

Mother Transit Authority

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Writer

Don't give your love to a writer
They only wanna short trip
In your shoes
Don't make a start
With a journalist of the heart
Unless you wanna feel like front page news

Don't give yourself to a painter
You never know which palette
They'll use
With brushes and a knife
They'll draw their art straight from your life
But the perspective always skews

I gave my heart to a butcher
Had her cut the thinnest slice
She put the rest in the freezer
And marked it down to half price

Don't give your soul to a preacher
They never think your life's
Yours to choose
With sermons of fire
Commanding a heavenly choir
And they never take any excuse

I gave my love to a gambler
She put it all down on black
The wheel spun round and round
The bets all hit the ground
But the house never pays you back

Don't give your love to a singer
They'll only throw it right back
On your shoes
With notebook and pen
Words break your heart all over and over and
over again
And you think the song's about you
You think the song is all about you

Coney

The Wheel goes round and round
And what comes up must come down
So take a chance
You never know
You may win the biggest prize
In the freak show

The brass ring's out of reach
And we're out of things to teach
So come on down
And pay the fare
To get frightened in the dark
Or go flying through the air

*So much history
In the boardwalk
So much mystery
In your sweet talk
Assault and battery
Of the subtle kind
But it's like the lottery
You're never gonna win
Unless you step in line*

See that Kewpie Doll
Watch that sucker fall
You think he's outta luck
But you never know at all
He may win the biggest prize
In that carnie's stall

Walkin' hand in hand
Past the one man band
The roller rink and the
cotton candy stand
And I can see it in your eyes
I can hear it in your sighs
I think we won the biggest prize
In the freak show

The Wheel goes round and round
And what comes up must come down
So step right up
You never know
You may win the biggest prize
In the freak show

The Color of Morning

It's the color of morning
After a night without end
The kiss of a stranger
The secrets of a friend
It's a bruise when it's forming
Or a cut that won't mend
It's your very last dollar
That you can't even spend

*It's the blood on the highway
The cold hand on a switch
The fear of a small town
As they burn another witch*

The color of mourning
Or a letter not sent
The package on your doorstep
Hides your truest intent
It's that ring on your finger
And all the money you spent
So pray to your Jesus
To sing this lament

*When we came together
So much more than a spark
So is it surprising?
I woke up in the dark*

The true color of springtime
And the rules you can't bend
That shape in your closet
No matter how you pretend
This is a song about nightmares
And violence that you defend
This is a song about love
No matter how you pretend
This is a song about love
No matter how you pretend

Continue the Trend

Ages and ages ago
Something crawled from the slime
Despite evolution
We all return at times
There's nothing much different
Although the players have changed
The rules stay consistent
And we stay deranged
Sometimes you play predator
And sometimes you're the prey
We're all just like dinosaurs
No matter what you say
Look at the caveman
With simple tools of stone
is he so different?
From what we feel in our bones

So try to remember
As you're runnin' up that hill
You don't need a deal with God
To feed me that pill
Cause we all change places
Years of trying on shoes
The ape lives within me
The ape's within you
Despite evolution
Despite our big brains
We get what we give what we get
This simple refrain

*And we continue the trend
The song never ends
Round and round the bend
And we do it again
And we continue the trend
The song never ends
Round and round the bend
And we do it again
And we continue the trend
The song never ends
Round and round the bend
And then we do it again
And we continue the trend
The song never ends
Round and round the bend
And then we do it again*

Missed Connections

You'd lost your breath
As you dashed onto the train
You check yourself
And telecast your pain

I caught my breath
Then quickly looked away
Get on get off
And get back on again

These missed connections
We check but no one's there
Just dim reflections
And half-vacant stares

This book I'm reading
You know it oh so well
Your style is bleeding
And you know it oh so well

So well!

*We should be dancing!
We should be dancing!
We should be dancing!
We should be dancing!*

It's almost morning
When you cast your net
Without a warning
I know I won't forget...

*These Missed Connections!
These Missed Connections!
These Missed Connections!
These Missed Connections!*

Birds

Sometimes words
Escape from my mouth
Untamed birds
Flying through
An open window

A flock of pigeons
In hues of washed-out soot
And on occasion
A solitary snowy crane
Or millions of annoying
Little songbirds
Heralding the dawn

I once watched a murder
Of crows
Bring the night down
With their cacophony
A noise that knows you far
Far too well
and preys on the light

Or the red, red robin
alone on a telephone wire
With a song and dance of
desperation
For no one in particular

A wise old barn owl
Who has no idea
What's he hooting about

The swallow-tailed kite
The lucky bluebird of spring
The thrush in the brush
The rush of restless wings

Sometimes words
They fly out of my mouth
Untamed birds
Flying through an
Open window

Dig!

Cut-and-cover fifty feet underground
We're like your mama 'cause we're all over
town
Workin' nights & weekends; can't bring us
down

Foreman cracks the whip
"Don't give me so much lip!"
You gotta dig!

Dig!
Diggin' tunnels so the pussy can flow
Blood and money mixin' way down below
Stop your whinin' 'cause your train's runnin'
slow

Ya got simply no idea
What we go through down here!
You gotta dig!
Dig!

One more mile it sounds like a cinch
Fightin' tooth-n-nail just to go a whole inch
We mine for gold but we die in this ditch
Dig!

You gotta dig!
"Put yer back into it 'm losin' all hope.
You love to goof off like yer mama loves
dope.

You got me hangin' on the end of my rope!"
Boss says we so damn slow
But he should know
We gotta dig!
Dig!

Cut-and-cover fifty feet underground
We're like your mama 'cause we're all over
town
Nights & weekends but you can't bring us
down

Foreman cracks the whip
"Don't give me so much lip!"
You gotta dig!
You gotta dig!

Adrift On the Open Main

Th' storm rent asunder
As the lighting plundered
Our ship in the dead o' the sea
Waves crash through walls
As the mizzenmast falls
Our Lady struck down in calamity
The frigate's been fragged
And the crew's beyond shagged
And the Captain is losing his voice
We've lost half our wheel
And most of our keel
Direction no longer a choice
*Adrift on the open main
I hope to see your face again
Some sweet day!*

The first mate is grumbling
And our stomachs have stopped rumbling
The Captain is losing his sight
No sign of land
And we're well out of hand
"There will be mutiny tonight!"
*Adrift on the open main
I hope to see your face again
Adrift on the open main
I hope to see your face again
Some sweet day!*

"Away from those lifeboats
You yellow-bellied turncoats!
I'm not going down with the ship!"
But the captain's remarks
Fell on the deaf ears of sharks
As we took off and gave him the slip
*Adrift on the open main
I hope to see your face again
Adrift on the open main
I hope to see your face again
Some sweet day!*

*Some sweet day!
Some sweet day!
Some sweet day!
Some sweet day!*

Lower the Gravity

Turn off the telescreen
Ignore the latest feeds
Slow down half speed
Lower the gravity
Let's take off tonight
Slowly add density
We're passing satellites
Lower the gravity

Lower the gravity
And come and dance with me
Lower the gravity
Lower the gravity

Pretend we're all alone
In the whole galaxy
Ignore Mission Control
Lower the gravity

Lower the gravity
And come and dance with me
Lower the gravity
Lower the gravity

We'll watch the planets rise
Spinning through galaxies
My how time flies
Lower the Gravity
Stuck here in this tin can
No one but you and me
We'll make our stand
Lower the gravity
The sky from above
Such a sight to see
There's nothing but love
Lower the gravity

Lower the gravity
And come and dance with me
Lower the gravity
Lower the gravity

Problem

I don't know what is wrong with me
Must be a problem with my chemistry
Maybe I just need some therapy
To help with this dependen-
- cy- cy
See, I gotta problem
- see - see - see - see
See, I gotta problem

My mouth is dry and my hands are wet
I can't remember but I can't forget
Just a little, all that I can get
'Cause I'm breakin in a cold cold
- sweat - sweat
See, I gotta problem
- see - see - see - see
See, I gotta problem

I can't get it on the radio
I can't get it from the video
My problem don't leave a mark on me
But the side effects are so easy to
- see - see - see - see
See, I gotta problem!
- see - see - see - see
See, I gotta problem!
- see - see - see - see
See, I gotta problem!

It's not a problem, I can quit any time!
It's not a problem I can quit any time!
It's not a problem, I can quit any time!
It's not a problem I can quit any time!
It's not a problem, I can quit any time!
It's not a problem I can quit any time!

Carpe Diem

Know you're less than flattered
But my mind is all but shattered
Over you
Just wanna see your face
Not makin' plans for future days
With you
Got no expectations
For family vacations
I swear it's true
We're both here on the same front lines
We may as well enjoy our time
What say you?

My confidence is sinkin'
And I just return to drinkin'
Over you
I know I've blown my cover
But I want to be your lover
It's so true
Sorry I misconstrued
With my persistent attitude
Toward you
Not asking for forever
Just tonight or whenever
Alone with you
Please don't pull away
Just seize the day

Now some will call me lazy
But we've been bustin' ass like crazy
So much to do
Is it such a crime
To waste a little time
Just me and you
I know you'll laugh and scoff
But let's take the evening off
Nothing to do
Share a moment of tender bliss
What's the biggest harm in this?
What say you?
Please don't pull away
Just seize the day

So Satisfied

Everybody gotta go
Everybody gotta go sometime
Everybody gotta go
Don't go along for the ride
Lazily sinking in
Into that rising tide
Remember when you go
You gotta be so satisfied

Aw now baby
Love to see you by my side
Oh now honey
Give me a glow I just can't hide
I'm down on my knees
Damn this foolish pride
No matter what you say
Ya gotta be so satisfied

Everybody learned to walk
On this I have not lied
Everybody learned to talk
Show what they feel inside
Gotta get on your feet
Don't be troubled by what's died
No matter you do
You gotta be so satisfied

I'm so satisfied! I'm so satisfied!
Ya gotta be so satisfied!

Everybody gotta go
We all gotta go sometime
Everybody gotta go
Don't just go along for the ride
Everybody gotta go
Don't go along for the ride...

Everybody all aboard!
Ride to the end of the line
Everybody all aboard!
Show what you feel inside
Get up on your feet
Damn your foolish pride
Everybody gotta go
And you gotta stay satisfied
No matter what you do
Ya gotta be so satisfied
No matter what you say
You got me so satisfied!

The Haunting

Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....
You finally came home
Eleanor....
Can't you see that I am the
house
That you were made for?

Board by board
Stone by stone
I'll keep you dry and
I'll keep you warm
So glad to see you in my
happy home
There's no more need for you
to be alone

Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....
You finally came home
Eleanor....
Can't you see that I am the
house
That you were made for?

I rattle my chains
I drive you insane
You say you sleep on the left
side
'Cause it wears your heart out
faster

Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....
Eleanor....

Brutality in Custody

Arrest my heart
Capture my soul
Lock me away
No hope for parole
Put me behind bars
Throw out the key
Save me from myself
Please capture me

Come rough me up
I'm beggin' you please
Bust up my lip
Bring me to my knees
Force me to confess
To everything
I'll say what you want
Just make me sing

I did the crime
Freely admit it here
I'll do my time
Have no fear
Cause I'm a thief
But it don't pay
Arrest my heart
Lock me away

Arrest my heart
Arrest my heart
Arrest my heart
Lock me away