

This Old Town

First they took down the retail stores
Then they took the whole damn Mall
But we were too busy at the factory to really make sense of it all.
The bosses came in for lunch one day and proceeded to feed us all
By the end of the week we saw the winning streak
Was really just a set for a fall

And now the Union Hall and the last Bar around
Are the only two things that aint been taken down
In this old town
In this old town

Well they know me by name at the pawn shop, but they're closing down in thirty days
And it looks like my old Gretsch guitar is finally going away
You can't picket no empty building, man
That's just a cold, hard fact
Sometimes, when your job is gone that work aint coming back
And now the Union Hall and the last Bar around
Are the only two things that aint been taken down
In this old town
In this old town

So, I'm headed down to the Whiskey Well to shoot me a game of chance
And if a lady looks like she'll treat me right, I'll buy her beer and I'll ask her to dance.
'Cause I cashed in my last paycheck
Man, it aint even close to the rent
If I'm down to my last dollars, son, I'll speak for how it's spent.

And now the Union Hall and the last Bar around
Are the only two things that aint been taken down
In this old town
In this old town

Floatin'

Been kickin around on the same piece of ground 'bout thirty years
Folks I used to know don't come around any more
They made it out of here
I've got deadbolt locks on my crackerbox and no backyard
And the paycheck's just enough to keep you where you are

But I aint sinking
or swimming
Just floating in the river
Sittin so still, I can't even feel the water no more
And it aint no heights of Zen
It's just me giving in
To a place that's neither drowning nor the shore

My old car still starts every morning, on the second try
It's been a year since I pulled its life support, but it didn't die
I've driven this route to work so much, it ought to drive hands free
I see the same folks every morning, but they never notice me

But I aint sinking
or swimming
Just floating in the river
Sittin so still, I can't even feel the water no more
And it aint no heights of Zen
It's just me giving in
To a place that's neither drowning nor the shore

I've got no news to tell you, friend
It's just another day
I did the best at what I do and I was on my way
It's the morning route in exact reverse
as the sun goes down
Complete this circle one more time
Then back around

Still, I aint sinking
or swimming
Just floating in the river
Sittin so still, I can't even feel the water no more
And it aint no heights of Zen
It's just me giving in
To a place that's neither drowning nor the shore

No, it aint no heights of Zen

It's just me giving in
To a place that's neither drowning nor the shore

Contents of a Drawer

A note from my Father; a memory of a hard working man
The Holy Bible; a book for the best laid plans
A Desire Chip from a meeting I no longer attend
And a picture of me and my wife, back when we began

A Thank You card; written but never sent
A receipt from when two hundred fifty dollars still paid the rent
A handful of change stored in a coffee can
And a picture of me and my wife, back when we began

She's resting softly against my shoulder
I'm leaning towards her, but I do not hold her
Both of us are turned to look out across the water
Silently
Expectantly
Hopefully

A handful of shells from somewhere on the Eastern shore
A key that no longer works to open any door
A number that no longer phones a long, lost friend
And a picture of me and my wife, back when we began

A picture of me and my wife...

Muscle Car

My baby's like a Muscle Car
Smooth curves and solid steel
My baby's like a Muscle Car
Smooth curves and solid steel
It takes a real man to drive her
No fools allowed behind the wheel

She'll hug you on the quarter mile
Hold you close on every turn
She'll hug you on the quarter mile
Hold you close on every turn
You just tickle her accelerator
She's gonna pin you back and burn!

My baby's like a Muscle Car
Smooth curves and solid steel
My baby's like a Muscle Car
Smooth curves and solid steel
It takes a real man to drive her
No fools allowed behind the wheel

Promising More

I'm promising more than I can possibly do
Biting off more than I can possibly chew
Sinking in shades of impossibly blue
With stories that cannot be possibly true

The love that I felt was exceptionally strong
As we forged a connection exceptionally long
That ended up broken when exceptions were gone
Now there's nothing left for me except to move on

Entangled as lovers and hiding our pain
Entangled in covers and hiding our names
We're entangled in something we cannot sustain
A release from entanglements, little is gained

I'm keeping my distance in hopes it will change
I'm keeping your picture by the flowers you arranged
I keep to myself all these thoughts pushing sane
While I'm keeping a room for the ghost that remains

I delivered the roses, even though it was done
The energy shared, we delivered as one
A special delivery bright as the Sun
Now, I stand undelivered the tenant has gone

I'm promising more than I can possibly do
Biting off more than I can possibly chew
Sinking in shades of impossibly blue
With stories that cannot be possibly true

Dad's Farm

The dirty city rain, leaving streaks across my windshield
on the highway to the suburbs and beyond
The city monster grows; swallows lonely country roads
'Till the buildings stand with nothing in between
Nature's green; American dreams
Don't exist in harmony any more
And everything, it seems so useless sometimes, to me
Alone, I ask myself, 'What for? What for?'

But Dad's farm still stands proudly in that space
Outside of the human race, for awhile
And late at night on the porch swing
as the heavy trucks roll by;
far enough out of sight to be forgotten,
I pretend that I am free

And he sits and tells me stories, with his briar pipe a'glowing
in the pale moonlight dancing off the trees
And I sit with him and listen to his old, enchanting stories
and I find, again, that part of me
the city street have tried to lock away

A gunshot sounds
A siren howls
The city never sleeps
A young man dies
A mother cries
They say it's up to me to keep the peace
But this gun and badge don't mean a thing
When people are forgotten
When life itself is looked upon as cheap
And for every honest officer, there's one whose soul is rotten
and it seems the good ones always take the bullets and the heat

But Dad says, 'It don't matter what the others do around you

Song Lyrics

What counts is what you do with what you know.'
He says, 'An honest man don't live looking back over his shoulder,
fearing things that he's done long ago.'

And he sits and tells me stories, with his briar pipe a'glowing
in the pale moonlight dancing off the trees
And I sit with him and listen to his old, enchanting stories
and I find, again, that part of me
the city street have tried to lock away

I remember what you say
I carry it with me every day
In this city
In this city
In this city...

Royal Blue

Once upon a broken heart
The Queen of pretty faces came riding
Down from her castle
Down into the world of broken rules
You see, her King was unpredictable
He left her feeling pushed around and used
So, off she ran into the arms of the nearest fool

But the Queen is just as laughable as her fool
The jokes aint quite as funny when they're true
When your Kingdom cools and you're bored with your toys
You run to the arms of the Jester boys
All dressed up in shades of Royal Blue

Now the King has it all;
money and power and land as far as you can see.
But the one thing he does not have is his lover's fidelity
And there's talk among the villagers when the mystery lady comes to call.
Some say it is the Queen and the Kingdom, it soon shall fall

Oh 'cause the Queen is just as laughable as her fool
The jokes aint quite as funny when they're true
When your Kingdom cools and you're bored with your toys
You run to the arms of the Jester boys
All dressed up in shades of Royal Blue

I Saw My Dad

Last night, I saw my Dad
He came to me in a dream
Looking younger than I'd ever seen him
I called to him and he smiled at me
He set his toolbox on the ground as I ran to welcome him home from work
I could feel the strength of his arms around me
Could smell the sweat on his working shirt

Now, you can say that that was all in my mind
That would be a waste of your time
'Cause I saw my Dad and my Dad's doing fine

I told him he was looking good and he told me he was proud of me
For carrying on like I should and for victories I never thought he'd see
He looked at me with a love that shined and then he held me close one more time
And this time, I got the chance to say
Goodbye

Now, you can say that that was all in my mind
That would be a waste of your time
'Cause I saw my Dad and my Dad's doing fine

When I woke up, it was raining outside
I lay there listening to the rain
I felt like there were hands inside me fixing all of the broken things
Then, all at once, the pain was gone
That hurt I'd carried for so long
And the tears came down for the first time
Since he died

Now, you can say that that was all in my mind
That would be a waste of your time
'Cause I saw my Dad and my Dad's doing fine
I'll be seeing you, Daddy
I'll be seeing you

GO

Morning brings a shred of hope
and another day and another chance to try
I've hit the bottom of my slope
Nothing left, but to spread my wings and fly

Still, the voice of my own fears
whispering into my ear says,
"No time! Can't afford to!"
"Too much important to do"
Troubles in my mind keep saying "No! Whoa, NO!"
Forget about the troubles and GO!

Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall;
Another year and it all looks just the same
There's no one left for me to call
Just one or two who even know my name

Still, the voice of my own fears
whispering into my ear says,
"No time! Can't afford to!"
"Too much important to do"
Troubles in my mind keep saying "No! Whoa, NO!"
Forget about the troubles and GO!