

Talismans Tales

Talisman



Presented by

My poetic Side 

Dedication

To my wonderful wife, Kirsten.

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Midnight hour

In the midnight hour
She lies awake and cannot sleep
She's lived her life in an ivory tower
But now she's just counting sheep
She wonders how she got life so wrong
How she ended up so alone
Ponders until the blackbirds song
Restores the sun to its throne

In the midnight hour
Her melancholy a dark abyss
Praying to a higher power
That there's more to life than this
She stares out of the window
Eyes reflections of the moon
Hours passing by but oh so slow
The dawn must be coming soon

In the midnight hour
She remembering how love felt
How it would grow inside and overpower
Until it felt that her heart would melt
She yearns to taste that love again
To feel it bloom in her heart like a flower
But all she has is loneliness and pain
To see her through the midnight hour

Passion

He recalls the days that they spent together
The nights they spent making love, all night
Days they thought that would last forever
Suddenly seem lost to sight
What happened to the people that they once were
And how did they get to where they are today?
The passion that once flamed is now a single ember
That's slowly fading and crumbling away

He remembers how the scent of her perfume
Would drive him wild with desire
When a simple smile across a crowded room
Would reignite that fire
Though his love for her is never in doubt
How he misses that burning heat
He thought this desire could never burn out
Leaving him unneeded and obsolete

The love they hold is a strong now as it was then
But he misses the unbridled passion they'd bring
Oh if only they could live their lives over again!
But I guess he wouldn't change a single thing

Love out of time

Love out of time

Every day he's waits outside the post office in town
If anybody speaks he just greets them with a frown
Looks as though he's waiting for someone who never shows
He waits there all day until the evening then goes.

One day I got the courage to ask if he's ok
He just looked right through me until I turned away
Then I heard him speak quietly as I made to leave
He reached out and stopped me by grabbing at my sleeve

He asked me if I'd seen her, he says she's very late
That he'd arranged to meet her here, so he has to wait
She said she'd be here for him but she's never there
He begs me to tell her, to make sure she aware

I said I'm sorry, I don't know who you are waiting for
There's no-one else I've seen, hanging around this store
Are you sure it's here your meeting, is this the place to go
Who is it your waiting for, is it someone that I know?

He pulled out a sepia photo, the sort our grandpa had
But it looked like it was older, like when grandpa was a lad
You could see that she was lovely, thought the print was faded and torn
One thing was certain, she would have been old before I was born

I realised his clothes were from a bygone age
When cravats and cummerbunds would have been all the rage
He was dressed to go a-courting in a century or more now gone
Somehow lost in time, he waited, to a return to "when" he was from

I promised I would wait, he said. Forever if I must

A promise I must not break, I owe her love and trust
So walk on by, my friend, and wish me well if you can
So I left him that day, a lonely but determined man

And as the years went by, the post office became a store
Then a private house, then a couple of flats or more
But always I would tip my hat at the man waiting there still
And I would marvel at the love that could inspire such strength of will

Then one day he was not there, I stopped and looked around
I realised he was gone and he was nowhere to be found
Perhaps I wondered if time had claimed him and returned him to his own
I prayed he was safe and well, I felt somehow left alone

That night I heard a voice calling out as I slept
My friend he said, my promise has been kept
All these years of waiting, finally I am free
my love, my love, has finally come to be with me

In my sleep I smiled, for even old men like me can care
The sepia lady in a photograph now was real and standing there
Then they waved goodbye and left me, back to their own time and place
And I woke up this morning with a smile upon my face

Talisman

Break the chain?

The day is going overcast
Blocking out the sun
I pull my coat around me
To better hide the gun
We all have to pay
For the choices that we make
At the end of the day
There's a reckoning to make

So you think you can just leave me with a smart remark
Walk away to another man and leave me in the dark
You think that love is transferable, oh honey your so wrong
Your living a real life, not some heroine in some song

My love for you won't die
With the spilling of your blood
I certainly can't deny
That I wish it would
We all have to feel the pain
When life changes direction
What did you think you'd gain
By transferring your affection?

Did you really think that loves tethers were so easy to dispel
That you could walk away and all would be turn.out well?
You think you can snap the links, oh baby that's not true
My hearts in chains and they are all linked right back to you

There's only one way to break the chain
That's what I am here for
A single bullet through the brain
A body on the floor
Who's body that is I cannot know

Until the moments due
But one of us will have to go
And this started with you...

When all is said and done

When all is said and done
When there's nothing left to say
We cannot stop what we've begun
We can only turn away
But what's said cannot be redacted
Words can burn into your soul
How I wish I'd not reacted
I just lost control
I never meant to hurt you,
To say the things I said
Some things are inexcusable
Even angels would fear to tread
I'm here to apologise
But I know I can't be forgiven
I can see the answer in your eyes
And my soul is riven

Melody of life

There's a place by the water where we used to meet
Where we exchanged dreams and your kisses were so sweet
Now it's a valley where I rest when life's roads feel too steep
And I miss you
I sit by the water and watch the ripples pass me by
Let the past entwine me and the memories amplify
Sometimes I almost hear your voice in the rivers gentle sigh
It's true
I wonder what could have been if you were still with me
But fate had decided that we were not destined to be
A speeding car and a driver drunk led to calamity
And you were gone
That was so many years ago, yet here in this special place
I can almost touch you, see the sun upon your face
You touched my heart and soul, and your touch left a trace
You were the one
Now I'm much older but you are forever young
A love snatched from me just as it had begun
The melody of our life was never to be sung
That's so wrong
But here in this place with the river running through
I still dream of the things that we were going to do
And the sounds of the birds makes me smile too
Their singing our song

Play the game

It doesn't matter who wins, who loses
We can only play the game.
The hammer falls wherever it chooses
Leaves us to apportion blame

We cannot control the dawning day
Or shelter from the storm
We're dealt the cards we have to play
From the day that we are born

Sometimes we stumble, often we fall
Sometimes we turn to hide from it all
But the sun keeps on shining or the rains just as wet
Life is as good as it's going to get

Wish upon a shooting star, or in a wishing well
Pray to an uncaring God, seek a private hell
Cry out for all you've lost, for what you never had
For all that makes you happy can also make you sad

Sometimes we stumble, often we fall
Sometimes we find courage to face it all
And the sun keeps on shining or the rains just as wet
Life can get better, the futures not set

Circles in the sand

Creating circles in the sand
Chains around my heart
I just don't understand
I guess I'm not that smart
Forest fires all around me
My life going up in flames
Heartaches surround me
Natures playing games
Life and death are measured
By the flicking of a wrist
What is really treasured
Is not known until it's missed
Life needs a reason
Reason makes demands
Changing like the season
Creating circles in the sands

Natures dance

In every century owned by man
Through every torments and trials
In every plague since time began
On every continent and isles
Within the devastation made
By mankind's slow advancing
The earth itself now tired and frayed
But the lady keeps on dancing

The words may change, the music not
As the world keeps on turning
Colder winters, summers more hot
Forest fires keep burning
The ice caps melt, the oceans rise
Mankind loses its last chances
We survey the ruins with stinging eyes
But still the lady dances

Maybe there's time to reverse the trend
And work with nature to enhance
Nature doesn't want the earth to end
She just wants to dance....

Blood on the water

She stands staring out to sea
But she's blind to what is out there
She's replaying her life history
And laying her soul bare
She feels the tears sting her eyes
Scared of where life's bought her
She doesn't see the summer skies
Only blood on the water

She thinks about the hopes she had
And a family lost to war
Ideals once so ironclad
Were not worth fighting for
The price paid was far too high
Overtaken by the slaughter
She's no tears left to cry
Only blood on the water

The cliff edge beneath her feet
Waves breaking far below
Life that once tasted sweet
Burdened by death's shadow
She knows the pain will not cease
That at least this life had taught her
She steps forwards to a final release
And her blood to the water

Watching the world go by ?- [villanelle]

He waits to watch the world go by
As nothing ever stops
It's enough to make a grown man cry

The sun goes down behind the mountains high
And darkness suddenly drops
He waits to watch the world go by

He wonders where his enemies lie
It's not knowing who to fear
It's enough to make a grown man cry

He knows he can't win, but he has to try
They can always find him here
He waits to watch the world go by

He has nowhere to run and will not deny
He holds their secrets dear
It's enough to make a grown man cry

The secrets always he will keep
Though the fear runs ever deep
He waits to watch the world go by
It's enough to make a grown man cry

Searching for a question?(Acrostic)

What happened to my heart

How can it break again?

Empty, torn apart

Raw and in pain

Excuse my tears

I cannot stop crying

Some part of me fears

That my heart is dying

Hold me tight

Ever I grieve

Loving is right

Others achieve

Victim of depression

Ever searching for this question...

Rhyme without reason

It's a cold and wet night in a dismal part of town
In the yellowing streetlights a drunk staggers home
From the multi-storey car park a man is looking down
Waiting, to be sure he's alone

He's listening to the voice that's all in his head
Telling him that all hope is lost
Filling his heart with despair and with dread
Knowing a line has been crossed

The shadows in the street call for his release
The rhythm of the rain beats a song
Only in the shadows can he find that final peace
Seeking a right from a wrong

When depression falls there comes a time
the soul enters the darker season
There's no rhythm in life's rhyme
Rhyme without a reason

The car parks empty, but still it rains
The flashing blues long gone
Rainwater washes away what remains
Of another life gone wrong

Unrequited

We cannot read the minds of those so close,
Or feel the deep emotion
You may as well be comatose
Your mind is like the ocean
So deep I cannot reach you
So big that I am lost
So dark I cannot see through
Yet in the swells I'm tossed
I need to find an island
Where our minds can meet
Build sandcastles in the sand
Sweep you off your feet

You always keep a distance
It's pulling at my heart
It's like your living in a trance
Keeping us apart
Don't you know I need to,
I need to keep you near
To know everything about you
You are all that I hold dear
I would go to any length
Go that extra mile
Where do you find that strength
To deny me your smile?

Why doesnt the sun rise anymore

Why doesn't the sun rise anymore
My life is suddenly dark
Finding nothing left to strive for
All gone, so barren, so stark
All alone, in the wasteland of my life
Strewn with lost hopes and desire
balanced as on the edge of a knife
Between absolution and hellfire
Who took away all my hopes
Who took away my queen
And left me reeling on the ropes
Crying for what could have been
An Angel took you away from me
My heart is broken.in two
So why doesn't the sun rise? you see
It's because it cant shine on you.

Destined.

I'm destined for greater things
Of this I can be sure
Ready for whatever this life brings
All I will endure
I will slay the dragon in his lair
Put the ghosts to rest
Rescue the damsel with long hair
And by bishops I'll be blessed
The bards will all sing of my good deeds
They will write a book on me
I will ride into glory on my white steeds
And mine enemies will flee
I'll do all this before the alarm rings
And blows my dreams away
Oh I'm destined for greater things
But maybe not today...

The Beacon

The light flickers at the window pane
A beacon for all to see
A lady peers out in the rain
Oh Lord, send him home to me.

The soldier looks up to the skies
Body crumpled to where he was thrown
Staring now with unseeing eyes
That will never again see home

The fisherman caught in a net of his weaving
Screaming his life at the sea
Fighting his death and still unbelieving
That this could be happening to me

The driver mangled in the remains
Of what was once was his pride
his life ran out with the blood of his veins
Alone, far from home when he died

A flickering light calling for shades of the past
Window glass steams with her breath
Though the night is so long it cannot outlast
The despair and denial of death.

Sea of dreams

Sea of dreams

Crashing of breakers against the rocks
As the waves roll in from the sea
Sitting alone in the shadow of the docks
He watches in quiet reverie

In the distance the haunting sound
Of a foghorn pierces the night
Like the agony of the souls of the drowned
Trying to get back to the light

He shivers lightly at that thought
Wonders where he goes from here
He's in the path of lifes juggernaut
But frozen in its headlights of fear

He was broken by stress and ambition
From which he had eventually run
In his quest to improve his position
Like Icarus he flew to close to the sun

So when all that stress came to nought
In a way he couldn't foresee
He found that now he's literally caught
Between the devil and the deep blue sea

His old life is now just a place in the past
And as the seagulls cry in a new day
He knows what he had can be surpassed
He just has to find his new way

His world, like the sea before him

Is full of opportunities to try
In the sea of dreams you learn to swim
In this world, your dreams can fly

He now knows it's not about gaining things
Life should also be fun
He will fly again and spread his wings
But keep well away from the sun

Toreador

She sings alone her repertoire
Dancing in her front room
Pretending to play a Spanish guitar
Imagining her Flamenco costume
A rose held lightly between her lips
Dress flowing and swishing the floor
Feeling the touch of his hands on her hips
Her imaginary toreador

Ten years on she's lost those dreams
One child and one on its way
Too tired to chase these old moonbeams
A life in disarray
But sometimes she hears the Spanish guitar play
Childish daydreams rise to the fore
For a moment in time she is swept far away
In the arms of her toreador

Grannies gang. Revised

My grandma bought a motorbike
She's only eighty eight
She wanted to try it out
Before it gets too late
We didn't mind the motorbike
But the leathers had us in stitches
She wanted to do it right
But the logo was " hells bitches"!

Then she went and formed a gang
The average age was eighty two
They would rev the bikes outside the pub
It was closer to the loo
They had this particular game
Took young men by surprise
When they got a well placed Zimmer frame
Straight between the eyes

One motorbike had a wheel chair
Strapped to the side
93 year old mad Beryl sat in there
Along for the ride
She was the moll of Bertie Titus
Who at the age of seventy two
Despite his advance arthritis
Was the youngest of the crew

Then their was evil Ant
We thought was grannies guy
He had a droopy seventies moustache
And an eyepatch over one eye
He has a talking parrot as a pet
And a peg leg too

He reminds me of someone maybe I've met
I just can't think who..

The neighbourhood sadly reports
It wasn't for the best
Seeing grannie in her tight leather shorts
And a low cut vest
They complained to the authorities
And "help the aged" as well
Who made it the police priorities
To round up this gang from hell

The police went to break up the gang
They didn't expect a chase
The octogenarian's decided to go out with a bang
And chose to have a race
Around the block the bikes wobbled away
A race not for the scared or the meek
The winner finished later that day
The rest slightly later that week

The policemen decided to take chase
And after a bit of a talk
They didn't bother with the car
It was easier to walk
All were captured and locked away
In the old folks home
So now they know that crime don't pay
As much as bingo in the hippodrome

Devils bride

She left him, just walked away.
Never stopped or looked around
He couldn't find the words to make her stay
He couldn't make a sound

He watched her car drive away
Drive off down the street
Finally he turned away
His misery complete

*Her love eats like venom into your heart
Her arms both enfold you and tear you apart
Her kisses taste sweet but take away your breath
She makes you feel alive but she leads you to death
She's poison dressed up in black lingerie
She's a bride of the devil and you are her prey*

Her poison was deep in his heart
Her words fractured his head
His life was now torn apart
A future born in dread

In his mind he replayed the scene
Unable to process what he'd lost
Refusing to accept what it would mean
Not able to count the cost

*Her love burns like acid into your mind
Her arms hold you close but permanently bind
Her kisses taste sweet until the end nears
They taste of foul waters when your mind finally clears
She's a lady of style from shoes to beret
She's a bride of the devil and you are her prey*

They found him next day out in the shed
Swinging slowly from a rafter
He lived for her love but lost it instead
And can't face the world thereafter

*She's older than time but as young as required
She is as cold as ice but as hot as desired
Her grace and her beauty is without parallel
She dines on despair and she likes to dine well
She's a dream and a queen who makes her own way
She's a bride of the devil and you are her prey...*

No gold at the end of a rainbow

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He walks the dusty roads that go nowhere
Because he has nowhere to go
He has buried his past in a pit of despair
And looks to a new tomorrow
But you can't leave behind your traitorous mind
The shadows follow you wherever you go
and soon you will find there are ties that bind
and there's no gold at the end of a rainbow

In your dreams and deep in your heart
You know that there's nowhere to hide
Time and distance set you apart
But The truth can not be defied
You can run so fast but that can't last
Sooner or later you will slow
And then you'll realise where the truth really lies
And there's no gold at the end of a rainbow

Turn around, go back, make amends
Nothing is as bad as it can appear
You have enemies, but you have friends
Keep the enemy close and friends near
How can you decide that friends be denied
How can you deal such a blow?
At least you'll have tried and you can confide
That there's no gold at the end of a rainbow

Migraine

He cannot hear the silence
Through the beating of his heart
Or the sound of his common sense
Tearing itself apart
He crushes his head between his hands
Falling to his knees
Nerves tensed like elastic bands
But the pain cannot ease
He longs for the darkness to descend
And prays to feel no more
The pain seems to be without end
Until he can't take it any more
He beats his head against the ground
The light torturing his eyes
The world spins around and round
And the darkness multiples
As he slips into unconsciousness
To escape from the pain
It's hard to understand the distress
Or the suffering of migraine

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Devils bride revisited

I introduced this lady in my poem Devils bride and immediately fell under her spell! So I thought I would expand on it!

She haunts the city and she rules the night
She steps from the shadows as they chase off daylight
Dark creatures surround her and answer her call
She's the duchess of darkness and rules them all
She's a killer, a lover, dressed in black lingerie
She's the bride of the devil and men are her prey

She's walked this world since the days of inception
A mistress of death and glorious deception
Men pale at her beauty and fall for her lies
Sell her their souls just to look in her eyes
She takes all that they offer then will betray
She's the bride of the devil and men are her prey

She's older than time but as young as required
She is as cold as ice but as hot as desired
Her grace and her beauty is without parallel
She dines on despair and she likes to dine well
She's a dream and a queen who makes her own way
She's a bride of the devil and you are her prey...

Men have lusted for her since the beginning of time
Thinking such beauty could only be divine
Over time immemorial she has woven her spell
Despatching such suitors to her master in hell
She delights in destruction and desires our dismay
She's the bride of the devil and we all are her prey

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Who calls?

Bloody battles in fields once green
Ghosts of warriors walk unseen
Through rivulets of the fallen blood
Where ancient evils once withstood
In moonlight shadows on castle walls
Who calls?

Who calls?

The castle stands in older realms
A place where history overwhelms
Fought over by warring lords
With men of steel and dripping swords
Steeped in death from bloody brawls
Who calls,

who calls?

Of those who came for blood to spill
Most of these remain here still
The castle built upon their bones
Endless death for distant thrones
Buried now beneath these walls
Who calls?

Who calls?

Through these ancient stone built halls
Along the lichen coated walls
Feel the ache of long passed souls
Trapped now in their tormented roles
Through their bones feel eternity crawl

They call..

Man in the moon

Watch the moon, does he smile
Will he hold your heart a while?
Take the pain, hold it tight
Diffuse it through his pale moonlight
But dawn will come and all reborn
My heart returned to be forlorn
My memories also will renew
And I can see the face of you..

Bitter tears, so well remembered
Bitter love so well dismembered
Torn apart, ravaged and spurned
But oh so deeply I have yearned
I curse the dawn and miss the night
Look for oblivion in cold moonlight
But dawn colours the sky in autumnal hue
And I can smell the scent of you..

The rising sun will bring no heat
It brings the taste of bittersweet
It's rays of gold darken my heart
It's shadows a perfect counterpart
For how can I welcome the day
My life just mournful shades of grey
On the roses glistens morning dew
Memories of the tears I cried for you

Into the fire?

Where the hunger is
Where the desire
Born in desperation
Raised from the mire
Struggle through life to
Raise themselves higher
But we're all running
Into the fire

Twisting and turning
No avoiding our fate
Feeling the burning
Is this love or hate?
The struggle consuming
You're beginning to tire
But you can't stop running
Into the fire

Feeling so alone?
It's part of the game
Without a sweet lover
There's no-one to blame
Baby, If you want me
Look to the funeral pyre
I'll be dancing like a flame
Into the fire

Back seats

Do you want to go to my room and make out?
Not the words I expected to hear
I mean the answer was never in doubt
So why do I want to disappear
I mean this girl is seriously stunning
I know that this is what I want
After all I did all the running
So I can't act all nonchalant
I guess now it's finally a possibility
I'm worried that something might fail
So I'm now questioning my virility
I'm a scared and untested male
Now my head is spinning, circling around
Elated and frightened, confused
My hormones are locked in this battleground
And she has lit the first fuse
Do you want to go to my room and make out?
Thinks "I do, I don't, I don't know!"
Or we can go watch a movie instead?
"Yes please...what am I thinking, NO!"
So how did it go, you are thinking
Well I don't want to be accused of deceptions
But the movie was particularly stinking
So we made out in the back seats!

Intracerebral

Smell the smoke that stings his eyes
Voice's reverberating
Images that truth belies
And the lies are intoxicating
Paranoiac vision's spinning
Bouncing images in his head
Fights that he's never winning
Waking sweating in his bed
Behind the curtain the shape of a person
Waiting his moment to fight
Inside his head the images worsen
As the knife blade catches the light
Under the bed a monster awaits
The wardrobe harbours an assassin
Inside his mind crashes alternate fates
As his sanity starts to unfasten
The knock on the door brings sweat to his brow
The telephone unplugged from the wall
He has lost all control and he doesn't know how
To avoid the inevitable fall

The Song

She sings her songs in the silence
Her voice so strong and free
Her words for a while a sweet pretence
An echo of normality
Her words are that of sadness
Lost loves, lost hopes, lost lives
She sings among the madness
Brings unexpected tears to my eyes
I don't know who is singing
But her voice breaks my heart
For a moment hope is clinging
And my soul shatters apart
Inevitably the song was ended
Life continues as before
For a moment in time I pretended
Life was worth living for
I long to hear that voice again
To revel in it once more
In a world so cold and inhumane
I felt my spirit soar
Floating high upon her sweet song
To where the Gods hold sway
Losing briefly all that's wrong
Feel my worries fall away
Maybe I heard an Angel sing
And into paradise trod
And for the flutter of an Angel's wing
I tasted the scent of God.

The Stone

Welcome to another millennium
Two thousand years have past
Since the beginnings in Byzantium
We have held steadfast
We hold the immortal secrets
As guardians of the Stone
We act as our faith befits
And to the world are unbeknown

When the world forsook its magic
And put science to the fore
The results of which were tragic
But we hold the ancient lore
We are awaiting the new magician
Who can wield the sacred flame
And will manage the transition
So can this world reclaim

The time is fast approaching
The Guardians are prepared
The world is encroaching
As we uncover the sacred prayers
When the immortal walks this world again
And holds that precious Stone
Magic will flow like electric rain
And the truth once more be known

Kings and despots will tremble
As their realms are swept away
And the Guardians disassemble
The world as it is today
Humanity will be raised
To heights previously unknown
Poverty and hate will be erased

By the powers of the Stone

Child of my youth

I looks in the mirror but cannot see
Anyone looking back I recognise
Just an old man who cannot be me
I look back ready to apologise
But I am alone, no one else to accuse
The truth has been laid bare
But my mind still tries to eschew
The devastation I can see there
What happened to the man I used to be
And when did he slip away
Leaving behind this travesty
That I can see in the mirror today
I remember the face of my father
I remember the face of his son
When did they merge or rather
When did the two become one?.
Where now is the youth emerging
When my whole world was still new
An addled and confused twenty something
Who thought the world would come to you
How I wish that I'd known
That the struggles were about to begin
That twenty is just a milestone
And the challenges you rarely win
And somewhere along life's pathway
Where wrong turnings are the norm
Opportunities are just debts to repay
Grab a rose and you catch the thorn
The mirror they say never lies
It's reflection the reflection of truth
And though I look into my mirrored eyes
I still can't find the child of my youth.

The River

In the endless darkness of the night
I reach out to wherever you may be
Longing to touch you, to hold you tight
But there are only memories left to me
Through the window I watch the tree branches sway
Shadowy fingers against the moonlight cast
And wonder again if there was nothing I could say
That would reset the present and change the past
A river of my tears run through the valley of despair
Where my memories of love reside
A closed part of my mind has made its home in there
Giving homage to a love that never died
Life keeps moving on and nothing is the same
As if to make that point the first light of the dawn
Forms patterns in the condensation on the window pane
Unconsciously in this a heart and a name I've drawn
Angrily I rub it out feeling the damp upon my hands
Use them to cool my feverous brow
Self pity overwhelms me, no one understands
That I find no solace in the here and the now
I spend my days waiting for the night
In the hope of finding you in my dreams
But the sleep evades me, denies me the right
Spiralling my despair to extremes
One day I will find my way to escape this
In the valley of despair I'll climb down
In my mind all my hopes and dreams I'll dismiss
And in that river of tears I will drown.

Endings

A time of ending
A bitter truth
To give up defending
The mistakes of youth
That somehow became
Vagaries of age
Still burns the flame
Consumed by the rage
Haunted by history
No use pretending
There's no real mystery
In a time of an ending
Beginnings were so sweet
Joys held precious inside
Swept off your feet
A beautiful bride
Remember those days
Tears sting your eyes
So many ways
To bury the lies
Some from your peers
But most from yourself
A dusty book of the years
On your own bookshelf
Romantic notions
Buried and lost
In life's great oceans
Where dreams are tossed
Swamped by the waves
Drowned in tears
We are all slaves
To the passing of years
We paint smiles on our faces

Though doom is impending
And we seek out our places
And times of an ending

Invisible

Her calm and cold manner is beyond reproach
Unsmilingly following the path of duty
Difficult to know, yet hard to approach
Unaware of her unassuming beauty
Dealing with problems with finest precision
The life lived alone well that suits her just fine
Controlling her world without indecision
Then why do I want her, need her in mine?

Long dark hair and eyes that see through me
Dreaming of her every time I close mine
It seems I've spent half an eternity
Living in shadows bereft of sunshine
For once in my life I want to be noticed
To see her smile when i walk into the room
I'm the invisible man, I just don't exist
A seed of desire that's unable to bloom

So you will move on to faraway places
Leave me behind even though you don't know
Maybe one day you will remember the faces
That you left behind when you decided to go
Perhaps you will wonder what you left behind you
Having chosen your freedom over the shackles of man
Maybe you will discover that love does have value
I hope it will find you one day if it can

Time machine

In the dying glow of the sun declining
When the world slows down to rest
And the moon rises, its moonbeams shining
To shine a light on the nightly unrest
In It's pale light ominous shadows will make
A hangman's noose against a wall
A man who did his own life take
And a rope to break a fall
A clock ticking a sound so pleasant
A Time Machine to count the beat
To draw in the changing present
Reject the past in its defeat
Yet nothing changed but everything broken
Tears from a mother, regrets and despair
The whole world turns on words unspoken
For though still a presence he is no longer there
His memory lives in all those who loved him
They pray to their Gods for the sake of his soul
But they wonder what demons he harboured within him
That damaged his mind and swallowed him whole
What could have been done to his state of mind
What circumstance did lead to his plight?
So many unknowns and all intertwined
So many wrongs that no-one can right
The grandfather clock keeps on counting its heartbeat
Calling the future without judgment or fear
What's done is done and is now just bittersweet
Memories of times when he was still near

Fly in a storm

There are those who stand together
And others who drift apart
Bonds supposed to last forever
Crumble from the start
For some they follow their own creeds
Others follow their own desires
Some take depending on their needs
Others what their greed requires
Some pray to a God that's benign
Others to a God that rages
Some live life to their own design
Some live their life in cages
Some worship only what they see
Others only what they are taught
Finding religion in imagery
Or salvation in theological thought
Some cry for a past that's not forgiven
Some weep for futures pending
For the path that on which we're driven
Leads only to an ending
Some laugh in the face of fate
Some whisper in the wind
Some love where others hate
Some pray where others sinned
We are but a single drop of rain
In a storm battering eternity's shore
A fly caught in a hurricane
Then lost for evermore

The Rocking chair

The old rocking chair slowly rocked
Creaking softly in the dark
Outside an owl softly mocked
The fear in his heart
He lay stiff in desperation
Wrapped in the covers
Panicked respiration
Listening for others
Not believing in apparitions
The darkness eroding this non belief
Remembering stories and superstitions
That always end with grief
And still the chair rocks on and on
But no one sits therein
It's passenger long dead and gone
But somehow lingering...

Consumed

Consumed by the fire inside
Burnt out and defeated
Nowhere to go, no place to hide
His will to live depleted
Because loving is a fever
That incinerates your heart
An emotional sharpened cleaver
That can tear your heart apart
Feeling trapped and in despair
Living a shadow of a life
A relationship in despair
Balanced on the edge of a knife
He took the knife and kissed the blade
Ran it across his wrists
Closed his eyes as the room swayed
Wondered if he'd be missed
What would happen when he'd gone
He hoped she would forgive
It turns out he was not that strong
Not strong enough to live
His last thought was of her smile
as they once danced in the rain
He died dreaming that in a while
They could meet and dance again

Death in disguise

His eyes that once were warm with laughter
Now bitter and full of hate
Unable to process what comes after
To wrestle with his fate
His life now an endless hurricane
Of denial and despair
Consumed by his guilt and pain
He turns around and she's there...

He reaches out to hold her
Calling out her name
A sudden clash of thunder
A flash of lightening came
And in that sudden illumination
Her face a grinning skull
His hopes final annihilation
Succumbing to deaths pull

She reached her arms around him
Pulled him to her breast
Her arm but a skeletal limb
Thrust inside his chest
She wrapped her fingers around his heart
Tore it through his skin
His horror peaked then fell apart
As she sucked his soul within

So beware one and all of you
For that girl who walks the storm
She is the evil that lies with you
Death in skeletal form
If the thunder you can hear
And the lightening blinds your eyes

Run from the things you most fear
For death lies in disguise...

Why

Why does the winter sunshine
Feel so cold against his skin
Icicles crawling down his spine
To freeze the heart within
Why does the blackbird sing
When all around it dull and grey
He finds no joy in anything
Least of all another day
Why does his broken heart
Plead for another chance
To beg her for another start
To rekindle a lost romance
Why does his head deny
His hearts insistent demands
You cannot build on a lie
A love on shifting sands
Better to turn and walk away
Better to not ask why
Some feelings words cannot convey
So turn and say goodbye

Playlist

Hear the rhythm in that beat
Feel it through your restless feet
And let the music fill your soul
Mesmerised and in a trance
Body sways though you can't dance
On baby, this is rock and roll
Let your problems go away
Just listen to that music play
Lose yourself to sweet melody
An escape from that daily grind
Leave your reality far behind
And let yourself float free...
And if you should feel a tear in your eye
It's not the music that makes you cry
But the memories it chooses to replay
For your life has a playlist that only you know
Good times and bad times, times we outgrow
Raising ghosts that you left locked away

Silent

Silent

Filled with echoes of what could be

The silence sounds so loud to me

Echoed thoughts that hurt my heart

Ripping the veil on my life apart

My energy spent

Silent

So quiet, my heartbeat is all

A metronome measuring my fall

A beat in my head

That fills me with dread

And a desperate intent

Silent

The rushing of blood through my veins

Precursing inevitable migraines

Screaming my fears

But nobody hears

My descent

Silent

So silent.

Ghost

In the dark hours she wanders the halls
Dressed in white, a bride of the night
Deep golden tresses from her head falls
Framing her face unnaturally white
No stumbling gait, she flows like a stream
Her eyes hold darkness, her lips a deep red
Ignorant of all around her as if in a dream
She passes me by without a word being said
Lights flicker and dim as she wanders within
An impossible presence from a time now gone
I can see the firelight through her translucent skin
But no shadows are cast as she walks on

As the Grandfather clock chimed midnight
She suddenly turned as if she could see
Just for a moment I felt drawn into her sight
Then she just faded away in front of me
I called out to her but she was gone
Back to her life or to rest in her grave
A ghost? A memory? A dream forgotten?
A body to mourn, a memory to save?
At that moment I swore that to be there
Every night until I saw her once again
For inside my heart I felt something flare
A spark to ignite a passionate flame

I don't know is she is a dream or a ghost
Or a ghost of a memory that's lost to my years
But it's the love of that dream that hurts me the most
And the silence is screaming to my ears
Then once again, before midnight
The lights flickered and faded down low
I held my breath and felt my heart go tight

As the doorway started to glow
I staggered and felt my legs give way
A vivid pain shot through my chest
Somewhere I heard a sweet voice say
Truly have you been blessed

Deep golden tresses, dressed in white
Beautiful and sweet, a heart of gold
Loving forever, to my delight
Without the fear of growing old
She was born in a Tudor spring
Of an aristocratic birth
I in the reign of a Windsor king
But me a man of little worth
But the Gods took pity it seems
And allowed time to release its controls
And love to be released from its dreams
To join our two lonely souls.

Eagles sing a requiem

He returned to gaze on the mountains high
Snow tipped peaks that scraped the sky
Beautiful yet deadly in their majesty
Uncaring of the passing humanity
Who in the mountains shadow live and die
some in this shadow still must lie
And some have carried pain from the past
Return to face their pain at last

Replay the memories from a childhood day
When life or death was a game to play
But two climbed that mountain wall
One returned, one not at all
One always lost, one never found
Somewhere on that frosty ground
Should mournful weary souls decry
There still his white bones must lie
Entrapped by wild flowers roots and stem
Where eagles sing his requiem

He gazed upon that mountain high
Where all forbidden secrets lie
Of the two, he was the one so lost
He survived but at what cost
In his dreams old memories abound
Of a childhood friend who needs to be found
He heeds his call with weeping eyes
The child he once was replies
It was time to climb the mountain again
Where Eagles still sing a requiem

They lie beneath

In this place where blood was spilled
A place where many men were killed
Each fighting for a dishonourable cause
Where some distant lord will take applause
And count his coin with treacherous hands
The price of death in foreign lands
Paid by the blood of fighting men
Who never returned to home again
Their bones restless in unfamiliar ground
Thrown together in a burial mound
No mourners there to vent their grief
Grass grows on the soil they lie beneath
But still there are those that mourn
In the places they were born
Where streets of smoke deny the day
And candles burn to light the way
Where some still weep and some still wait
Unable to comprehend their fate
Time sheds hope like a tree sheds leaves
Some live now only in their memories
As the world moves on they are left behind
Still searching for a love they cannot find
No tombstones stand, no flowers or wreath
Grass grows on the soil they lie beneath

Girl with the long dark hair

A child of my times, restless and seeking
A future path to lead me to truth
To listen to tutors endlessly speaking
Dismissing their wisdom with the hauteur of youth
Sitting exams with low expectations
Winging those tests on a wing and a prayer
Outside the window she was picking carnations
That's when I first began to care
For the girl
For the girl with the long dark hair
A bloody war for reasons no one understands
But for people like me the bloodstains were real
Politicians in silk gloves to hide the blood on their hands
Profiting on the dreams that they steal
Death begat ghosts and the ghosts they were abundant
Until I could see them just about everywhere
So they locked me away making my dreams redundant
Dreams that I wanted to share
To the girl
To the girl with the long dark hair
Now I'm old and lonely looking out at a winters scene
But turning over my memories like pages in a book
Building a story of a life that could have been
If I could have avoided the paths that I took
I mourn the loss of youths possibilities
Shadows surround me and lay my life bare
And I worry about the probabilities
Would life have been fair
To the girl
To the girl with the long dark hair

The Song

She sings her songs in the silence
Her voice so strong and free
Her words for a while a sweet pretence
An echo of normality
Her words are that of sadness
Lost loves, lost hopes, lost lives
She sings among the madness
Brings unexpected tears to my eyes
I don't know who is singing
But her voice breaks my heart
For a moment hope is clinging
And my soul shatters apart
Inevitably the song was ended
Life continues as before
For a moment in time I pretended
Life was worth living for
I long to hear that voice again
To revel in it once more
In a world so cold and inhumane
I felt my spirit soar
Floating high upon her sweet song
To where the Gods hold sway
Losing briefly all that's wrong
Feel my worries fall away
Maybe I heard an Angel sing
And into paradise trod
And for the flutter of an Angel's wing
I tasted the scent of God.

Broken

So many times I have called to you
How can I show you I care?
And how many times can my heart be broken
My love, I'm not sure I can bear
Reality tells me I'm wasting my time
Over and over again
Can't you heal this ache that is mine
Killing me with this pain
Echoing voices that fill my head
Redemption comes at a cost
Hope is crushed as dreams are shed
Inside me all is lost
It seems to me that nothings real
This world just cannot be
A judgement made with no appeal
A cell door without a key
Locked inside my nightmare
A maze inside my head
Looking for somewhere, anywhere
Where I can feel instead
Numbed by life, by circumstance
Accusing thoughts I've never spoken
Paranoia does it's happy dance
But I am left alone and broken

Lost in the light

She dances as the moonlight
Weaves silver through her hair
A princess in the realm of night
O would she this heart ensnare!
Her hair shimmers like dark water
Her eyes shine with an inner light
She is her father's daughter
And her father rules the night

When I close my eyes I see her scry
Her dreams broken and undone
The night holds her against her will
She longs to feel the sun
The shadows follow her everywhere
Protection that holds her tight
Forbidden to leave her father's care
She is bound to the endless night

Oh how I loved her, how I cared!
Yet this love I did betray
Her need of darkness was not shared
I yearned for the light of day
I returned to the land of the living
Intending to return hastily
But Her father was unforgiving
And The night was lost to me

So I wasted under the blazing sun
Tormented by the shadows it threw
I took to searching every one
For a glimpse of a face that once I knew
But as I neared the shadows faded away
Leaving me lonely with my regrets

In anger I cursed the light of the day
In a place where the sun never sets

When I close my eyes I can see her dance
Feel her hand slip into mine
A waking dream of a forbidden romance
From another place or time
I long for the day when my beating heart stills
And the dark shadows come alive
We will dance together on moonlit hills
Where the sun will never rise

1969

Do you remember when we playing in the streets of Belfast
All those years ago?
An age of innocence quickly surpassed
As the violence around us would grow
?
Patrolling alleys armed with batons, playing paramilitary games
10 years old and it's already too late
A child of the times, a childhood in the flames
of violence, death and hate
?
Held down in the bushes, arms pinned to the floor
Forced and scared and alone
Maybe two of them, five years older or more
Carving UDA in my flesh with a stone
?
Another day, another beating, another blow to the head
I'm English so I get what they think I must fear
Another day thinking I'd be better off dead
Its not like I asked to be here
?
Wrong nationality, wrong accent, wrong faith
Wrong time, wrong place, all wrong
Learn to hide in shadows like a ghost, a wraith
Weak when I should have been strong
?
These are people I see every day
They say blood is thicker than water
But blood is harder to explain away
Than the water spilt during torture
?
Hold me down, pouring water into my mouth till I almost drown
Watch me choke and cough and vomit it back out
Then holding my nose, keep pouring it down, pouring it down...

Cannot breathe, cannot win, cannot shout

?

Today's beating in Ormeau park takes place at 4pm

Roll up roll up, See the English boy. On his knees again.

?

And Police sirens keep rushing by

Playing that Belfast lullaby

Echoed explosions, maybe ten

Death walks the night again

?

A book of memories with redacted pages

Belfast days deeply resented

In my head a storm still rages

Which memories are true and which invented

?

And why have the rest of my memories dissolved

Except In my dreams where I kick and fight

50 plus years and still unresolved

still a child trembling in a Belfast night

Vivamus, moriendum est.

Vivamus, moriendum est.

Let us live, since we must die
Less the joy of life should pass us by
A gentle breeze, a summers day
Snowball fights on a winter sleigh
Warm laughter, friends, a lovers kiss
Good memories made to reminisce
Life's not a choice to wonder why
Just let us live, since we must die.

Again and again?

He reaches out and puts his arm on her shoulder
Pulls her close and into his space
She trembled as the darkness enfolds her
As she sees the look on his face
He kisses her hair and whispers his guarantees
"No one will love you as much as I could"
He puts his hands around her neck and started to squeeze
Somewhere an owl hooted deep in the wood
The moon and the stars conspired for romance
Heedless of those that hunt by their light
Young lovers caught up in the passions of loves dance
Unaware of the monsters that crawl in the night

-

He laid her down gently in the heather
Kissed her lips in whispered goodbyes
Promised her that they would always be together
The moonlight reflected from her open eyes
He thought it was no more than he deserved
The love he offered was always the best
Such love, he mused, should be unreserved
Such unspoilt memories to take to her rest.
And the moon and the stars kept on shining
Uncaring of ill deeds done under their light
But it's not nature's way to be redefining
The role evil plays in the heart of the night

-

Another town and in another bar
Another hopeful smile exchanged
Two hearts beating under another star
One mind remains deranged
And so the world keeps on turning
A desperate lovelorn dance
Lonely hearts keep on yearning

Playing a game of chance
And the moon and the stars oversee all
Illuminating all the sins of men
Bedevilled in the grip of another nightfall
The record starts playing...again and again..

Obsession

Obsession. Part 1

I saw you at the station, you look beautiful today
So full of elation, laughing all the way
I followed you on the bus to see where you would go
I don't like to make a fuss but I still need to know
you have never met me though that will happen too
You will then soon see just what I am to you

My hearts been in recession, dwindling slowly away
But you are my obsession It's growing more each day
Soon I will come to you and hope that you'll be mine
And maybe you will love me too and all will work out fine
I know now where you live and I will visit you one night
To show you how to give me the love that's mine by right

I saw you down by the shore walking with another guy
I was fuming as I watched you kiss goodbye
You left, I angrily followed him, true love must be fought for
I knocked him to the ground and held his head in the water
They'll find his body on the tide, just another drowned
And assume a suicide drifted to where it's found

I know it won't be easy I have been here before
The drugs make you queasy and the bindings won't reassure
My last love struggled against me, she shouted and she fought
It saddened me so greatly but a lesson must be taught
I put my hands around her neck until she fell to the floor
But when I went down to check well she breathed no more.

I saw you with the police today, I saw you break and cry
How I long to kiss away that tear in your eye

Maybe tonight I'll hold you, hold you close for ever
But I need to be careful too the police can be clever
They might want to check to ensure your not involved
I don't want to risk my neck until you are absolved

I need to hide, to go away
Just for a week or two
But I'll be back and back to stay
I'm coming back...for you

Part 2 the search

The detective put down the statement and looked at the clock on the wall
It had only been four hours, since they had taken the call
They had a witness who claimed to have witnessed the fight
And a girl who was seen with him just before his last night
She said he was like a brother, best friends since they were small
That she could never have another friend so good, and that said it all

She'd been asked if anything odd had happened quite recently
Anyone acting strangely In her vicinity
Well she had replied, I don't want to make a fuss
There was one person who kept staring at me on the bus
She described him very well, as did the witness to the fight
It seems they could be the same, if the descriptions are right

They put out the descriptions and a photo fit
Got the usual wasting calls and then they got a hit
Then they got another, they kept on coming in
Many named the same man, mayhap its a win?
They had an address and a name, just needed now some luck
Within an hour the detectives team were at his home for a look

No answer at the door, no one seemed to be in
Nothing in the area that would incriminate him
They didn't have enough to break in to the shack

So they were resigned to having to call back
Then someone noticed a grid in the ground
Hidden in a corner of the compound
When they lifted it they were hit by the smell
Coming from what seemed to be an old dry well

The bodies were lifted out, body bags one by one
Some had been there a while others not so long
The latest had been strangled, the others well, they may
The state of the remains made it really hard to say
All five were young woman, probably around eighteen of age
Though in some cases that was difficult to gauge
They searched the shack and the land around
Fingertip searches across the ground

The police pulled out all possible supports
The detective put a watch on all the ports
The suspect was named as a Mr Dee
He didn't seem to have any known family
Friends too were also in short supply
Only a few knew him would bother to say hi
And most of them would happily avoid him if they can
He was described as abrupt, rude, a threatening man

But the police were not talking about who, why or how
It was where he was that was the important thing now
They had searched every corner and turned every stone
Had posted policeman waiting outside his home
But despite the policeman doing all that they could
Nobody noticed the eyes watching from the wood.

Part 3 legacy.

He watched in anger as the police moved around his land
How they had found him, he didn't understand

He'd been so careful, but not, it seems, careful enough
And now they were in his house going through his stuff
He would have to move on, but here his ties here were strong
Though all the beautiful women in the end had done him wrong
He thought about his new love, what would she have to say
Another bride to take away and on her wedding day

She sat outside looking at the moon,
Wondering if life was still worth living
If the pain of loss would leave her soon
Or be forever giving
She missed her friend, so simply said
But the emotions heaving deep inside
The man she now realised that she loved was dead
And something inside her had died

He swore as branches scratched his face
Cursing as he tried to retrace
His way back out of the wood
Nobody knew him, nobody understood
Nobody knew that all he wanted was to be needed
But in that he he'd never succeeded
His life was all about rejection
A rare moment of introspection

She passed the kitchen knife from hand to hand
Ran her finger along the edge to the top
She knew no one would understand
But she knew that he would not stop
She had felt the obsession in the air
When she had caught him on the bus, staring
She knew he was somewhere, somewhere out there
She knew he was coming, unstoppable, uncaring

The detective awoke, his head in a whirl

The girl he thought, we forgot about the girl
He struggled up and reached for his phone
Need to get someone to watch her home

He parked the stolen car in front of her house
It's time he thought, to collect my new spouse
He picked up the bag ready on the seat
Time to sweep her off her feet...

She heard a car stop somewhere close on the street
New the that this game was reaching a conclusion
Clutching the knife she got to her feet
Her head finally clear of confusion

He quietly walked around the back
Looking for a window, open just a crack,
Wanting to get in without too much commotion
Time to show her his devotion

She stood in the shadow watched and waited
For an opportunity to get close enough
Reminded herself it was a monster that he'd created
All would be over soon enough

He found a window that didn't quite shut
Allowing him to ease it up
He stuck his head in to check all clear
So didn't hear her coming near

The police sirens filled the night
Blue lights flashing cold and bright

A drop of blood on a silver blade
Her life forever nightmares of vengeance repaid

He lay face up on the cold ground

Eyes staring at the stars
He heard her sobs from all around
The slamming doors of cars
Even as his vision fading
Even as her scent pervading
Even then and for eternity

His obsession died and became his legacy

The sea holds its secrets?

A Thursday night in Scarborough town,
Not much to do, few tourists are down
The usual drink in the usual inn
Then a vision of beauty came wandering in
She takes a seat at the bar by my side
Looks at me with passionate eyes
They draw me in, I can hardly think
Then she offers to buy me a drink
Well we talk for hours, it comes easily
It's like she is no stranger to me
Normally I'd stutter or hide myself away
But she made all my shyness evaporate that day
She said there's not much party life in Scarborough
But there's one tonight on a boat in the harbour
Did I want to join her to see if it's good
Yes I agreed, of course I would

The boat was rocking, partying in full swing
Nobody stopped us as we wandered in
We danced, we drank, we tried the liquor
Until someone asked just who we were
All of a sudden I felt sweat on my brow
Partycrashers someone shouted, let's deal with them now
We were bundled on deck, it was looking a bit grim
She whispered in my ear, I hope you can swim
Then with a scream we were both in the sea
Panicking and floundering till she came to me
Lie back and float, she took me in hand
And swam me back till we reached the sand

Well wet and tired we both lay for a while
Then saw the funny side, I had to smile
She giggled, took my hand and we watched the stars up above

I wondered if it was possible so quickly to love
I tentative suggested we lose our wet clothes
Skinny dip in the night, no one sees, no one knows
She giggled again and said ok, you first!
So I stripped and ran in the sea till fully immersed
And turned hoping to see her in her birthday suit
Only to find her gone, with my clothes to boot..

Now I lived in a flat not that far to go
It took me hours moving from shadow to shadow
Wrapped in a bin liner I'd found in a bin
Smelling of something the dog wouldn't drag in
But it spared my blushes and eventually I arrived
Just happy to find that I had survived
I cursed her but still I found I was intrigued
This girl was definitely from another league
I jumped in the shower to wash it all away
All in all it was still a good day.

It was several days later, another party that night
This time I made sure I had an invite!
I had a few drinks and exchanged jokes, drank some more
Then realised someone was watching me from the door
I felt the blood drain from my face, it was she
The girl who had made such a fool out of me,
Angrily I strode over to where she was waiting
Her smile was both endearing and really frustrating
Before I could speak she said quietly
Come outside and talk to me
We went outside and we sat in my car
Then she kissed me, it felt really bizarre
Here I was ready to shout and explode
One kiss disarmed me, lightened my load
Take me home she murmured, just drive to begin
Turn left by the pharmacy, she smiled, or maybe turn in
My heart thumped in my chest, t ran into the shop

Must have bought all the protection they had in stock,
Paid at the counter and oh God this was weird
The girl and my car had both disappeared.

So once again I found myself walking back home
Realised she'd driven off with my wallet and phone
When I got back I was straight on the landline
Cancelling cards and feeling asinine
Once that was done reported the theft of the car
The police thought maybe she wouldn't get far
They will come round and see me as soon as they can
To take all the details when they have a free man
But I heard him laughing as he hung up the phone
Felt myself blushing even though I'm alone
I sat on the sofa to consider the cost
Then realised I was sitting on the wallet I'd lost

Half an hour later the doorbell shook me from my slumber
The policeman asked me for the car's registration number
When I told him he asked me what's that in the drive
My last piece of reason took a nosedive
For instead of a space where my car used to be
It was parked there making a mockery of me
The copper told me I was risking a bit of a fine
For wasting he said, valuable police time
I couldn't explain the car in the drive
Or any of my story really, it sounded contrived
When the policeman left, I found myself in tears
Something i hadn't done in years

I walked into the kitchen to make me a drink
She was standing there smiling leaning on the sink
The shock coursed through me, shaking and weak
It was all I could do to stay on my feet
Just who are you I whispered, what am I to you
I don't understand these things that you do

You have my attention, I promise you that
And how the hell did you get into my flat?
She smiled and stretched, showing her figure to perfection
Meet me upstairs, she said, Like I'd make an objection
I locked the front door and ran up the stairs
I think I already knew that she wouldn't be there
And of course she wasn't, I let out a sigh of defeat
How could someone so annoying be so sweet?

Two weeks later, almost to the day
I came down from the castle into north bay
As usual, the wind was blowing a breeze
Toppling empty deck chairs and windbreaks with ease
A figure stepped forward and she took my hand
Walk with me, walk with me, over the sand
Over the sand and into the sea
If you love me and trust me, please walk with me
Without hesitation we walked on the sand
Over the sand and into the sea

Witnesses came forward all of them agree
Two people fully dressed walked into the sea
But the policemen really couldn't understand
Why only one set of footprints left in the sand

The sea keeps its secrets, no bodies ever found
You can maybe assume two people were drowned
Or maybe just one, or none, who can tell?
The sea keeps its secrets exceedingly well
But maybe in a world just a heartbeat away
Where the suns always shining on every day
Two people walked out, ran out of the sea
Happily laughing, loving and free
Walking together, holding hand in hand
With two sets of footprints left in the sand...

The Heist

My mate Robbie and me where going to town
When we noticed a situation was starting to go down
Police cars came streaming down the street from Lord knows where
And people were legging it to get away from there.
So without ado and acting as if one
We turned and started running to where they were running from

It wasn't hard to tell the source of all the fuss
By the circle of police cars and a police minibus
Full of burly coppers armed to the teeth
Sweating in the sunshine with stab vests underneath
So much body armour they could barely rise
Machine guns across their chests and fear in their eyes

Behind them was a jewellery shop windows, broken door ajar
The alarm above it blaring it's warning to afar
In the street in front a man lay crumpled on the floor
Eyes open looking lifeless, down outside the door
Even from where we stood it was plain to tell
For him the dramas over, and didn't turn out well.

The Police shouted at us, ordered us to retreat
Robbie just stood there, his face as white as a sheet
I grabbed his arm and tried to drag my friend away
He pushed me off and looked at me in terror and disarray
"My wife's in there" he growled, "she works behind the till,
If the cops won't go to help her out then I guess we will"

"I don't know, man, those guns are full of lead
We get caught in the middle, we will both end up dead"
He looked at me with disgust in his eyes, and that I couldn't take
"Ok" I muttered, "but it's one hell of a chance to take"
He slapped me on the shoulder then turned to face the store

Then he did something that I've never seen before

Just before I carry on I need a moment to set the scene
So outside the police are hanging around as we have already seen
Inside the jewellery store one gunman has his gun on the staff
The other one is peeking out of the window keeping his eye on t' path
Both were getting desperate, not expecting to be there so long
Never expecting to use the guns, or things to go so wrong

So Robbie stripped off naked and screaming like a ghoul
Ran between the police cars breaking every rule
The cops were so shaken, they forgot they had arms
And stared in consternation at Robbie dubious charms
It gave us the time we needed to get through the door
And both of us went crashing into the jewellery store

The window gunman panicked and put a bullet in the ceiling
Just as Robbie kned him in the groin reducing him to squealing
His gun dropped from his hands and I kicked it out the door
Robbie gave him an uppercut and knocked him to the floor
The second gunman was screaming and pointed his gun at me
And time slowed down and his trigger finger was all that I could see

The barrel flashed, the pain ripped through, I dropped down on one knee
Holding my hand on my stomach, blood was all I could see
I looked at the gunman, the last thing that I saw
A lady jumped him around the neck pushing him to the floor
Police were shouting orders but all I could see was grey
Then both the noise and the world quietly slipped away.

Well Robbie didn't get locked up, or a commendation
I guess his wife working there acted as mitigation
His wife and friend were ok and visit me regularly
And Robbie comes every week to apologise to me
They all blame themselves, I tell them to behave
Every time they come, they come to lay flowers on my grave

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The Eagle and the Wolves

She dances alone by the light of her own
Under the gaze of the moon
So far from home in the land where wolves roam
Only she can hear the tune
The mountains around set the background
The dance floor a valley of green
In the dark with no sound she spins herself round
Leaving glitters of gold where she's been
The dark turns to gray as the sun makes its way
Over the mountains into the dawn
She dances away as the night turns to day
Her dress getting tattered and torn

As the birds sing in the daylight a ring
Of wolves surround the dance
The excitement they bring is a wonderful thing
No threats as they advance
They sit and wait for the dance to abate
As the dancer begins to fade
They can relate as it's a dance of fate
To summon a God to her aid
The leader of the pack had no plans to attack
He sat to watch it all
He'd been taken aback by his Lords feedback
And now waited his Lordships call

The dust on the ground started spiralling round
And the dancer fell to her knees
A whirlwind around but still there was no sound
And only the faintest of breeze
Suddenly a voice from the air came out of nowhere
And the wolves bowed their heads in fear

"Well lady fair, why would you dare
Summon your God to here?"
The dancer replied with tears in her eyes
"I dare because I speak what is true
I hold my God dear but it would appear
That I am abandoned by you"

Not being unkind he looked in her mind
And at the sorrow that she did impart
A plan he designed from the things he did find
And the strength he found in her heart
The wolves were called and they were installed
As protectors of his ward
They were enthralled but she was appalled
Fearing death she pulled out a sword
The leader lay on the land and nuzzled her hand
She reached out and stroked his grey mane
She could somehow understand they were hers to command
Her appeal to the Gods not in vain.

An Eagle landed close by and opened its eyes
Letting his wings fully unfurl
"You must listen to I" he squawked with a cry
Talking direct to the girl
"The God gives me a voice, not that he gave me a choice
And left it to me to explain
It seems your blood royal, but someone's not loyal"
He spat "it's your uncle you have to blame"
He squawked once more and lifted off the floor
Before perching in a nearby bay
"What i is saying is your uncles paying
To get you out of his way"

"That can't be right" she said, ". My uncles all right
He wouldn't hurt a thing"
The Eagle gave a smirk, " your uncles a jerk,

He's plotting on how to be king,
Once the kings gone, you are the only one
Left to stand in his way
So he's dumped you out here where you can't interfere
Until he's made his play"
"Maybe one day I'll be queen, that remains to be seen
Right now I don't know where we are
I woke with my head on a log, appealed to a God
It hasn't got me very far!"

"Look", said the bird," I don't know if you've heard,
But Gods work in mysterious ways.
If I was one, all your troubles would be gone
You'd be feeding my ego with praise"
He gave a little dance at the end of the branch,
Lost his balance and fell on his head.
He screeched in surprise and flew back in the skies
Before returning to his branch instead.
"Princess Kirsten you are, and you are really far
From the place you need to be
Follow me to the gate, we must not be late
The God will be waiting for me.
The wolfs", he sniffed, " and they won't be missed
Will join you in your quest
I tell you true, I'm glad I'm not you
If the God thinks those dogs are the best"

An unusual procession as in succession
They all moved through the valley of green
The eagle leading the way in the dying day
Wolves following and the princess in between
Suddenly they stopped and the eagle hopped
Onto the princesses shoulder
"It's now not to far, the gate is ajar
Just beyond yon boulder"

Following his gaze, she could see a faint haze
A shimmering in the air
"walk with your band, you will be back in your land
But you must take care
The wolves of your time, look different from mine
You may have a bit of a shock
I bid you goodbye, I m afraid I must fly"
He jumped to the nearest rock

"But eagle", she cried, "I can't abide
The thought of missing you so
I need you with me, can't you just see
I need you wherever I go!"
He flapped and fluttered and finally stuttered
"The God told me to do what you ask
The place where you are go, I don't really know
But if you order me then that's my task"
He flew on to her head and bravely said
"Lead the way princess, if it's not to late"
So the five wolves, a princess, an eagle under duress
Walked into and through the gate.

Part two

Duke Paul Inverness looked a bit of a mess
His conscience had taken a beating
Because of his neice it would give him no peace
He hoped her discomfort was fleeting
The next stage of his plan he'd already began
His brother the king had to die
The poison he'd sought had now been bought
And would be fed in his food on the sly.
With the king dead the crown on his head
Would rightfully be his for this realm
The Princess had gone and he was the one

That would take this kingdoms helm
He laughed at the thought, all would be taught
To bow in his presence or die
All serving his brother would soon discover
In boiling oil they can fry
Anyone observing would think him deserving
As he face seemed honest and strong
But underneath lived the soul of a thief
wilful, soulless and wrong.

The Princess emerged where two roads converged
Overlooking her father's domain
With a happy sigh and a tear in her eye
She looked for the eagle in vain
There in its place with a look of ill grace
A parrot blinked sadly there
"Oh! Look at me, pretty polly?, what's happened to me"
The eagle cried out in despair

"Pieces of eight! Take me back through the gate!"
He demanded with his head cocked to one side
The Princess smiled which just got him riled
"But where are my wolves?" She enquired
Looking around she heard a sound
A cross between barking and wails
To her surprise and tears to her eyes
Five poodles were furiously wagging their tails

The king was surprised when his daughter arrived
With her strange companions in train
The poodles kept licking his feet till he stood on his seat
And demanded his daughter to explain
He couldn't believe his brother could conceive
Such a cruel and terrible scheme

He thought for a while then with a sad smile
Invited them all to eat
The poodles were famished and their food quickly vanished
The parrot spat his out on the floor
He kept his eye on the potato and pie
The King had been hankering for.

"Pretty polly!" He cried and then he dived
Knocking the plate off the table
The king jumped off his chair, fury in the air
As one of the poodles ate what he was unable
Just as the King grabbed it, it wailed and had a fit
Foaming at its mouth, then passed away
The Princess cried out to the guards running out
"Arrest all the kitchen staff straightaway"!

The poodles gathered round the one on the ground
Washing and whispering their pain
The king stroked his head and quietly said
"Your sacrifice will not be in vain
The role of a king it's not something
That I would wish on another.
I was born to this role, now my main goal
Is to keep it away from my brother"
"Kirsten my daughter, it's a time of slaughter
Keep you friends close and together
I must now fight for what is right
Pray to your God for my endeavour"

The traitor Duke men were marching again
Burning everything in their path
The Duke stayed at the back out of the attack
The destruction making him laugh
The army of the king was suffering
Pulling itself back to defend

At the end of the day it didn't go the kings way
With to many casualties to tend
He asked his daughter to run from the slaughter
To the place her friends had been
She said it's to late, their is no gate
And the God nowhere to be seen

The very next day the parrot went away
And the poodles all disappeared
She couldn't believe that they would just leave
Then suddenly the Eagle reappeared
"The Wolves say sit tight, they have joined the fight"
He squawked with excitement and fear
"The wolves are running and they are cunning
They tell me to wait with you here"

The Princess prayed and thankful he stayed
She asked how he turned back to an eagle
"The God freed me and the wolves you see
Told me to behave or next time I'm a seagull!"
"That's not nice of him he knows I can't swim
I'm powerfully afraid of the water
So he said to me if I want to be free
Stay with the kings daughter!"

Part 3

The four wolves ran from where the forest began
Avoiding the dukes army at night
They passed unseen leaving no trace they had been
Pushing well behind the fight
They knew the duke had no pride and he would hide
Behind as his army advancing
As the lead wolf said if you bite off a head
The body's likely to stop its dancing

Though the king was tired, his men desired
His words of strength and hope
So he spent the night with his troops at the fight
Holding them together to cope
Though his soul despaired only confidence was aired
Grouping them all in his banner
He showed he was here and they couldn't see fear
In his speech or in his manner

Deep inside the king couldn't hide
His fear and desperation
For those at his side he was full of pride
But he feared for his nation
Outnumbered they fought against an enemy who sought
To give no mercy or quarter
He felt the great pain, oh again and again
As his men fell before the slaughter

The guard sat by the tree drinking his beer
Listening to the party drunks cries
A woman screamed in fear as they took a spear
And poked out both her eyes
He could hear the duke laugh at the bloodbath
At the women lying naked and dead
But the last thing could hear was a growl in his ear
Before he lost his head

The wolf called his pack to form the attack
They circled with the duke in their sight
With mouths dripping with blood the four wolves stood
At a command they rushed in to fight
In the panic that ensued the duke was pursued
As he tried to hide in the wood
He made a desperate stand with a sword in his hand
As two of the wolves watched and stood

"I am king" the duke squealed, "I order you to yield!"
"Hello Paul" a voice said from the night
"Thank God" the duke said his voice shaking with dread
"Help me away from the fight!"

"No Paul, it is time you payed for your crime
Your not worthy of being a lord
I will let my two friends decide how it ends
And you won't be needing that sword"
The sword in his grip started to drip
Then melted away like sleet
He stumbled to his knees and whimpered "please"
The wolves both rose to their feet
one wolf remembers, telling to other pack members
There was so much blood it made me puke
But of that day I'd have to say
None so satisfying than that of a duke

As the sun rose and a rooster crows
Welcoming a new dawn
The king and his men stood ready again
Waiting the enemy's storm
The king was proud as his men stood unbowed
Knowing this day could be the last
But he was bereft, so few men he had left!
And so many of his friends now passed

In the new morning the guards called a warning
As Four wolves and a man walked up to the wall
From where the king stood he could see wolves soaked in blood
The man he couldn't make out at all
They dropped a parcel at the gate and moved away to wait
As a guard hurried out to recover
The king couldn't wait and went to the gate
As the guard unwrapped the head of his brother.

He raised his eyes and then to his surprise
The man nodded once and raised his hand
A flash of light that burned so bright
Lit up all the land
When his eyes recovered, he quickly discovered
That wolves and man had disappeared
The enemy was beat, his troops had split to retreat
Behind him his loyal army cheered

He walked unseen in the valley of green
The homeland of the Gods
Awed at the strength that would go such length
Against such vicious odds
Without his aid the king and the realm he'd made
Would now be reduced to dust
The daughter was strong and once the kings gone
Would earn her peoples trust

Princess Kirsten's pride was the wolves at her side
And the Eagle on her arm
She would pray that they would stay
They were her good luck charm
She didn't know the wolves wouldn't go
They were sworn to her nether the less
Though the Eagle was free he couldn't be
Without his sweet princess.

Paranoid

Received by email, sender unknown...

Someone's knocking at my door
I think their from the government
I'm sure they've been here before
Suited men of evil intent
They know I know the real truth
I know what's going on out there
I've seen their watchers on the roof
I have felt their evil stare

Their spider webs of conspiracy
Spread throughout the land
Unravelling and exposed by me
If all goes as planned
But first I have to get away
They're behind every door
Listening to everything I say
Bugs hidden in a drawer

I dare not use the telephone
Hidden camera in the tv
I am never left alone
They're always watching me
I hear them talking in my head
I know what they want to do
They really want to see me dead
Then they will come for you.

Tin foil covering the window panes
To stop the signals coming through
They are trying to fry my brains
Because that is what they do

They aren't like us at all
They are a much older race
I can almost see them crawl
Behind their human face

Later, on the answerphone...

I cannot fail
I must go
They've read my mail
So now they know
They say I'm crazed.
That I'm quite mad
However it's phrased
It's them that's bad

They're at the door
The Men in white
Three or four
I will fight
Win or lose
I've told you all
So spread the news
Make that call
Then run far away
For they are feral
Ignore what I say
At your peril

On returning the call...

"The number you have dialled does not exist"
I checked the numbers to be sure
I wonder whose call I missed
And now someone's knocking at my door....

Strange things happen at sea

"Home", said the sailor, "it's been a long trip
Two months I was stuck on that ship
Twas a good job it sunk, that I could say
Though I'd not have said that when we got underway
The captain was incoherent with booze
Had to be carried aboard for this cruise
He wasn't to be seen the day we set sail
Curing his hangover with a flagon of ale
The first mate knew nought and wanted to do less
I tell you the boat was in a real mess
We left the harbour at the crack of dawn
With a hold full of rum hidden under baskets of corn
Hoping to get into Scarborough under no moon
To avoid dancing to the custom mans tune
The Atlantic storms come out of nowhere
Even the best can get caught unaware
We was battered and tossed by the sea and the rain
The wind howling around as the ship shrieked its pain
With a crack the mainmast suddenly fractured and fell
Taking with it the bridge and captain as well

The ship spun without steerage and anything not tied
Slid over the deck and over the side
Taking with them anyone who got in the way
Disappearing in the sea and lost to the spray
Old Jack Bean hung desperately from the ships rail
As the ship yawed his grip started to fail
I struggled to a locker that some rope was on
But when I looked around I found he was gone
The storm passed as quickly as it had come
But by then the terrible damage was done

Twelve of us on board when we'd got underway

Just three of us survived that awful day
The sails had been ripped and now long gone
Anyway no mast was left to hang them on
The ship lay becalmed on an eerie flat sea
A silence that suddenly seemed strange to me
We stood on the deck, all three, side by side
we stood there, all three and we cried

That night I watched the sun descend
It's red dusk light seemed to send
A pathway from us to its deep orange core
For nine more dead souls to seek and explore
I quietly prayed that they were at peace
And hoped they found sense in their brutal release

For three long days and even longer nights
We watched for ships or for ships lights
For all the ship was still afloat
Another storm would sink the boat
But strange things can happen at sea
I ask you to suspend your judgment on me
I promise you I will not be deceiving
But this is going to be hard to believe in

On the fourth day the whales appeared
that's when this story really gets weird
There were three whales circling around us
Both playful and I think, curious
Each was half the size of our ship
Their tails could sink us with just one flip
The suddenly we felt a gentle push
And the ship trembled underneath us
We realised that the ship was in motion
Finally moving in this empty ocean
Then we realised that on either side
A whale accompanied us along for the ride

We looked to see where the third whale had gone
To our surprise it was pushing us along

Every few hours the whales changed position
Taking turns on this strange mission
For two days we were pushed towards an unknown destination
Carried along by these strange cetacean
Then in the dark of the night we heard a strange call all around
As the whales communicated in their sad mournful sound
The ship slowed to a rest in the dark of the night
Then suddenly a light pierced the night
A lighthouse appeared on our starboard side
In shock we just broke down and we cried

We waited until the sun raised its head
And found ourselves drifting near flamborough head
Of the whales there was no sign, we couldn't believe
That they had steered us home through treacherous seas
Shortly after the lifeboat arrived and tried to give us a tow
But our boat started to break up and filled with water below
We stood on the lifeboat and watched with dismay
As our boat disappeared under the waters of the bay

Now I've told you my story, I guess I'm all done
So buy me a beer and go have your fun
Tell al your friends about the old sailers like me
You'll never understand, strange things happen at sea."