



rob morsberger a periodic rush of waves

jon herington  
paul ossola  
robin gould



0°

THE BAND

Robin Gould—drums

Jon Herington—electric and acoustic guitars

Rob Morsberger—vocals, keyboards, orchestrations

Paul Ossola—electric and upright bass

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS

Marshall Crenshaw—background vocals (*It's Only a Song*)

Jules Shear—background vocals (*Going Nowhere & Valentine Girl*)

John Putnam—guitar

David Mansfield—violin and viola

Stewart Lerman—acoustic guitar and percussion

PRODUCED AND MIXED  
BY STEWART LERMAN

Engineered by Dave Darlington

Mastered by Dominick Maita at Airshow Mastering

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## it's only a song

you might think that every song you hear is a dramatic revelation  
about the nature of the world you live in or the one you left behind  
a world in which you don't belong a song so full of sad alienation  
and the love that you can't find

that you begin to think the song was written about you  
you start to laugh and smile as you sing along  
you might think that but you would be wrong

because it's only a song  
it's just a record of sound  
it's just the sound of a voice  
it goes around and around

you might think this song contains an insight of profoundest self-importance  
it's hard to be objective when you always put the horse before the cart  
as it is the fact remains not everything is written in accordance  
with the laws of truth and art

you look for meaning and a message when there isn't one  
you think the meaning and the message make you strong  
you might think that but you would be wrong

because it's only a song  
it's just a record of sound  
it's just the sound of a voice  
it goes around and around

50°N 4°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0°  
15°  
30°  
45°  
60°  
75°

a periodic rush of waves  
passing through the open air  
hear the echoes all around  
movements of reflected sound  
that carry every word and rhyme  
over distance  
over time  
right into your waiting ears  
taking you back through the years

like ripples floating in a pond  
waves of sound are short and long

because it's only a song  
it's just a record of sound  
it's just the sound of a voice  
it goes around and around  
for all the good girls and boys  
who try so hard to belong  
it's only a song that's all



# I w a n t t o b e t h e o n e

everybody knows that you're the one to blame  
everybody knows and it's a crying shame  
everybody knows you  
they know exactly who you are  
everybody knows you  
but no one wants to dim your shining star

everybody loves you and your little girl  
everybody loves your sordid little world  
everybody loves you  
lord how they love the way you talk  
everybody loves you  
but no one wants to walk the walk

someday somebody's gonna say what you've done  
someday somebody's gonna have so much fun  
and I want to be the one  
I want to be the one

everybody hears you when you sneak around  
everybody hears you make that fucking sound  
everybody hears you  
they hear you coming through the wall  
everybody hears you  
but no one wants to bring about your fall

14°N 23°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0°

someday somebody's gonna say what you've done  
someday somebody's gonna have so much fun  
and I want to be the one  
I want to be the one

15°

everybody saw you look so out of place  
everybody saw the smile on your face  
everybody saw you  
they saw the camera flashes glare  
everybody saw you  
but no one really seems to care

30°

someday somebody's gonna say what you've done  
someday somebody's gonna have so much fun  
and I want to be the one  
I want to be the one  
yes I want to be the one  
I want to be the one

45°

60°

75°

## a necessary burden

I need this love  
and responsibility  
when I was young  
footloose and fancy free  
I didn't realize how badly I was really hurting  
loving you is a necessary burden

you wear me down  
and then you wear me out  
I'm all used up  
I didn't mean to shout  
sometimes you talk so much that I can't even get a word in  
loving you is a necessary burden

yes the necessary burden is the love for you that I carry around  
it's the gravity that keeps these two feet fair and squarely planted on the ground  
it's the kind of love I needed but I just did not believe it could be found

sometimes I wish  
that time could be my friend  
that I could go  
start all over again  
but darling when the morning comes and I pull back the curtain  
I see your sleepy face and more than ever I am certain  
loving you is a necessary burden

23°N 43°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0° **s e n s e   a n d   s e n s i b i l i t y**

Marianne you're still a child  
you're a girl of sweet sixteen  
you're the image of your mother  
you could be a beauty queen  
when your sister Eleanor makes perfect sense  
you proclaim your wounded innocence  
now I see you're sitting pretty  
high up on your fence  
between sense and sensibility

30°  
you could never fake a smile  
you disdain the artful lie  
you are never really sure  
if you should laugh or you should cry  
when your sister acts with total self control  
you just crawl into the nearest hole  
sifting through your self-pity  
and all its discontents  
through your sense and sensibility

45°  
you just blurt out what you're thinking  
without thinking who you hurt  
to the one who really loves you  
you won't speak a single word  
they all want you to be sensible  
insincere and untrue  
but they are not as sensitive as you my dear

Marianne you're always honest  
and your looks cannot deceive  
your face is an open book  
and your heart is on its sleeve  
and there isn't any place for you to hide  
when the story asks the reader to decide  
between personalities  
which is the worst offense  
common sense or sensibility  
between sense and sensibility



the music of time (Patagonia 1832)

in the struggle for existence  
and the instinct to survive  
all the distance that I travelled  
failed to keep our love alive  
and Fanny I am waiting  
for the future to arrive  
as we dance to the music of time

I have always loved the beetles  
I collected and observed  
and a life spent breeding pigeons  
might relieve these ragged nerves  
but Fanny this betrayal  
is much more than I deserve  
as we dance to the music of time

I find my thoughts and feelings are in such a maze  
I am at a loss of what to think or say  
really melting with tenderness I cry  
my dearest Fanny  
why  
it's like confessing to a murder  
it's a scientific curse  
the laws of variation  
cannot ever be reversed  
and Fanny you are not the center  
of the universe  
goodbye

I can't stop this revolution  
and I know since time began  
life has been a constant battle  
in the long descent of man  
and Fanny when I lost you  
I found such a simple plan  
as we dance to the music of time

I was bound for holy orders  
don't you think it rather odd  
that I should bear the blame  
for the eternal death of god

49°S 67°W

0°  
**b l o o d s t a i n   o n   m y   s h e e t**

15°  
I remember every detail of our sordid love affair  
both of us were cheating and we didn't even care  
our passion was a rose until time nipped it in the bud  
but now it seems as faded as that rusted stain of blood  
when you came to see me you were always so discrete  
the only thing you left me was a bloodstain on my sheet

30°  
when I go to sleep at night I lay down in my bed  
right next to the pillow where you used to lay your head  
but I really start to miss you and I think of you a lot  
when my vision strays down to that dark and bloody spot  
I loved you in our glory and I still love you in defeat  
the only thing you left me was a bloodstain on my sheet

45°  
now all this dirty laundry's hanging out for all to see  
as naked and exposed as any heart could ever be  
your love has left a stain the hands of time cannot erase  
no matter how I try to change the memory of your face  
when you walked away and headed down the lonely street  
the only thing you left me was a bloodstain on my sheet

60°

75°

## going nowhere

I thought that I would be somewhere by now  
something is keeping me here somehow  
whenever I travel  
wherever I go  
it's the same lonely view looking out my window

I go backwards and forwards  
I turn left and right  
I go down to the highway  
and drive through the night  
ahead in the distance  
there's a flickering light  
but I'm going nowhere  
with no end in sight

nowhere is somewhere you don't want to be  
a place full of sadness and misery  
with nowhere to go and and with nothing to leave  
no one to love and nothing to believe

I go backwards and forwards  
I turn left and right  
I go down to the highway  
and drive through the night  
ahead in the distance  
there's a flickering light  
but I'm going nowhere  
with no end in sight

I still don't know how I ended up here  
day after day  
year after year  
looking for love and a place of my own  
stuck in the middle of nowhere alone

I go backwards and forwards  
I turn left and right  
I go down to the highway  
and drive through the night  
ahead in the distance  
there's a flickering light  
but I'm going nowhere  
with no end in sight

55°S 73°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0°    o n o u r w e d d i n g d a y

on our wedding day  
there's a northern wind that's blowing  
across the frozen lake  
on our wedding day  
in the coldest part of winter  
our sleeping hearts awake

let's take a walk into the springtime  
we'll bring along the children too  
I know that I can go the distance  
just as long as I'm with you  
and there's a song I want to play  
on our wedding day

on our wedding day  
with the words that we have spoken  
to love for evermore  
on our wedding day  
I am making you a promise  
I failed to keep before

we place our faith in this brave new world  
that's all that really matters now  
we'll find a way to stay together  
this love will see us through somehow  
and there's a song I want to play  
on our wedding day

you look pretty in the dress that you borrowed  
am I handsome in my thrift shop clothes  
this is the love  
this is the life we chose

on our wedding day  
we beseech the higher power  
for blessings and support  
on our wedding day  
for the love that we are given  
a lifetime seems too short

up here in beautiful New England  
we gather with our family  
in all this beauty there is nothing  
as lovely as you are to me  
and there's a song I want to play  
on our wedding day

## lives veer off course

lives veer off course  
and everybody knows  
the outcome is determined  
by the wicked wind that blows  
so go ahead and make your plans  
to be a better kind of man  
lives veer of course

lives veer off course  
from selfishness and greed  
until the day you cut and run  
before the wind at speed  
a broken heart left in the wake  
someone must pay for your mistake  
lives veer off course

from the day that you are born  
until the moment that you die  
you will travel on this earth  
beneath an ever changing sky  
when you're leaking at the bilges  
with the devil seam to mend  
when you've payed out all your anchor  
and you've reached the bitter end  
when you're lost in stormy weather  
and the time is getting late

will the watchkeepers be sleeping  
and abandon you to fate  
lives—lives veer off course

lives veer off course  
you haven't got a clew  
you take a long tack starboard  
to a different point of view  
a weather side ship never fails  
to take the wind out of your sails  
lives veer off course

yes your life can take you places  
that you never thought you'd see  
but the devil's in the details  
it's a matter of degree  
you can navigate the heavens  
or be blinded by the sun  
you can break up or be carried  
in the currents where they run  
you can chart your destination  
and the distance that you travel  
as you listen to the thrashing of the  
sheets as they unravel  
lives—lives veer off course

42°S 73°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0°

in the middle of your journey  
in the dark and lonely nights  
you are searching for a harbor  
you can see the leading lights  
but you're head to wind in irons  
and you can't approach the shore  
so you reach in desperation  
for a paddle or an oar  
as your canvas dances wildly  
footloose and fancy free  
you can't find a way between the devil  
and the deep blue sea  
lives—lives veer off course

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

lives veer off course  
helmsmen don't give way  
head straight as the crow flies  
or there might be hell to pay  
every feather beak and claw  
reveals the universal law  
lives veer off course

# hieroglyph

this hieroglyph  
could be a flower  
the head of an owl or  
a human form  
anthropomorphic  
or just a design  
a pattern of curves  
and textile lines

oh hieroglyph  
I feel your power  
something eternal  
from the ancient world  
a picture of mercy  
a symbol or sign  
beyond comprehension  
of the literal kind

blinded by beauty  
I could not see that  
the signs of her leaving  
were all around me  
what was the story  
what words did she say  
through the distance of time  
it all fades away

oh hieroglyph  
what are you showing  
what map of the soul  
do you encode  
is that a goddess  
or is it a plan  
a DNA photo  
of ancient man

I search her picture  
for thoughts she was hiding  
some kind of clue  
to the beautiful smile  
I know I keep missing  
the meaning behind it  
there's a message for me  
but I just can't find it

oh hieroglyph  
I feel your power  
something eternal  
from the ancient world

37°S 73°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0° all I have to give

all I have to offer  
all I have to share  
all I have to give you is myself  
all I have remaining  
all I have to spare  
all I have to give you is myself

and we both know  
as long as I live  
all I have is what I am  
and what I am is all I have to give

all my great ambitions  
all my confidence  
all my foolish little hopes are gone  
all my youthful dreaming  
all my innocence  
all my foolish little hopes are gone

and we both know  
as long as I live  
all I have is what I am  
and what I am is all I have to give

is what I am a mystery  
is what I have to give  
too hard for you to see  
if what you are is what you love  
then what I have to give  
might be enough for you and me

we have spoken every vow  
but maybe it's the gift of time  
that matters now  
and it that's true it's not too late  
to offer you the gift of time  
and pay for it somehow

all I ever will be  
all I ever was  
all I am is nothing without you  
nothing comes from nothing  
nothing ever does  
all I am is nothing without you

and we both know  
as long as I live  
all I have is what I am  
and what I am is all I have to give

## v a l e n t i n e   g i r l

I'll give you all of my love  
if you'll be my valentine girl  
I've waited all of my life  
for you my valentine girl

the old cliché bears repeating  
you hold the keys to my heart  
open me up baby please  
love me my valentine girl

nothing could ever compare  
to you my valentine girl  
it's hard to show how much I care  
for you my valentine girl

all the red wine and dark chocolate  
all of the love in the world  
wouldn't be nearly enough  
for you my valentine girl

I'll do anything that you need  
for you my valentine girl  
I'd be so glad if you agreed  
to be my valentine girl

you'll be my own Mona Lisa  
I'll make you smile every day  
if you'll just stay for a while  
and be my valentine girl  
my valentine girl

0° 90°W

0°

15°

30°

45°

60°

75°

0°

## d e t a i l s

it's in all the ways I hurt and disappoint you  
it's in all the things I fail to do and say  
it's in every little smile of forgiveness  
it's in every waking hour of the day  
the measure of a life is in the details  
and the love is in the details of our lives

15°

it's the sum of every tender quiet moment  
it's the sacrifices that you take away  
it's the number of hard times you think of leaving  
you subtract it from the ones that make you stay  
the measure of a life is in the details  
and the love is in the details of our lives

30°

true love is not a big thing  
it's a lot of small things multiplied  
and love is not monumental  
it looks across a great divide

45°

it's the distance times the frequency of travel  
it's the baggage that you pack before you start  
it's the answer waiting for you in the darkness  
and the lonely calculations of the heart  
the measure of a life is in the details  
and the love is in the details of our lives

60°

75°

FOR JON, ROBIN AND PAUL

with love and gratitude

AND FOR STEWART LERMAN

with more of the same

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