



PAUL JAY SONGBOOK

3/2020

ATTN:

OLD CASBAH
ICE DANCER (1)
NEEDYNEEDY
WORLD'S GREATEST SOMETHING
I LOVE JESUS (BUDDHA MOHAMED
ABRAHAM AND YOU)
DREAM ASTRONETTE
FRIDAY NIGHT (2)
MARRIED A DANCER (3)
HUEVOS RANCHEROS
PENCIL ME IN (1)
PUT YR MONEY WHERE YR MOUTH IS
MARITIME FOGTOWN
LOVE LETTERS AND CHECKS
BODANGO BAY
RIDE THE RAILS (2)
DESIGNATED DRIVER (2)
Y R U IN TEARS
BACKHOE (2)
SINCE U DIED (1)
IRON IN THE FIRE
WHAT A DRAG

DRIZZLE

MAMA WAS A KIDDER
TAKE IT LYING DOWN
ALABASTER BUDDHA
NORTHERN BOULEVARD (1)
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO LA
MARIANO SHUT THE DOOR
DRIVING A TRACTOR (4)
ILLUSIONS IN THE SAND (5)
MOUNTAIN IN THE SKY (5)
HEY JOSEPHINA (5)
NOBADEER (5)
DEAR SIR OR MADAM (5)
I DUG MY OWN GRAVE
VACATION IN PASSAIC
THE MIRAMACHEE
I ONLY SLEEP WITH MY GUITAR
AVENUE X
DIVORCE SONG
SPRING IN MY APARTMENT
DON'T GO

ATTN:

Bring the rain bring the sun
bring every thought in your cranium
bring some gum
Cause in the summer time
when I'm spinning round
in the wrong direction
no one telling me
how it's gonna be
calls for speculation
when our worlds collide
will I keep a shred of pride
will there be aviation

Bring the hot bring the cool
bring your hair bring your swimming pool
I'll bring the drool
Will we make it work will we all be jerks
calls for speculation
will we roll our eyes when the other cries
give me some attention
will need to call on biscuits and alcohol
to bring about elation

Bring the day bring the night
bring your heels bring your leopard tights
it's alright
when the time is right
when it's time to bite
then no hesitation
I cannot recall where the apple falls
calls for speculation a world gone plaid
on every trampoline under the sun
You get my attention

Bring the good bring the bad
bring every love that you ever had
every galahad that you ever knew
every loss welling up inside
let them drain away to another day
never learning any lesson
when you stop and pray
at an internet cafe
seeking your redemption
when the good turns strange
and it's time to rearrange
you get my attention

OLD CASBAH

Where were you when the TV set broke
down
and the radio refused to play a Zevon tune
all alone with the dogs running round your
head
were they being walked, were they being
fed?
and if the night is long enough
will you go rolling out off bed
heading for the old casbah

Na nanana na nana na na na

Ans I hear you're ready for adventure
so damn bored you don't know what to do
looking for the licking of a big cat daddy
whispering in your ear
songs of love songs of fear
and if the night is long enough
you will dry your tears
on the curtains of the old casbah

Na nanana na nana na na na

And I hear you're interested in music
the rhythm of the night that's music too
the heavy breathing of a song about a heart
crying out in pain
the miseries of glamor and champagne
and if the night is long enough
we'll be crying out your name
on the stage of the old casbah

Na nanana na nana na na na

And I hear you're interested in history
I find history interesting too
now I don't care about the what when where
that happened so long ago
All I know is I'm interested in you
and if the night is long enough
history will come true
what else can it do at the old casbah

Na nanana na nana na na na

ICE DANCER

Oooh Ice dancer
I want to know

Will we go out for a spin
in the middle of the lake where the ice is thin
with our hands together will we fall in
spin around and do it again
will we ice dancer

Can you imagine the ease
with which you could bring another man to
his knees
but you're skating in circles on a very thin
sheet
will it hold us both will the sheet stand the
heat
Will it ice dancer I want to know

Do your figure eights I can wait forever
do your magazine covers they look so great
do your midnight rendezvous I'll be there
waiting for you
waiting ice dancer

BARRICADE

You made me promise
never put up a barricade
after all the trauma
now you're blocking my motorcade
please let me love you
every night I pray
to wake up beside you
with nothing in the way
And you are not afraid
behind your barricade
I'm standing on the barricade,
knock the sucker down
chest of drawers and 2X4's
floating to the ground

Behind your barricade

I've taken my prescription
guess it's an even trade
but you turned down the thermostat
and you put up a barricade
my eyes are bloodshot my voice it shakes
in any case my cake is baked
in any case you've got yourself a date
why did we have to wait?
And you are not afraid
behind your barricade
I'm standing on the barricade
it's standing on me
knock the sucker down
chest of drawers and 2X4's

floating to the ground

You wanna be my honey bee
got an extra cup of jasmine tea
got a little extra room for me
behind your barricade
behind your barricade

Oh it's nice here
behind your barricade
the birds in the trees, babbling brook behind
your barricade
crackers and cheese!
behind your barricade.

NEEDYNEEDY

I need a pain-relieving lubricating cough-
suppressing something for my eyeballs
I need a doctor and a lawyer and a dentist
anybody on call
I need a cigarette a whiskey and a gallon of
tea
a trip to the mall and a sprinkle of your pity
love and devotion patient understanding
a soft landing a trip to the mall and that's
all
that should do me for a while
cause needy needy needy needy needy
needy's not my style

I need a financier who has no fear a cold
beer and a red brassier and a ticket out of
here
on a rip tide a suicide and tough hide and a
burning spear
I need a carburetor for my rusty Dodge
a licensed shrink in my garage
a priest for my hole an accountant for my
hole and
a fairy god mother and a divorcee and that's
all
that should do me for a while
cause needy needy needy needy needy
needy's not my style

I need a stock tip that won't drip a bullwhip
on my hip a pistol in my belt loop
a publicist who won't be dissed a bodyguard
with iron fists
a hot and sour soup
I need to go skiing in a crater of the moon
a full orchestra for when I think up a tune
to get along with everybody ex-wives and
old flames and

always have somebody to blame and that's
all
that should do me for a while
cause needy needy needy needy needy
needy's not my style

WORLD'S GREATEST SOMETHING
You're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what
The unrecognized champion of
yet to be determined
smarter than a ring ding
tougher than a donut
don't see that a lot
but for you to make a spurt
you got to step out of the forest
stop living in a yurt
you're the world's greatest something a
nd I don't know what

you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what
the world needs you and you sure need it
never gonna be a perfect fit
you march to the beat of a digital drum kit
own all the land as far as you can spit
you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what

you're the world's greatest something and I
don't know what
a knight in shining armor-all
idling your rocket
up dating your dial tone so
throw the house a bone
don't let them put you down
don't make it you they own
you're the world's greatest something
and smarter than a clown
and better than the rest at I don't know what

you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what
Championship material of
yet to be determined
are you looking for an easy chair or
just looking to park it
tapping on your glue trap
trying to unlock it
looking at your feet
wondering what their purpose is

probably useful if you have to take a wiz
well get up on em and find out
what your business is
you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what

you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what
if you're looking for a cupcake
I'm sorry we don't stock it
you're lookin' for some dirt
it's right there in your pocket
Not surprising that you're rising
sign of things to come
Don't want to put the pressure on
but you're gonna need some
Life has never been a game of playing dumb
get their respect or
you'll only get their crumbs
you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what
you're the world's greatest something
and I don't know what

I LOVE JESUS (BUDDHA MOHAMED
ABRAHAM AND YOU)
I love Jesus Buddha Mohamed
Abraham and you
I love Jesus Buddha Mohamed
the Dalai Lama and you
and it's the only reason that I
put up with the things that you do

I was reading the Bible
good tips on survival
and I was reading the Koran
teach you girls how to treat your man
and I was reading the Torah
by the light of a menorah
and I was reading the book of the dead
it was way over my head

and I was reading a sermon
by the light of a Kentucky Bourbon
and I was reading theology
made me get down on my knees

You're not the only thing in my life
I got religion you can cut with a knife
I got an attitude you can eat with a spoon
and we're going to heaven by way of the
devil moon

DREAM ASTRONETTE

Deep in the bowels of a space ship
a sailor writes a love letter to 8939

As you float by my cabin door
I catch your blue-metal eye and with a sigh
sink to the cabin floor
must be space crazy

lost and adrift
on a fading solar wind
that blew us away from the galaxy and
onto a time reef where we'll stay
wasting away

The captain said what to avoid
is a passion for an android
never never let them do you
they'll use you for a solenoid
and zap you into memory

You're my dream dream astronette
more than just a memory
tell me what I'm doing here
this and that and nothing like the flash of a
wiz bang

The first mate was dead
the cook smelled like a vegetable the crew
looked pretty run down
nobody spoke about the mutiny the captain
had to put down
in a fracas on the landing ground

the star-watcher said
it's almost today
it will remain yesterday till
every last minute has been
swept up and put away
and the captain says aye

the captain said
one of you is leaking
I've been down in #9 there's Argon like hell
and it isn't her's it isn't mine
and it sure ain't nostrasnger

It's my dream, dream astronette
more than just a memory
tell me what I'm doing here
this and that and nothing

like the flash of a wiz bang

The android said there's nothing to eat
if the field was ionized we could load on
some heat
and cook a couple dozen cherry pies but the
void is complete

the android said
if there was some gravity we'd lie in bed all
day long but in this weightless space
we'd only risk relationship decay
and love might drift away
with me dream, dream astronette
more than just a memory....

FRIDAY NIGHT

Your first boyfriend was a milkman
he liked to come at noon
He like to ask permission
to write letters and to use the phone
Your next boyfriend was a four flusher
playing Chopin on the slide trombone
rarely home on a gig night working
send you running home all alone
I can see you now way back when
jumping from a trapeze looking for a friend
Don't know much but I know it's not right
to have my baby blue on a Friday night
Cause it's Friday night

Every love was a fairy tale
you got mail to prove it but you're trying to
see
your way through the wicked woods
that would lead you eventually to me
Is there nothing I can say or do
top make a believer out of you
We've all screwed up and we've all earned
some forgiveness
learned that most of what we say just isn't
true
I can see you now way back when
jumping from a trapeze looking for a friend
It can't be right
to have my baby blue
on a Friday night
cause it's Friday Night!

It's Friday night and the the week's work's
done
it's Friday night and the devil's on the run
It's Friday night and the setting of the sun

It's Friday night
 I'm gonna hold you tight
 cause it's Friday night
 If we look back we will turn to stone
 and if we see each other we won't need a
 phone
 cause it's Friday night
 It's FRIDAY NIGHT!!

MARRIED A DANCER

I could have married a diva
 she's sing me to sleep at night
 in the back of her long white limo
 there's never a reason to fight
 never a reason to fight

or I could have married a nurse
 I could have done much worse
 with her hands on my forehead
 and my hand in her purse
 I could have married a nurse

O I could have married a stewardess
 so high in the sky
 with her blue uniform and her hostess' smile
 together we would fly
 together we would fly

Or I could have married a lawyer
 she's protect me from false accusations
 she's count up all of my money
 and adjust it for inflation

But I should never have married a dancer
 that was never the answer
 I should never have married a dancer at all
 a dancer at all

Or I could have married a mommy
 she's fill up the house with kids
 at least we'd have plenty of company
 down there on the skids
 down there on the skids

Or I could have married a model
 the desire of every man
 and to be perfectly honest
 that was my original plan

but I should never have married a dancer
 that was never the answer
 I should never have married a dancer at all

a dancer at all

HUEVOS RANCHEROS

At the Camino Real
 I was feeling pretty swell
 the I went up to her room
 and now I look like hell
 after a night like that
 after her embrace
 after candle light
 dancing on her face
 we made love so many time
 like a suicide
 and I jumped into the pool
 every time she cried

Now I need huevos rancheros
 after a night like that
 I need hues rancheros
 and all the coffee you can spare
 per favor!

At the Camino Real I didn't have a room
 she stepped in off her plane
 a bride without a groom
 after a
 followed by a kiss
 followed by champagne
 then before I knew
 I needed huevos rancheros
 after a night like that
 I need huevos rancheros

and all the coffee you can spare

At the Camino Real
 the lover's dance was wild
 she cried just like a woman
 I cried just like a child
 and the moment that I knew
 she's the one for me
 she kicked me out of bed
 she called me history

Now I need huevos rancheros
 after a night like that
 I need hues rancheros
 and all the coffee you can spare
 per favor!

PENCIL ME IN

The best thing to do
 when you get back from Cleveland

is pencil me in you don't need a reason
pencil me in for a definite maybe
cause I mean maybe baby
maybe it's time

The best thing to do a week from Monday
is call to confirm
no doubt in my mind
pencil me in I'm down on my knees for a
definite maybe
cause I mean maybe baby
maybe it's time

You're not the kind of girl that messes
around
with the kind of guy who won't let go
but it's the kind of night we could be
messaging around
with the big emotion
we'll have a ball and it won't mean anything
at all
just mean a good time
so pencil me in

The best thing to do when you work out your
feelings
whatever time and place
that you find appealing
pencil me in for a definite maybe
cause I mean maybe baby
maybe it's time
to get down to business

PUT YR MONEY WHERE YR MOUTH IS
Put your money where your mouth is
and kiss it goodbye
cause everything you're saying
is a dirty sounding lie
the truth comes out that's a good time to cry
put your money where your mouth is
and kiss it goodbye
I know your dog is in the shop I know your
car got sick
I know your aunt in Texas needs her meds
but her name is Dick
as long as we're in La La land and waiting for
Saint Nick
you're wondering if your fairytale will stick
putting cash behind your word would be
absurd
cause every thing you're saying is a pretty
sounding lie
truth comes out that's a good time to cry

put your money where your mouth is and
kiss it goodbye

There's an oil spill in Congress
a snowball's chance in hell
think tanks churning out
tons of false intel
the one who gets forgotten is
the poor sick mother earth
being killed by the very children to whom she
gave birth

I know when I die I'll go to paradise
unless I'm a sinner then it's all fire and ice
unless I kiss the feet of
the naked Jesus Christ
then the gates will open up real nice
at the gates you have to be the right religion
so the good lord don't have to decide
it's nice to believe this stuff but holy moly
put your money where your mouth is and
kiss it goodbye.

MARITIME FOGTOWN

In a maritime fog town after
storms on the sea
we jury-rigged home to get into the lee
I'm looking for you are you looking for me
in as maritime fog town
nothing is easy

In maritime fog town we tempted the fates
when your sweet sister left for
the United States
suddenly you and me eternal love
in a maritime fog town
it's never enough

So I shaved my whiskers put on my best suit
got whiskey and cigarettes a smugglers loot
and stopped in a bar there to
loosen my tongue
in a maritime fog town it's only begun

In a maritime fog town I lost my way
I remember your room was
three block from the quay
but in which direction I cannot recall
in a maritime fog town I walk through the
wall

In a maritime fog town I knock on your door
where is the girl that was here before
did she leave me a note is she

America bound
in a maritime fog town
I stumble around

In a maritime fog town I track you down
you're working at Mickey's
across from the Crown
you're looking good darling your
cover is blown
:in a maritime fog town
you're never alone:

LOVE LETTERS AND CHECKS

Love letters and checks
checks and love letters
waiting for me on the shore
waiting for me like Irish setters
for when I come back from the war
If I ever get home
from the rolling rolling rolling sea
will you be waiting for me?

Sun against the moon wind against the tide
the rollers we'll roll and the breakers we'll
ride
the wind it will pull and the sea it will pull a
and if I ever get home this old hull I will bury
I I ever get home from the rolling rolling
rolling sea
will you be waiting for me?

Let me in to your Hollywood skin
don't let me out till the morning
shine on me your Hollywood smile
while the old man is snoring
whispering under the wind
sailor beware

Let me in to your Holly wood night
the warmth of your body
the smell of your hair
the wind has grown dark and
I don't really care
whispering under the wind
sailor beware

BODANGO BAY

You came back to haunt me
just the other day
I was sitting underneath a fan
wasting away
and there you were queen for a day
queen of Bodango

Queen of Bodango
dark as night
filling my head
like a distant satellite
when suddenly
you came back to haunt me

I was on a sloop five days out of Guadelupe
on an errand of mercy to
which I had to stoop
I pulled in under the headland
on a cloudy day
as a hot and heavy vapor
hung over Bodango Bay
and it hung over the land and in the trees
and then
and the women in the huts were wondering
what was in the air
was it fish was it chicken was it cheese
and the Tonton Maccoute
behind their Foster Grants
were hanging round the veranda talking
possibility of storm
before the night was through
before the snake legs turned blue
so what could I do
I couldn't get through your spider webs
and you came back to haunt me

Then the phone rang it rang with a bang
it was just the bagman unloading sand
calling from the coast on the coast line
just checking if the coast is clear
then wiggle your ear
but it ain't cause the police are out in force
checking on reports of
some crazy buccaneers
and suddenly you came back to haunt me

And you were ready to fall
ready to come crashing down
and speak of the Lord
speak of the devil down in Bodango,
down in Bodango Bay

Then there was a hurricane whipping up the
seas flattening the palm trees
and a Coast Guard cutter out
beyond the breakers
caught a wave abeam and rolled over
and went down to the bottom of Bodango
with all hands aboard
and you ran down to the shore cause
you were appalled and you

lit up a menthol and said
 what you doing here anyway, the boogaloo?
 down in Bodango
 And as I looked into your eyes there weren't
 a whole lot you can do
 but take me by the hand and
 pull me down on the sand
 while the storm raged on
 it's what you wanted all along
 Down in Bodango

RIDE THE RAILS

There was a time when there were railroads
 running round this land of ours
 We didn't have no gasoline
 didn't have no stinking cars
 hard to imagine a world without gas stations
 how it goes when water turns to steam
 and we ride the rails, we ride the rails again

Swing those hammers blast those holes you
 don't know how it feels
 We drove the golden spike into the ground
 and wrapped the world with steel
 It wasn't hard to see our destiny
 the railroad was our friend
 the railroad made us free
 to ride the rails ride the rails again

B&O and Santa Fe, New York Central Ohio
 Though the Rocky Mountains and through
 the drifting snow
 Chief Joseph on the prairie
 waving on the train
 waiting for the time when
 the plains are his again
 and he rides the plains
 He rides the plains again
 com'on Chief Joseph ride..
 YeeHee

One day outside of Tupelo I saw
 the ghost of Casey Jones
 He tied his Chevy to a tree and he jumped a
 freight westbound
 and he never did return and he didn't jump
 Oh NO
 He just grabbed the dead man's handle and
 he pulled the whistle chord
 He grabbed the dead man's handle and he
 pulled the whistle chord
 Ride the rails, ride the rails again

DESIGNATED DRIVER

She's my designated driver
 she drives me to the bar
 she drives me to drink in her car
 She's half saint and the part that ain't is the
 part that's good to me
 we run out of the hard stuff she makes
 a pot of organic tea
 she keeps the Nissan running
 the refrigerator full
 if she kicked me out into the night
 life would sure be dull cause she's my
 'designated driver
 she drives me to the bar
 she drives me to drink in her car

She cries herself to sleep
 it's not her fault I'm dirt cheap
 but I'm the best lover she could
 want or ever meet
 until around ten PM then I'm just friend
 the last 7-up in town riding till the end
 with my designated driver
 she drives me to the bar
 she drives me to drink in her car

And sometimes we talk about
 things we coulda done
 coulda leased a backhoe and
 dug up the morning sun
 and rescued those poor kittens
 from up in the tree
 I still hear them cry at night
 but it wasn't up to me
 was up to my designated driver
 she drives me to the bar
 she drives me to drink in her car

In her pretty little car yes she does she
 drives me to drink in her car

Y R U IN TEARS

It's going so well
 far as anyone can tell
 so why are your in tears,
 your head turned away

The signs were all there
 in love all is fair
 so what tears you apart
 you think I don't care
 but the minute you leave
 I wish you were here

so why are you in tears
 taking me god knows where
 I looked around
 looked back you were gone
 so why are you in tears
 when it's me who's alone
 I stayed up all night
 till the morning light so what tears you apart
 when everything is all right
 I don't have a clue
 where your love has gone tonight
 so why aR U in tears
 when there ain't nothing wrong
 why are you in tears when it's me who's
 alone

BACKHOE

Septics in the valley
 foundations by the river
 no time for temptation
 landfill to deliver
 and if you were to ask me
 where this life is bound
 tonight it's to the roadhouse
 to wash the gravel down

staring at these long necks
 don't ask me bout my prospects
 I'm saving that discussion
 for another time
 when the ditches fill with mud
 and leaving's in my blood
 and Texas or Alaska come
 easily to my mind

and I don't wanna work on this road no more
 just want to lie with you for the rest of my life
 in an airstream baby
 leave that old backhoe rusting
 in my back yard
 and that's my dream
 you and me in an air stream
 forever and forever

The genuine affection
 that I feel for you
 might not last the night
 if yo ask me what I do
 a promise made at twenty I'm keeping here
 at forty
 married to the road
 the options getting few

Tomorrow babe at seven I'm

working route eleven
 three o'clock it's simple I'm not going home
 septic in the valley
 foundations by the river
 no time for temptation
 landfill to deliver

SINCE U DIED

Driving through the midwest
 through the road maps and the tourist traps
 looking for a town
 a plate of lima beans
 deep in Minnesota
 we just ran out of gas
 had to settle for a trailer camp
 right behind the underpass

How could I forget
 something wasn't right
 trouble in paradise a joy ride into the night
 shakedown pedal to floor
 and since you died
 I hardly see you anymore

Do you remember Akron
 the town was such a perfect fit
 you said let's stay an d raise some kid
 try to be legitimate
 that's a long way from Chicago though
 never mind how you made your beans
 knowing who was who
 in the world of girly magazines
 how could I forget
 something wasn't right
 trouble in paradise a joy ride into the night
 shakedown pedal to floor
 and since you died
 I hardly see you anymore

We blew through those tourist towns and
 headed back to subwayville
 locked ourselves in a motel room
 with takeout Chinese food until
 the last night in that town
 they came to collect the bills
 As they chased us through the tunnel
 you turned to me and said
 should have known better than
 to get out of bed
 should have known better than to
 ever leave home
 pedal to the floor
 and since you died

I hardly see you anymore.
 in my rear view mirror
 getting dimmer and dimmer
 and I sure miss you baby
 like I just missed that intersection

IRON IN THE FIRE

Arlene wants to be just a friend
 she and her accountant have thing
 she's afraid of what the future might bring
 can't handle thirty without a ring
 Arlene

Though my pocket is one big hole
 and I'm not exactly rolling in green
 can't take a job cause it'll take my soul
 but I still got eyes for Arlene
 She's an iron in the fire
 I can't make up my mind
 might need attention baby
 might need attention tonight
 might be worth a jingle in the night

Monica lives right up the street
 the supermarket is where we meet
 I don't know much about her private life
 but on the street you can feel the heat
 oh Monica
 In the parking lot you're standing in the cold
 and rain
 probably waiting for your ride downtown
 I can give you love forever
 I can give you love if you be my
 iron in the fire
 can't make up my mind
 might need attention baby
 might need attention tonight
 might be worth a jingle
 in the night.

WHAT A DRAG (LOVIN' YOU)

What the hell am I supposed to do
 when I stupidly fallen for you
 now there's only one entree on the menu
 think it'll do
 What the hell am I supposed to do
 in the shark-infested waters of your milieu
 scare them all away hey get out of the bay
 what do you say
 What a drag loving you,
 like being in bed with the flue
 I shiver all over and my floor head drips
 drippily drip
 and you're sitting there grinning

while I'm losing my grip

I better call old Momma in Wyoming
 Momma what the hell do I
 do about this thing
 crack a quart of Jack and hit the sack
 and wait for equilibrium to come back
 Snuck up on me like a snake in the night
 took off my head with one bite
 you came in dressed all in white and you
 started a fight
 what a drag loving you'

I better put on my thinking cap
 think about the reindeer and their plight
 worry bout the Irish and who done em wrong
 I sure aint gonna worry bout you too long

better put on my walking shoes
 walk around the block in my confusion
 go down to the precinct house and file a
 complaint
 some lady took my heart and no I'm feeling
 faint
 what a drag loving you
 like being in bed with the flu
 I shiver all over and my forehead drips
 drippity drip

And you're sitting there while I'm losing my
 grip

DRIZZLE

He may have murdered your whole family
 and gambled away your life savings
 many of his habits aren't hygienic
 but that's no reason to be down on him
 It's not a rain, it's a drizzle
 if you don't believe me come outside
 cause you can't drown in a drizzle
 you can only drown in the tears you hide

In the tears you hide

He may have forgotten your last birthday
 he's never been proud of his memory
 he will hold on to you someday
 when he's out of prison he will agree
 it's not a rain, it's a drizzle
 if you don't believe me come outside
 cause you can't drown in a drizzle
 you can only drown in the tears you hide

In the tears you hide

MAMA WAS A KIDDER

You know my Mama,
Mama was a kidder it was her only flaw
except for a little bit of kidding
she lived inside the law
which Daddy pointed out
the walls would rattle and the doors would
slam
if he ever saw my Mama
ten feet from a man

Quiet desperation would
fill the room like smoke
only to be broken when old
Mama cracked a joke
Mama was a kidder
it was her only flaw
except for a little bit a kidding
she lived inside the law
Inside the law inside the law
kept for a little bit a kidding...

Mama came down from the mountain
with a shotgun in her hand
looking for her man
he was holed up in the oldest saloon in
Arkansas
half way through his Gordon Gin
Mama busted in squinting down the barrel
aiming at his chin
Quiet desperation as he thought he was
dead
but click went the gun and
Mama cracked up
grabbed him by the ear and
hauled him off to bed

Mama was a kidder
it was her only flaw
kept for a little bit of kidding
she lived inside the law
Inside the law...

TAKE IT LYING DOWN

Sometimes I'm a fisherman
sometimes I'm a fish
on a hot day in mid-jury
can't tell which is which
might want to avoid me if you're

trying to get rich
cause I take it lyin' down
take it lyin' down
I spread my love around
I take it lyin' down

Want to put me down
baby here's your chance
I eat with my fingers and
lord knows I can't dance
but I've learned my lesson bout
the rules of romance
I take it lyin' down
take it lyin' down I spread my love around
can't fall too far if you
take it lyin' down

I couldn't feel better if I was
driving a new car
or if I was settled down
you know I tried so hard
and baby you're my sweet reward
and I'll take it lyin' down
take it lyin' down
take my reward lyin' down
can't fall if you're already on the ground

ALABASTER BUDDHA

On a shelf above my phone
there's an alabaster Buddha
sittin' on his throne
and he's been pretty good
any faith is justified

He sits with his belly like a bowling ball
Mr. Universe Mr. Know-it-all
and he doesn't take anybody's call
and he's heading for something,
heading for a fall
Ain't nobody ruder than my
alabaster Buddha
and he never cleaned up the kitchen
and he never remembered my name
when he needs a favor don't tell me about it
alabaster Buddha
I know your little game

As I wander on terra incognita
looking for Elaine,
looking for Rita
old Buddha sits there
smiling on the shelf

tells me not to be myself
 I've got to be somebody else
 Ain't nobody ruder than my
 Alabaster Buddha
 and he never cleaned up the kitchen
 and he never remembered my name
 when he needs a favor don't tell me about it
 alabaster Buddha
 I know your little game

I'm playing that game on the edge of night
 feeling my cornflakes
 feeling alright
 a babe wiggles up to me looking for a light
 for her molotov cocktail
 We split a cab uptown
 wanna show Mister Buddha how I play
 around but Buddha isn't there and I'm
 looking round and he
 isn't anywhere and I'm so upset I
 go to jump out the window and there's
 Mister Buddha headed for Nirvanva in a
 brand new Winnebago
 and he never cleaned up the kitchen
 and he never remembered my name
 and when he needs a favor don't tell me
 about it
 Alabaster Buddha, goodbye

Ain't body ruder than my Alabaster Buddha
 wavin' from the window
 of a brand new Winnebago

NORTHERN BOULEVARD
 Man is hungry late at night
 working hard,
 working up an appetite
 Wanted chicken, clams from the sea
 cole slaw and everything
 I fired up my jazzed up Dodge I bought off
 the chief mechanic at a Babylon garage
 Moves like a rocket off the line
 break your heart
 showin' and shining down
 Northern Boulevard

I see Babe in her Subaru
 she knows karate and she knows kung fu
 she can handle a chat n' chew
 she can handle anything comin' down the
 boulevard

Now I've heard on the radio
 how little Japanese cars really really go
 they move their pretty butts off the line
 but kinda suck
 showing and shining down
 Northern Boulevard

You want to do some flying
 park your vehicle and ride with me
 we'll have chicken clams from the sea
 And I know you will agree
 before the night its through that this old
 Dodge is mighty
 Cause you're so beautiful
 and the night is young
 time comes for everyone
 to go where the ride is low
 to go rolling down
 Northern Boulevard
 Down the Boulevard

Up ahead the light was red
 but all the county cops had gone to bed
 we hear the Nassau fire truck
 chase a false alarm
 hear tires screaming that the night was dead
 On Northern Boulevard
 If I hide will you come looking
 if I'm inside will you come walking in
 will I solve your mystery
 will I touch your lip gloss grin
 will it be there next labor day weekend
 will it be there on Monday afternoon
 will it be there on that Glen Cove golf course
 as we make it underneath the moon
 Cause you're so beautiful and
 the night is young
 time comes for everyone
 to go where the ride is low
 to go rolling down
 rock and rolling down
 Northern Boulevard

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO L.A.
 One day on the street a man asked me
 you ever been to L.A.?
 Naw, never been there
 and I ain't going back either
 never been a sucker for a teaser
 never been a fly on the wall
 never been to L.A. at all
 I never been to L.A.

I've always heard that the
 sky is always blue there
 and the swimming pools are clean
 chlorinated
 and every day, you got to make a deal there
 and every night you make the scene
 \you're kicking back at a table with Jack
 starring in the story of your life
 you know about the thunder
 you know about the wonder
 just don't know who's knife is
 sticking in your back
 by the way
 I've never been to L.A.
 Ain't going back either
 never been a sucker for a teaser
 never been a fly on the wall
 never been to L.A. at all

I've always heard that
 you never get old there
 lying by the pool all day
 The phones always ringing and the
 pizza man is bringing
 breakfast and lunch on a tray
 You're Mr. Cool with the
 chicks from film school
 they want to star in the story of your life
 and everybody's using and
 everybody's boozing
 and there's that knife still
 sticking in your back
 By the way
 I've never been to L.A.
 Ain't going back either
 Never been a sucker for a teaser
 never been a fly on the wall
 never been to L.A. at all

MARIANO SHUT THE DOOR

The tying run is digging in
 thinks he can even the score
 the inning is very very late
 it's time to shut the door
 Mariano shut the door
 Like unicorns and fairy dust
 a grand slam would be great
 he takes a practice swing but
 what the hell for
 you can hope and pray and call it a day and
 not much more
 It's time to shut the door

Mariano shut the door

Don't have an anxiety attack
 as your baseball dreams take a little flack
 manager turn your back
 there's some change on the dugout floor
 you signal for a hit and run
 but what the hell for
 You can hope and pray and call it a day and
 not much more
 it's time to shut the door
 Mariano shut the door

Nothing but heat
 heat with a wiggle
 nothing but smoke
 better run it by legal
 a cracked-bat infield fly
 a pop-up and goodbye
 the only truth under the sun is
 that the game is done
 It's time to shut the door
 Mariano shut the door
 Mariano shut the door!

DRIVING A TRACTOR

They were taking in the harvest
 on the day I was born
 so I was weaned on carrots
 chick peas and corn
 I was educated by an Okie drifter
 the house was so small I had to
 sleep up in the barn
 first time with a lady was on a night train
 she poured me some domestic champagne
 and said
 'Hey, Joe, what you been doin' on the farm?'
 I've been driving a tractor
 driving a tractor
 through the corn and hay
 every day and she said
 'I drive an Alfa Romeo,
 everywhere I go'

I was having breakfast in a truck stop
 outside of Downs, Illinois
 when outside the diner I hear a mighty roar
 and this little Alfa pulls into the parking lot
 and out steps my dream
 in stiletto heels
 and a v-neck sweater
 and she steps into the diner and I didn't think
 she'd be interested in me but she says

'Hey Joe, what you been doin' on the farm?'
 I've been driving a tractor
 driving a tractor
 through the corn and hay
 every day and she said
 'I drive an Alfa Romeo,
 everywhere I go'

So I'm at the wheel of my John Deere special
 on automatic drive
 flipping through a magazine
 and in the magazine there's an
 ad for a facial cream
 and it's a picture of you pulling into a
 driveway in the Caribbean
 and you look up from the magazine and say
 'Hey Joe, what you been doin' on the farm?'
 I've been driving a tractor
 I've been driving a tractor
 every day
 through the corn and hay
 while you're there to remind me
 you drive an Alfa Romeo
 everywhere you go

ILLUSIONS IN THE SAND

Wayo Wayo
 I am just a wayo
 neither here neither there just a wayo
 every night we get in the machine
 cross over to the other side
 of the big white wall
 come out in the funhouse looking like a bean

Everybody gets in free
 everybody gets a ride in the balloon
 everybody get's to nail the big white whale
 spin the tea cup shoot the tin duck
 throw the big harpoon
 everybody gets to be in fashion
 even if it lasts one day
 and if you should lose your connection
 you can just sail your boat away

While the baby cries
 and the i-pod plays lullabies
 your place or mine
 lacka lackalacka day-o
 I am just a wayo
 munch lucka bah munkalucka day
 everybody gets to play
 hope and dream and read the magazines

waiting for the day-o
 Everybody gets in free
 everybody gets a ride in the balloon
 everybody get's to nail the big white whale
 spin the tea cup shoot the tin duck
 throw the big harpoon
 while the baby cries..

MOUNTAIN IN THE SKY

Mechanical man
 put a mountain in the sky
 stupidly believing
 that the world could never die
 Mechanical man
 I'd love to know why
 you thought it was alright to put a
 mountain in the sky

mechanical man it's also you and I
 who were so smart and brilliant to put a
 mountain in the sky

Mom heats up with a fever and a hiccough
 burps out methane and volcanoes erupt and
 rivers wash the poison to the sea
 Oil money buys the pols and
 pays the trolls
 to keep the 1% in yachts and Rolls and stoles
 while mama heats up
 with a fever and a hiccough

And the rise of the machines
 turn the grasses to concrete
 and the foxes of the meadow
 just cannot compete
 the rise of the machines
 turn the air to solid
 turn the earth to squalid.

The kids are thus left with the mess
 bagged and gagged eft brain floating in the
 war games
 and the home planet is in the path of a train
 and the mountain in the sky
 takes everything away
 the rich will float their yachts and
 the poor will pay
 and Trump on the stump makes me want to
 jump into the fray

all I can do is pray
and it drives me crazy
like daffodils and daisies
the cows in the meadow
and the rise of the machines.

room temperature all the way
and the fishes in the sea
and everything in motion
and frisbees in the park
light a mechanical spark
burns the Appalations and the Ozarks
and puts the carbon in the sky
and the rise of the machines
turn the grasses to concrete
and the foxes of the prairie
just cannot compete
and the rise of the machines
turn the air to solid
turn the earth to squalid

We need tJohn Starks from the periphery
to save any piece of what you used to be
I can see the dark and the
money's dark and
we're gonna need an ark
to float over the toxic sea
as super storms like Sandys and Kattrinas
turn cities to marinas
we'll take aboard the ark the host of refugees
as mosquitos suck blood of
swamp dwellers that wade in brackish waters
of their living room pools
in the shadows of the shallows
wet cold wet mold

professors have been clear for at least thirty
years
they told you this would happen

it's not like they were nappin'
when it's finger-waggin' time
who's gonna get the blame
who's political career will lie in shreds and
wallow in shameful;
apologetic ruin.
mamma heats up
with a fever and a hiccough
and oil money pays the trolls

that keep the 1% in yachts and Rolls and
stoiles with plastic flowers

HEY JOSEPHINA

Hey Josephine let me see you again
Hey Josephine that's what I'm praying for

Yellow dog sniffing round the honey pots
crawling on my knees hiding from the robots
all terrain vehicles the color of snot
up and down the parking lot
looking for a free spot

hey Josephina let's start it again
hey heya Josephina
that's what I'm praying for
that's what I want

phonepoppin teenyboppers wander around
new sheriff in town is wearing a frown
he says bring your derriere over here
if you know whats good for your career

hey hey Josephina let's try it again
hey heya josephina know you got it in ya
come over now take that train that plane

hey hey josephina let's start it again
hey hey Josephine get on the plane
get on the train

feel the buzz make it like it was
shake it like a baked potato
walk in like a queen hotter than acetylene
cool as a tomato

hey hey Josephine that's the truth
the truth in Duluth
hey Josephine looking good
with that gun in your hand

playing dumb as a school of life alum
keep it yourself's the motto
if you've got confidential information
'meet me in the grotto

hey Josephine didn't I see you

with that gun in your hand
I say heya Josephine you got it right

What you leave the kids
it's not something they did
a strip of concrete and a chain link fence
a deadbeat planet and a panda named Janet
a toxic tide and no future tense..

hey Josephine where you going
with that gun in your hand
hey hey Josephine where you going
with that gun in your hand

What you leave the kids it's
not something they did
a strip of concrete and a chain link fence
a deadbeat planet and a panda named Janet
a toxic tide and no future tense..

NOBADEER
Here comes another wave

here comes another wave
here comes another wave

fig.

here comes another wave
here comes another wave
here comes another wave
 π
Here comes another wave
taller than the last one
barreling in from a storm upon the ocean
riding down riding down heading down town
there's a bus stop before you hit the ground

fig.

here comes another wave
here comes another wave
here comes another wave

here comes another wave nicely cresting
from an ocean storm just the way I like em
doesn't do no harm to ride upon the hill
step out nicely before I hit the spill

here comes a wave coming from the storm
take me home gliding through the foam
here comes another wave
here comes another wave
here comes another wave

DEAR SIR OR MADAM
Dear Sir or Madam
don't you know I'm working on a plan
to save the world
whoa whoa whoa
Save the world with a candygram
and everybody will be happy as a clam
and that's the plan
whoa whoa whoa
don't question yr existence
you're just a poor clam trying to go the
distance

Tonight the sky will fill with stars and
one of them will dance
its light will always shine on you
like sunshine on the plants
la dee dah dee dah
la dee dah dee day

Whoa

Dear Sir or Madam
don't you ever get a hankering
to save the world
it's not gone but it's forgotten
all our ears stuffed with cotton and
nothing heard

whoa whoa whoa

and that's the plan
I'll listen and I'll nob my head
take another sudafed
nod at everything that's said

Chorus

it's an oily existence
you gotta show a little love
to go a little distance

I got my name on a disease
 now I'm driving a Mercedes
 but you hid the carkeys in the cheese
 now I can't afford the legal fees
 (that's the word)

so pack up your bag of tricks
 grab the remote and a hockey stick
 and click
 that's the plan

roger this and roger that
 it all ends up in the
 bank vault of a kleptocrat
 and that's the plan

whoa whoa whoa

I DUG MY OWN GRAVE
 I dug my own grave when I was young
 I took more than I gave cause
 there wasn't no law
 I dug my own grave with an iron claw
 stuck it in the earth for all I was worth
 I dug my own grave I dug my own grave
 ON common ground for all to witness
 a slave to the cravings like
 an ignorant bloodhound
 afraid to be brave little did I know I
 dug my own grave I dug my own grave
 an elegant hole filled with all I stole
 and a tombstone with a bumper sticker
 bridge-burning dirt eating
 wackamole getting on the liquor buried in the
 enclave crawling through the grate
 in a state wasting all my hate
 burning love reaching in the glove
 compartment just can't relate
 lathered as a buttercup I dug my own grave
 I dug my own grave I dug my own grave
 half mad dressed in plaid I dug my own grave
 buried in this enclave like a
 sad sack in a glad bag
 I dug my own grave

VACATION IN PASSAIC

On our vacation in Passaic
 the kids were crying and the traffic was bad
 by the time we finally reached Passaic
 that was the best time we ever had
 We walked on the water
 we walked on the land
 saw a bridge
 under construction
 and when we got hungry we
 didn't have to go far
 parked the car beside as chili burger stand
 gave our money to the man
 When you gonna go
 when you gonna take that
 vacation in Passaic
 when we gonna go
 I recommend you take that
 vacation in Passaic

Didn't take the package tour to Rio
 wife and kids didn't want to go
 they wanted something more familiar
 with a bowling alley and
 a roller rink disco
 when you gonna go
 when you gonna take that
 vacation in Passaic
 when we gonna go
 I recommend you take that
 vacation in Passaic

Welcome to beautiful downtown Passaic
 see the sun shine down on the street
 see the streetlights change in succession
 see the cops rockin' to the beat

THE MIRAMACHEE
 The Miramachee, the Miramachee
 Got to get back the Miramachee
 to the cool mountain stream'
 where she's waiting for me
 where we hang with the moose
 and we dance till dawn
 we love and spawn where we belong
 on the Miramachee

I ONLY SLEEP WITH MY GUITAR
 I'm looking for a woman who thinks I'm
 funny

still believes in the easter bunny
 got a bucketful of family money
 got a hanky when my nose is runny too
 But night after night
 things being what they are
 I walk around and I talk around and I follow
 women down from bar to bar
 I only sleep with my guitar
 I sleep with my guitar

I'm looking for a woman who likes to flirt
 but I don't need no extrovert
 gotta look hot in a miniskirt
 and never never never get her feelings hurt
 I But night after night things being what they
 are
 I walk around and I talk around
 and I follow women down from bar to bar
 I only sleep with my guitar
 I sleep with my guitar

My love life couldn't be sadder
 I need the opposite of niagara
 cut through me like a dagger
 shed a tear like Niagara falls

AVENUE X

Down on Gravesend and Avenue X
 you were prowling the night
 up to your old tricks
 taking gentlemen upstairs to your room
 to play the game of love
 King Louie the 14th street
 would send them down your way
 he'd handle the finances
 the input and the outlay
 and you'd keep em hopping
 till they lost their fizz
 and then you'll say get walking kid
 go back to the mountains
 what you doing buying sex
 on Avenue x

You were never bothered by the
 rain on your head
 just for such emergencies
 you wore a hat that was neon red
 and with your long yellow boots on
 and your long yellow hair
 you could stop any boy
 a promise of quick joy
 and hour of pleasure
 deductible as leisure

King Louie came on Wednesday
 he'd tiptoe up the stairs
 reach for the light switch
 surprise whoever's there
 then he'd make a fuss about his old lady
 getting screwed
 he'd catch em' with their pants down
 a shake down a runaround
 serve you right for buying sex
 on Avenue X

One day you decided to
 cut loose from the creep
 you left a note on his machine
 after the beep
 saying isn't it strange Louie that you're so
 short and fat
 considering what a snake you are
 a snake, with two legs and a hat

And it didn't take Louie long to call you back
 to say look who's talking kid
 you're lower than a snake is
 your only talent's selling sex
 out on the street
 a\on Avenue X

That night when you heard
 King Louie climb the stairs
 You remembered with a sigh
 how trouble comes in pairs
 how you'd never own a dishwasher and
 never know your dad
 at least he'd never know
 how you wound up selling sex
 on Avenue X
 out on the street
 on Avenue X

DIVORCE SONG

I got the blues
 she got the stereo
 I got the Wheaties
 she got the Cheerios
 I got the east coast
 she got the west coast
 she got the chauffeur but I
 got the Testarossa that's why'
 I'm traveling on this bus
 I'm traveling solo

She got the milkman

I got the memories
she got the dog
I got the fleas

Can't touch your heart
can't touch your feelings
too many memories
hanging from the ceiling
She got the kitchen
I got the toaster
she got the van Gogh
I got the poster
I got the east coast
she got the best coast
she got the chauffeur but I got the
Testarossa
that's why
I'm traveling on this bus
I'm traveling solo

SPRING IN MY APARTMENT

It's spring in my apartment
the furniture's in bloom
the light bulbs that had grown so dim
now light up the room
The bed bugs are waking up
The kitchen sink is full
the paint is peeling merrily
along the bathroom wall
The windows are wide open the
roaches are astir
and today I finally bought myself
a new air freshener.

DON'T GO

Don't go
stay here please
even when we yell
I can tell you love me
When we agree to disagree
I can tell you love me
Stick around
keep me grounded
without clipping my wings
full blown in the zone
that's how I like things
that's how I like my pillow
that's how I like my tea
That's how I like to spend my time in
the pleasure of your company

Don't go
shut the door

I will use the word please
I may even resort to
getting down on my knees
And if that don't pull you in
I'll do the doggy eyes
That's my weapon of choice
the doggy eyes they hypnotize
That's how I like my pillow
that's how I like my tea
my weapon of choice so I may rejoice in the
pleasure of your company

I come down from the mountain
to drink at your fountain
remove my crown to lay me down
in your company.

- (1) Music written with Caleb Martin
- (2) written with Compton Maddox
- (3) written with Francois Guierre
- (4) from original music by Oscar D. Brown Jr.