



Tumbledown

Then we lived in a tumbledown
In the lower part of threadbare town
And the traffic out seventh street
Ran in circles all around our sleep
Then you always had a little cough
Pieces of the walls were falling off
And I needed so much time to think
I left the dishes sitting in the sink

In the house down at the turnaround
We never turned the music down
And all the noise inside my head
And I couldn't hear a word you said

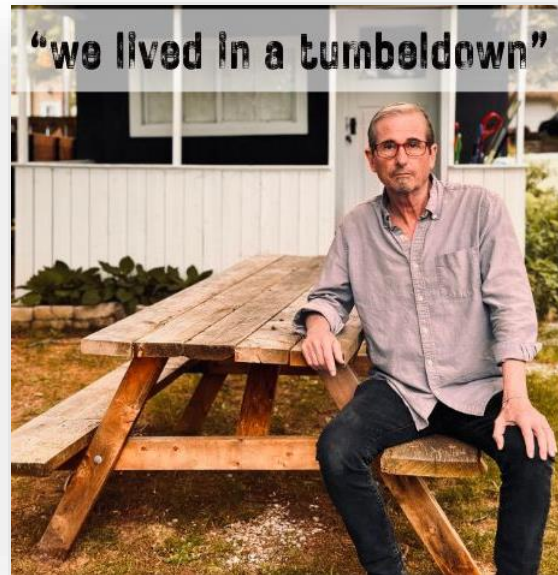
Someone called and called us on the phone
You said just pretend we're not at home
And the lights were burning all night long
The floor was full and hard to walk upon

In the house down at the turnaround
We never turned the music down
And all the noise inside my head
And I couldn't hear a word you said

On a dead-end street with a one-way sign
And your headlights headed straight for mine
And all the noise inside my head
And I couldn't hear a word you said

Then we were crying constantly
Then we laughed and laughed uproariously
And we heard a constant rushing sound
Trains were rattling underground

In the house down at the turnaround
We never turned the music down
And all the noise inside my head
And I couldn't hear a word you said



China Moon

Beautiful China Moon

In China Moon there is a clock whose hands never go round
Because the day stands still at one, until the sun goes down
In China Moon there lives a girl whom none will ever marry
Until a boy brings a cherry stone that was never in a cherry

Beautiful China Moon

Beautiful China Moon

In China Moon there is a land between the stream and shore
And the girl who lives in China Moon builds mansions there
and more

Licorice sticks grow in the grass pollinated by the bees
In China Moon diamonds grow like apples in the trees

Beautiful China Moon

Beautiful China Moon

In China Moon there is a tree a hundred miles around
Each branch a boat that never sailed except above the ground
The girl who comes from China Moon lives away up high
And turns her face from those below and always to the sky

Beautiful China Moon

Beautiful China Moon



Thief

When I was young and restless I still had a place to call my own
It grieved me not to leave it for I longed to be alone
Lying in some strange city in a room across from the carnival grounds
I dreamed this world was a Ferris wheel and me going round and round
Out of the bounds of history and its mystery stripped to the bone

I've starved myself of certainty and I have starved myself of dreams
One is home and one is far away and I am somewhere in between
When I hear a love song I wonder if it's true
when I hear a song about the road, I always think of you
when I hear a song that longs for home I think I know now what it means

For your love I would stay
but one love calls me away
one love calls me away



I am stronger than anybody knows though I know I'm
weaker than I feel
I am like a thief who cannot carry what he steals
Caught at last in the alley screaming at the sky
About the hard injustice of this world and he starts to cry
Sensing the approach of the law and their deafness to all
appeals

For your love I would stay
but one love calls me away
one love calls me away

I will stand up tall like a cop in the night
I will guard this treasure I have got
as though it were a right
I don't need anybody and I don't need anything
Except you and your love holding me like a string
Back from the edge of the road and I could break it
But I hold on tight

For your love I would stay
but one love calls me away
one love calls me away

History of Swings

In books there is so little said
Of how the wind in ropes was led
How lines suspended how a board
Tied in between and how it soared
Whose feet first at the sky took aim
While hung inside the prism frame
And the way that June goes by
And takes down August as it flies

And we swing above the world so high
Go so fast but never say goodbye
With space and time conspiring
As we write the history of swings

There was lightning out across the lake
We were waiting for the heat to break
In the park that summer night
We were held like satellites
Just where weightlessness takes hold
For a second and then we fold
Back into gravity and rise
Again toward the stormy skies

And we swing above the world so high
Go so fast but never say goodbye
With space and time conspiring
As we write the history of swings

I pushed you and you were featherlight
You flew in circles through the night
Jumped and landed on the grass
To watch the sweet parade go past

And we swing above the world so high
Go so fast but never say goodbye
With space and time conspiring
As we write the history of swings



Dream of Eden



Sidewalk beneath a pure blue sky
Children's games for you and I
We sow stone on stone
Will we still be innocent when we are grown

Up the road and down the lane
Animals receive the rain
Sky falls but has no sin
Are we children still beneath the skin

I've been widowed by a world
That grew from broken seeds
Everything is naked but I am dressed in weeds
I am dressed in weeds

I saw you coming through the gate
But you would not stop and wait
Down the block turn at the end
Hurrying to meet your brand-new friend

I've been widowed by a world
That grew from broken seeds
Everything is naked but I am dressed in weeds
I am dressed in weeds

I've been widowed by a world
That grew from broken seeds
Everything is naked but I am dressed in weeds
I am dressed in weeds

We Build Houses

When the wind blows it blows
everywhere
Through the town takes the leaves
and the lawn chairs
In the fields the grass grows wild
But the wind can't raise the orphan
child

That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses

Stormy heart even you must rest
Help me now, we all want what's
best
All my sins have made me strong
Still I pray don't do me wrong

That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses

Isaac lay before the knife
Oh how small, how small is life
Above the rock below the sky
This is how we live outside

All my sins have made me strong
Still I pray don't do me wrong

That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses
That's why we build houses



Everything is Incomplete

The history books, your sense of now
The story of the two-headed cows
Oh the thought and oh the spoken
The rise of the machine toward the broken

Everything is incomplete
Everything is incomplete
Patience long and patience sweet
Everything is incomplete

The phone the hydro and the rent
Across the hall the goddamn arguments
The vows you made still unbroken
The tongues of all the species still unspoken

Everything is incomplete
Everything is incomplete
Patience long and patience sweet
Everything is incomplete

The swing in motion, the summer day
The wish that you remembered not to say
All the right words that will be spoken
The age in which the fallen cup becomes unbroken

Everything is incomplete
Everything is incomplete
Patience long and patience sweet
Everything is incomplete



Landscape Architect

I lived behind the Drake Hotel across the alley
from
The dumpsters and the castaways gathering up
the crumbs
And I trained to be a landscape architect
someday
And rearranged the bags and bottles in my way

I watched tiny TV inside a tiny room
That the world was very tiny was all I could
assume
Tiny animals emerged to stage a tiny show
Whose message was “we all are saved” for all I
know

For all I know we’re living in heaven
For all I know the signs are plain
For all I know the streets of the city will bloom again

I worked inside the factory where the special shoes are made
That keep your feet up off the ground no matter where you’ve strayed
And I put the glue inside the shoe and I said gone when they said go
And they might have cried when I said goodbye for all I know

For all I know we’re living in heaven
For all I know the signs are plain
For all I know the streets of the city will bloom again

I spent the war down in the park considering the squirrels
Passing time with passers-by and flirting with the girls
And God or someone sat with us and sang “hey-nunny-no”
And that’s French for “all of us are saved” for all I know

For all I know we’re living in heaven
For all I know the signs are plain
For all I know the streets of the city will bloom again



Freak

I'm a freak, yeah, but not like the other freaks
I make the other freaks afraid
But someday yeah, me and my friends will join the big parade

And I am drifting but you can't save me
I was never lost my dear

I'm happy here yeah with the sky and tree
Still life in blue and green
The world's alive yeah but it says nothing
That's how it stays so free

And I am drifting but you can't save me
I was never lost my dear

All the noise yeah that people make
Never makes them wise
And all the news yeah, just goes on and on
And never one surprise

And I am drifting but you can't save me
I was never lost my dear



Spider's Web

In the doorway to my shed
Every day's a spider's web
I tear it down, she starts again
And so the spinning never ends

Through a crack an ant has come
To travel my linoleum
Across a desert all alone
Journeying so far from home

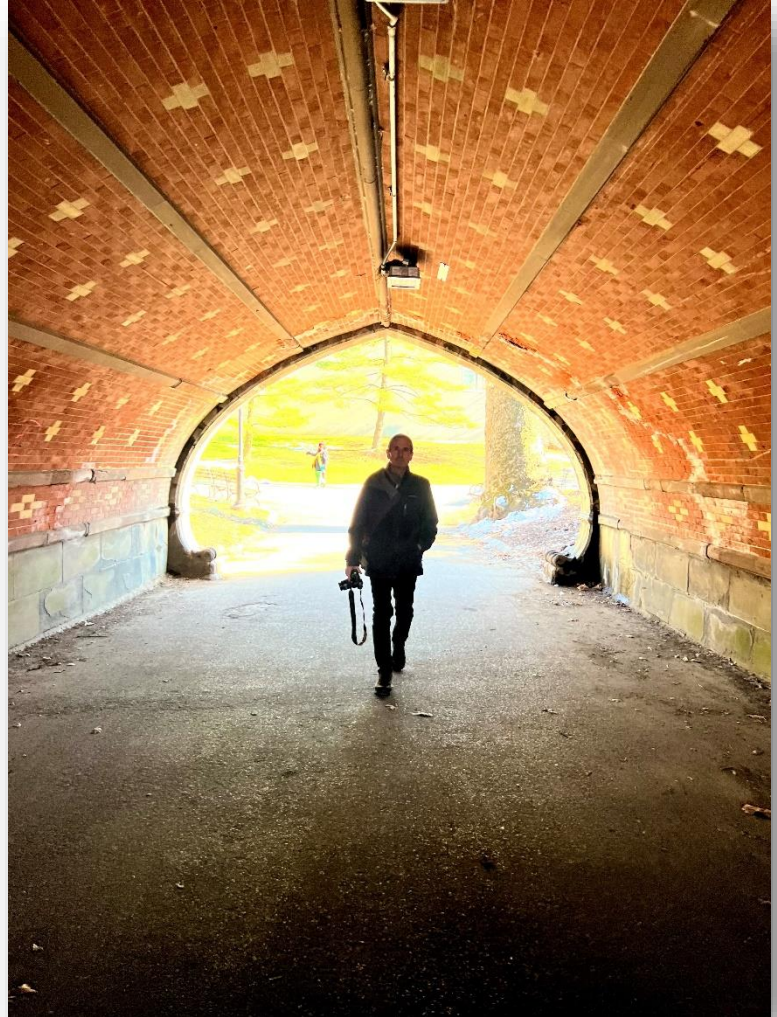
Every day's a spider's web
Every day's a spider's web
Everyday

In my garden flowers grow
Day by day and slow and slow
But how fast the summers pass
And so the snow alas, alas

Every day's a spider's web
Every day's a spider's web
Everyday

Up in space the satellites
Take photographs from windless heights
Someone plots the dots below
The little houses row on row

Every day's a spider's web
Every day's a spider's web
Everyday



Sonny Rollins

I heard Sonny Rollins say
The air is cool and clear
On the Williamsburg at 3am
And they can hear
The message all the way
To Staten Island

The neighbours all are sleeping
now
Or maybe they're still cussing
On the fifth floor with the lights
on
And the baby fussing
Amid the shouts and cries
All through the building

Sing the town electric
In the obligato dark
With the tire brushes and the
honking horns
And in the park
It's body and soul
They're playing

