


ROBERT WYNIA  
BRAVE THE STRANGE

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12. BRAVE THE STRANGE



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Robert Wynia - guitars, vocals, piano, percussion, bass guitars, harmonica

The Players:

Erin Adkisson - Additional vocals on tracks 1, 10, and 11

David Amador - Electric guitars on track 8

Paul Brainard - Pedal steel guitar on tracks 1 and 6

Frank Huston - Electric guitar on track 3

Kevin Huttman - Drums on track 6

Rich Landar - Keyboards on tracks 7, 8, and 10. Mandolin on track 10

Mark Powers - Drums on tracks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, and 11

Daniel Riddle - Electric guitar on tracks 1, 3, 5, and 11

Danny Stein - Drums on track 8

Skip VonKuske - Cellos on tracks 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10

All songs written and arranged by Robert Wynia

Produced and engineered by Robert Wynia & Daniel Riddle

Recorded at Curiouser Studios and Mazinga Studios in Portland, Oregon

Mixed by Daniel Riddle, except tracks 2 and 10 - mixed by Jeff Saltzman

Mastered at Telegraph Mastering in Portland, Oregon

## 1. Dark Water

All the dark water, it moves quietly near. But I don't want to listen, and you don't want to hear  
How all the dark water, I feel it starting to creep  
Like a spreading and merciless need that pulls me, pulls me into the deep  
Filling in all the spaces. Silencing all it embraces  
I tattoo your name on my phantom limb  
You said that I was so cunning, but all I can think of is running  
The levee is up to the brim, so I'm gonna try to swim  
All the dark water, it don't know who I am  
It don't know my future, and it don't give a damn  
All the dark water, all it's gonna baptize  
in wave upon wave upon wave of this endlessly rising tide  
Filling in all the spaces, silencing all it embraces  
I reach out for you with my phantom limb  
You said that I was so cunning, but all I could think of was running  
The levee is over the brim, so I'm gonna rise. I'm gonna rise, and try to swim  
All the dark water, it moves quietly near. But I don't want to listen, and you don't want to hear

## 2. Anyone Home

From a sweet beginning to a bitter end. Were you ever here? Were you ever my friend?  
(Show yourself)  
Begging for scraps now, sleeping rough. Got a ration of passion, I've got to make it enough.  
Is anyone home? Is anyone home?  
Everyone is saying I'm wearing thin, all my colors are running out.  
Scream into a pillow to hear my voice, trying to fill myself with the sound.  
Is anyone home? Is there anyone home?  
I fall into the night, my every flaw a light, drowning in my own milky way.  
I want to bring you close, want to be the dose that keeps you from drifting away.  
I wish I could be your needle, your bible or the handle of the pistol that you keep by your bed.  
But now I'm getting used to the gentlest abuse that comes from being nothing instead.  
Is there anyone home?  
From a sweet beginning to a bitter end. Were you ever here? Were you ever my friend?  
(Show yourself)  
Is there anyone home? Is there anyone home?

### 3. Lose It

There is a coldness creeping in. I can feel it on my skin, coming like death  
The sea and sky are turning grey, wilting all the ferns and baby's breath  
I try to make the summer stay, but it won't. I try to make you love me still, but you don't  
I can hear it in the sound, I can see it all around  
like all the lights are down and start to fade up  
Just like a 30 pound chain that's locked on my brain  
and strangers are all saying it's just made up  
I've got a mouth that's frozen like it's got something to say  
as the grip I thought I had slowly fades away  
God how I have tried and tried, hanging on to this for dear life  
Oh, I think I'm losing my mind. Everyone must lose it sometime  
All of the tears in the dirt, the blood on my shirt, and every little hurt you found amusing  
Man, I got so tired of the art of tearing me apart,  
and the darkness in my heart, it's just the bruising  
I would gladly pay it but I can't afford the cost  
Killing myself holding on to what I know is lost  
God how I have tried and tried, hanging on to this for dear life  
Oh I think I'm losing my mind. Well, everyone must lose it sometime  
It comes raining out of the blue when I'm staring into a red light  
Suddenly all that I am is lost in the blink of an eye  
Everyone must lose it sometime  
I've tried and tried. I've been hanging on to this for dear life  
Oh, I think I'm losing my mind. Everyone must lose it sometime

### 4. Down Among the Thornbushes

Down among the thornbushes and bracken, waiting for your grip on me to slacken  
I am hungry, yes it's true. I'm so hungry, just for you  
Turning nights into days, an angry sun sways side to side and back again  
And in the silver of night, in soft black and white, far from the streets you're prowling  
I'm hungry, yes it's true. I'm so hungry, just for you  
I'm howling  
Down among the thornbushes and bracken, waiting for your grip on me to slacken  
I am hungry, oh yes it's true. I'm so hungry, just for you

## 5. What I Leave Behind

Staring out the window at the rain with the feeling that I'm losing sinking in  
And all of the emptiness ahead of me is filling up my mind  
Crying over what I leave behind  
Every cruel and looming sun, as it rises over all the wrong I've done  
Is like an unforgiving spotlight, so angelic and unkind, shining down on what I leave behind  
Well, I guess I thought there could not be an ending  
I went on soaking up the sunlight 'till I was blind to all I leave behind  
I never was one for goodbye, and I would stay and drink this bottle dry  
But as I leave the maps I cannot know what I might find. I cannot carry all I leave behind  
Well, I guess I thought there could not be an ending  
I go on soaking up the sunlight 'till I'm blind to all I leave behind.  
Staring out the window at the rain, I've got the feeling that I'm losing sinking in  
And all the emptiness ahead of me is filling up my mind

## 6. Here I Am

Alright, I'm ready to begin, commence firing. Pull the pin on this grenade  
For a while I had to take a rest. Oh, yes I must confess, my strength began to fade  
See, I could do more, but I just don't give a damn  
I can be loved and I can be hated. Well, here I am  
Baby please, don't let it get to you. There's nothing more to do. This is just the way I'm made  
Someday you'll see me as I am. Just like when I began, all naked and afraid  
I could be more, but I just don't give a damn  
I can be loved, I can be hated. Here I am  
And if I you don't feel like you're living, well you must feel just like you're dying  
But if you feel like you need me, here I am  
I will do what I can for you, if you want me to. If you think you can take me  
Someday you'll finally come to see I'm never gonna be the thing you want to make me  
See, I too am a builder, but I'm using a battering ram  
You say that you just don't think you can take it, but I think you can  
I can be loved, I can be hated, here I am

## 7. Sky Blue

Well, I wanted to be priceless, but it's not what I became  
I wanted to be different, but I ended up the same  
I wanted to leave you breathless, but then I lost my nerve  
I just want to be better, to be what you deserve  
And in my every waking hour I'm consumed by all the power that's in you  
When I'm lost and I'm shaking in a night of my own making, it's you  
You're sky blue  
Even on my best days I never could be cool  
You always loved a hero, but I've always been a fool  
You speak to me in mysteries and then you wait for my reply  
The only thing I'm sure of, I'm going to love you 'till I die  
And my every waking moment I'm comforted and tormented by you  
When I'm lost and shaking in a night of my own making, it's you  
You're sky blue  
Pull me into your sky blue

## 8. No Ashes

I keep asking myself the same question. Asking what will you drop in the sea?  
I wonder, what will you spread on the river if there ain't no ashes in me?  
Oh, I need to believe there is something you can't put your finger on  
Something as real as the heartbreak that comes after the body has gone  
I will be hearing, disappearing in the sound  
I will be hearing, disappearing in the sound  
And when I go, after the glow, you're gonna see there ain't no ashes in me  
This is the answer I give you, because I promised I would stay awake  
See the eastern horizon is bleeding all over, but I'll watch it with you 'till it breaks  
I know that you are feeling helpless, but I can't think with all of this noise  
To follow is not easy. What follows is not easy  
I will be hearing, disappearing in the sound  
I will be hearing, disappearing in the sound  
And when I go, after the glow, you're gonna see there ain't no ashes in me



## 9. The Ugly Ones

Would you read an ocean of pages to learn what makes them turn away?  
Making you feel like you are contagious, talking to their backs anyway  
There's one thing that I know. There's one thing that I've come to know  
God, how I wish it wasn't so, but the white light of truth will always show that  
You never talk to the ugly ones  
Oh no, you never talk to the ugly ones

When someone says they came to apologize, don't be so quick to forgive  
But quietly wait 'til you can pluck out his eyes and show him the way we've learned to live  
There's one thing that we know. One thing that we've all come to know  
Thinking it doesn't make it so, and the white light of truth will always show you that  
You never talk to the ugly ones

## 10. 1,000 Miles

I was just a weary rover and a rider on the waves, when I took a lovely girl  
with promises as flowery as May  
My dark and awful plans for her, I did not dare display  
I told her I will take you, I will take you, I will take you a thousand miles away  
I told her I would take her from Boston to Bombay  
"But if I leave my family," she said, "there will be hell to pay."  
Then, pulling back my coat, showed her my pistol, much to her dismay  
I told her I will take you, I will take you, I will take you a thousand miles away  
I'm gonna make you mine. I'm gonna make you see  
I'm gonna lay you low under the apple tree  
I'm gonna make you come, my dear, come with me  
Then every evil I had planned was ended by the jack knife in her hand, and now I understand  
She looked just like an angel, her disguise it fell away  
She took my hand and softly spoke, "My love, this is our wedding day."  
"The devil may be calling us," she said, "but we will not obey."  
She told me, "I will take you, I will take you, I will take you 1000 miles away."



## 11. The Only Way

All the lovely ones, captured in a frame  
All the lovely ones, they don't know your name  
A whiskey stare, a ring of amethyst. Got a trembling hand upon a broken wrist  
Is this the only way now? Is this the only way now?  
A sandpiper standing on the shore  
Got a good idea what you're looking for  
Something is moving in the corner of your eye  
You made your mind up and you headed for the sky  
Is this the only way now? Is this the only way now?  
Every wretched night that I was wasted, the miseries I tasted, all the lonely needful things  
With searching eyes I cast around, for anything to hold me down  
and I pray for lighter things now  
All the lovely ones, captured in a frame  
All the lovely ones, they don't know your name  
Everything I mean, everything I say, everything I am  
just drops away

## 12. Brave the Strange

A ragged scar across your cheek  
There ain't no you without me  
All the hell you put me through  
There ain't no me without you  
And blood will flow  
We will derange  
And through it all, brave the strange



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