your shoulder
Ringin' out for the sinner
Singin' out for the accuser
Ringin' out for the winner
Ringin' out for the loser
Ringin' out for the orphan
And the disbeliever
Ringin' out for the honest
And the deceiver
Ringin' out for me
Ringin' out for you

And all the things that we've been
through
Hey hey la, hey la hey, hey hey la,
hey la hey
Just waitin' for them bells to ring

Michael McDermott

My Own Little World

Gregory, it's good to see that you're still looking good
I bet Miss Reed would agree to see me if she only
could

I had dinner with Rita, I met Bogey for a drink
By my second whiskey straight, I began to think
That I'll be fine, in my own little world
Just doing my time in my own little world
It ain't no crime baby, cuz I'm just fine
In my own little world

I went boozin' with Bukowski, down Desolation Row
Oscar Wilde dug my stuff, I swear he told me so
When realities revelations come slowly creepin' in
Most times it doesn't matter, by then I'm three sheets
to the wind
I'm just fine, in my own little world
Just doing my time in my own little world
It ain't no crime baby, cuz I'm just fine
In my own little world

I can't say for certain, just why I feel this way
I spend all the money I don't have, just dreamin' it
away
From Olivier to Daniel Day, from Oldman to Tyrone
I've been everywhere I care to go without ever leavin'
home
I'm just fine, in my own little world
Just doing my time in my own little world
It ain't no crime baby, cuz I'm just fine
In my own little world

Michael McDermott

Forever

Ancient summer winds were telling, tales of a broken
hearted past
Upon the ridge where the innocent were dwelling
They say that the storm is gonna pass
I know I was the one who wouldn't settle down
I know I was the one who'd never stay
I know I was the one who always screwed around
And made things the way they are today
Tell me one more time you love me
Tell me now before we part
Tell me that you'll be thinking of me
And I'll remain, forever in your heart

I'm sorry that I couldn't give you
The things you needed from me
But you said, "Don't worry babe, I'll forgive you"
For not being who I needed you to be
Just tell me one more time you love me
and how you knew it from the start
Tell me that you'll be thinking of me
And I'll remain, forever in your heart

In the fog filled fields where I last saw you
It was if an angel had reappeared to me
But there was nothing either of us could say or do
It was the strangest epiphany
Cuz after all this time, I've finally realized
That you aren't mine anymore, and you'll never...
You'll never be again
Would you do me one last favor
Would you do me one last favor before you leave
For this beauty I will forever savor
And wear this ugliness forever on my sleeve
Just tell me one more time you love me
Say it before we both fall apart
Tell me that you'll be thinkin' of me
And I'll remain, forever in your heart
Cuz you'll remain...forever in my heart
Tell me one more time you love me...

Michael McDermott

Forgotten

Crimson veils and fairy tales and lights that seem familiar
There's a doorway to the temple, there's a spell that I've been under
Given by the spirits swimming, in the waters of redemption
When I look into your eyes there is a truth I fail to mention
But I do believe in nothing short of anything I've hoped to be
I do denounced all that I know and the demons they're so proud of me
You dazzle me with tragedy and sorcery and mirrors
You say that we are blinded, but you say that God is near us

But what you want, you want, you want, you want,
You get it doesn't matter how
What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding right beside you
What you want you want, you want, you want
You get it doesn't matter how
What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding like some sacred cow
I will walk, I will conquer this, I will walk, burning right beside you
I will walk, I will conquer this, because this love must never be forgotten

You sketch your charcoal days with arms that move like you are drowning
But no line cast out from any shore could stop the endless pounding
Of a mind in disarray and a heart that sure seems broken,
In the stables of your dormant dreams the truth remains unspoken
Sounding with the snarl of engines running I heard voices,
Seeking solace in the silkened streams of jewels and rejoices
Your servants guard your castle, victims lie like wounded soldiers
In a war that you created, with one shrug of your shoulders

But what you want, you want, you want, you want,
You get it doesn't matter how

What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding right beside you
What you want you want, you want, you want
You get it doesn't matter how
What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding like some sacred cow
I will walk, I will conquer this, I will walk, burning right beside you
I will walk, I will conquer this, because this love must never be forgotten
Remember gargoyles guard your ancient attics almost ailing
Swallowed by the circus dreams within these raven walls a wailing
Tortured by the tongues of serpents poisoned like a promise
You smile while I am writhing, for your malice is so honest

But what you want, you want, you want, you want,
You get it doesn't matter how
What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding right beside you
What you want you want, you want, you want
You get it doesn't matter how
What you need, you need, you need to see me bleeding like some sacred cow
I will walk, I will conquer this, I will walk, burning right beside you
I will walk, I will conquer this, because this love must never be forgotten

Say Hey Charlie Boy

He came from Louisiana, just outside of Baton Rouge
With the remnants of a switchblade dream,
He thought that he could lose
He had eyes like tombstone jewels, like the distance
that he'd come
Endlessly seeking victory, in a war that could not be
won

So say hey Charlie Boy what'd you go and do
You said it felt like everything was closing in on you
You said you were feeling burned out, lost and so
confused
Say hey Charlie Boy

He rode the Wichita Rail, through southern Illinois
Then he left after a year and a half, tried his luck up
in Detroit
He played the ponies in Kentucky, until the money
had run out
I knew there was a reason he came here, but I didn't
know what it was about
Charlie fit right in, but around here it's not that hard
I met him playing ball on a Saturday, in old man
Murphy's yard
Now Virginia she was a beauty, but she wasn't the
smartest girl around
It was like out of some movie, watchin' those two
walk through the town

Say hey Charlie Boy what'd you think of that
How I loved to see you dancin' with that Huck Finn
hat
We had three great endless summers until you crossed
that cat
Say hey Charlie Boy

He came over one day in September, he said,
"Michael my ship's come in
I got a tip on a horse runnin' in the fifth, called No
Ordinary Gin.
I put a grand with the Midtown man and I got two
yards with Bobby Boulevard
Post Time ain't until three o'clock. Man, here comes
your wild card."

Say he Charlie Boy, what'd you do that for
Things were goin' good, like they never had before

I begged you not to do it, but you still walked out that
door
Say hey Charlie Boy

He was haunted by his future, he was haunted by his
past
He was haunted by the truest love, that he knew just
wouldn't last

No one ever saw Charlie again, and now I feel like
we never will
Virginia waits with the coldest eyes you've ever seen
Up on Charlie's favorite hill
The fifth had a photo finish...No Ordinary Gin lost by
a nose
If Bobby or the Midtown Man got our Charlie Boy...
Well...no one around here really knows

Say Hey Charlie Boy, you fucked it up again
I guess the sayin' is true, "All good things must end"
Maybe you never noticed, but in me you had a friend
Say hey Charlie Boy, Say hey Charlie Boy
So say goodbye to our Charlie Boy
Say goodbye...

Suzie's Got a Brand New Hat

With her sketchbook in her hand, she's walkin'
barefoot
Stoppin' by the jewelry stand, she's lookin' real good
No one's sure of where she comes from, cuz she'll
never really say
She'll tell you her father's up in Boston
And her brother's a dealer just south of Santa Fe
She never wears nothin' in her hair, she always let it
flow down her back...
But now...

Suzie's got a brand new hat...Imagine that
Suzie's got a brand new hat

She was workin' as a waitress, in an upper west side
bar
On that night we met in August, who'd of thought it'd
come this far
But something looks different today
I can't put my finger on it
She's no ordinary girl, and that's no ordinary bonnet
She never wears nothin' in her hair, she always let it
flow down her back
But now...

Suzie's got a brand new hat...Imagine that
Suzie's got a brand new hat...Imagine that
There's got to be more...More to this than that

She said, "I gotta fear of settling, for the first thing
that comes along"
She said, "I could tell you that I love you, but I think
that that'd be wrong."
She always reads aloud this poem, when her fears
begin to escalate
It speaks about direction and liberation, and carryin'
that weight
She said, "It's like I'm startin' over, my time has come
at last."
And that's the reason...

Suzie's got a brand new hat...Imagine that
Suzie's got a brand new hat...Walkin' real proud
Suzie's got a brand new hat...Imagine that

Michael McDermott

Summer Days

In the middle of the night her mama took her last
breath
Threw her lovin' arms around the angel of death
She didn't know what to do, been takin' care of
mama for so long
Mama always told her, "girl, stand up and be strong
like a woman."

"Da's gone back to work, and thank God for that
It's been six months since he had had that mild heart
attack
My sister Margaret, she got married, and moved
across town,
But when Brendan gets to drinkin', you don't want to
be around,
If you're a woman"

She said, "Do you remember those summer days
I'd go see every lousy gig you played
I swear I hung on every word you ever sang when no
one listened.
I was gonna be your heroine across the silver screen
We held each others hands as if they were our
dreams
Now those days are just distant memories and how I
miss them
How I miss them..."

"I was takin care of Ma and things were going along
just fine,"
As far as my life...It wasn't what I had in mind
I heard your last record,...I thought it was great
I never heard much about it,...but at least you
escaped
I never made it as an actress, but I guess that's pretty
clear
I don't know where I'm goin' from here,...
Just feelin' disconnected,...like we felt all along.
Maybe one of these days Michael,...you'll write me a
song
About a woman"

She said, "Do you remember those summer days
I'd go see every lousy gig you played
I swear I hung on every word you ever sang when no
one listened.
I was gonna be your heroine across the silver screen

We held each others hands as if they were our
dreams
Now those days are just distant memories and how I
miss them"
How I miss them... and I miss you too, I miss you too,
I do

Michael McDermott

Deirdre Dances

I no longer know what I want, I no longer know what I need
I no longer know what I'm doing here,
I no longer know what to believe
All I ever wanted was the water,
All I ever got was the land
All I want is to, fly away with you
But these days, I can barely stand
I used to believe in the angels
I used to believe in she
There's a dark rope, from which my love dangles
And she swings as a reminder for me

I no longer know what I want,
I no longer know what I need
I no longer know what I'm doing here,
I no longer know what to believe

Harboring thoughts, I should have long forgotten
Gazing at stars I thought once shined for me
Knowing the fruits of my youth, have turned rotten
Cuz I don't know who I'm supposed to be
Maybe I'm a hero, who's been misdirected
Maybe I'm a knight who was born out of time
Maybe I'm an orphan, who's just been rejected
Or just a prisoner, confronting his crime

Deirdre dances like beauty designed,
By the Gods that have never known man
To this idea, I am hereby resigned
That my God has some sort of plan....she moves like
this
She can heal me...

You're plowing your fields of desire
Well I got some fields of my own
But my land has been burned by the fire
My maker wants me to atone
And I ask thee if I have offended
I ask thee what else could it be?
It's just that I never expected
This kind of thing, to happen to me
And yet, Sunday is still no companion
I'm sorry I have strayed so far from thee

I no longer know what I want, I no longer know what I need
I no longer know what I'm doing here, I no longer

know what to believe
I no longer know what I want, I no longer know what I need
I'll ride these mystical horses, to see where the day is going to lead
I no longer know what I want, I no longer know what to believe
But when Deirdre dances...

Michael McDermott

Legendary

We were just a day away from failure,
Confronting what we feared
But I stole the keys from the jailer
And we walked right out of here
When we were a minute from our capture
I covered you in doubt
I'm sorry if I let you down
I swear, I'll figure this whole thing out

You can pray to the Father, you can pray to Mary
But I already know, we're gonna be legendary
They try to convince us, that we're ordinary,
But I already know we're gonna be legendary
Yeah, I already know we're gonna be legendary

I don't blame you for leavin'
In fact, I don't blame you at all
Nobody wants to be around
When a man is about to fall
You spoke to me...words of honor
You spoke to me...words so true
I don't know if your prayers, count for much around
here
But even if they do

You can pray to the Father, you can pray to Mary
But I already know, we're gonna be legendary
They try to convince us, that we're ordinary,
But I already know we're gonna be legendary
Yeah, I already know we're gonna be legendary

It doesn't matter who you are
You're never who you want to be
I'm sure on some given days
You curse the day that you met me
You play your games of indifference
But your eyes reveal the pain
You say that time may heal the wounds
But the scars, they will remain

You can pray to the Father, you can pray to Mary
But I already know, we're gonna be legendary
They try to convince us, that we're ordinary,
But I already know we're gonna be legendary
Yeah, I already know we're gonna be legendary

Michael McDermott

Wounded

All the pretty horses, dancin' in that moonlit field
Me with my gun, you with your shield
I can't recall what, but I know,
Something was concealed that day
Then, there at first, it seemed just like a curse
I collapsed outside your well
Dying of thirst
I reeked of self deception, things couldn't have
seemed much worse
I any way
There it is again, it's tearin' me apart
It might be my mind, my liver, or this restless heart

I'm gonna wash my hands in the water
I'll dry them in the garden's dirt
I'm too tired for sleeping
I'm too wounded to hurt

Do you recall how we were blessed
In those hours when we confessed
We swore faith to each other
Through the doorways of innocence
Was it fate, was it luck, or was it coincidence
We were together?
Yeah, but still somehow, you press on
Carryin' that weight
Your eyes get heavy, when you speak of love and
hate
But you lied to me, when you spoke
And swore that you'd wait for me, forever...and ever
Beaten by the forces, ceaselessly spinnin' around
There's only one recourse for this silly lookin' clown

I'm gonna wash my hands in the water
I'll dry them in the garden's dirt
I'm too tired for sleeping
I'm too wounded to hurt
I've ascended to the bottom
Now I've got you in my view
I've been this low, many times before
My friend, it's nothin' new
I stop myself when I start to think
That there's nothin' I can do anymore
I'll envelop the mystery of the skies
I'll reproach the moon and stars
I'll enjoy all of your dismay
And I'll push you way too far
My soul feels just like leather, for you're painted it

With the scars that you adore
I will implore, this dirty sky for rain
To wash away my iniquities, so I may rise again

I'm gonna wash my hands in the water
I'll dry them in the garden's dirt
I'm too tired for sleeping
I'm too wounded to hurt

Michael McDermott

Come Around Mary

It seems so quiet around here lately
Ever since she stopped coming around
I don't now what it is that shakes me
Every time the sun starts going down
Is it the laughter of the moonbeams
Or the look in her eyes I can't forget
Is it the way the wind blows through these fields
In a night, covered with regret

So won't you come around Mary
With that sweet sad angels smile
Won't you come around Mary
At least every once in a while

She was high as an angel, down in Soho
But her eyes spoke of the sadness in her heart
She spoke of the wrong side of the rainbow
And how she's been there from the start
She spoke of loves lonesome witness
She talked to me about going home
The last time I saw her she was flyin'
Stumblin' down Houston all alone

So won't you come around Mary
With that sweet sad angels smile
Won't you come around Mary
At least every once in a while

She came to me last night in a dream
She had eyes of wonder, or somewhere in between
The daylight and the moonlight of her death

So won't you come around Mary
Say mama, where've you been
So won't you come around Mary
We'd love to see you again
We'd all love to see you again

Michael McDermott

It's Killing Me

It wouldn't stop, I wouldn't let it, it reminded me to
forget it
If you have a chance I'd bet it, all on me to win
I'd avoid it altogether, but confrontation's always
better
Are those wings or are those feathers, are we ready
to begin
Feeding off my desire, and the few souls I admire
I will reach into the fire, and hope I don't get burned
I've destroyed all that I've built, I feel free from any
guilt
This flower's begun wilt, since the truth of me has
been learned

It's almost entertaining, the struggling and the
straining
Believe me I'm not complaining, I've signed up for this
shit
It's Killin me ... and I like it

I'd laugh and it'd be easy, but what if someone sees
me
So go ahead and tease me, I'll do my best to block it
out
Will li cease or prevail, in this incomprehensible jail
Cuz I've been down this lowly trail, I know what its
about
Addictions, restrictions, and mental afflictions
With my deluded depictions of the way I see my life
Perversion, aversions, and my secret subversions
I embrace these dark excursions, for it clarifies the
light

It's almost entertaining, the struggling and the
straining
Believe me I'm not complaining, I've signed up for this
shit
It's Killin me ... and I like it

Michael McDermott