**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 nigh 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

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!