

The Solitary Traveller

I had a voice clear and true
I chided and scolded and lied about you
Never held my wicked tongue
And now that voice is gone
I had a son looked like you
He did my bidding and paid me my due
Slaved away morning and night
But he ran away and he's gone

Lonely life, where is thy sting
Lonely life, there's no such thing
Here's a health to the solitary traveller
To the solitary traveller

I once had a man love me well
I drew him to me and cast my spell
I was disdainful, he's sick and so painful
And now that man is gone

Lonely life where is thy sting
Lonely life there's no such thing
Here's a health to the solitary traveller
To the solitary traveller

I'm alone now, you think I'd be sad
No voice, no son, no man to be had
You're wrong as can be boys, I'm solvent and free boys
All my troubles are gone

Lonely life where is thy sting
Lonely life there's no such thing
Here's a health to the solitary traveller
To the solitary
Lonely life where is thy sting
Lonely life
Lonely life there's no such thing
Lonely Life

Or Nothing at All

The product of true lovers' sighs
The apple of my jaundiced eye
I dared to hope you'd be
A hundred men in their white coats
Would check you with their stethoscopes
And hand you straight to me

I'd come to call at your behest
Say comb your hair, put on your vest
The wind it do blow free
There's the future, here's the past
Another dream that couldn't last
In love's economy

No tantrums, no laughter, no tears
No minutes, no hours, no years
You could be fed and warm
Awake with a smile at dawn
You could be all these things or nothing at all

I thought I heard you in the dark
I thought I saw you in the park
Playing on your own
You stumbled and you grazed your knee
But you didn't run to me
And I walked back alone

I didn't stand up, didn't say
Silence is the coward's way
Forgive me if you can
What I would give for that first kiss
I prayed it wouldn't end like this
Empty hearts, empty hands

But you'll always be the flower of my heart
I promise you, I promise you, I promise you
There will be sparkling wine, dinner at half past nine
My foolish hopes abound
Catch you the next time round
And we can do all these things or nothing at all

Bonnie Lass

In a cold, dark grey
In a dream of yesterday
I see the darling wean
I long to hold again

She was my bonnie lass I know
She was my bonnie lass I know

In her blue daisy dress
I would lay her on my chest
And oh the world was calm
My baby in my arms

She was my bonnie lass I know
She was my bonnie lass I know
I know

Though she stays so far away
She's always here

She was my bonnie lass I know
She was my bonnie lass I know
She was my bonnie lass I know
She was my bonnie lass I know

Darling This Will Never Do

I just bought a gold plated kazoo
I've been so foolish since I met you
I knew your mother, your father too
Darling this will never do

I thought my poor heart was on the blink
Now it's cartwheeling into the pink
And I'm doing that old soft shoe
Darling this will never do

I lived a lifetime before we met
Paramours umpteen
But now I'm eager to forget what's been
For what's going to be

What of the future my old friends say
What if love goes bad?
But this September come what may
Believes in this beautiful dream

J'ai envoyé tout plein de billets doux
Au mon pauvre parvenu
Maintenant c'est un amour fou
Darling this will never do

It's that terrible old taboo
Darling this will never do

I Used to Be So Pretty

I used to be so pretty
But now you wouldn't know me
You'd walk by me If you passed me on the street

I'm ten miles from the city
The fare is too much for me
And the walk home is going to hurt my feet

Pretty is as pretty does
But when you have it, it's enough
When it's gone
You need fortitude, not pity
Oh I wish I was
I wish I was still pretty

You used to love the bones of me
When we danced so sweetly
But now you'd deny me a bed

I was always one to linger
You should have whispered timber
Before this sorry mess fell on my head

Pretty is as pretty does
And when you have it, it's enough
When it's gone
You need fortitude, not pity
Oh I wish I was
I wish I was still pretty

It's a dram in the morning
A few to go to sleep
All for to dampen these memories I keep

I've a mailbox full of bills
And a mouth full of pills
Life was easier
So much easier
When I was still pretty

John Grant

John Grant took my heart away to Reykjavik
I hope he takes care of it
Ups its rate a bit

We had tea at Bertaux
We like cake and it shows
A moment on the lips
A lifetime on the hips

We're a funny pair
He likes coasters, I don't care
Vicissitudes abound
Life is ups and downs

We love trees and we hug them
Every chance we get
It chafes the arms a bit
And we don't know if they're into it

Now he was absent on the night his mother died
Where was he, I don't know
But I do know he was there, really
And she knew it
But he didn't, not at all

I hear that he's moved on to the fjords
Or Lake Woebegone
Trying to find a place in which he can belong
But just a bit, until reality hits

Shores of America

When you waltzed out the door
I'm sure they heard my crying on Mars
For you were to me
Much more than the sun and the moon and the stars
But I'm making big plans
Though I can't find my heart with both hands
You'll see me no more
I'm bound for the shores of America

Are you helpless with laughter
As you picture my life
I'm nobody's daughter, nobody's mother
And nobody's wife
But I have my own name
And what do you have but your shame
You'll see me no more
I'm bound for the shores of America

And if it's true
That only the good die young
Lucky old you
'Cause you'll be around until kingdom come
But I'll be far, far away
In North Carolina or Santa Fe
You'll see me no more
I'm bound for the shores of America
I've taken the cure
And I'm bound for the shores of America

That's the Way the Polka Goes

Wallflower, wallflower, by and by
Growing up the wall so high
We're all fools and we must die
Excepting Mary, she can sing
Oh she can do the Highland Fling

My brother John says he will cry
If he can't get the girl with the bonny brown eye
He bites his nails, he tells lies
Tip to the heel my darling

If I had a gun and the gun was loaded
Pulled the trigger and it exploded
No more me, no more gun
No more dancing to be done

Tip to the heel and tip to the toes
That's the way our polka goes

Bibbity, babbity, bee-baw babbity
Tip to the heel and tip to the toes
Bibbity, babbity, lassie or a laddy
Oh that's the way the polka goes
That's the way, that's the way the polka goes

I have a bonnet trimmed with blue
Do I wear it? Yes I do
Always wear it when I can
Going to the ball with my young man

Where we tip to the heel and tip to the toes
That's the way our polka goes

Growing up the wall so high
We're all fools and we must die
Except for Mary, she can sing oh
She can do the Highland Fling oh

Bibbity, babbity, bee-baw babbity
Tip to the heel and tip to the toes
Bibbity, babbity, lassie or a laddy
Oh that's the way the Polka goes
That's the way the polka goes

Three Shaky Ships

Three shaky ships on a cruel sea
Loving you has changed me
Expanded my horizons
Cleared my head
I'd give you some advice
That will stand you in good stead

Beautiful daughters, this is how it's always been
One rule for the king, another for the queen
Give to each a little and they'll beg for you to stay
Give promises and kisses, but not your heart away

For love will scare you, if you love so blind
Shake you and tear you, time after time
Love will scare you
Love will scare you if you love so blind

My only son, you wax and wane
In harmony or else in pain
Perfection is a thankless task
What you need is there
You just have to ask

And let love scare you, when you love so blind
Shake you and tear you and cloud your mind
Let love scare you
Let love scare you when you love so blind

Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks,
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks
Stay close, give thanks
Open hearts, close ranks

Those Damn Roches

Those damn Roches, what a wild pack
They go down to Hammond, but they come straight back
And they get in my ears and my heart cracks
Who do I see about that

The McGarrigle-Wainwrights come as they are
Sometimes in peace and sometimes in war
From Mendocino to Montreal
I love them all

Bound together in blood and song, who can break us?
When we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?

The Waterson-Carthys, travelling still
Singing in good times, or in ill
To give you a smile and make your heart chill
Purest of will

Then the Coppers, the Coppers, they gave me my start
I still miss Bob, but he's here in part
This noble family is England's heart
There's gold in that line

Bound together in blood and song, who can break us?
When we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?

Faraway Thompsons, tug at my heart
Can't get along 'cept when we're apart
Is it life, or is it art?
One and the same

Bound together in blood and song, who can break us?
When we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?
Bound together in blood and song, who can break us?
Oh when we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?
When we are singing loud and strong, who can take us?