

# Tallismans Tales

Tallisman



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 as 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

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## 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

Tallisman 2022

[www.tallisman.co.uk](http://www.tallisman.co.uk)

## 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 deceipts  
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 look 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 smile  
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 an 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  
Unravelled 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 lifebout 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 sailors like me  
You'll never understand, strange things happen at sea."

## The eyes of a lover

Thirty years old, alone without care  
Looking for love but it's passing me by  
Drinking alone in a nightclub somewhere  
She sat down at the bar with a sigh  
Touching my hand she asked me to dancing  
To forget all inhibitions in the heat of the night  
Heady and sweet, a night for romancing  
A one night stand thats lost to daylight

I saw myself in the eyes of that lover  
Lost to me in the years that have passed  
And found no peace in the arms of another  
Sometimes loneliness is a chasm too vast  
I walked the streets looking at faces  
Asking people with nothing to tell  
Searching through unfamiliar places  
For the girl I remember so well

In the park, the darkness was falling  
I wearily got up from the park bench  
I suddenly heard someone calling  
I felt my heart give a fearful wrench  
In the darkness she stood by the river  
Wearing a hooded robe with a cowl  
In trepidation I started to shiver  
In the distance a mournful howl

She slipped the cowl to show her face  
In the eyes of a lover I could see  
That this was not her time or place  
Some things were not meant to be  
"I walk the shade and collect the souls  
And deliver these to Deaths door

Tormented to have to play these roles  
Loneliness is who I am, I offer no more"

"From time to time I escape my task  
To taste fun and life, to feel like you  
Hidden behind my human mask  
I'm free to love you, as I do  
But all is only an illusion  
An escape from reality  
All things must reach a conclusion  
And in the end I am not free"

I reached out to touch her as she started to haze  
She gently shook her head  
"Our time is not yet, but at the end of your days"  
Before dissipating she smiled and said  
"I will lead you through the abyss  
Where there is an infinity to discover  
We will roam in eternal bliss  
Together, In the eyes of a lover"