

ROBERT WYNIA



IRON BY WATER

1. Firefly

I built a keep to hold my anger in.
I built a fortress for my keep
I built a castle around my fortress
and dug a mote that's two fathoms deep
I built a city around my castle
then filled it up with my subjects
They are all paralyzed by a fear of the city
and all the anger that it protects
I built a nation for my city.
Made all the wild country tame
I made a world to hold my nation
where every living creature fears my name
I put up the skies and filled the oceans.
I built the universe as well.
I made a heaven that I only I can get into
and everybody else can go to hell

And so I burn like a firefly
I send my signal out to you
Into the blackness all around, only hoping
you can find some way to break through
You can find some way to break through

I drink my coffee in the morning
and listen to the radio
But all these comforts are just cold, hollow
reminders of everything I had that I let go.
So I live this life of luxury
inside a universe I made
But at night I still sleep so fitfully
behind an iron barricade

And so I burn like a firefly
I send my signal out to you
Into the blackness all around, only hoping
you can find some way to break through
You can find some way to break through

2. Testify

Lying on the pavement, thinking back
Into that moment when it all went black
It started with you. You wanted to try
to raise up your hands and testify
I took the next step.
You just watched me go.
I took the next step, just for my ego.
It started with me. I wanted to try
to raise up my hands and testify
And as the sky grew heavy with rain
we listened to the sound.
We realize when our feet leave the ground
our heads are in the clouds
And it's such a long way,
such a long way down.
It's a long way down.
So we find a place so far away,
no one ever goes
Leave all our worries behind us
Looking down upon the world,
making us feel high
We're ready to testify
And as the sky grew heavy with rain
we listened to the sound
We realize when our feet leave the ground
our heads are in the clouds
It's such a long way, such a long way down
Lying on the pavement, thinking back
Into that moment when it all went black

3. Only You

I wake up and I'm shaking, sweating
I reach to find you're too far away
I want you, but I keep forgetting
Live for tomorrow, die for today
I am just like an acrobat
tumbling down from the wire
And I'm fragile but happily broken
for what I desire
All I see as I sink down into the blue
All I hope for as I come to
Only you
Swim like a dream in my vein.
Sing me another refrain.
Tell me what more I can do
if I have the world and want only you?
Only you.
I wake up and I'm shaking, sweating
I reach to find you've gone away
And I still want to,
but I keep forgetting
Live for tomorrow is to die for today
We are like acrobats
tumbling down from the wire
We are fragile but happily broken
for what we desire
All I see as I look up into the blue
All I hope for as I come to
Only you.

4. Two Dragonflies

Two dragonflies suspended in the air.
Flickering in time, I stop and stare
The days are shorter now,
the season winding down.
As the honey colored leaves
lay scattered on the ground
The children climb the rusted carousel.
The preacher is too old to ring the bell
The church beside the orchard
crumbling silently.
All the lovers in the field
touching imperfectly
If you'll say anything then say it now.
If you'll say anything, say it now
And I will welcome you in.
I will welcome you in. In here with me.
Wild animals asleep beneath my floor.
A bitter wind is howling at the door.
And ghostly smoke, it creeps out
from the fireplace
The fading sunset blushing red upon your face
The rain begins to fall, the tide to ebb.
Eyes closing as I slowly spin my web.
The silent highway, long as any winter's night.
The patient grave that sits
waiting to hold you tight.
If you'll give anything then give it now.
If you'll give anything then give it now
And I will welcome you in.
Yes, I will welcome you in.
In here with me.

5. No Compromise

You made me a man with the back of your hand
as we cast our lines into the shallows
You showed me the ropes and the crushing of hopes
with a laugh loud enough for the gallows
Yes, and I will give sorrow for sorrow
I will give no compromise
Yet I will give my hollow comfort to you
when everything else in you dies
I will dry your eyes
I sat on the bus and I thought about us
as I watched all the rain on the highway
I drift into a dream, so sad and obscene,
that you finally see all of this my way
I will give sorrow for sorrow,
I will give no compromise
I will give my hollow comfort to you
when everything else in you dies
Maybe someone else can dig deeper
than I do
Maybe someone else can bleed better
than I do, just for you
You made me a man
with the back of your hand
as we cast our lines into the shallows
You showed me the ropes
and the crushing of hopes
with a laugh loud enough for the gallows

6. Come To Me

Listen, there's a sound on the wind.
It's soft but it's strong
Pulling me onward, like a love song
Look through the shadows
sniff at the air
I feel it hiding.
There's something out there.
Singing, "Come. Come to me."
It's cold and it's hungry
and searching for cover
but soon I'll be holding it
close as a lover
A murder of crows blots out the sunshine
as in one desperate leap
our bodies entwine
And we sing, "Come. Come to me."
Come to me.
We sing a love song
until the pain is gone.

You know it's as certain as sunrise
as red as a rose
Patient as the devil
it reaps what it sows.
This act is not evil, nor is it divine
it's the way of the world
I am yours, you are mine.

7. How It Was Meant To Be

Well is this how it was meant to be?
Is this all that there is for me?
Is this rope that's around me ever
gonna loosen up?
When my daddy looked me right in the eyes
I knew it was time we said our goodbyes
And this pain in my chest
has been getting the best of me since.

So come and take it away.
Come on and take it all away
Dig me out from under before I suffocate
Please take it away.
Please take it all away
And when everything is in place
help me escape. Help me escape.
Well is this how it was meant to be?
Is this all that there is for me?
Is the river for my baptism all dried up?
I started to feel like I was
floating in space
Man, I was punching all over the place
You and all of the rest
have been getting the best of me since

So come and take it away
Come on and take it all away
Dig me out from under before I suffocate
Take it away. Oh, take it all away
And when everything is in place,
help me escape. Help me escape.
Take me in a dream. Take me anywhere
Push me under deep. Pull me up for air.
Is the river for my baptism all dried up?

8. Soapbox

And ain't it lovely when you're falling
off your soapbox?
The way time stops and all their jaws drop
as you drift down
And ain't it lovely when you're
laid out on the concrete?
Don't it taste sweet?
The blood on your teeth drips on the ground.
If you know you're heading for slaughter
If you know where you've been
You will be changed, like iron by water
This is the end, just the end
The end of an age.
Ain't it lovely when you feel humiliation
and then desolation, then that elation
knowing you're free
Ain't it lovely when the medicine you're
needing, all you're begging and pleading
It's slowly receding, now you're free.
If you know you're headed for slaughter
If you know where you've been
You will be changed, like iron by water
This is the end, just the end
The end of an age
When the boys lay you down
you're the talk of the town
And you leave it all over the page
When you spout out your truth
from a fountain of youth
and it's lunacy mingled with rage
It's just the end, just the end
The end of an age.
And ain't it lovely when you're falling
off your soapbox
the way time stops, all their jaws drop
Now you're free

9. Lament

We see the admiral walking
The killers are talking
The jackal is stalking its prey
We see the window reflecting,
the forecast projecting
A sun that's collecting the day
There's a hole at the edge of town
where we go
When we're all run down
There's a hole outside of town
that's meant for you.
There's a hole outside of town
meant for me too.
And before our eyes, every hour spent
We sanctify, absolve and lament
As the dogs pick up our scent
We're looking where you're directing
We're deeply connecting
The strong are selecting the weak
We see a deep blue horizon
the red moon that's rising
The beauty disguising the freak
There's a hole at the edge of town
where we go when we're all run down
There's a hole outside of town
that's meant for you.
There's a hole outside of town
meant for me too.
So before our eyes, every hour spent
We sanctify, absolve and lament
Singing, "Oh, the hammer blows do fall,
but never seem to make a dent!"
Singing, "Oh, we cannot stop at all
to wonder where the hours went!"
As the dogs pick up our scent
We see the admiral walking,
the killers are talking
The jackal is stalking its prey
We see the window reflecting,
the forecast projecting
A sun that's collecting the day

10. Warning Signs

Take this moment as a warning sign.
A perfect pearl thrown among the swine
There is prophecy in every word I say
I've been carrying your heavy load
through the valleys on this endless road
You keep dancing, but I keep getting nowhere
So good bye. Just dry your eyes.

Good bye.

Every time I think I'm playing it cool
you always treat me like I'm a fool
Am I too stupid to read between your lines?
These are the warning signs.

Did you think I would just go away?
Did you think that it would end this way?
I know that I was blind, but now I see.

We try to kiss away the fears
To swallow all the wasted years
The blinder is he who will not see.
So good bye. Just dry your eyes.

Good bye.

Every time I think I'm playing it cool
You always treat me like I'm a useless fool
Am I too stupid to read between your lines?
These are the warning signs.

In the end it's all the same
and the wine is my distraction
from the grave.

You read me just like a clock
as I unwind.

These are the warning signs.

Take this moment as a warning sign.
A perfect pearl thrown among the swine
I know that I was blind,
but now I see. Now I see.

11. Leaving

I've been having this nightmare again and again
I've been trying to drive it from me
with alcohol, paper and pen
Inexorable winter creeps cold into our paradise
We hear the explosion of trees
snapping under the ice
When I walk in the room I am hopeful
but don't see you smile
So I borrow two thousand, book passage
and leave for a while
I never thought you could be so far away from me
As I saw you washing your delicate hands so clean
Everyone here has a motive for all that they say
But the only thing driving me now
is driving you away
In the night the sound of you breathing
is haunting me still
I know I will never come clean,
but you know that I will
Then I'll sing, "Hallelujah!"

So I stuff the rest of my reasons
into an old guitar case
carry them down to the river
where all of your sins are erased
The executioner is singing a song for the knife
It's a melody softly conveyed
at the end of a life.
When I walk in the room I'm still hopeful,
but don't see you smile
So I borrow two thousand, book passage
and leave for a while
Can I be more than a note
in your unfinished symphony?
Should I just cue up to screw up again and again?
Sometimes I cannot explain
all the things that I say
The only direction I know is going away
You tell me the places we end up
are where we begin
I pray that they day I come knocking
you will take me in
And I'll sing, "Hallelujah!"

12. Cast Aside

If I seem to chill you
like a blade upon your skin
I am just preparing
for it all to start again
When you're high I only hope
you don't look down on me
Of all the things beneath your wings,
I don't want to be
Cast aside, no more upon your mind
I was down the beach and out of reach
and weathering the blows
If you step into an empty room
you'd best be on your toes
Did you cut to read my history
like rings inside a tree?
Of all the things beneath your wings,
I don't want to be
Cast aside, no more upon your mind
'Cause I'm an addict,
I tune in the static
'Cause I'm an addict,
it's on automatic
So throw me away. Throw me away.
Just throw me away. Throw me away.
If I seem to chill you
like a blade upon your skin
I am just preparing
for it all to start again

13. The Frozen Ground

The pine trees are trembling all around.
Pine trees are trembling all around.
It's tough to get this shovel
into the frozen ground.
Pine trees are trembling all around.

Oh lord, am I one that you can save?
Oh lord, am I one that you can save?
As I lay my lover down
into this cold grave,
Lord, am I one that you can save?

I've been mean and wicked, soaked in sin.
I've been mean and wicked, soaked in sin.
But this world is a hard place
to be good in.
I've been mean and wicked, soaked in sin.

My love, she was good to me, for a time.
My love, she was good to me, for a time.
When the good went bad,
I went straight out of my mind.
My love, she was good to me, for a time.

The pine trees are trembling all around.
Pine trees are trembling all around.
It's tough to get this shovel
into the frozen ground.
Pine trees are trembling all around.

Robert Wynia:

Vocals, Acoustic/Electric Guitars, Bass,
Harmonica, Lapsteel, Piano, Percussion

Peter Cornett:

Drums, Percussion, Timpani

Rich Landar:

Pianos, Organ, Wulitzer, Hammond B-3, Mandolins

Jen Folker:

Vocals

Skip Von Kuske and Douglas Jenkins:

Cellos, Violas, Violins

Produced by:

Robert Wynia and DAX

Recorded and mixed by:

DAX and Robert Wynia at Church of Xenos,
Curiouser and Fortress of Solitude Studio

Mastered by:

Mell Dettmer at Aleph Studios, Seattle

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Visit: www.RobertWynia.com