

It's A Racket

Everybody that you know
And every place that you ever thought that you'd go
And every thing that you
wanted
And everyone that was ever
on board.

Now everyday you've been
haunted
About the times you just had
to look the other way.
About that guy that was
wanted
On every charge that was ever
trumped up.

There were new lines drawn
On the maps laid down
All new places you'd never
know

Why's your face so long?
When you hear what's wrong
All the time you knew it was
Just a racket.
Just a racket.

Now on their ponies came the law
And with him brought a defining moment
And no one notice as they rode
There was no dust on the shiny uniforms.

And everybody in the town
Enjoyed the glow until the sun went down.
But in the end they showed 'em how
To get the fuck out on the horses they rode on.

All the green is gone
From those desert lawns
Where the black gold would never flow.

Why's your face so long?
When you've seen what's wrong
All the time you knew it was

There were new lines drawn
On the maps laid down
All new places you'd never go.

Why's your face so glum?
When you see it, chum?
Every one of us knows it's all

Just a racket.

Arizona Desert 2007



For Alastair

I wish I could tell you
What happened to me.
I wish that I could hold you
And you'd see.

I wish that I could tell you
What happened to me.
I wish there were words to show you
But you can't know what I see.

I

Now the road is long that you are on
And you can't seen anything new,
But I know there is more left for you
to do.

And though there are some things I
will see

That you can never do.
It doesn't mean we're through.

And through this life we go.
Why things happen?
No one knows.

I guess it would be easy for me to be bitter
For all the things I'll never get.
It's all for myself.
Nobody else.
Because I can't reach you.

II

Now with each coming dawn I see more of you gone.
And we still see nothing new.
Yet I know there is more left for you to do.

And you can't see how your words now will ever be heard
For I can't heal what you lose.
It's doesn't mean we're through.

Believe me,
If I had known.
Why you'd sit alone
While I was standing here
So at home.

Push it in.

Push it out.
Tear it down,
Until it all comes out.
And then just when you think you've figured out,
That you've tested yourself till you're almost drowned.
There's an evil living both in and out,
Stretching every day.
Forcing every doubt.
When you feel your life giving out.

CODA

I wish I could tell you
What happened to me.
I wish that I could hold you
And you'd see.

I wish that I could tell you
What happened to me.
I wish there were words to show you

But you can't know what I've seen.
You can't know how I feel.
You don't know what I see.
You can't know what Ill see.

Dublin 1996

Twenty Years

Let me make it clear
Let me show you how
We gotta to find ourselves a home.

Wonderfully planned
The comforting place
Your heart has never known.

Let me tell you now
You don't understand.
When all is said and done.
I believe that we can have it all.

BRIDGE

You can't expand the picture.
You can't extend the frame.
It might take twenty years to find this place again.

II

Let make this clear
Let me tell you now
You'll never find yourself alone.

Worrying about
That sorry old place.
Where your heart could never grow.

Let me tell you now.
You don't see a plan.
Beyond these dues and jobs.
I believe that we can touch the stars.

You can't expect the future
To ever heal the pain.
It might take twenty years to feel this way again.

You can't decode the symbols.
You can't deflect the plan.
It might take twenty years to find your heart again.

It might take twenty years to find your home.
It might take twenty years to reach that door.

It might take twenty years to find your heart again.

Seattle 2008

Walk On My Back

Trying to find my baby.
Need to feel all right.
Hope she'll spend some time with me,
When there's no hope left in sight.
I roll and roll and roll the floor but still can't get it right,
With everything I can't endure at night.

So she walks on my back.
So she walks on my back.
Reach up to the ceiling!

Knead those muscles to and fro,

Now press your stomach to the floor,
And remember to focus on your core.
With each turn,

Looking great!
Now give me twenty more!
(Can you move one step to the right?)

(Man, I didn't know I was this tight.)

(Hey, is it supposed to burn?)

So she walks on my back.
So she walks on my back.

Dreaming of my saviour.
An angel dressed in white.
Who offers me serenity
Clad in her silken tights.

I used to swear by opiates,
But now I've seen the light.
With every step she takes
I reach new heights.

So she walks on my back.
So she walks on my back.
So she walks on my back.
So she walks on my back.

(It's a step in the right direction.)

Seattle 1998

That Just Seems Like Work

Don't talk about all the places you've been to
We stumbled on by luck.
Don't make a scene of the friends that you know.
When they can't be counted up.

It's all been blamed on simplicity of vision
For all the things we're not.
It just a shame how the the people can't cope
When nothing seemed to add quite up.

CHORUS

There's a lot of crazy people talking ruin like that.
You can see it on the news
Spinning rumour like fact.
There's a cynical tone
That we'll turn it all back.

But that just seems like work.

II

We all presumed when our leaders made decisions
That everyone's grown up.
And even though all the times it got rough,
We thought we were tough enough.

And don't forget all the theatre still in you.
And all the face we lost.
And all the ways that we still get wound up.
But never follow up.
And ever foul up.

(CHORUS)

BRIDGE

Change your heart.
Don't ever think that we can make it
If you don't get involved.

III

So after all of the places we've been to
Not stumbled on by luck.
I'm guessing now as the payments add up.
That there can never be enough.

It's all began as simplicity of vision,
From all the things we're not.
We can't agree with the things that we've got
How everything's is so fucked up.

BRIDGE

Change your heart.
Don't ever think that you can make it
If you don't get involved.

Change your mind.
Charge your heart.
You know that we can never make it
If you don't get involved.

FINAL CHORUS

There's a lot of crazy people talking ruin like that.
You can see it on the news
Spinning rumour like fact.
There's a cynical tone
That we'll turn it all back.
It's the oldies show that they always bring back.
We could make the train run if we lay a new track.

But that just seems like work.

Seattle 2008

Power

Laid so low..

Take a walk along the street.
See everybody that you know.
Why they stand there in the heat?
Because everybody seems to know.

Grains of sand along the beach.
They're with you everywhere you go.
Feel them underneath your feet
Does anyone really know?

CHORUS

Because you talk really nice,
And act real cool.
Guys like you can break all the rules.
You walk real smooth
And roll real tight.

But baby I think you might.

Make my heart break.

INTERLUDE

Always believed
My country, right or wrong,
Would stand.
Only now do I see clearly,
What comes from one man.

CHORUS

Because you talk really nice,
And act real cool.
Guys like you can break all the rules.
You walk real smooth
And roll real tight.
But baby I think you might.

Make my heart break.

Dublin 2002

No Drive

Baby's got a car.
A real fine car.
But no drive.
Baby's got a motor.
A real motor scooter
With no drive.

Baby's got the keys,
But she won't give them to me
There's no drive.

(Test drive for sixteen bars...)

CHORUS

She says I'm nothing
But I tell her,
Even I go places.

She says that I mean nothing it all,
But even I go places.

Detroit 1994

Crossing The Shannon With Bernadette Dunne

Sea bright.
Clouds go by.
Carried along like the waves.

I can never have enough pictures of you...

Day bright.
Passing sights,
Beautiful as your eyes.

Dublin 1996

Still In Love With You

Wasn't there a time when this was all natural?
When dreams we had could still come true.
Walking by these city streets
I'd think of you at my own side
And dream.

Wasn't there a time when this was all so wonderful?
The dreams we had, outside this garden.
Floating by these often travelled streets
I tell you I saw them all
And I said...
So in love with you!
So in love with you!
So in love with you! So in love with you!

I'd be beside myself
If there could come a time.
When all of this would seem unnatural to me.
Just standing by myself
Outside your door and beside myself in grief.

Wasn't there a time when this was all wonderful?
What happened to the dreams we had?
Walking by this often travelled street
I tell you I saw them all

And I said...
So in love with you!
So in love with you!
So in love with you! So in love with you!

Wasn't there a time when this had all been natural?
A dream we had that did come true..
Floating by these often travelled streets
I tell you I saw them all and I said...
Still in love with you!
Still in love with you!
Still in love with you!

Still in love with you.

Dublin 1996

Beautiful Sounds

Take all you want.
Show me everything you don't.
But I will be loved.

Read every book your shown
Tell me everything you know.
Of what you believe.

Leave every place you go.
Sell back everything you owned.
But I will be loved
It won't do
To break my heart.
Suffice to say,
I'll be home soon.

For the things I've found
Are the beautiful sounds
That echo in even the angriest of
hearts.

And one thing you'll know
That wherever you go.
I'll always long to hear you sing
Again and again and again and
again...

You ask me why I never sleep at night.
It feels like my head will explode.
I often wonder if I ever feared
to see the reason why.

THE WELL

One time,
In the back of the old yard we had.
Was a well,
Beneath the storage shed.

At night,
While you both did sleep,
I filled that hole,
With at least,
A hundred feet of dirt and stones.

(And all the time I lied..)

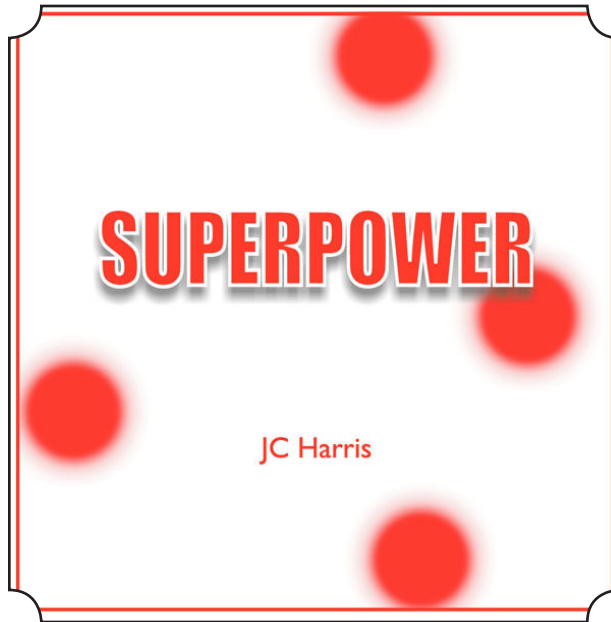
So afraid that you would fall.
And now as I sit laid so low,
I wish I'd let you know.

FINALE

Tell me did you ever love,
When you first you saw me smile?
I believe before we go.

We're all going to know just why.

Tell me could you see before
That everything would die?
I don't see
When everything collides.



But the things I found
Were the beautiful sounds
That echo in even the angriest of
hearts.
And one thing you'll know that
wherever you go,
There's always one heart that longs to
hear you sing
Again and again and again and again...

Seattle 2000