

I'VE BEEN GONE

(Z. Muth)

Chorus:

Well I've been gone
I've been gone for far too long
And the next time I leave you'd better believe
I'm taking you with me
'Cause the road that I'm on
Lord it is wide and it is long
Darling you're the one that I want to accompany me

'Cause those men down there around Memphis
I know there gonna ask a whole lot of questions
And they talk in that funny way I can't always understand
The first question is always "How you doin'?"
They don't hesitate in their demands
The second one is always "Have you got a man?" "Have you got a man?"

Chorus:

From the bread lines to the signs of the hard times
Everywhere they're just about the same
Poor people getting done dirt
Nobody to take the blame
From the L.A. smog
To the San Francisco fog
To the dust that settles out on the plains
I'd rather be walking with you in that cold Seattle rain

Chorus:

WHATEVER'S LEFT

(Z. Muth)

Take me down to the back side of town
Down by the railroad tracks
I don't want to see what they are trying to show me
I want to see what's slipped through the holes and the cracks
And you can take what is new
All I want it something true

You can block the sun you can stand still while we run
And make better time with every step we take
I thought I could live on what I had to give
But now you tell me I've made some mistake
Am I the one who's been misled
Holding on to the hopes that the others left for dead

Chorus:

What will we do when our strength and our money's been spent
Will our love survive by some strange accident
I want to hear you say
When something is broken or something is bent
I want to hear you say
We can make do with whatever is left

We swore on the buttons of our coats
And the laces of our shoes
Our backs to the wind a broken world ours to mend
We didn't have much else to lose
Just a song to sing
If we've still got that well ain't that something?

Chorus:

Take the old make it new
Make it over, make it do or do without
Take what you find from what others left behind
The ashes and the bones and the echo of that shouted word
That I still don't know
But somehow I still cannot let it go

Chorus:

LET'S JUST BE FRIENDS FOR TONIGHT (Z. Muth)

You told me you'd never seen me in here before
But every night about this time I walk right through that same old door
And now you tell me you wanna show me around the town
But it's only 'cause some other girl let you down

Chorus:

So we can talk for a while
I will give you a wink and a smile
Let you know everything is gonna be alright
But I don't want a new love
Unless it's gonna be a true love
So darlin' let's just be friends for tonight

I can't count all the times that I have played the fool
But my heart knows a whole lotta things that you can't learn in school
And I won't trust the sad sad story of a man
With the heat in his eye and a cold one in his hand

Chorus:

BEFORE THE NIGHT IS GONE
(Z. Muth)

I was hoping to rest a while but this cup of coffee will have to do
Now I've one hand on the wheel and one arm reaching out to you
Closed your eyes in Grand Junction and I ain't heard a word since then
So I'll just try to stay inside the lines and mind the sideways wind
All I've got is the radio and this empty distant sky
And Willie's singing somewhere over the rainbow
But you no you won't see the tears in my eyes

Chorus:

Before the night is gone
Won't you tell me our love will linger on?
And knock that chip off your shoulder
Into your heart of stone to start a spark
'Cause I need someway to see in the dark

Thought I could be honest and you thought you could be true
The promises we made were many but the ones we kept were few
We were looking for green grass and a warm and loving home
But we've got this cold concrete curse in our blood and our bones
When we crossed that great divide it was in the back of both of our minds
Like the rivers from that point you'd go your way and I'd go mine

Chorus:

The gas station on the state line where we saw the posted signs
The government was saying they were sorry and trying to apologize
About the poison in the sand and the lies they told again and again
They thought if they gave us enough money that we would all understand
But babe you never will and that's why I love you still
No matter how far we drift apart
You'll always have a piece of my heart

Chorus:

HARVEST MOON BLUES (Z.Muth)

Shine on me
Won't you shine on me harvest moon?
I've got my bags all packed
My ghosts are tied up in my sack
And I'm leaving here by the light of you

I was born to lose
Nothing has really ever changed
Now winter's moving in and my pockets are wearing thin
And lately my true love's been acting kind of strange

Chorus:

I've never had a job worth keeping
No I never had a dime to spare
You know that old trouble's been creeping up on my back stair
I always feel lonely
Even in the best of company
And if these old blues keep on haunting me
I guess I'll keep moving on

So shine your light
As I walk on down the line
I know there ain't much you can do
Just look on me as I pass through
And help me keep track of the time

I should have known this was coming
I could see the leaves start to turn brown
Every time the seasons change
I get an itching in my brain

And I pick up all the plans that I'd laid down

Chorus:

You look like you're smiling about something
If you've got a secret won't you let me in?
I've been walking along with a troubled mind
Feeling a little far behind
But I don't blame you for that old rain and wind

Won't you lift me up?
Give me a drink from your loving cup
And when my feet touch the ground
I'll listen for that highway sound
No I don't think I'll ever get enough

Chorus:

NEW MEXICO
(Z. Muth)

New Mexico down on Central Avenue
Where the old highway goes running through
And all that I can do, all that I can do
Is think of you
With someone new

I got a job waiting tables in the middle of the night
See the sunrise in my rear view mirror
Wake up to see the last of its light
But I don't mind, no I don't mind
Because that hot desert sun beating down on this side of town
Well it ain't a pretty sight

A few old men and some young drunks they'll try to make a pass
But I just have to look them straight in the eye
And I say please don't even ask
'Cause there's no one who, there's no one who
Can make my tired old life
Seem new and unused

I guess there's always gotta be someone out on the highway
Laying down all that tar

And there's always gotta be someone serving up the drinks
Down at the bar
But I don't want to be slaving my life away
If it's just to pay for all the things I never knew quite how to say

Dirty old blackbird landed on my window sill
I didn't want him to leave so I sat there watching him perfectly still
Until he finally flew, and when he finally flew
I asked him to cut a hole in the morning sky
That I could pass right on through

IF I CAN'T TRUST YOU WITH A QUARTER (HOW CAN I TRUST YOU WITH MY HEART?)
(Z. Muth and A. Brown)

It was cold Thursday night in January
When I first met you at the bar
We'd been smoking our cigarettes with the heater on
Listening to Elvis in my car
Well the place was pretty empty
I worked on my second rum and Pepsi
Just longing for the sound of a sad country song
When you moved a little closer
I had no intention of saying "no sir"
Then you asked me for a quarter
That's when it all went wrong

Chorus:

You know I'm a jukebox honey
But I ain't got much money
Said you had song that you wanted to hear so I gave my change to you
When I heard that jukebox start I knew the cupid's dart had missed its mark
If I can't trust you with a quarter how can I trust you with my heart?

It was still another week 'til payday
And I had a big old pile of laundry to do
I'd been saving my quarters for a wash and dry
But like a fool I gave them all to you
Well they say a decent man is hard to find
When your taste in music is as good as mine
And I just could not ignore what I already knew
When you said you'd never heard of John Prine

Well I knew right away you weren't worth my time
And I'm sorry to say hon' before we'd begun
We were already through

Chorus:

You can call me stubborn you can call me a snob
You can even call me downright mean
But I've got the finest record collection
That you've ever seen

Chorus:

TIRED WORKER'S SONG
(Z.Muth)

He's a working man with a solid steady hand
And a mind to fight their lies
A mind to fight their lies
But if he's winning or losing he'll never quite decide

He's stubborn and he's foolish a little bit like my father
He's part of the union but mostly he don't bother
To put up a fight
Though he knows what's right

Chorus:

Every day's the same
The sun comes up and it fades away
Darlin' I think it's time for a change

I'm tired of all this anger, broken dishes, and alarm clocks
But my heart is breaking, breaking with the thought
Of losing you
To a world that's so untrue

Try to tell myself it's over forget it and move on
But each crack in the sidewalk and stone in the wall
Reminds me of that tired worker's song
And it was our song

Chorus:

They say the dreams of a man must be hard to hide
But we do it so well
Every day from nine to five

It's in the colors of the canyon
The greenest grass and the bluest sky
We were not meant for this
Not meant to live this lie
Still we try

Chorus:

STARLIGHT HOTEL
(Z. Muth)

If they say he never worked hard enough
I'll tell them he had something else on his mind
Always looking for love or whatever came close enough
To get him through the night
He found himself far from home
And it was not hard to get other folks to leave him alone
I was naïve and young
With only the words of the barstool bards to base my conclusions on
And I believed him when he said
"Don't put your faith in the love of any one man"

Chorus:

Now he's down there
Living in the Starlight Hotel
He leaves his blinds open at night
So all the world can tell
No amount of joy and love in our younger days
Can make up for that one last lost love
That would not stay

My heart is like my mind
It's the jealous and the aching kind
Neither one knows what the other should do
I can write these rhymes
Tell you stories tell you lies

Somehow they always seem to come true
And I stumbled into you
You turned my heart a lighter shade of blue
When you are gone just a little too long
My mind wanders back to all the loves that have gone wrong

I see the light around the moon
The cold green gardens about to bloom
This may all be over far too soon
Can we help each other out?
Can we help each other out ?

If they say you never worked hard enough
Tell them you had something else on your mind.

COME INSIDE (Z. Muth)

She found a baby on the back porch
Along with some bad bad news
But with a face like that
How could anyone refuse?
She said don't you cry now, don't you make a fuss
And in good time I'll get used to you

Chorus:
You can come inside for a little while
Just to help me find the ends I've been trying to tie
It'll be easier if I don't try to make you stay
Cause I don't believe in happy endings anymore anyway

Young man you've been tearing your body down
Working all day and staying out late on the town
I know I'm not the only one taking up your time
But the way you love me darling suits me just fine
If passing through is all that you'll ever do
Won't you just stop for a minute so I can take a look at you?

Bridge: I've been walkin' these streets alone
Looking through windows to see if anyone is home
And into the eyes of the people passing by
To see if I can find a light still on

Bridge:

Chorus: