

## **besides**

i thought i was dying  
but i was only crying  
crying in the quiet of the room  
i thought you were leaving  
my love you were thieving  
screaming for the morning light to bloom

i thought i was more than  
just another stoned man  
reaching for your heartstrings to play  
you thought i was saving  
all my love for someone  
else who simply never could have stayed

you wished i had never  
opened up the letter  
beside all the b-sides on your shelf  
now with all the friction  
fueling our addictions  
i can't find what's left of my true self

i thought i was dying  
but i was only trying  
to get your attention  
to hold your affection

(april, 2011)

## **i can't help**

four points on a map  
an equidistant trap  
when do the places we live become the places we long for?  
inside the bud of a rose  
believes what everyone knows  
it's what you dream of at night, it's what I sing my song for

but I can't help falling in love with you

i'm having trouble with time  
it's running backwards in rhyme  
when do the people we love become the people we die for?  
ain't having trouble with sin  
it's all I seem to be in  
it's all I seem to be capable of telling a lie for

but I can't help falling in love with you

what do you want me to do?  
i'm turning black and blue now  
cause I keep falling for you anyhow...

in time the road may be clear  
before we all disappear  
before the memory fades into the hour unending  
and you'll be walking with me  
just like the way it should be  
at least that's how I'm interpreting the signal you're sending

but I can't help falling in love with you

(february, 2009)

## **to be free**

we blew through the valley with dynamite speed  
fulfilling the want of wanting the need  
to be free  
and once we were there, we saw what we could  
we saw we could never do what we should  
to be free  
and now when we run we keep looking away  
afraid of the darkness that's leading the way  
to be free

the laws of the land are now leading the lame  
wading through fire and walking through flame  
to be free  
uncover the coldness you hide in your chest  
and know when you try that you're trying your best  
to be free

the joke is a good one; you've heard it in jest  
you've had it inscribed to the skin of your breast  
but when the disaster becomes your disease  
you can't quite recall all the words to your decrees...

so we blew through the valley with dynamite speed  
fulfilling the want of wanting the need  
to be free  
in time the decision to live and let live  
will be made by a world that can learn to forgive  
and be free

(september, 2009)

## **stranger**

how can you be such a stranger?  
i've known you once before  
you never asked for anything  
and still I gave you more  
oh, how you'd be my precious one  
my darling little angel  
so how could you be such a stranger to me now?

oh, I would count the days on end  
before the time when you'd pretend to love me  
for a minute or two  
but now you seem to ignore  
the things that we had once before  
they're trapped inside the things you say and do

so how can you be such a stranger?  
you know where we have been  
i'm knocking on your golden door  
but you won't let me in  
i only have the greatest love  
it isn't so insane  
so how could you be such a stranger to me now?

(march, 2010)

## **lockless heart**

the blessing in your beautiful bones  
have kept me from bringing it home to you  
you could break me in two

the soft light flickers side to side  
to the sway of your hip and the crux of your stride  
you could pull me apart  
such a lockless heart

sometime when we're old and sad  
we'll remember the love we never could have  
i'm a coward at heart  
i knew it right from the start

the soft light flickers side to side  
to the sway of your hip and the crux of your stride  
you could pull me apart  
such a lockless heart

straight into the eyes of a fool  
you shoot your stare, collected and cool  
i'm always falling down on my knees  
you never say "yes"  
i only say "please"  
please...

(february, 2010)

## **victories**

the sun is such a fickle thief  
he'll steal away your driest tears  
and the darkest light illuminates  
the passing of your fading years

a blister from your burning hand  
will shake the truth right from the tree  
and fall to tell your open eyes  
that what you get is all you see

inside the chaos of belief  
is something that you couldn't hold  
no light of love, no weight of grief  
no victories of blood and gold...

poised above the brink of change  
a love awaits your simple sound  
it asks of you to rearrange  
your memories on common ground

there's more behind an open door  
it's calling you to take it home  
walking with a heart so poor  
it begs for you to beat your own

(october, 2009)

## **when i leave**

when I leave, put your hand in my palm  
your arm in my sleeve  
your voice in my song  
your sunlit dress shining golden against the dawn  
when I leave for the summer, leave your voice in my song

when I leave, leave your tools in the shed  
your tears in your cup  
your shape in my bed  
your glowing, rusted book of poems yet to be read  
when I leave for the winter, leave your shape in my bed

when I leave, leave my lips on your cheek  
my struggle with your comfort  
my songs with your grief  
my little white lies to disguise my belief  
when I leave for tomorrow, leave my songs with your grief

when I leave, leave me something to keep  
something small enough to bury it deep  
cause Lord I have such little time to spare  
when I leave, leave me something to keep  
when I leave, leave me something to keep

(july, 2010)

## **your face**

your face is a sketch that i once drew in lines  
that scattered apart when i tried to refine  
the details that made up the portion of you  
that seemed to consistently evade my view

your eyes are a blur that fill up a big screen  
a shadowy trace of a ghost i have seen  
it screams in my ear with it's pupils of red  
demanding the colors it seemed to have bled

your mouth is a sacred and unholy priest  
that calls for redemption while tugging my fleece  
you always remember the spots where i bend  
and fall to my knees when you try to offend

your chin is a home for a sucker and bib  
it collects it's trophies and calls it's own dibs  
on men who keep switching the hair on their heads  
enough to allow you to sleep in their beds

my arm is dismembered from holding you high  
so much that i thought that for once i could fly  
but now i am grounded amongst the between  
of what's left in store and of what i have seen

your body is buried beneath a veneer  
of water and smoke that will soon disappear  
i'm letting you float into glamorous view  
for now it's really the most i can do

(september, 2010)

## **empty shelves**

a bird of chrome breathes a heavy breath  
before it flies through heaven's breadth  
retiring to the smell of dawn  
your sleep is light but will last long

inside the house of empty shelves  
we'll find the lost within ourselves  
and give them air to breath in deep  
before you wake up from your sleep

what fading star will crash into  
the ever pulsing heart of you?  
you know by now just what we are  
the wreckage of some fading star

(march, 2011)

## **new english blood**

i followed you high through the deepest of caves  
and came back a stranger to what i once craved  
no longer attached to the ways of a prince  
all subjects and patrons have abandoned me since  
and gathering now are some clouds of design  
to cover our fields with water divine  
abandon your ship you can wade through the flood  
if you locate the pulse in my new english blood

i followed you far into skies yet unseen  
and landed a friend to the foes of the queen  
they buy me my patience with promises made  
to keep their religion free from the grenade  
and gathering now are the shadows of time  
to keep us disrupting the production line  
forget the terrain you must dig through the mud  
if you're craving a taste of my new english blood

i'll follow you still into oceans and tides  
to places "where legends and history collide"  
cause the life that you breathe in my restless despair  
has given me hope in your sweet scented air  
and gathering now are the currents of love  
they pull you apart like the wings off a dove  
i'll bring you ashore from the coldest of floods  
and your breath will be warmed by my new english blood

(april, 2011)

## **you walk away**

well there's a girl  
in my town  
she calls me by my last name  
she asks me  
where i've been  
she wants to know my hidden shame

so i say i've been looking around  
while staring at the frozen ground  
avoiding that foreboding sound  
where you walk away from me

well i have travelled  
far enough  
to know how hard our hearts have grown  
so show me  
if you can  
the side that you have never shown

cause i say i've been looking around  
while staring at the frozen ground  
avoiding that foreboding sound  
where you walk away from me

(june, 2010)

## lust

the clean cut of night is upon our return  
a jewel to be kept in a case of concern  
we watch it dissolve into stories of lust  
you do what you can, i do what i must

our hands are entangled in forces unknown  
to keep us from keeping our cover so blown  
while residents sleep in their houses of calm  
we raise up a silence of prayers and psalms  
you've spoken to jesus and he loves me too  
but he doesn't know you just quite like i do  
so spare your distaste for the flattering rose  
nobody will notice what everyone knows

i'm watching you dress, lord my patience is thin  
my body is itching to get in your skin  
our talk of betrayal, it bores me to tears  
for what is the use of confronting our fears  
they live in our choices, they live in denial  
they've stood in our shadows of shame for awhile  
you're talking to me about changing your ways  
so you can remember the most of your days  
but life isn't always "increasing the dose"  
it's keeping the secret that everyone knows

(february, 2009)

## **down to one**

it's dumb and sadistic  
to seem so artistic  
to seem so caught up in your self  
it's wrong and deceitful  
to all of the people  
to thoughtlessly ruin your health

tell me:  
who are you fooling?  
the lessons your schooling?  
your magical tricks of the trade?  
the minds you're deceiving  
are close to believing  
that they could be the new renegade

oh who are you gonna be?  
when the day is done  
when you're down to one  
when you're down to one  
shadow that's dragging you around?  
who are you gonna be?

you've been flung off the deep end  
into glorious weekends  
of living so fast and so bored  
your records are history  
but still it's a mystery  
to how you are still so adored

tell me:  
who are you blowing away?  
are you throwing away  
someone to be replaced?  
if you are so sacred  
then how can i take you  
so seriously in front of your face

(december, 2011)

## **sink & swim**

there's something honest in your voice,  
i know it's never been your choice  
to take the spotlight and rejoice the world you wonder of  
somehow i left myself there  
alone and glued to the stairs  
afraid of piercing your glare that found it's way to me

when did i become the one  
to tell you when your time is done  
the bells are ringing loudly  
hallelujah

reckless living, life and limb  
do you prefer to sink than swim?  
do you think yourself a sinner in this holy war?  
then drop bow and hide your shame  
i'm never one for playing games  
when all the faces look the same through the eyes of the lord

so hold your breath and hold your tongue  
we'll know tomorrow if we've won  
the life we've wished for in the sun by the riverbank  
and time will tell it, oh so clear  
to see tomorrow disappear  
and slowly turn into the hour of our sweetest breath

(november, 2008)

## **currency**

the beaches would roll in angry waves  
they'd shape a grain of sand into my bones  
sometimes i seem to find myself in ruin  
sometimes you seem to find me simply stoned

our currencies were sinking with disease  
the remnants of a tattered dollar bill  
and when we found our credit had been tainted  
we turned to climb that dark, foreboding hill

we lived among the twisted and the sacred  
our code was one of many colored songs  
we'd shout into the air of our brethren  
and whisper that we always would be strong

now time has taught us well to laugh and holler  
at those who find their fortunes in their greed  
but every now and then i discover  
that nothing is the everything we need

(june, 2010)

## **on your own**

if i could find  
another way around it  
maybe we would  
convince ourselves that we found it  
falling fast for some belief

when you're on your own  
no one really knows  
how your story goes  
and all you have is never shown  
when you're on your own

down in the dark  
recesses of your passion  
you pray for a time  
when suddenly you're in fashion  
looking long for some relief

when you're on your own  
you sink into your throne  
indulgent to the bone  
and all you have is never shown

(december, 2009)

## **twisted phrase**

i've stumbled to my failing knees  
beneath the weight of heavy eyes  
after all this time it seems  
your love is still some sweet surprise

i've ran away from things you've said  
and taken darkness under wing  
to cast a light on things i dread  
sometimes it just takes everything

heaven help us find our voice  
to sing aloud our twisted phrase  
if in the end we have no choice  
then all i've left is you to praise

if all we've said is all we've done  
and still we fumble for our grace  
then faith is just a loaded gun  
that's pointed straight into our face

(march, 2010)