“Starcrossed”

You say we ain’t no Romeo and Juliette

Well you’re right, I guess

We ain’t star-crossed, we’re just lost

And it’s been so long that I forgot

And I ain’t saying that I agreed

Before your words came to me

Across an ancient sea

But it ain’t poetry if it ain’t easy

So seven years of holy lights and dreamy midsummer nights

Were just part of a story Shakespeare forgot to write

But I don’t need a knight or an army to fight

And I’ll be alright

And if I ever find the reasons behind my pain

Babe, I’ll call you again

In mountain time

Where the freight trains ring like choirs

From Winlaw to the Okanagan fires

Great lovers have their day

And love don’t last forever anyway

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“I Loved That Town”

I was stranded in that town

Of which the travellers speak

Their words attempt to tear it down

But it’s recognition that they’re seeking

I hear it in their tone when they’re speaking

They say damn, I love that town

And that town let me in

It gave me home it gave me new beginnings

But I knew from the first day

That it could not last, could not sustain

But damn, I loved that town

Had everything a lady needs

Those who thrived in nature and those opposed greed

There were times when I swore I’d never leave

Nestled in a hillside, just Lake Superior and me

Damn, I loved that town

There were times when I’d leave down the road

Frustration rising in me, telling me to go

But I’d turn right back around

Thinking of it’s sweetness in every season, that I’d found

And I’d say damn, I love that town

But now the town is emptying out

The old retired north and the young ones headed south

And I’m not welcome to return

Seems as though the only bridge into town’s been burned

So I’ll set my eyes to the horizon

And just be glad I ever came around

But damn, I loved that town

Damn, I loved that town

Damn I loved that town

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“Constellations”

Nostalgia comes alive

In the night

Invasive memories

Like a blinding light

That weighs heavy on my heart

Stitched up wounds ripped apart

Winter’s here again

And you’ve grown cold

Covering the windows

To your soul

Though I have done it too

And I’m falling out of love with you

And I think to when I’s young

And we’d go

Over the hills

Before the snow

Running through summer’s heavy skies

Where all misery dies

We travelled those rails

Surrendering

Bruising all our bones

Ascending

Constellations we’d never known

In the darkness of North Ontario

I left him in the summer

A province away

The blue-eyed wanderer

Thought I’d marry you someday

Wish I could stop loving what ain’t here

But true love don’t ever disappear

Nostalgia comes alive

In the night

Invasive memories

Like a blinding light

That weighs heavy on my heart

Wounds be healed and ripped apart

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“Lay Your Cards Down”

Don’t like this thing you’ve made me into

Or how you got inside my head

The morning comes inside of you

And I woke up dead

You can’t cast this one away

Cause it’s with me every night and day

And it follows me around

And it follows me around

It follows me around

It follows me around

Baby, it ain’t you

So get out while you can

My mind goes out wandering

And it’ll tear apart the strongest man

Causing harm everywhere I go

Like a parasite, and they all know

That it follows me around

And it follows me around

It follows me around

So lay your cards down

Lay your cards down

Lay your cards down

Lay your cards down

Lay your cards down

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“Soldier’s Joy”

Well I don’t wanna hurt no more

My legs are turning green

Won’t you give me some of that soldier’s joy

If you know what I mean

And it’s ten dollars for the morphine

Five dollars for the beer

Ten dollars for the morphine

Gonna take me away from here

Well give me some of that soldier’s joy

I don’t wanna hurt no more

And won’t you pass me down that banjo, now

I weren’t cut out for war

Ten dollars for the morphine

Five dollars for the beer

Ten dollars for the morphine

Gonna take me away from here

Well give me some of that soldier’s joy

It makes me feel alright

And won’t you saw hard on that fiddle now

Just like Saturday night

And it’s ten dollars for the morphine

Five dollars for the beer

Ten dollars for the morphine

Gonna take me away from here

Well I don’t wanna hurt no more

My legs are turning green

Won’t you give me some of that soldier’s joy

If you know what I mean

Ten dollars for the morphine

Five dollars for the beer

Ten dollars for the morphine

Gonna take me away from here

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“Lighthouse County”

Lighthouse county, leave a light on

Oh, Lighthouse county, leave a light on

These days I am tired and I got mean things on my mind

So Lighthouse County, leave a light on

Love like a wave-breaking bow

Cynicism like a wheel that just don’t know how

To try and find direction on the endless sea

So Lighthouse County, leave a light on

Weakness overtakes me here in the dark

Seasick from my stomach to my heart

And the old ones from the deep are coming when I sleep

So Lighthouse County, leave a light on

The north wind rattles my door

And the ocean crashes high above the Chrome Island shore

And the fishing boats are scattered all along the Georgia Strait

Lighthouse County leave a light on

Bigger than a rouge wave when I come for you

I’m quiet as a minnow when I run

And I’m a long way from that eastern sun

So Lighthouse County, leave a light on

Lighthouse county, leave a light on

Oh, Lighthouse county, leave a light on

These days I am tired and I got mean things on my mind

So Lighthouse County, leave a light on

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“Mark Twain”

Yesterday evening, before I slept, I saw the stars in their transcendence

I dreamt in sonnets that the next Haley’s Comet brought back Sam Clements

I recognize that great minds often suffer through the pain

Of all of your creations being recreated again

And stepping outside to the wide open night,

I saw Mars, Aquila and Orion, too

And though I know we live a century apart,

We still drew our words from the same grey moon

I believe, though naive, that great ideas surely cannot die

They come around again, just like that comet that blazes through our sky

Oh time be kind to me, I’ll see her colours weaving their trail

Like a ship, on a dark sea, casting forward with white satin sails

And I’ll sail that riverboat down the Mississippi

And I’ll pilot through the dark and the rain

And when I find those narrows twelve feet in depth

I’ll tell the captain, ‘Mark Twain’

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“Slow Movin’ Train”

Seems like only yesterday I was dipping my paddle in old Cache bay

And the white pine lined the shore far as I could see

But now the ground is cold and wet and the leaves are piled around the shed

And I’m just as lonesome as I could ever be

And time

Time rolls on like a slow-movin’ train

You ever get that feelin’ when the little things lose their meaning

Like all you ever had is done and gone

Like the days are your enemies, and all the hours in-between

And you dread the sight of another dawn

And time

Time rolls on like a slow-movin’ train

It’s a shame to look in the mirror and watch yourself disappear

Like something’s come and grabbed you from behind

And you say that they can’t hurt me, don’t fear the things that you can’t see

But they’re coming for me babe, just give it time

And time

Time rolls on like a slow-movin’ train

There was a time when you let me in and made me feel alive again

A love like June, radiating lilac perfume

And it came in like the autumn, babe, when you threw away the love we’d made

And now I know that train’s coming down the track

And time

Time rolls on like a slow-movin’ train

There was a time when my drinking helped me process what I’s thinking

Made the sky more blue, made my hands play

But now the time has come and passed, like nothin’ good ever lasts

And everyone’s gone away

And time

Time rolls on like a slow-movin’ train