

## With Legs

Son get out of the road  
Out of the cold out of those clothes  
Like angels settled in snow  
You'll have your time to be alone  
And when the heat finally broke  
It left both of us cold  
When the heat finally broke  
It left all of us cold  
And then fit to be tied  
In the dull throes of nascent days  
Old poison, old want  
Old spool, old spin, old thread, new name  
And when it darkened your door  
What was it for, what was it for  
And how sadly I've learned  
A sun shining's not a day warm  
Trade winds and the lion's share  
White teeth and your golden hair  
Your sure hands and your pedigree  
Your wet wings in the dampened leaves  
A bird flying in dark  
Is still a bird flying  
A bird flying in dark  
Is still a bird flying  
Kingdom keys and your thinning crown  
A good gate where you've slipped the rungs  
Your overtures left undersung  
Sucking your teeth while licking your wounds  
A bird flying in dark  
Is still a bird flying  
A bird flying in dark  
Is still a bird flying

## The Middle Distance

Like water, it goes where it will  
Like water, it goes where it will  
Like weather, like water, like sunlight, like hours until  
Like water, trouble goes where it will  
So for your fits of nervous laughter  
All your days buzzing and bored  
Don't let that middle distance take its toll  
Don't let it take you down  
And it was always  
A little too cold to swim  
Slightly too dark for diving  
If you know if you know what I mean  
Yet still how you'd sit on the shore

Sit and dangle your feet  
White fingers white knuckles white noise  
White hands up in defeat  
So for the twitch of frigid shoulders  
All your days sunburned and sore  
Don't let that middle distance take its toll  
Don't let it take you down  
And still like all of your best  
Future former lovers  
It finds its sharpest weapons in the dustiest of corners  
Still like all of your best  
Future former lovers  
It finds its sharpest weapons in the dustiest of corners  
And so for every one of those past loves  
Go on and shed a single tear and then move on  
And still don't let that middle distance take you down  
And even still the summer sun  
It couldn't brighten all the corners  
With all that dirt that stained your doors  
And all those miles in stony silence  
And even still the summer sun  
It couldn't brighten all the corners  
With all that dirt that stained your doors  
And all those miles in stony silence  
So for all the better movements of your mouth  
All spent just trying to talk him down  
Don't let that poison take your teeth  
Don't let that distance take you down  
And my single greatest wish on the arrival of the morning  
Is for the place where I am formed  
From the place where I am forming  
And my single greatest wish on the arrival of the morning  
Is for the place where I am formed  
From the place where I am forming  
And I'll stand on your shoulders  
Till we get up above it  
And I'll fall at your feet  
Once this trouble's forgotten  
And I'll stand on your shoulders  
Till we get up above it  
And I'll fall at your feet  
Once this trouble's forgotten  
So this is for the ones  
Who still have joy inside in their hearts  
May you always find it  
Where you don't have to look  
This is for the ones  
Who still have joy inside in their hearts  
May you always find it  
Where you don't have to look

Helen

Helen Marie  
You fell like leaves  
You fell like leaves  
When you got tired  
Helen Marie  
You fell fast and free  
Crooked like leaves  
Into a beautiful pile  
And Helen Marie  
With you between white sheets  
I will not lie  
Not by your side  
Helen Marie  
Between heart beats  
Is our down time  
Let's spend it wise  
Let's hold on tight  
Let's hold on tight  
Let's hold on tight  
Helen Marie  
You fell like leaves  
You fell like leaves  
When you got tired  
Helen Marie  
You fell fast and free  
Crooked like leaves  
Into a beautiful pile  
And Helen Marie  
With you between white sheets  
I will not lie  
Not by your side  
Helen Marie  
Between heart beats  
Is our down time  
Let's spend it wise  
Let's hold on tight  
Helen Marie  
You're part of me  
You're just like me  
So I'll hold tight  
When I get tired  
Let's hold on tight  
Let's hold on tight  
Let's hold on tight  
Let's hold on

A Song of Faint Praise

Now it seems your careless days  
They went the way of all your faintest praise  
And all your doe-eyed dreams  
Met your soft belly and moon-shining face  
And all the fog it will burn off  
As you light your stovetop cigarettes  
And I guess this troubled, worn-out skin  
Is just the one I'm at home in  
It's where I'll stay  
And how you fell into your chair  
Your roaring twenties roaring in your ears  
And how you fell to disrepair  
As finest phrases followed youngest years  
And now you're left reading your rights  
With your weary old editor's eye  
And now I'm out upon the town  
With all your proud words in my mouth  
They burn the air  
In fits and starts  
In fits and starts  
In fits and starts  
Your criminal luck it steals  
And luck it steals  
And luck it steals  
All of your better breaths have gone  
Your breaths have gone  
Your breaths have gone  
To mirrors and to hymns you've sung  
And hymns you've sung  
And hymns  
All drunk and dizzy with fatigue  
It starts  
In fits and starts  
In fits and starts  
Your criminal luck it steals  
And luck it steals  
And luck it steals  
All of your better breaths have gone  
Your breaths have gone  
Your breaths have gone  
To mirrors and to hymns you've sung  
And hymns you've sung  
And hymns  
All drunk and dizzy with fatigue

For All My Friends in Spring, for All My Friends in Fall

And in the pale last light you asked  
Your tall broad-shouldered boy

Have I aged well in your eyes?  
Sheet-white and ill-prepared  
These things they take their time  
But I've never known you by that name  
And in trying to make the days feel long  
The isolationists' creed was on your tongue  
Giving all your finest phrases away  
And always in the place of my birth  
Despite your dead and blackened teeth  
I am never more peaceful and sure  
And in these hours I feel so glad my heart could burst  
When all the movements of your mouth combine to verse  
And in these hours I feel so glad my heart could burst  
And everyone that's in here knows  
Just what they're hurtling towards  
It seems you've always got the sense  
Even if you haven't got the words  
You sought this city to get lost  
To pass the silence by  
And to sleep till you woke up  
And as the sun comes up  
The powers that be  
They try to make their money move  
And I am slowly coming back to life  
And as the city lights up all alive  
Endlessly tracing its yellow lines  
I am slowly coming back to life  
And in these hours I feel so glad my heart could burst  
When all the movements of your mouth combine to verse  
And in these hours I feel so glad my heart could burst  
For all my friends in spring, for all my friends in fall  
All of my favorite dreams are tied to you  
If I could inhabit them in waking hours  
You know I would

### In Your Doldrums

I was just trying to beat the light  
I was just trying to beat the light back  
I was just trying to beat the light  
I was just trying to beat the light back  
We just wanted to be moved  
We'd still do what we do  
Drunk empty aimless  
Shouting senseless at the moon  
We just wanted to be moved  
We'd still do what we do  
Drunk empty aimless  
Shouting senseless at the moon  
You laid down in wait

Till your ideas had come of age  
Till they rang true  
You laid down in wait  
Till your ideas had come of age  
Till they rang true  
And does it eat you up to know  
That this will all go on long after you go?  
Does it eat you up to know  
That this will all go on long after you go?  
It seems by virtue of our dreaming  
That we are all programmed for love  
We were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground  
We were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground  
It seems by virtue of our dreaming  
That we are all programmed for love  
We were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground  
We were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground  
We're living in your doldrums now  
Yeah we were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground  
We're living in your doldrums now  
Yeah we were gold inside a foxhole  
But at a loss on solid ground

#### The Curtain Calls

And so this one is for the morning  
When all scattershot and yawning  
And blinking in the light you finally  
Will stand on your own two legs  
And then for how you'll find me  
Awestruck and flailing madly  
Deep in the back yards of my memory  
Elaborate designs lost to circumstance  
And in that moment when the dusk reclaims the day  
All in that back yard reading lines upon your face  
You will unhook all of their snares and you will say  
I am untethered  
And I am free  
And so for all the days that you spent buried  
Under the ache of muscle memory  
The sharp and jagged way the day breaks  
And the dull thud of the nighttime's fall  
And yet still the curtain calls  
And how you all in cautious wonder  
Did stand unguarded and unbridled

And felt the quiet strength in your own two arms  
And in that moment when the dusk reclaims the day  
All in that back yard reading lines upon your face  
You will unhook all of their snares and you will say  
I am untethered  
And I am free  
So this one's for our little lives  
The calm in the storm's sleeping eye  
The million upward blinking lights  
That only airplanes ever get to see  
Untying all the ties that bind  
The sound of children singing wild  
And the suspicion that another mile  
Will lead at last to warmth under the moon  
This one's for our little lives  
The calm in the storm's sleeping eye  
The million upward blinking lights  
That only airplanes ever get to see  
Untying all the ties that bind  
The sound of children singing wild  
And the suspicion that another mile  
Will lead at last to warmth under the moon

#### The First Freeze

Your flag has long been flown half-mast  
Ever since they went and put the lie to you  
And sleeping in the frostbit grass  
From the first freeze to last  
The burden of proof pulling the joy out of your Junes  
And every night from dusk till dawn  
Looking for hooks to hang hope on  
Son call off your dogs  
And there I will wake early  
Barefoot and sunburnt  
And you'll lay your head beside me both hiding in the light  
You know the static won't stick as long as you keep moving  
But the year's first freeze is both serene and unnerving  
And is it true that you still take your heat from mine?  
Yes is it true that you still take your heat from mine?  
Doing your dishes in the dark  
You're the bird once touched and always lost  
Son call off your dogs  
Son call off your dogs  
Son call off your dogs

#### For the Hooves That Gallop, and the Heels That March

Where there are owl's eyes  
And a stranger's touch

There are statues left standing  
And there is hair unbrushed  
So for the hooves that gallop, and the heels that march  
There will be lights burning  
As there will be lights out  
You arrived with wings unclipped  
With all your ornaments on  
Hemmed in but with so many things to tell  
All upon your tongue  
And then on the back  
Of all the time you took  
To the only place where you could find me  
To the only place you'd look  
And then when at last  
My senses finally go  
Will you know for me to wonder  
Will you know for me to know?  
And even as dry heat  
Will clang in rusting pipes  
Something in the changing of the seasons  
Will make us more alive  
So for the hooves that gallop, and the heels that march  
There will be lights burning  
As there will be lights out  
So for the hooves that gallop, and the heels that march  
There will be lights burning  
As there will be lights out

### Give Up the Ghost

And so for years  
You've tried to bend your bullish body  
In ways it wasn't meant to move  
And yes at just  
At just the hint of one above you  
You've thrown your posture to the wind  
And how you've been  
How you've been tossing off these couplets  
In an endless mad attempt to prove  
That the one  
That the one ever below you's not  
The reason that you never cease to move  
And so give up  
Give up  
Give up  
Give up the ghost  
So give up  
Give up  
Give up  
Give up the ghost

You've done your time  
Your ship has sailed  
It's seen both coasts  
So give up  
Give up  
Give up  
Give up the ghost  
Because it's been  
A eulogy for years  
Or else it will be  
A eulogy for years  
Because it's been  
A eulogy for years  
Or else it will be  
A eulogy for years  
And my dear you've got  
To let yourself be loved  
Yes my dear you've got  
To let yourself be loved  
And my dear you've got  
To let yourself be loved  
Yes my dear you've got  
To let yourself be loved  
Because in the end you know  
It's easier than sleep  
Yes in the end you know  
It's easier than sleep  
Because in the end you know  
It's easier than sleep  
Yes in the end you know  
It's easier than sleep  
And so give up  
Give up  
Give up  
Give up the ghost  
So give up  
Give up  
Give up  
Give up the ghost