

*For  
You Or  
someone  
Like You*

*David Chislett*

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ISBN  
Designed by Hedwig Barry  
Print Production by Hedwig Barry  
Printed and Bound in South Africa by Graphicraft  
Twentyearsentence is niche publisher based in Johannesburg, South Africa.  
[www.davidchislett.co.za](http://www.davidchislett.co.za)



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Chislett*



### **Song For Catherine**

There is a light in the sky with your name on it  
I look at every evening.  
I didn't know you that well  
But I heard the songs you were singing  
My ears are emptier now that their ringing  
Has gone  
For one so young your noise in this world was so great  
We're all a bit lost without you  
I raise my eyes to the thought of you  
And cherish what I remember  
Catherine my girl  
We love you  
We will remember  
More than that we will continue  
When our paths cross  
We will compare notes  
None of us will have given up on you  
You walk the hard path in a different place  
The crosses that we bear in your leaving  
Are nothing to the learning you've undertaken  
Go well big spirit  
Little girl  
For we are all singing you name in your leaving  
And we will remember



### **A New Development**

I have hewn out some space  
From the masquerade of life  
Taken out the trash  
The rooms  
Are echoing caverns  
Begging to be filled  
The quiet  
I might mistake for peace  
Had I ever known such a thing  
A still pool  
Seconds before the drop  
My consciousness  
An ultra slo motion camera  
Poised  
But not still  
The rest of my life goes on  
I breathe  
Dream  
Even grow  
Keep this space open

### **Washing Dressing Gowns**

The warmest  
Closest  
Most comfortable of things  
Will eventually need cleaning out  
Re-examination  
Rearrangement  
I am lucky  
I did mine  
On a hot day  
The sun adding luster  
To the newly dried  
Soft and warm fabric

### **The Colour Of Secrets**

Deep in you indigo eyes  
I mine  
Mystified by  
Your ebony hair  
Your downy complexion  
Entrances  
Your biscuit tan  
Fills me to wonder  
What is the colour of secrets?

### **The Rose Of Linden**

In this red soil  
Anything will grow  
I have placed my soul into the ground  
I have put my hopes  
And the summer sun  
Into this ground  
While I stand above  
I feel the feeding soil  
I will be the rose of Linden  
Before long  
I will blossom  
Then bloom

### **The Trees**

Running away  
On a jacaranda canopy  
Mist light  
Glaring  
In the eye  
And the mind  
A tunnel  
Of promise, threat and confusion  
No side roads  
The snap crackle pop  
Beneath my feet  
The breakfast I get  
The light is this tunnel  
And from running  
I am spent.

### **Walking God At Emmarentia**

Speaking in tongues  
Among the burning bushes  
My eyes skate the mirrors  
Of three still lakes  
The highveld sky  
Overhead  
In purple grey  
Jacaranda blooms reaching skywards  
From beds of verdant green  
Atop this grass  
I see the city's reaches  
Towers piercing heaven  
The multitude of tongues  
Reflect my inner turmoil  
As I walk these red dirt paths  
Watch the dogs and owners play  
The cogs of mind joggle  
For the right gears  
Something inside my heart  
Burns easier  
A firm hand upon  
Racing emotions descends  
And I feel I am in control again  
I swear the lake winks at me  
I head back to the trees  
And my car  
The life I am carving  
A message remains  
From a green and blue reverie  
That the living is the story  
The rest will come right alone

### **Autumn Trees**

The ghost of seasons  
Gone and hence  
Live in the minutes  
Of the lives of leaves  
I see their budding-dying clearly  
In the pale  
Winter fade  
And no  
I am not saddened  
By those seconds  
Strutted upon this stage  
Instead I sense  
The hours accumulated  
In each green unfurling  
Slow red dying  
And I see a long life  
In the patterns  
Blowing in the wind  
As leaf for leaf  
The tree undresses  
Setting each piece of beauty  
Free

### **LBJ**

Squadrons of little brown birds  
Lie in wait  
Amongst the branches of the fig tree  
Shooting  
To snare flying termites  
Before diving back to cover  
Fiscal shrikes  
Sparrows  
Swallows  
Swifts  
Dance and circle  
Under the gloomy dusk sky  
Jigging to avoid one another  
As they feed  
Performing at speed  
Acrobatic  
And sprinting  
Their tiny breasts heave  
With the effort  
A sparrow sits  
And stares  
And chirrup  
Until his heart slows

### **Like Autumn Leaves**

Hauling back the days  
A giant rake through autumn leaves  
The colours remind me  
Of moments lost to memory  
Suddenly less keen  
To reassess, review, reinvent  
I stare at their form  
Remember the moments  
These shapes encapsule  
I recall only the pleasure they hold  
Not the thing itself  
Like autumn leaves  
The things themselves  
Left alone  
Can tell their own story

### **Daylight**

Seeing the thousands of days  
Being with you would hold  
I doubt  
All could be contained  
I was looking forward to the win  
But nothing will change  
Optimism wanes in daylight  
Embarrassed I slink from the plain  
I bit off more than I can chew  
My love was never going to be enough



### **Did You See The Full Moon?**

Did you see the full moon last night?  
Or were you  
Like me  
Asleep in the darkness  
Oblivious to its yearnings and pullings?  
Did you not hear it calling  
To come and play in the streets  
Like a howling wolf  
Till all of your energy was gone and  
Back home you would crawl?  
Did your blood not boil and your limbs twitch?  
Your eyes not roll and your drinking arm bend?  
Well then, not tonight my lovely  
Seems we are far more intent  
On sleep

### **Summer Morning Rain**

Its raining  
My roses smile  
A soft warm sound  
On my roof  
Reminds me to smile too  
Lilies bob in the drops  
Seedlings bend to feel the rain  
  
Its 5am  
The sun is up  
Rain keeps dancing down  
My heart rises to feel  
This green world  
Beauty reaches out for me  
Unexpectedly

### **The Bright Light**

What's the matter  
Where the lights are on dim  
Putting one foot  
In front of the other  
Is getting harder

Can I still be broken  
When the new day is coming  
The road is turning  
From dust to tar  
Under my weary feet

Turn the bright lights on  
Someone  
Turn my lights back on  
So I can see

Monday dawning dark and rainy  
Eyelids gummed to brain with sleep  
Heart beat deep and sluggish  
Not inclined to face the day

These cells are over active  
The beating heart is wounded  
Bearing scars from yesterday  
Alarms clocks can ring away

### **Weather Man**

Wind drives seeds of consciousness skyward  
A high pressure system cooking up rain  
Trees bend and flex to windward  
The daylight goes night so sudden  
Ears pop against the advance of the gloaming  
Restless spirits all fired up for its touch  
The rest of us seek shelter returning  
Knowing the rain will not change much

Where is the line between experience and cynicism?  
An imaginary take on an unpredictable universe  
In my hope do I attach merely to longing?  
A thirsty creature forever stuck on ideas of water  
Ideas flicker in and out of my mind, hiding in brain folds

### **Orange moon slice**

Orange moon slice  
Dominates the sky  
New beginnings beckon  
I deny  
The pull of it on my waters

### **Smog**

Grey sky stands  
Before me a wall  
Not in its place  
Not in character  
Not nice at all  
Worse are its hands  
Which reach into me  
Changing pace  
Changing things around  
I'd like to know what's missing  
I can't seem to recall  
All I can do is hope  
Tomorrow the sun comes up  
I can see clearly  
Again

## **Roots**

The world is my oyster  
In my dreams a pearl  
For all of my wanderlust  
I prefer to stay  
Another white man  
With pretensions of rhythm  
Call me delusional  
But I'm a bastard with roots

## **Horizons**

What I want to say  
Is don't ever believe  
That you've played your last hand  
Or heard the last word  
You're still breathing sunshine  
You still have a ways to go  
You're still thinking angel  
It's a long long road to walk.

In the end  
It's not what you have  
It's the things you know  
That will pull you through  
A broken heart  
Might seem like much to bear  
But it's a tool to use on the road

## **Fall**

Autumn is coming  
Poking its head from the dumping  
An abandoned kitten  
Unnoticed  
It emerges to  
Stain the green of trees  
With brown, half awake blinking  
The timbre of the afternoons  
Is muted  
The sun filtered  
Although still benign  
Soon it will be killed  
By its bigger brother  
Before that it will be beautiful  
Right now it's subtle  
Teasing  
Resentable.

## **Dawn Kiss**

The first red of dawn splashes  
Roof tops and windows  
Winks at me from across the valley  
Lowering skies cannot stop  
This exuberance from reaching the ground  
On this balcony I merely stand  
Unkissed, but not untouched

### **All Morning Grey**

You turned the stars out in the night  
When you opened your eyes to look at me  
The mist had rolled  
A long long tide to wrap us  
In this eyrie  
Day has broken over my head  
My mind remains  
In a midnight embrace  
The scent of a lover  
Stopping my senses  
While routine runs away  
Before the sun escapes the clouds  
I must leave  
Trailing clouds of longing love and you

### **Catch A Fire**

I am nothing that you want  
You said  
You struck a match  
That lit a bonfire in my soul  
Now I stand among ashes  
Of the pyre you had built  
Immolation was the fire you started  
The flames  
Were not passion  
But you going up in flames

### **The Morning Wars**

Wage slaves grimace at me every morning  
As I burn the frustration of dealing with their ilk  
Into the road with my pounding feet  
While they wonder what kind of man  
Has time to run  
Instead of work  
I wonder what kind  
Enslave themselves  
To all those stories  
Brother sun strokes my head through the trees  
I breathe the clear morning air  
I curse those slaves  
With their exhaust fumes  
Tardiness  
And salaries

### **Any old Fool Could Tell**

Thank you for your concern  
I don't need  
Any more explanation  
Of how my expectation  
Was its own self-fulfilling  
Prophecy  
I feel dumb enough already  
Any number of doors seem open  
But no-one is there when I knock  
I have my resumé in hand  
No-one seems to care  
The road map I have fashioned  
Is quite clear  
But it's not important  
Now that my heart and hands are over-flowing  
There is here to share  
Whatever else my failings  
I am not so greedy  
That I want it all myself  
So thank you once again for your concern  
Amongst my surfeit  
I am quite the fool already  
Thank you

### **Everything I wrote**

I cannot share  
Everything I wrote  
With everyone I meet

Having spilled  
The beans  
I try to retract  
And cocoon this heart in silence

But  
Everything I wrote  
Lives on its own  
And talks to who it will  
No retraction  
No reverse

Shorter verse  
Than this I spill  
In quiet moments  
Alone  
You didn't hear them  
Because no-one did

### **Impatience**

I can see the gilt edge  
Waiting behind the thunderheads  
And the anxiety shivering  
Through my limbs  
Is much like the quiver  
Of ozone and isobars  
Dropping  
Before the storm  
But I must wait out  
The lightning and the thunder  
And get wet to the bone  
Uncomfortable  
Until I can see the rays of day  
Breaking free from those cloud cages  
Lessons in patience  
The guru reminds me  
Lesson in patience  
My life marks time  
In my impatience  
And I cannot stop myself from huffing  
Craving the soaking  
Just for the feel of the sun  
Drying my aging, cold bones  
After  
Impatient for my silver lining  
Her hand in mine  
This dream in my eyes  
That day in this  
That distance here



### **Life Pyre**

Build me a fire  
Good and high  
So I can burn things  
Out of my heart  
Worn out life  
Must go  
I have been looking  
At new ones

What must go  
Is what I put there  
Long ago  
What I collected  
For a rainy day  
I see and reach it  
But will need help to burn it  
Build a fire

A ghost  
With a body behind  
Purgatory me  
Drifts through ideas  
Pulls with tides  
New life together  
Breeze from the blaze  
Propels me

### **Drinking Lager**

Sun sets  
Days come and go  
In perfect calendar order  
Nothing changes  
There is no reason for this madness  
No moon, no sun  
No pay check  
Rubber balling across my prospects

Drinking lager  
Shouting shut up  
Shut up shut up  
Shut the fucking fuck up  
Let me get some peace in here

### **Love Is...**

Did we find love  
Or did love find us  
Running through these streets?  
Do I make love  
Or did love make me  
An image of its perfection?  
Am I in love  
Or is love in me  
My veins  
Brains  
Imperfections?  
I stand alone again  
Braced against the breeze  
Do I feel subtle arms  
Am I ever in solitude  
Or does this ghost remain with me?  
Am I love  
Is love in me  
Do I need to seek?  
If I had wings  
I'd unfurl them to see  
Instead  
I imagine you see me  
That you see me

### **Pieces of Me**

It's raining pieces of me  
But I can't even tell you  
Where they are from  
I am losing everything  
Some I threw away  
Some of it was taken  
Some of it made sense  
Most of it is random

I put a hand into this rain  
I can't catch a piece  
I am too clumsy  
Not in control  
I am falling to pieces  
In a slow motion replay  
Right before my own eyes  
Too transfixed by the show  
To do anything about it

## Smile

Smile  
She said  
Capturing the uncertain bearing of my teeth on her  
phone  
My heart wasn't in it  
So she had to take it again  
Smile  
I did  
But you could see that I didn't want to  
Other things were on my mind  
Take me to the tree-line to be shot  
I want different things  
Tell me I cannot believe what I do  
It disagrees with you  
A semantic slip that sees  
Us using the same words to describe different things  
Fooling both of us  
Into thinking we held common ground  
If you're not careful of how you say what you say  
You don't say it  
You say anything else instead.  
Smile  
With my eyes this time.

## The Very Best Of Me

Some sweet small voice  
Whispers in my ear  
Never give up  
It says  
Your turn will come

I have no choice but to believe  
It is what I want to hear  
Against my better judgment  
I rail against my lot  
Firmly believing  
My turn will come  
That the very best of me  
Has yet to shine

### **Uncertain Emotions**

I wear a grin  
It's well used  
Second hand  
It has served me well  
Before  
This time  
I am not sure that I want  
Its usual effect  
It falters  
Into an uncertain smile  
As my doubt emerges from shadowed corners  
Where it has been hidden by my laughter  
Mind the heart on my sleeve

### **Compulsion**

This is a break down  
Post-modern post-mortem  
Of an intimate case  
Left my heart out  
In the summer sun  
My brain smiling on  
It was deluded  
Secluded  
Projected  
I stopped watching  
Picked up the wrong one  
The wrong thing  
The bad time  
Nothing  
My lifesblood  
Pumping round a system  
Unseen  
I walked an old friend  
Down the aisle  
Shed a tear  
Made a scene  
Nothing can make better  
The wounds I hadn't seen  
No matter how I tell myself  
The circle completes itself  
I feel I'm standing  
Downstairs  
And I cannot read the manual

## **Desire**

Open hand  
And open mind await me  
I smile  
Not entirely  
Trusting  
But this comfort seat  
Has grown thorns of late  
I cannot remain  
Much longer  
Suspicious as I am  
I will leap  
From this comfort zone  
Into my future desire  
I will

## **Oddly Becalmed**

Your perfume lay waiting  
Overnight in the car for me  
No off the counter French monster  
Just essence of you  
Everything that should ordinarily  
Be screaming run  
Is off grazing in the field downwind  
I play on the grass  
And laugh and laugh  
Right now everything is fine  
When now is tomorrow  
I'll worry about what to do then  
But beyond these times  
The grass and the laughter  
Require attention too

### **Self Abuse**

The sun was hiding  
Behind the promise of your smile  
My heart was wringing  
The stumps of new beginnings  
Were hurting in the half light  
Ghosts of days before  
Haunt my nights into early mornings  
When jaws hurt from clamping  
And chewing myself in two  
Blame and recriminations  
As anger was threatening  
To redden my world  
As indignation was rising  
To return me to earlier times  
My pride was going  
To change my course again  
The sun rose  
This light flooded the room  
This heart was lightened  
Nothing seemed to matter  
That much anymore

### **And Again**

Expectation  
Mother fucker  
Keeps me on my toes  
Another day in paradise  
Can be hell  
Just strands of everyday life  
We all remember  
You'd think I'd learn some basic truths  
How to keep it real  
But expectation's pleasant lies  
Keep me up at night  
Keep me wild eyed all day  
None of this is any good to me  
It does no good at all  
I think I like the pain  
Of being thwarted once again

## **Being Here**

It's the end of the day  
I am on my way  
Under this lowering sky of steel  
Jozi's twin towers  
Truncated  
In the air  
Breath bated  
My eyes overflow this bounty  
My city my town  
My vice my crown  
This foul air I gulp down  
Shout Hallelujah  
Swing from the trees  
Stare down the barrel of reason  
My heart lifts my feet  
With the wind at my back  
These Highveld sunsets  
Fire the fuel stack  
Of my mind  
With this wild west at my doorstep  
Could I ever cease  
To pump out rhyme and reason  
With this fecund fast place  
Under my skin  
Every day is hunting season  
When the sky goes out  
The lights come on  
It is my thoughts  
Written in neon graffiti under stars

## **Let's Go**

Light up the fires  
Let's cruise  
I don't have to pat my pockets  
Or check the stove  
Anymore  
Step into the sun  
Track the horizon  
Let's go  
It's taken long enough to get here  
Let's not waste  
Any more time  
Hit the after burners  
Head for heaven

### **Flat Footed And Sexy**

No heel to curve that line of calf  
Nor taughten a buttock or thigh  
No skirt to flirt  
Or hide the lines of knee and shin  
The smallest sprinkling  
Of summer freckles  
Dancing in the afternoon light  
Are all you have  
To add to your allure  
I stand  
In the glare betrayed  
Heavy footed  
Clumping  
Trying to keep my eyes in  
And you are just flat-footed and sexy  
With garden in your hair  
A smile draped from your lips  
A hand waved flair  
Summer moment frozen  
In my shutterbug head

### **No Kind Of Sleep Walking**

The face of god accosts us  
In waking moments  
Through beauty  
Reflection  
Conversation  
In our sleep the devil hounds us  
Our demons  
Let slip our knitting rest  
Between the persecution  
Of the outer standard  
And our internal fires  
We are stranded immobile  
Desires  
Ambitions  
Plans  
The words of all good men  
Are indistinguishable  
From the achievements of their nemisii  
Intention's sweet pillows  
Start dreams brilliant enough  
But actions lay waste  
To the dreaming souls moral exactitude  
The steady hand slaps  
The sleeping mind awake



### **Older Wiser Faster**

In the choices I make  
And the things I do  
I can see myself getting older  
Not so much the line  
Next to my eye  
Or the grey starting to show  
As in a certain  
Particular  
Way of seeing the world  
Were you to ask  
I'd be hard pressed to explain  
What it is that this means  
Thoughts  
Meander through my brain  
In a herd of bleating fluff  
I am just no longer  
Such a vigilant dog

### **Push the button**

Push the button  
Move the key  
Your intent in all things is plain to see  
If the button is not pushed  
That is not what you meant to see  
Once the action is completed  
Your intent is transacted  
And everyone can see what you mean

Don't tell me you didn't mean it

### **Ride Of The One**

Dawn's light brings promises as vague  
As the night

My eyelids clang open  
Skeleton springs up  
With its meaty mind engaged  
No sentiment to question  
Why I  
The passenger do and die  
Wondering all the while  
Why in this valley I find myself  
Soon  
I promise  
In contrast to the vaguery of the quickening sun  
I will be free of my shackles  
And then we will see  
How free  
I really am  
To choose  
But for now it is to the cannon  
And the loping inevitability of my death  
Which every breath draws nearer  
Shouting  
Fuck you  
As it makes about as much sense  
As anything else

### **Stooping Morning**

Newborn daylight  
Drifts towards me  
Asking if I am awake  
Hiding in the clouds  
Of morning mist  
I am already up  
To this coy day greeting  
I get up and turn my back  
Determined not  
To fall for this  
Subservience  
But to make my way in daylight  
Full and loud  
And simple

## Quiet Life

The silence that boxes your ears  
When you shut the car  
A door somewhere has swung closed  
Reverberating down my corridors  
I can no longer pretend to myself  
Nothing has changed

Suddenly  
Spaces where there was only noise  
Silence where there were so many things  
In the aeon it took for me to focus my eye  
One moment in time  
Everything has changed

This room is prepared  
Swept  
Bed turned down  
I spent all my life working to this point  
These hands know just what to do  
My heart has soared to the heights  
My mind still shivers  
Caught in some cul de sac of the past

It is the door of my past clanging  
A gong  
Whacked into line  
An alarm clock  
Resounding  
The pressure drop that announces change

Just because this life is much quieter  
It doesn't mean that the wind doesn't blow  
That the rain no longer falls from my eyes  
Nor that thunder no longer wracks my heart  
I am just no longer scared of the lightning  
Flattered it might still strike me again

## **Stand Up**

Stand up  
Stand up  
Do you want to be counted?  
What is it in this world  
That generates all this mediocrity  
From which to be free?  
Surely so much energy  
Is wasted  
By this differentiation?  
But I cannot sit and smile  
While everyone thinks of me  
That I am just like everyone else  
A devil within me  
Pricks and prods me  
To  
Stand up and be counted  
Among those  
Who will not lie down  
Among those  
Who wonder and mutter  
And I am not very good at standing  
I worry  
I niggle  
I am convinced  
But my courage lies expelled  
Against my trouser leg  
I would prefer to sharp shoot  
From some bell tower  
Rather  
Than walk down the high road  
But stood up I am  
So stood up I remain

Whatever I am standing up against  
Better not be able to see  
How my trigger finger shakes  
And my knees seek to bend  
Because called out  
I do not want to be.

### **Sleep Walker**

The dog roots amongst the grass  
Complaining of inner turmoil  
The gibbous moon  
Lights the scene  
While my loves watches  
Her toes curl into the dewey ground  
Frogs croak to each other  
Falling in and out of love with their tunes  
The gentlest breeze pushes her hair  
As her eyes adjust to the gloom  
1am in Jozi city  
And all is quiet  
1am in Jozi city  
My love walks the night  
I am dead asleep  
Picturing her out there  
Waiting for her to return  
To her warm bed  
Hopefully  
Think one last time of me

### **Try and Remember**

Let's try and remember  
Shall we  
Let's not set off all the guns  
At once  
I put a hand on your knee  
Shall we rather think than shout  
Smile than sneer  
Try and remember  
For one minute  
Shall we  
That you don't know me  
Maybe your behaviour  
Is inappropriate  
Maybe you don't care  
How am I supposed to?  
I am not going to prove you right  
By trying to prove you wrong

### **There is somebody living here**

There is somebody living here  
Amongst this clutter  
Not just the unwashed sink  
Or the unswept floor  
But amongst these beer bottles  
This unmade bed  
It is the thought  
That has picked up the broom  
And filled the sink  
Bought the soap  
And been to see the friends  
But that none the less  
Still seems to be hidden  
They are the ghost  
Unseen  
Out of corners of eyes  
Pining for meaning and ideas  
Pushing and trying  
Put not as yet seeming  
To clear the most basic mess  
From this life  
But yes  
There is someone living here  
Looking in every corner  
For hints of themselves to themselves

### **The Door Is Open**

The hour is early  
It's dark  
Cold and quiet  
I have woken  
Slowly and peacefully  
The change in my world  
Is apparent  
Yet not obvious  
It takes a small while  
To label it  
The door is open  
While I slept  
It crept ajar  
Let the wind in with it

### **The Actor**

Tip a toast for me my friends  
For what did I not do?  
I moved forward  
I tore strips off self  
I did not drink too much  
I spilled words on everything I saw  
But I did not lose myself  
I had good times  
I grew beards and shaved heads  
But amongst this  
I did not become anyone else  
I regressed  
Reverted  
Rediscovered  
And invented new things  
Loved  
Lost  
Darted and dared  
But I did not break or fear or fail  
For all the things I did not do last year  
I raise a toast  
May I not do them again  
As for the things I will do  
You will be of them  
Next year I will say the same again

### **Player**

Practice makes me the luckiest man I know  
And if that's not perfect then  
I don't know what is

### **Lip Reader**

What you say is irrelevant  
Random waves of sound  
Breaking on the rocky shore  
My eyes are trained on you  
To see what you do  
Reading your state of mind  
From the moves  
You choose to make

I don't need to hear you say you love me  
Muttered endearments only tickle my ears  
Don't set my pulse racing with joy  
Even your poetry does not move my soul  
I have heard this all before

What I love about you is  
You need say nothing  
Yet you choose to anyway  
Your love is written in your actions  
But you tell your friends  
You laugh at my stupid jokes

So move your lips my darling  
I read love in their curl  
Not their sound

### **Bridging**

Count to three  
Or count me out  
Doesn't matter where you begin  
I spin  
I duck  
The weather changes  
I begin again  
I reach  
You reach  
Together we build a bridge  
If you wait  
I change  
And I begin again



### **Again and Again**

At home I step into a gem cavern  
As the sun descends behind Assvoelkop  
Staining the sky  
With an obscene profusion  
Of red and orange  
And my abode  
Is transformed  
From a one-bed bachelor pad  
Into a calm retreat  
Jacaranda flowers complain to the sky  
Resenting the withdrawing sun  
And while I am gobsmacked  
The thunder  
Smashes  
It all from the sky  
With rain  
Reprise

### **Addict**

Slide kid gloves into the day  
A play suit that reads:  
Handle with care  
Look up and meet your eye  
The impact lights a fire inside  
No delicate negotiation  
Can stop this immolation  
Still  
Pulling the gloves snug  
Hope burns eternal  
It's a long-term drug

### **Caiku**

My cat friend  
He purrs and bites my finger  
With me he walks the line

### **Chocolate Box**

My jigsaw life  
As never before  
Bordered feels  
All the blue sky  
Straight pieces  
And corners  
Laid out  
None the less  
Not all the pieces  
Lie face up  
I cannot yet group  
The colours  
Together  
I am waiting for you  
Your unique hand  
I am missing you  
From my unknowing heart  
I need  
Your colours  
To turn  
The pieces  
over

## **Descartes**

I sit and speak in isolation  
In contact with just machines  
If I think about it very slowly  
I die  
I cry  
I pass it on  
It's not that I am feeling lonely  
I am a mind in the vat of the world  
That reaches me at third remove  
This is the way it is  
If your mind can reach me  
In this cross traffic of flashing light  
I might change my mind  
My life  
My cry  
But I am sitting  
Writing very slowly  
Breathing life into these thoughts of mine

## **For You Or Someone Like You**

She looked at me like  
I am some kind of crazy  
And gesturing at my life  
She wanted to know  
What the hell was I doing  
And what on earth  
Did I expect  
You can't just rearrange your life  
On some vague hope  
Thinking that someone is coming  
You can't just empty out your diary  
Because you want someone special  
To be there  
She said  
But I smiled  
I did it for you I said  
Because it's the life I want to lead  
I hadn't even met you then  
But I needed more living room  
I needed more space to breathe  
So it's for you  
Or someone like you

### **Gorgonzola eyes**

So blue and swiftly crumbling  
From tender happiness  
Into  
Pitiful tears  
I cannot support you  
In this marching emotion  
As much  
As I admire you  
Or wish  
To devour you  
On cracker or rye

Your aspect  
A precarious artwork  
The edge of perfection and mess  
And spreading will not rescue you  
But put you to good use  
The complexity of you  
Stops me  
When I should be passing by

Gorgonzola eyes  
I love you  
But I cannot make you mine

### **Naïve Melody**

(apologies to the Talking Heads)

This is where I live  
Where I lay my head  
Home is where the heart is  
Right here  
In this house  
In this town  
With these people  
The sleeve-heart  
I have borne so long  
Made wherever my hat lay  
The warmest bed in sight  
Has retreated to my blood breast  
Heart is in the homestead  
It beats in time with  
My family  
My friends  
Roots I have put down  
Sharing that time  
Life  
And food  
My heart beats stronger  
Eyes focus sharper  
And my hands  
So long clasped about that sleeve-heart  
Are wide open  
Are waving you in

### **Timeline**

I'm waking up with me  
Groaning in the half light  
All this justification  
Never changes a thing  
I roll out of bed  
Turn to face the day  
Pack away the dreams  
That kept me sleeping

A passing hand cannot touch  
Say this is the real thing  
Eyes that glance off me  
May as well not see  
I turn away  
Like so many times before  
Knowing there is no truth  
Just this timeline  
Ticking for me

### **Thanks Joe**

I am living a Joe Jackson life  
That one where  
Pretty women are out walking with gorillas  
Down my street  
I figure  
Some tropical sunshine  
Might do me some good  
I've been too long  
In my igloo  
My heart leaps  
And I see no real reason  
Why I too can't be stepping out

### **The Nature Of Things**

I look up into the belly of the sky  
Blue blue eyes that stare  
Chance encounters  
Turn in the weather  
My heart beats as strong as ever  
Firm hands grasp slippery dreams  
Creases in faces point to laughter or screams  
Could be that I don't understand  
As yet I am not a man  
What you want and I desire  
Cross each other by night  
Loose wires  
Follow painted lines or lay them down  
No-one stops at red lights in this town  
Against your will  
I measure  
The strength of my own  
Who gets to have their own way  
Who has the final say  
Today I will follow what is in my heart  
Head  
Soul  
On top of my mind  
Today I will be what tomorrow I want  
Today is the image of what I have had  
The echoes of thoughts spatter my skull  
The daily struggle of saying I am.

### **Spindle**

I want to run amok  
On the spindle that ravel  
These days out into my world  
If I could pick out the  
24 hours  
That I liked  
Somehow re-direct  
The others  
Would those voids  
Somehow become filled  
With new options?  
De ja vu  
Is no comfort  
When the bad days  
You know you thought  
You avoided

### **Momentary**

The morning is afternoon already  
Almost  
Work lies around me  
Immersed  
Impressed  
Cocking an eye  
To the outside world  
I wonder  
How long is this road  
How far is now?  
The effort I expend  
The dreams I am dreaming  
These move me through time  
Fold space about me  
A warp from a previous now  
To a new reality  
I cannot describe how it is done  
Still  
I wonder  
How far is now?

### **Outer Space**

Since a child I dreamed of space travel  
Here  
On this day  
I am in Johannesburg  
When last night in London  
Having slept and changed location  
I have shucked  
A hurt  
Somewhat bitter anger  
And donned a tiger  
Of ambitious determination.  
Could I astronaut any further  
On some interplanetary vessel?

### **Fever**

The dawn breaks  
My fever  
Bringing reason to my senses  
As darkness lifts  
I see clearly  
The rambling dreams  
Of my illness  
Just as the day has broken  
Crowded into sight  
I swim clear  
Of the clogs in my brain  
I swim back  
Into my vision

### **Familiar**

I am stripped bare  
The summer winds  
Are blowing pieces of me  
Off my bones  
I stand in the rain  
I am fading away  
This rain and these winds  
Are feeding my growing  
My roots cut deep underground  
I wave my arms  
Dance a reel  
Sing along  
But I have missed the pageant  
The ticker tape parade  
Here in my cave  
I am working away  
As the sun shines  
As the day dawns  
These things are growing practice  
I am drifting away  
I will fly



## **Drought**

The river has dried up  
The well is empty  
Rains don't fall  
At this time of year  
My tongue cleaves  
To my mouth  
More powerfully that I attach  
To this life  
These words  
The last trickle  
As monsoon turns to drought  
My heart  
Turns away  
I can't swallow any more of these  
Half-hearted asides

## **Dictionary**

Your face was mis-spelled in the rain  
The night where I found you  
I don't read American  
A slip of mis-representation  
I can pour over  
Encyclopedias  
Or check  
The meaning of what I saw in dictionaries  
Doesn't change what I thought then  
No matter what I understand now

### **Crystal Clear**

Flowers turn  
Face the light  
When rain is done  
Deserts  
Spring to life  
Storm clouds clear  
I'm breathing fine  
Navigating by touch at night

It's evident  
This is circumstantial  
Every corner  
I chose all accidental  
Didn't I?

Goodbye fairy lights  
I can't wave now  
My hands on the wheel  
I haven't given up the fight  
This is my true life  
This is how I feel  
Crystal clear

### **A Scent**

Four beers down  
Eight to go  
The distance from  
Where I am now  
To where I came from  
Love's ghost has downed me  
Even though  
This break of day  
Will never be mine  
She pointed the way down the road  
I love her anyway  
It's not like me  
To cry in a film  
My heart needs to expand  
Days like these just cram into my head  
My heart weeps with the pain of the joy of the load  
Never before have I seen so much road  
So you can kiss me off  
My spirit awakens  
I have smelled the new day

## **Because**

Listening to the Smiths  
Water skiing over  
My teenage angst  
With a smile  
My wake destroys  
My heart beats in time  
With Morrissey's whine  
But tears no longer  
Spring to eye  
The man's poetry flows  
In unbroken verse  
Through Marr's riffs and notes  
And I think  
I finally did get what I wanted  
I finally did learn to read  
Ask me

## **Brave New Day**

Sitting in the darkness  
Morning rings the bell  
Asks permission to start the day  
The blush of its coming  
Stains the eastern sky  
In gold, orange and deep mauve  
  
In darkness with all these words  
I am grateful for illumination  
Fling wide the gates of existence  
Accept whatever morning brings  
I am awake  
The day is yet cold  
The passion of the sunrise is welcome  
Still  
My feet from habit retreat  
My dreams become concrete

### **Domino Days**

Days fall domino  
One into another  
Knocking on consequence  
Beyond sight  
Falling fast  
With such ease  
I'm taken by surprise  
But as their dotted faces  
Spread from this point of action  
I know at least  
I did the first tip

### **Dream Chiever**

The pixie dust of dreams  
Settles in the palm  
To mix with sweat  
The achievement of dreams  
Leaves nothing but grey powder  
In your hand  
While the lights in your mind go out

### **Nothing To Lose**

I know that I can safely say  
That I did indeed  
Fall in love  
And lost the nothing that  
I had to lose  
For such a short and little stay  
I am missing  
So many things  
For someone with nothing to lose

Love will give you things you've never had  
Fill you up and make you whole  
Feeling you've got nothing to lose  
You won't realise  
And you won't try  
You won't take it seriously  
Enough

I'm a fool  
I lost what I gained  
With empty hands  
I wait  
But now I know  
That when I feel that pull  
I can't lose  
The everything of loves nothing  
Again

### **Previously Owned**

The writing on the wall  
I see in my rear view mirror  
So much easier to read  
In reverse  
I resist the temptation to turn  
And double check  
Instead  
Double clutch  
Hit the road  
No more tune-ups  
No more add-ons  
Just someone  
Who likes the wheels  
The way they are

## **Xenophobia**

A coffee-made smile I crack  
Across my unwilling face  
My eyes roll back  
I hesitate  
What here do I say?  
You're out of step with time  
Your thoughts are a crime  
If you want to kill and hate and maim  
What are you doing here?  
There is no excuse for what you've done  
There is no going back  
Your face is shown  
We know your hand  
But now that it is our move  
I am not sure what we will do

## **Right Now**

This very instant  
As I tower up from where I sat  
I am unravelling  
Bleeding like mist  
Into a morning sun  
My strength  
My perception  
Deepen  
I sink further and further  
My wagging ears  
Perfunctory  
Blown speakers in a wrecked car  
Even now  
My mind coalesces like rain  
Miraculously  
My fingers pass through objects  
X-rays through flesh  
My brain hammers my experience  
Ice-picking reason  
Socialising me to death with persistent doing  
Knowing more than ever before  
I diffuse Oros into water  
Going weak and see through  
Simple clarity keeps me dissolving further and further  
Away from ego  
Away from things  
Into the stuff of it all  
Falling though the sudden gates of parted clouds  
Into an undreamed  
Beyond

### **Purpose**

The stars are aligning  
In my personal heaven  
The wind is lifting  
Beneath my beating wings  
Scattered pieces coalescing  
From the outer reaches  
Purpose drives my engines  
This is my grace  
If I am back on track  
Where do you stand?

### **Life Inexorable**

The count is lost  
Am I just down for it?  
Nostalgia makes me weep  
For times gone  
Just as weepy  
As I miss those yet to come  
Self pity, doubt?  
I know longer know  
Patience has  
Gone AWOL  
life inexorable  
Thunders on

## Elvis Air

In my life I have seen  
Far enough away places  
I just can't relate  
To people who live there

Rock 'n roll and flying aeroplanes  
Have taken me further into life  
Than I thought to go  
And sometimes wish I hadn't

Heaven help me  
Please  
To get over myself  
Because on my own  
I am just dumbstruck  
In this world I am living  
In this world I am lost  
So submerged  
So part of it  
The living in this world  
Is taking me to places  
I never sought to visit  
Is showing me things  
I never wanted to know

You can't not know what you have learned  
Life busts me about the chops  
And instead of throwing in the towel  
I have been returning the blows

If I had known  
What song and restlessness would bring

I wouldn't have drunk so much  
Stayed up so late  
If I had known  
That what lies outside there  
Maybe I would have done something else

This is not a rock n roll eulogy  
This is not some idle complaint  
This is the recognition  
Of my fate  
As I buy another air ticket  
As I flip the record and press play  
Not just one more time  
But again and again and again



### **Always**

We share night  
But I miss you  
Always  
The blinking Southern Cross  
Shows the way  
To where I lay my head  
If that sounds  
Like I am not doing my part  
I'm sorry  
But the night has taken me out  
And showed me many things

### **A New One**

The day presents itself  
Nothing has ever happened  
Darkness lifts from my eyes  
Smoke clears  
Winter  
Let's go  
Of my heart  
I don't know  
If it's day  
Or a false dawn  
I leap elated into the blocks  
Ready to run

