

REMEMBERING PARADISE

This Invisible Life

I don't ever get lost anymore
I'm never falling behind
Cause I don't care where I wind up sleeping
And nobody notices what time I arrive
It feels like a Sunday morning out
I'm guessing it's June
Maybe that highway leads to paradise
Maybe it leads to the fountain of youth

CHORUS:

I'm going to hire me a spotlight
And the finest crowd that money can buy
I'm going to build me a grandstand
And stand around staring down at the barren ground
Of this invisible life

I don't dream about wealth anymore
And I don't let myself dream about fame
And I refuse to dream about the poacher's daughter
Or the laughter at midnight in the mud and the rain
I've given up on ever joining the rodeo
But I'd still make one hell of a spy
I know I'll never be a Hollywood Romeo
I'm too easy to see through and so hard to find

CHORUS

It's a glorious world out here
And I'm a glorious man
And it's a glorious day to wait around for a tow truck
With both axles stuck in the sugar-white sand
It feels like a Sunday morning out
Hell, maybe it's noon
Maybe that highway leads to the ocean
And maybe it leads to the moon

CHORUS

Outsider

I'm gravel and stone
I'm weeds and rattlesnakes
I'm bottles and bones
I'm a long, flat interstate

I'm brambles and thorns
I'm wild blackberry vines
I'm traveled and worn
I'm sundown all the time

I'm wandering barefoot down her tar and gravel eroscape
I'm much obliged, stranger, much obliged
I lost my bearings in her maze of veils and tattered drapes
I'm evening as the crow flies

I'll always be the new guy
I'll always be the last of the fools in line
I'm evening as the crow flies
I'm twilight as the last of the scarecrows cry
"Outsider, nobody home"

I'm August at noon
I'm miles of railroad
I'm a sucker for June
I'm a long, long time ago

I'm stranded on a Ferris wheel of yearning I don't understand
Help me down, stranger, lend a hand

I'm locked in battle with the Herculean shadow
Of her once upon a fine man

I'll always be the new guy
I'll always be the last of the fools in line
I'm evening as the crow flies
I'm twilight as the last of the scarecrows cry
"Outsider, you're on your own"

Wastelands

I'm on my way
I'm breaking through
The clouds of gray and powder blue
Hooray
Hallelujah
I'm a beautiful man

On fields of stone and rusted cans
Bones and bottles and disowned lands
I will stand
Hallelujah
A magnificent man

Out in the wastelands, my, how I dream
I'm pounding my chest while the girls in the grandstand scream

I'm a work of art
I'll take your heart
I'll fill you with fountains of fire and sparks
In the dark
Hallelujah
We'll lie littered with laughter and riddled with dazzling stars

I'll fall to my knees in the hall of my dreams
Majestically posing while girls in the mezzanine scream
"Hallelujah!"
For exotic oils and forbidden teas

Out in the wastelands, my, how I dream
I'm curling my lip while the girls in grandstand scream,
"Please outsider
You seem like such a lonely man
Take me away with you
I want to see the wastelands"

All the Romeos burn just a little too bright
All the harrowing rodeo gigolos wither and die
Hallelujah
At the hands of day, at the feet of the night

So dress my wounds and soothe my brow
We'll make it from here to the border somehow
Where we'll drown
Hallelujah
In exotic oils with forbidden powers

Out in the wastelands, my, how I dream
I'm dusting my chaps while the girls in grandstand scream,
"Please outsider
You seem like such a lonely man
Take me away with you
I want to see the wastelands

Please show me the wastelands
Show me the wastelands
You seem like such a haunted man
I want to see the wastelands
Please show me the wastelands

Waiting For A Sign

Quelle surprise, my dear
I figured I might could find you here
I've been drinking beer with vultures and crows
I brought you a curio
This abalone cameo
Am I damned to wander twilight alone?

I'm waiting for a sign
Some kind of omen in the sky
The light from a burning bush to shepherd me through
I've been sleeping behind the dunes
And keeping my eye on you
I'm damned to wander twilight for you

Waiting for a sign
Some kind of calling
Waiting for a sign
Somehow I've fallen

A steamy caution light
Flashed in across the marsh at night
But our glasses were too fogged to see
We danced on the patio
We danced to the stereo
Am I damned to wander twilight unclean?

Your hips were flush with mine
Your lips were plush with wine
Along the county line the sky seemed to breathe
You whispered a lie to me
You whispered goodbye to me

I'm damned to wander twilight unwanted, unseen

Waiting for a sign
Some kind of calling
Waiting for a sign
Somehow I've fallen
For you

I'm going to hide out here till it's night out dear
But I'll stay within sight of the lighthouse pier
I'm stale and shivering, pale and quivering
I'm waiting for the gales to clear
I blew all my tears on you
I wasted my beer on you
I'm damned to wander twilight unwanted for you

Waiting for a sign
Some kind of calling
Waiting for a sign
Somehow I've fallen
For you

Mere Mortal Men

It's too late for a nightcap
Too soon to go home
I'm too wiped out to party
But I don't want to be alone

I'm too rough for romance
Too smooth to resist
I'm too wild for one woman
But I could sure use a kiss

CHORUS:

I'll never dance until dawn

I'll never really feel at home
I'll never lay around stoned all summer long again
I finally understand
Where the pavement ends
And mere mortal men

I'm too poor to be a playboy
Too proud to be bought
Too slow to make trouble
And too fast to get caught

I'm too old to be a soldier
Too blissed out to fight
Too drunk to be driving
And too smart to try

CHORUS

If I could do it over
I'd own a souvenir stand
On some dust covered highway
On some boarded up strand

Where the ghost of a thrill ride
Looms, creaks, and commands
Lost armies of seagulls
On a kingdom of sand

CHORUS

Bathtub Gin

She's got my bathrobe flapping on a flagpole

She's got my choir robe tangled in her concertina wire tattoo

And now my billfold is to water what a train wreck is to a rainbow

And I'm hottie bottled up inside the body of a red-eyed fool

I need a half a tank of gasoline

I need some chocolate bars, some nylons, some cigarettes and magazines

I need some raw meat

Some bed sheets

A window and a little less wind

REFRAIN

I'm doing battle with the Herculean shadow of another man's sins

I'm doing battle with the Herculean shadow of her bathtub gin

She had me kidnapped, abducted, probed, and programmed

And now her mothership is skipping off the atmosphere with me inside

And all these implants are to water what a wiretap is to a sink trap

And I'm a hottie bottled up inside the body of her big brown eyes

I need a hammer and some Vaseline

I need some chocolate bars, some nylons, some Hagen Das and magazines

I need a steel trap

A road map

A thumbtack and a way to cut tin

REFRAIN

BRIDGE

She's had her share of dancing bears and diamond-scarred blasé affairs

She's had her share of dancing bears

She's never here

She's barely ever there

I need a q-beam, a mickey and a SWAT team

This whole MacGyver-of-ill-advised-love thing just ain't working out

And all this whipped cream is to water what a wildcat is to a wet dream

And I'm a model bottled up inside the body of a red-eyed clown

I need a half a tank of gasoline

I need some chocolate bars, some nylons, some ammo and some Thorazine

I need a hacksaw

A golf ball

I'd gnaw my leg off but I'm running out of limbs

REFRAIN

Girls' Night

She slides her heels off at the door and in her stocking feet
She glides across the floor while I pretend to be asleep
It's too late to take her makeup off
It's too dark to see
It's girls' night
She made a promise to me

Between the discothèques and lounges and martini bars
They ride in hansom cabs and limousines and new European cars
They pretend that they're still single
They pretend to be stars
When it's girls' night
You're free to be anyone you aren't

CHORUS:

It's girls' night
While all the haunted city sleeps
It's girls' night
And the unwanted spirits weep
It's girls' night
She made a promise I know she'd never keep

Don't fuck with me
Don't fuck with me
I'm not in the mood
Don't fuck with me
Don't fuck with me
I'm not in the mood

Every hair is still in place without a trace of sin
Her kisses don't taste anything like cigarettes or gin
She eases up the blinds to let the moonlight in
It's girls' night
We made a wager I knew I'd win

CHORUS

Crave

I fall for the bad girls, the hard women
I saw all the good girls fall right through my hands
I wander a sad world of hard living
I run like a least most wanted unwanted man

CHORUS:

Once you've had your fun
You're going to wonder what the hell you've done
And you'll crave me
Do you crave me?
Do you crave me?

I live in a dead hole with no windows
I sleep on bedroll on a pad on the floor
I stare at a TV with no signal
I stare at a scrap heap when I walk out my door

CHORUS

I smell like a stale beer, I taste like an ashtray
There's nobody in here - he's out trying to find you
I dreamed that the rail yard was really the ocean
The soot and the freight cars were all breakers and dunes

CHORUS

It's getting darker out
But I refuse to fall apart
Cause I'm on fire right now
And I'm a warrior for your heart
And I refuse to lose
I refuse to lose
I refuse to lose
I refuse to lose
Do you crave me?
Do you crave me?
Do you crave me?
I need you to crave me

East of the Sunrise

I know all about those big city women
I know what goes on in those back rooms at night
A handsome young man with his wallet in his hand
Can get by on a wink and a smile

I can prey on the urban romantics
Weeping haiku over cafe au lait
I can load up the truck when things start to heat up
And if the waitresses beg me to stay I'll say

Look for my taillights
East of the sunrise
You don't understand, ma'am, I'm way too much man for such a civilized life
Listen for bloodhounds
West of the sundown
Don't get me wrong but there's things going on out there you and I know nothing about

There's way too much money in Dallas
I feel obliged to set some of it free
I might leave part of my heart down in Texas
But I'll take a shitload of Texas with me

Maybe I'll marry a billionaire's daughter
And become an embarrassment out at the club
I'll start in on the gin by eleven AM
And when my in-laws start getting fed up I'll say

Look for my taillights
East of the sunrise
I don't give a damn, ma'am, I'm way too much man for your brand of sanitized life
Listen for bloodhounds
West of the sundown
Don't get me wrong but there's things going on out there you and I know nothing about

I can knock over banks out in the Badlands
And start up my own band of thieves on the run
Disappearing into the desert at night
Building campfires and polishing guns

Living off biscuits and jerky
Whisky and twisted cigars
Falling in love with my hostage
And being glamorized by fools with guitars singing

Look for my taillights
East of the sunrise
No thank you, ma'am, I got some awful big living to cram into such a small life
Listen for bloodhounds
West of the sundown
Don't get me wrong but there's things going on out there you and I know nothing about

If I ever do make it back home again
I probably won't be alive
Tell my mother and father I missed them
And kiss all my sisters and brothers good-bye

Bury me out on the Trinity Plain
Where the clay is carnation red
Plant a muscadine vine where my foot stone should lie
And a halo of pines at my head

And look for my taillights
East of the sunrise
You never did understand, I was way too much man for such a tiny little life
Look for a dust cloud
West of the sundown
Don't get me wrong but there's things going on out there you might want to find out about

The Call Of The Wild

She minds the door at a beach inferno
She don't wake up til the heat of the day
She licks her wounds by the pool
til the sun warms the cobwebs away
More and more these days she's had a million-mile gaze

She made a date to change her hairstyle
She's given away all her old shoes

We rarely make love anymore
so I grope like a teen when we do
And she says it's not me but I know it's not true

Tonight the call of the wild will claim her
I'm swallowing hard but I'll try not to cry
She'll pack her bags in the dark and
I won't even open my eyes

Stay young, stay lost in the call of the wild

She stares out at the ocean for hours
She's given away all her old clothes
She's hiding maps and brochures in her drawer
and she thinks I don't know
And she says we're okay but I know it's not so

Tonight the call of the wild will claim her
I'm swallowing hard but I'll try not to cry
She'll pack her bags in the dark and
I won't even put up a fight
Stay young, stay lost in the call of the wild

I've fired cannons into tornadoes
And I built a wall to hold back the sea
And I've tended fires in orchards
to keep the frost off of the trees
She will never be tame
I will never be free

Tonight the call of the wild will claim her
I'm swallowing hard but I'll try not to cry
She'll blow away on the same wind
that first blew her into my life
Stay young, stay lost in the call of the wild

Tonight the call of the wild will claim her
I'm swallowing hard but how can I cry
When all that I love about her

will lead her away in the night
Stay young, stay lost in the call of the wild

Poacher's Daughter

I'm nodding off

I'm getting full and lazy

Floating down the river in a second-hand canoe

I've got grapes and apples

I've got cheese and lemonade

Floating down the river staring off into the blue

CHORUS:

I bet she wonders what I think of her now

I don't care what she thinks about me

Floating down the river half asleep

I've got my hat pulled down

I've got my toes in the water

Floating down the river getting drowsy from the heat

And I can close my eyes and see the poacher's daughter

Barefoot on a sandbar with a straw in her teeth

CHORUS

I've got my hat pulled down

I've got my toes in the water

Floating down the river with a straw in my teeth

And I can close my eyes and see the poacher's daughter

Barefoot on a sandbar like she's waiting for me

CHORUS

OI '55

By Tom Waits, popularized by The Eagles

Remembering Paradise

There's a mold
There's a mold
In our tinderbox, cinder block souls
Now the Paradise Disco is closed
And it's choking on sacrifice

Once a feast
For the fleas
Now a banquet of fire ants and bees
Once a mender of tender misdeeds
Now a vendor of parasites

All these scuzzy old hoboes keep walking
All these buzzards and crows won't stop talking
There's some creep selling Bibles, a maid serving tea
Don't you heathens see what I see?
Aren't you listening to me?
The parking lot's choking on vines
Bow your head for a moment of silence
Remembering Paradise

I hear time
Only time
All these slivers of glass were a sign
That would sizzle and crackle and whine
In the window of Paradise

It's not fair
It's not fair
It's a cancer of unanswered prayers
It's the dance of our rancid despair
On the Barrens of Otherwise

All these scuzzy old hoboes keep walking
All these buzzards and crows won't stop talking

There's some creep selling Bibles, a maid serving tea
Don't you heathens see what I see?
Aren't you listening to me?
The parking lot's choking on vines
Bow your head for a moment of silence
Remembering Paradise

There's no peace
There's no peace
In the twilight of our ill-at-ease
Seems like everything's moving but me
And the padlock on paradise

All these crabby old hags keep on walking
All these gabby old bags won't stop talking
The sunset is busy with silhouettes unwanted, unclean
Don't you heathens see what I see?
Aren't you listening to me?
The parking lot's choking on time
Bow your head for a moment of silence
Remembering Paradise
Close your eyes for a moment of silence
Remembering Paradise

Long-Winded Prayer

I was born to be salesman, can't you tell it by the smell of my hairspray?
I watch a lot of Lawrence Welk to keep this creepy, brainwashed smile on my face
I've been selling stolen Bibles
I'm going door to door
When I ask to use their bathrooms I ease open all their drawers
I'm taking all their medications and drinking all of their aftershave

I can counterfeit a funeral plan and falsify financial peace of mind
I'm a devilishly handsome man with the glimmer of salvation in my Demerol eyes
I go through other patients' purses
I'm in agonizing pain
I wink at all the nurses when they ask me to explain
I could forge my own prescriptions if you'd step out in the hallway while I change

CHORUS:

Women crawl all over me
I'm as smooth as a millionaire

The preacher always calls on me
I got a soothing way with a prayer
A soothing way with a long-winded prayer
A soothing way with a long-winded prayer

I made a phony DEA card and told the preacher's daughter I'm a spy
Undercover for the drug tsar, I penetrate cartels and sever pipelines
I'm closing in on a kingpin
I'm setting up a buy
I need the Reverend's credit cards but I can't tell her why
"Just do it for your country,
For the glory of the lord,
And for the good of our unborn child"

CHORUS

They found me quoting scripture to the poltergeists and parasites at the Twilight Lounge
Mixing Percodan and spirits and evading the incriminating daylight out
Once the deacons called me "brother"
Their wives all called me "hon"
The hookers called me "candy man"
The judges called me "son"
There's money in the hymnals if you steal 'em them every Sunday one by one

CHORUS

Unwanted

Twilight
Dusk is settling in for awhile
Twilight
Come in out of the steamscape
My life?
Miles of decades and decades of miles
My life?
Lust and mischief and shame
Twilight
I'll be traveling at night for awhile
Paradise
Swear to God that you'll wait

CHORUS:

Unwanted
Unwanted
Unwanted
You and I
You and I

Twilight
Scrawled on bridges and scribbled on signs
Twilight
Carved in bark on the parkway
My life
Etched in threads of red in her eyes
Paradise
Swear to God that you'll wait
Twilight
I'll be traveling at night for awhile
Paradise
Swear to God that you'll wait

CHORUS

Twilight
Sipped the almond liquor from my lips
Twilight

Felt my breath whisper over her face
Twilight
Pressed her breasts to my chest and my hips
Paradise
Swear to God that you'll wait
Searchlights
I'll be traveling at night for awhile
Bullhorns
Swear to God that you'll wait

There's mysterious lights in the sky along the county line
Where you and I threw bottles at signs and scoffed at time
Hard-bodied
Nude
Sardonic
Entwined

CHORUS