

Carrie Newcomer

the gathering of spirits



For summer came and summer went
As holy as a day is spent

Holy is the place I stand
To give whatever small good I can
The empty page, the open book
Redemption everywhere I look

Unknowingly we slow our pace
In the shade of unexpected grace
With grateful smiles and sad lament
As holy as a day is spent

And morning light sings “providence”
As holy as a day is spent

Carrie Newcomer 2001

Straight to the Point

Verse: Some come in the side door swingin'
Some eat in the kitchen but they don't mind
Some stride in without even knockin'
Some act like they've been here the whole damn time

Chorus: Gonna live my life like it don't get much better
Gonna walk right in like I own this joint
Get right down to the heart of the matter
Live straight to the point
Straight to the point

I don't need the keys to the kingdom
'Cause I don't measure my life that way
Try as you might to hold on to something
Sooner or later it's all going to change

Chorus

There is no point if the point is not taken
Most of our prisons are of our own makin'

She'd drop dimes and nickels in the jukebox
And *The Glory of Love* is what she'd always play
She'd say "You gotta be brave, you gotta be fearless
"And when you're afraid just do it anyway"

Chorus

It's all in the tellin'; it's all in the story
It's all in the way that you walk the walk
Let your life speak 'cause there aint no secrets
Let your head help, but let your heart talk

Chorus

Carrie Newcomer March 2001

I'll Go Too

When I was small I often said
There were ugly things beneath my bed
I'd slip downstairs when I got scared
Into the safety of Dad's easy chair
That chair was like a long deep sigh
And I'd stay until he'd say, "It's time"
But he'd always smile and put his hand in mine
And say, "I'll go too."

Chorus: "I'll go too, I'll go too"
That's what he'd say and what he'd do
"Don't go alone I'll walk with you
I'll go too."

When I was learning how to swim
I'd look down at the water and back at him
He'd say "Take my hand, we'll both jump in"
And "I'll go too."

Chorus

So many nights I've wandered
So many things to brave
So many acts of courage
We face each and everyday

It was almost noon in a white lace dress
I had my doubts if I could do the rest

He said, "Take my hand, just do your best"
"And I'll go too"

Chorus

In a quiet place in the April snow
It was time to finally let her go
So I took his hand and said
"I know."
"I'll go too"

Someday we all will understand
And we'll walk right into the Promised Land
But I hope an angel takes me by the hand
And tells me "I'll go too"

Chorus:

Gathering of Spirits

Chorus: Let it go my love my truest,
Let it sail on silver wings
Life's a twinkling that's for certain,
But it's such a fine thing
There's a gathering of spirits
There's a festival of friends
And we'll take up where we left off
When we all meet again.

I can't explain it. I couldn't if I tried
How the only things we carry
Are the things we hold inside
Like a day in out the open,
Like the love we won't forget
Like the laughter that we started
And hasn't died down yet

Chorus

Oh yah, now didn't we
And don't we make it shine
Aren't we standing in the center of
Something rare and fine
Some glow like embers
Or light through colored glass
Some give it all in one great flame
Throwing kisses as they pass

Chorus

Just east of Eden
But there's heaven in our midst
And we're never really all that far
From those we love and miss
Wade out in the water
There's a glory all around
The wisest say there's a 1000 ways
The kneel and kiss the ground

Chorus

Carrie Newcomer 2000

The Fisher King

Chorus: Just down the road and to the left
It's never been any further
To find the thing you never lost
Who serves, who serves the grail

Are you the one that's common born,
Are you a fool in many ways
Have you searched half your life,
Looking for some HolyGrail?
Did you see it in a dream,
A vision once when you were young?
Does the circle lead you back,
To the place where you begun.

Chorus

Are you the one he left behind, or was it you to finally leave
The one that always wore your heart, out for anyone to see
Brow to brow and side to side, palm to palm and Toe to toe
Had you really no idea, how far and deep an echo goes

Chorus

Are you the pilgrim on the road,
are you the hermit in the wood
Have you followed what you know,
What you want or what you should
Have you learned a thing or two,

Have you wondered at the time?
In your dark night of the soul,
Am I the one you thought you'd find

Grace and laughter, ever after,
Sorrow folds her hands together
Was it all and did you mean it,
In the dark you've always seen a
Bright and shining true idea

I am the wound that will not heal.
I am the song you cannot sing
I am the endless restless ache.
I am I am the fisher king
And all that I can ask of you,
Is do what small good that you can
Speak the words that hear, and meet me where I am

Chorus

Little Earthquakes

All I every wanted was a love so big
All my heart could carry and as much as I could give
A love that made some kind of sense but beyond all reason
That made me want to be a whole lot better person

Chorus: Hold on as the very ground
Beneath us starts to shiver and shake
When you love as hard as this
There's bound to be some trembling
Some risk and some mistakes
Something lost and something gained
And Little Earthquakes

Sometimes you get just what you ask for
Sometimes you get what you need
I never knew how much this love could call to me
As right as rain and thunder that rolls across the ground
That can shake you for a moment or bring the walls on down

Chorus:

Wild and deep and elemental, rivers yield and open wide
There maybe no destination but what a glorious ride

Chorus:

So why hold back when big love is what you feel
Why look behind or change your mind or spin your wheels

It's bigger than the both of us and it's wider than the wind
Whole world is in motion, and it's shakin' us again

Carrie Newcomer 2001

I'm Still Standing

Across these fields, across this town
Standing up, on solid ground
Voices carry, to tell the tale
Rising up in one great voice in one great wail
I will not be ashamed, walk away or shift the blame
I'm right here inside my shoes
Saying "I will not be moved."

Chorus: I'm still standing
Let's get it straight, let's make this clear
I'm still standing, I'm still standing here

I wish I had a dollar, for every time
You were caught, in another lie
You're so damn sure, you have no doubt
That I am said and done and I'm down for the count
I will not be ashamed, walk away or shift the blame
I'm right here inside my shoes
Saying "I will not be moved."

Chorus

I don't care if I'm abandoned
I don't matter I'm still standing
This is proof a lesson taught
I am stronger than you thought

Across these fields, across this town

Standing up on solid ground
I won't be broken, I won't be silent
I've heard the lines and I just don't believe or buy it
I will not be ashamed, walk away or shift the blame
I'm right here inside my shoes
Saying "I will not be moved."

Chorus
Carrie Newcomer 2000

There and Back

There and back I have traveled
Here and there I have walked
And I have found more beauty than I'd ever had thought
But I still dream often of that place I know
Deeper in my bones than most places ever go.

Chorus: I can see home shining like a silver star
Like paradise calling me from oh so far
When I shade my eyes I can just make it out
A long dirt road, a faithful dog, and an old white house

I have survived the bustle, but I still like the lights
I have stared up in wonder at countless shining nights
But no matter where I go, I find there I am
The same old stranger in an even stranger land

Chorus

Often have hungered for the way you feel
And the smell of summer thunder and the quiet winter fields
I have walked with madness and lay down with lies
And learned how to stand, but better yet how to fly.

Chorus

Yesterdays are many and tomorrow's filled with doubt
And still I don't know what this whole darn thing is about
But you what you are and it's better to find out.

What it is that you love most of all.

I have loved so many things in this great wide world
And the simple sounds of home
Are the sweetest things I've heard
For right here the means are humble but hearts are proud
And don't mind standing up and saying right out loud

Chorus

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Silver

Will you love me when we go silver
When our ears and noses get bigger
When Arthritis starts to nag
And our best parts start to sag

Will you love me in reading glasses
Kiss my neck and still make passes
And our grandchildren we'll scandalize
By holding hands and making eyes

Chorus: 'There is no real way of knowin'
But if things keep goin' the way they're goin'
I will promise you again
I will be with you and we'll be the best of friends

Will you love me if I babble
Let me win sometimes at scrabble
Will you help me bare the load
And be somebody I'm still proud to know

Chorus

Will I still be what you need
When I drive below posted speed
Lay down like spoons in quiet wonder
And love me years and days without number

Will you love me when life hurts

Wake me up if I fall asleep in church
Sit beside me when evening comes
And count our blessing one by one?

Will you love me when we go silver

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I Heard an Owl Call Last Night

Verse: I heard an owl call last night
Homeless and confused
I stood naked and bewildered
By the evil people do

Verse: Up upon a hill there is a terrible sign
That tells the story of what darkness waits
When we leave the light behind.

Chorus: Don't tell me hate is ever right or God's will
These are the wheels we put in motion ourselves
The whole world weeps and is weeping still
Though shaken I still believe
the best of what we all can be
The only peace this world will know
Can only come from love.

Verse: I am a voice calling out
Across the great divide
I am only one person
That feels they have to try
The questions fall like trees or dust
Rise like prayers above
But the only word is "Courage"
And the only answer "Love"

Chorus

Verse: Light ever candle that you can
For we need some light to see
In the face of deepest loss,
Treat each other tenderly
The arms of god will gather in
Every sparrow that falls
And makes no separation
Just fiercely loves us all.

Chorus
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The Things I've Gone and Done

Take down your defenses
Like you've taken off your clothes
It's such a glorious insurrection
Not to hold your secrets close

What's the use in counting errors
Or the help in counting sheep
I don't intend to live my whole life out
Just to find I was asleep

Chorus: It's not the things I've gone and done,
I'll regret or be ashamed
But the things I did not say or do,
Just because I was afraid.

How mysterious and wondrous
The strange circling of the mind
And that I can see as far ahead of me
As I can see behind
Hindsight is always 20/20
Yet, we'll see what we want see
And I used to pray for wisdom
Now I know just what that means

Chorus

I'm learning to forgive
And I relearn it everyday
Every time I stoop to gather stones
I straighten up and walk away.

I don't have another message
I don't have anything to sell
And there are no easy answers
As far as I can tell
But I don't believe that Jesus was crazy
Or that it is Mohammad's fault
When something good can get so twisted
Till there's no semblance at all

Chorus

Just because the odds are bad
Doesn't mean you shouldn't risk
Don't believe it will not happen
Just because it hasn't happen yet