

My Father's Shoes

Tried walkin' in my father's shoes
I laced 'em up real tight
Dusted off the years
But something wasn't right
The bootstraps didn't help much
Dad would have been amused
At seeing how I stumbled
While walkin' in his shoes

chorus:

He'd say you'll do fine
There's no better place to start
Keep following the compass in your heart

“Just take it slow and steady”
That's what he'd always say
“And never be too proud
To get out of your own way
And if somebody offers help
Make sure you don't refuse
With any luck you'll find yourself
While walkin' in my shoes”.

chorus

Sometimes the years just fall away
And I become a child
I peek when he's not lookin'
'cause I love to see him smile.
He does his part and fills my heart
By summoning the muse
I'm who I am today
Cause I'm walking in his shoes

chorus

Yes and you'll do fine
There's no better place to start
Keep following the compass in your heart

Cross My Heart

I'll never tell you anything that's "make believe"
Unlike grown-ups spinning magic
On a snowy winter's night
As sleepy children tumble into bed
I'll always stand by everything I've said

I'll never whisper words that I don't mean
Unlike "happy-ever-after" at the bottom of a page
And rainbows dipping down to pots of gold
I'll always honor every word I've told

Some defend the "devil in the details"
While others spin a yarn of pretty prose
And I suppose...
That's how life goes

(musical interlude)

I'll never cross my heart unless it's true
No "once-upon-a-time"
Or reading in-between the lines
I'd be afraid of heading for a fall

And so...
I may not tell you anything at all

Tallapoosa

Yes I do remember chasing rabbits 'cross the dirt
Running through the backwoods
How the brambles caught your shirt
Jumping in Sweet Water Creek
Hitching up my skirt
Yes I do remember you

Chorus:

Yes I do, yes I do
You were that good ol' boy I took a shining to
Yes I do, Yes I do
I do remember you

Yes I do remember fishing poles and tangled line
Daddy hollerin' "you take care 'a that precious girl of
mine"
Scared to ride the handle bars
You saying I'd do fine
Yes I do remember you

Chorus

Bridge:

Seems a hundred years ago
Me reaching for your coat
The Tallapoosa reaching too
And that was all she wrote
That river had her way that day
An' that was all she wrote

An' yes I do remember I was so in love with you
Fixing for a wedding
If you had wanted to
Time had other plans
We never got to say "I do"
Yes I do remember you

Chorus

Been peeking down from Heaven
Seen how handsome you done grew
Lord yes, I do remember you

The Likes Of You

I've been known to jump a train,
Dance outside in a hurricane
Drive alone down Lover's Lane
But I ain't never known the likes of you

I've been known to kiss a toad
I've helped turtles cross the road
Still make angels in the snow
But I ain't never known the likes of you

Bridge:

I fell in love with you
Just the way I am
Doing all the silly things I do
Unlike everybody else
You let me be myself
I fell in love with me in love with you

I dress up every Halloween
Believe in things I've never seen
Slept out on a trampoline
But I ain't never known the likes of you

I've wished on every shooting star
It's crazy that I got this far
But here I am, and there you are
My heart and I agree
We're loving... that you like the likes of me

I Got Cats

Years ago in a laundry mat
Me and one old man
And the sounds of those machines
I told him what my family means
He sighed and then he spoke
Got no family of my own
But I'm busy just the same
He winked, and then his story came

Me, I got cats
The oldest one is Sal
Found him on a back road
He's always been my pal
He jumps up on this lap of mine
I scratch behind his ears
Neither of us moves too fast
We're getting on in years

Chorus:

Yeah me, I got cats
And when this life is through
Just tell 'em I'll be waiting
'Cause Heaven's got cats too

The second one is Peaches
I don't know when she came
She's pretty as a cobbler pie
That's how she got her name
She curls around my ankles
I lift her to my face
She sleeps against me every night
It's always been her place

Chorus

Ain't no rhyme or reason
Why I never took a wife
Lost and lonely creatures
Kind of overflowed my life

Now Echo is the baby girl
Repeatin' sounds and cries
Her voice fills up my little room
Considerin' her size
She showed up on my doorstep
All soaking wet and gray
I smiled at Sal and Peaches:
"Be good, she's here to stay"

Chorus

Tag:

He folded clothes, the silence came
He tipped his hat and spoke my name
Stay well, I need to get along
They tend to get to mischief when I'm
gone

Moments

In the time that it takes
To whisper one small word
Wave hello, blow a kiss, dry a tear
He could walk on by
She could disappear

In a crowd, through a door,
Down the hall, around the bend
As you're searching for your keys
Or talking with a friend
Missing what was there all the while

But in the madness of this world
On that ordinary day
I turned around
At the sound of your smile.

In the time that it takes
To trace a falling star
Turn a page, take a breath, touch the rain
She could hail a cab
He could catch a train

Running fast, through a gate
Out of sight, and out of mind
In the dawning of the day
Or the shadows growing blind
And sadly, they'd have missed
What was there all the while

In the clamor of this world
On that ordinary day
To never turn around
At the sound of a smile.

In the time that it takes
To whisper one small word

Chorus & Verse

The notes fell from my spoon into the ginger tea
Swirling in the early amber brew
You were turning in your sleep...
I was turning too

I left you in between the chorus and the verse
I left the Ts uncrossed, left the i without a dot
It was all there was to give you
For all I never got
I left you in between the chorus and the verse.

I left you just before another sad refrain
Like the sighing of the wind or the crying of a train
We saw the finish line – I guess I got there first
I left you in between the chorus and the verse

Bridge:

And the ginger tea grew cold
And the honey went unstirred
I never touched the cup
I left without a word

Instrumental

I left you quickly without ever looking back
And tho' I tried to find a trace of love to pack
The only love I found was mine
That only made things worse
I left you in between the chorus and the verse.

I left you in between the chorus and the verse.

What Your Eyes Saw

I want to see what your eyes saw
On the day that you said goodbye
Was it a face on a crowded street
Or a path that you longed to try?

I want to see what your eyes saw
On the day you left me here
Was it the sun shining through the rain
That made everything seem clear?

Bridge:

I know you're leaving
And though it's not what I had planned
If I could look through your eyes
Maybe I'd understand

Instrumental

I want to see what your eyes saw
On the day that love closed its door
Was it the child you used to be
Who needed to play some more?

Or sadly, were you looking at me
At some unforgivable flaw?
It's breaking my heart, but I need to see
What your eyes saw

Paint it Brown

She cried “Isaac don’t be leaving
Don’t be running from our bed”
He said “I’m out to race the demon
That’s been screamin’ in my head
And I swear it sounds alive
But it’s steel instead of bone
Like a heart attack at bay
And it’s breathing on its own”

In the land of milk and honey
He was headed for the pier
Past the tenements and rats
And the home of Paul Revere
And the cobblestones would lead him
To the stains as dark as stout
Where a fifty foot tank
Had molasses leaking out

Chorus:

Paint it brown (paint it brown)
Paint it brown (paint it brown)
Isaac said “we’ll all the dead”
The boss threatened “Quiet Down!”
There’s money to be made
Enough to go around
Paint the damn thing brown!!

So 40,000 immigrants slept as Isaac ran
And he didn’t have the power
And he didn’t have a plan
And his voice was beaten down
By the politicians’ call
For production of munitions by distilling alcohol

From the slave trade market back in 1638
To a manmade world of greed and hate
From Africa to Boston, all the way to City Hall
With blackstrap molasses at the center of it all

Chorus

Over 2 million gallons pushed the limits of the law
As the belly of the tank
Moaned with January’s thaw
And the mothers sent their children
With buckets and with sticks
For scooping up the coming flood
That Isaac couldn’t fix

The rivets in the steel
Felt the pressure and took aim
At a thousand living things
That would never be the same
And a tidal wave of 20 feet
Engulfed the midday scene
At 40 miles an hour in the year 1919

Chorus

The firehouse had disappeared,
Foundations rose and fell
A wave of tracks and trains became
A half a mile of hell
And shattered glass was everywhere
Timbers turned to knives
And all the souls still breathing
Were fighting for their lives.

The waterfront turned belly up
The harbor sucked it in
And Boston screamed itself to sleep
Afraid to wake again
And on the wind, all sickly sweet
Isaac heard the sound –
“THERE’S MONEY TO BE MADE
PAINT THE DAMN THING BROWN!”

Chorus

There’s money to be made
Right here in Boston town
PAINT THE DAMN TANK BROWN

I just Want A Nap

I'll put it on the front page
Leave it in a text
Don't know when it started
But you could be the next

My neighbor wants a ride somewhere
My daughter wants a loan
A stranger wants directions
My puppy wants a bone
Geico wants my business
My sweetie wants some time
My Chevy wants a fill up
This lyric wants a rhyme

Chorus:

But I just want a nap, a moment of repose
I just want a nap, I want a nap
Excuse me while I doze

The Stones want "satisfaction"
Uncle Sam wants you
My banjo wants a set of strings
But my demands are few
"Snooze you lose" does not apply
When I snooze I win
Napping is the new "good night"
And here it comes again

Chorus

Bridge:

So put me in a corner
I'll lean against the wall
Lay me down or sit me up
I don't care at all
Swing me in a hammock
A place to lay my head
Offer me most anything
I'll choose a nap instead.

Last Chorus:

Yes I just want a nap, a moment of repose
I just want a nap, I want a nap
Excuse me while I doze
While I doze (Rock-a-bye baby)
See my eyes close (In the tree top)
Breathing nice and slow (When the wind blows)
Let the feelings go (The cradle will rock)
While I doze (When the bough breaks)...

January

Listen to the silence all around me
Everything is new and dark and still
Thinking of the holidays behind me
Snowflakes building on my window sill

Geese have flown away to where it's warmer
Whitecaps on the lake race for shore
Morning coffee knows I'm in no hurry
Smile and sigh, I couldn't ask for more

Chorus:

January carry me wherever
Waltzing through the hemlock and the pine
You can take the lead and I will follow
Your winter welcome sign
January carry me forever
Dancing like a whisper on the wind
Show me all the promise of tomorrow
Then bring me home again

I recall the tapestry of nature
How October swept us into fall
Closing down the year with friends & family
Laughing at the way I loved it all.

Sleepy woods are filling up the landscape
Sky is saying we may get a storm
Fireplace is ready for the weather
I've got everything to keep me warm

Chorus

Listen to the silence all around me

He Sang

He sang her close
She tagged along to hear him play
He paused and stuggled with the chords,
His fingers just got in the way
A beat up, banged up ol' guitar
He'd bartered for that day,
He sang her close.

He sang her sweet
Just loud enough so she'd pretend
That she had other things to do
Like some ol' tattered shawl to mend.
And by the dawn of autumn days
Their love had grown in quiet ways
He sang her sweet.

He sang her back,
When he'd regretted things he'd said
And she had tried to hide the tears
And turned away from him in bed
That ol' guitar was there
So he reached for it instead
And sang her back.

A bridge to bind the strings
A bridge to tie the song
A bridge to keep them close
The tune played on and on
On and on...

He sang her home,
For there was nothing else to do
And photographs told of a life
With laughing children running through
She sighed, "I'd love to hear a song",
Then whispered "love you too..."

And his tears fell
As he held her close
And softly, softly
Sang her home.

He sang her home...