Thief of Dreams

Terry McGhee

Thief of Dreams

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In memory of Thomas Ray Watson
(9/5/1943 - 3/12/2010).

May the World know more men like him, before it all comes tumbling down.

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Howling

More subtle than the dust that settles
Silently across the rolling seas of disbelief
From deep blue to gray on winds of change
White flag wavering in it's waving ways
Nuclear backdrop of fear forever ingrained
In the hearts and minds of the clinically sane

Howling II

I hear the wail
Of air raid sirens
In my dreams

The piercing cry
Of impending doom
Repeating

I look up
Into the blackness
Of a midnight sky

Alone

No one else exists
Just me
A single soul
And I feel so
Safe
At home
A warm embrace
Of emptiness
Welcoming me
With those beautiful sirens
Playing my final request
So peacefully

Time & Theater

Three years running
Same broken clock
Sits mocking
Springs and gears moving
Mashing, maneuvering
Around my stationary
Morose misgivings
Amounting to madness
Unmovable
Unwavering
Idiocy

Why won't you work?!
Rumble and ringing
Pings echoing pongs
I need new
Hands to wash clean
To clockwise cleanse
Free me from past tense
Please
Praying to a star chart
Kneeling in some Hollywood neighborhood
Fix this broken heart
Please

Mirage

Fireworks explode
Showering the night in beautiful
Twinkling wishes
Reflected in the eyes of children
Smiles full of joyous adventure
Happiness
Abounds

The cheering crowds
Stand tall
The screams of delight
Filling the air with life
I can feel the warmth
Of the celebration
Wash over me

And for a second
I forgot who I was
What I had become
And where I was heading

For a second
I was alive
With a lifetime of hope
Spreading ideas and dreams
Stretching my lips into a grin
For a second
Just one second
I was one of you

There's Sunlight Here

There’s sunlight here

Hidden beneath the berating stare

The watchful eyes of wrath await

The demons growing lust for hate

There’s sunlight here

Somewhere

Waiting silently amidst a trembling fear

That goodness somehow persevere

There’s sunlight here

Somewhere

Catch it quick
Before it disappears

Faking Faith

I search the night for a pulse
Eyes wide open
To the darkness surrounding
Through the devil's valley I stumble
Across plains of demon breath
Into fields of strife
An abyss of blackness
I fall to my knees
Searching
Succumbing
So easy to give up
To throw nothing away
Cast out any hope
Let dissolve dreams
Reach down and take the devils hand
Embrace this none existence
I've walked in the dark
Searching for a spark
A pulse
A heartbeat to light the way
To show me something
Of everything
Take my breath away and leave me gasping
Love
A thousand miles I have walked alone
Longing
For something more
To be given a chance
Given
Anything
Never realizing the gifts
I have received
The shoes I use to walk
Alone
The jacket that keeps me warm
The ground beneath my feet

Thief of Dreams

The passable terrain
The spirit and will to move
Forward
Life
Breath
Love

I will rise from my knees
In this place
With this absence of light
I will stand tall
I will scream my praise
I will allow myself to feel love
I will call out to God
Take my hand father
But lead me not out of this darkness
This I must do myself
And I shall
In time
With renewed will
I walk now
Knowing what it is
To accept
To have faith
And in the dark a pulse
A spark of light
Enters my heart
Leading the way
Home

Terry McGhee

Release Me

Make me minuscule
The dust that hangs in the light
I'm done with being a fool
No fire left to ignite

Let me drift out to dusk
Another shadow left to stretch
Lapse back to memory musk
A faded pencil sketch

Release me

Falling In Love Alone

I watched as the roads
Unfolded from your eyes
Wet pavement ever winding
Down silken cheeks
Pausing on trembling chin
Before plunging

You held out your hand
Ever so sadly
With compassion in your features
And sadness leading the way

Together we plundered
Through the treasures of torment
Shyly we traversed the terrible
Only to emerge on opposite peeks

Tonight
Together
We take the final fall
Alone

Bruja, Where For Art Thou?

The rumble of the thunderclouds
Roll off into the distance
I stand now hidden from you
Marveling at the resistance

How did we traverse
Such strenuous threads of time
Only to fall apart
Without an alarm bell or chime

There seemed to be
So much more to explore
But I found a way
To remove the rapport

I never meant
But I never do
To end this dance
All too soon

Corruption in Seduction

Rising
Cresting
Mud slick flood waters
Devouring
Tearing
Pulling apart your simplicity
Come swim with me
In the shallows
Let me show you the strength
Of love
Torrents of rage
Presenting so innocently
The slow swirl
The lazy flow
Come here beautiful
Cast away those clothes
Take my hand
Hold on tight
As I pull you into the deepest
Darkest
Depths of my hell
Smiling

Black Jelly Bean

The picture hangs crooked
Slightly off center
Every time I see it
I think of how far
The apple falls from the tree
A family history of success
So stoic in their resolve
So proud
And then I
The seed that fell
Rolled
Washed away
Down into some damp
Dark indenture
Struggling to shine
To grow tall
Finding no rooting
No soil to hang onto
Washed away a little further
To another dark corner
Finally realizing
It has broken away
No longer belongs
In the family pictures
Just a blemish
To be excused away
Must have been human error
In the processing of the film
Must have been a seed
From some other
A bastard sapling
A weed to be poisoned
Pulled
And tossed away
A disappointment
Discarded

A Cowards Confession

These dreams like leaves
Shake and rattle
Rustling my memories
Leaving me lying
Awake trembling
Father Time
Mother Fate
Conspire without care
On the verge of forgetting
Time treading away the hurt
Only to break the surface
Gasping for air
Breathing in dreams
Reminders of regret
Filling this sea of torment
With tears
The salt so complete
Burning open old wounds
Without any chance of sinking
Into the cold abyss of numbness
No matter how hard I try
No matter how far I go
I still think of her
How perfect she was
How wonderful
How glorious the gift
That was given me
And how completely
I destroyed everything
There is nothing easy
About letting time take it's course
When even the hands of time
Remind you how long it's been
Since you last felt love
Kissed perfection
Held acceptance

Before it all slipped away
And in your own guilt
You had nothing to say

Swan Dive Suicide

Wind swept tears are wept
Streaming from smiling eyes
The air electrified
Invigorating
A smile lights the way
Progression

The spirits swirl in dance
Churning and twisting
Lifting the debris of society
Focusing the frantic frolicking
Fortunately

This zephyr wreathe
Of wonderment
Lifts me lovingly
Into euphoria
Entangling me
In the annex of acceptance

With arms held wide
I open my eyes for the first time
And watch as the water
Rushes up to meet me
Conclusively

The Devil Loves a Wedding

I sit watching
Silently smiling in the shadows
As he grinningly gives his vows
To the beautiful bride
Not knowing
That my time is coming

The dancing
The happy newlyweds
Oblivious to any evil
That lurks in many forms

I watch as he laughs at the toast
His spirits soaring high
The wife, hanging on his arm
Worried not
But again
In due time

I can't help it
Throw my head back and laugh
This is worth so much more
I love it

A few people turn to look
As I grin and retreat
Fading into nothing
But the damage is done
The chaos set in motion
The husband
The wife
The two bridesmaids
Pregnant with his seed
Let us celebrate

Acacea

The soft caress
Of her whispered pain
Unwinding slowly
Rocking back
Pulling forward
Quivering courage
Climbing up
From some deep well
Of sorrow
Her voice
Inspiring love
Freedom
The ability to clutch tight
Heartache
And fight

In Spirits

Silken beauty of wavering wonder
I imagine you
Laying in chaos
Nightmares of reality
Spinning like dancers
Around your hospital room

Imagine now with closed eyes
Pulling you close
In caring arms cradled
Not with sympathetic meaning
Simply to let you
Sleep and dream
Without worry
As to the outside world

A Touch of Blue

Oh baby haunt me nightly
While I banshee in sleep
Creep up silently
Catch the tears that seep
Out of this hole so deep
That I fall down
Every god damn time I wake
To find you're not around
Oh baby haunt me while I shake
Before I drown
In these puddles of regret
That keep me soaking wet
In a cold cold sweat
Baby please

The Demise of Distance

I stand in the dark
Wishing a star would fall
Down passed the clouds
To lead the way
Wind whispering your name
As I turn
It drifts away
I stand in the dark
Waiting for the night
To melt away into day
So I can see you
Love you
Hold you
In the light

Banshee of Promise

I stand upon a world covered in fog
A prison cell of gray surrounds me
Encasing me in absence
Taunting with its twirling phantoms
Teasing with dreams of being

Your voice is the only comfort
I hear it whispered on the night
And it keeps me warm
Keeps me sane
In this world of alone

I can hear you singing quietly
The same songs I hear in my head
It moves me to dance
To cry tears of joy

Closer
Louder
As you make your way to me
I will strike a match to burn
And cut through the fog of absence
Until I can hold you in my arms
And our fires of passion
Burn it all away
Together

Napkin Art & The Alcoholic

Stick figure of sadness
Little line legs trembled
Detail distorted to resemble
Tear drop dots assembled
Alone on a single sheet of absence
The circle sun masking evidence
Of the favored form of defense
For the one, the alone
Shadow prince of nothingness

The Blinds

With a twist and a turn
The light disappears
Fingertips linger
Upon a rope that burns
As it runs
Slipping from grasp
Shutting in once again
The dark comfort of the shadows
Thoughts spinning chaotically
Welcoming the known
Pleading for the wanted
Fingernails dig at the blinds
Hoping for a glimpse of light
A little something
Anything
But outside the sun has set
And nothing but the night
Waits grinning
Like a wolf
Succumb to the numb
Eyes adjust to the dark
Look to the shadows for an excuse
And find only my throne
Sitting silently beneath the noose
I have come to call my own

Capitulate In Chaos

The twinge of incoming pain
Pulls tight the strings of fear
As color slips away
In a rush of breathless despair

Gripping tight the handrails of hope
Slipping repeatedly on rails of trepidation
Falling swiftly from sanity
Into the fog of isolation

Incarcerated in my own shadow cell
Helplessly surrendering to hysteria
Signaling that all is well
As I stand before you trembling
Hiding so well where I dwell
Wishing desperately for the will to speak
Something other than a final farewell
As I turn to walk away
Too weak to reach back
And betray this maddening dismay
That consumes so completely
Every night and day
I spend alone in dark disarray

Fading Hope

Crumbling away the old
Piece by piece it falls
Like the Berlin Wall
Step forth new leader
With gavel in hand
Stitch up Old Glory
Renewed honor
Refreshed is the pride
Overrun with tears
Of joy
At the hope
Prospect
That we as a country
Are stronger
Smarter
And more determined than ever
To never again stand by
As our elected officials
Promise the world
Only to turn to greed
Once elected
January 20, 2009
The first day I cried
For I felt pride
In this nation of ours
Honor and hope
Change
You're damned right
Let us not forget
The responsibilities we have
And the honor we fight
To keep

Dangerous Embers

The pyromaniac is back
Taunting and teasing
Grinning wickedly
From the edges of sanity
And I want so badly
To run to the flames
To watch as they dance erratically
To feel the warmth of chaos
Wash away the cold shadows
Of depression
Completely

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Deep Rising

Remember when we used to play
Splashing through puddles
In the rain
Laughing loudly

Remember the plastic pool
thoughts of pirates
Toys floating
Like the armada

Remember the public pool
Where we swam like Gods
Oblivious to the chaos of the world
Caught up in Marco-Pollo

Remember the good times we shared
As children
Joyous and wonderful

I do

They are all I have
As I sit here
Water pooling around my legs
As I sink deeper
Into the turmoil of realization

All the greatest moments
Are behind me
Nothing to look forward to
Except the rising waters
And the cool caress of nothingness
As the water level
Rises

Still

Pay to Play

Every thing is grand
Smiling flowers shake petals
At the sun
Laughter swirls through the air
I am so in love
With the barrel of this gun

Sunshine surrounds me
But I'm reaching for cracks
Broken beams where shade resides
A quiet place that hides
This happiness inside me
Frolic in the fantasy
Dance in the delicacy
Of a solitude form of free

I once loved as once I was
Caressing now the matchstick madness
Smile as it smolders to flame
Eruption of fear
People cry and shout
Stampede for the street
As I take my seat
And watch the silver dinnerware melt
Finally folding the seven cards
Fate has dealt

Fallen Star

I watched in amazement
The star so bright
Shining light into the darkness
I watched and I dreamed
I laughed under its glow
Languished in the living
The wonderful ways in which
It inspires

I watched in horror
As it began to fall
Streaking down from the heavens
In a brilliant shower of shattering
The heated atmosphere
The darkening eyes
I watched as she stumbled
Out of the clouds
Weeping for attention
With dirt covered hands
And torn clothes
I watched in regret
At the impact
The fall out

I stand here today
Upon the spot she fell
Looking up in curiosity
For God
Wondering why
He chose to forsake a star
Such a shining example of life
Why would he send an Angel
Back to earth to die

Flowering Shadows

You make me want to scream
Release the pent up frustrations
And live
Breathe deep of life
And give chase to the chosen
Forms of fantasy
To spin you in my arms
Share laughter that comes
Without expectations
To dance and prance
March forward through
Every dense fog that descends
Without worry as to the taunting
Shadows that surround
Giving me everything
Without giving anything
Soul mates found stumbling
And like drunks deciding to dance
There is no rhythm we can't swing
Every spark of my creativity
Begging for the chance
To meet you half way
At the base of Fates stairs
And race to the top
To wrap each other in the freest embrace
And jump

Garrote

Can't sleep, can't drink, can't stop to think
On the dreams that she brings
Dragging me to the brink

The ledge, the line, so hard to find
A balance to the absence
Leaving me forever entwined

The want, the hope, the slippery slope
A semblance of remembrance
The rope burns that remain
Across my silenced throat

Inspire

The tender caress of kindness
Upon a face feared forever expressionless
Quiets the chaos and confusion anew
Clearing the way for progress
In happiness
With thoughts of someone
Anyone
Just like you

Disillusion

Loom as I tower over
Shadows stretched menacingly
Keep pulling pieces of me free
And laughing as they fall
Keep antagonizing unaware
Snickering and playing for the crowd
Soon I'll bring every last mother fucking piece
Thundering, crumbling down

Marionette

Please love, pluck me gently
Pull me softly into a waltz
Twirl me and move me
I love my manipulator
Please just don't leave me
Collecting dust in the attic
As my strings slowly rot
And the paint starts to peel
Don't leave me here alone my love
Concealed in packing taped boxes
Of surreal

Terry McGhee

YOU LIE

Your scream of caring
Only a whisper
Unheard of

Like a lost soul
In a wind storm
Entangled in Emptiness

Phantoms Embrace

I held hope for a heartbeat
Nestled in my bare hands
Before I splayed fingers in defeat
And let it all drain away

I never saw the savior
Whom embraced me from behind
Hands cupped underneath
Forever keeping hope alive

A Night Without Nightmare

The night has lost its ability
No more twisting in torment
Worrying about what is to come
In sleep
In dream

Twist now arms into pillows
With a smile that will not fade
And a warmth that eclipses the sheets
Ability to protect
In sleep
In dream

Tonight as I lay alone again
A welcomed phantom of promise
Holds me close and offers
A sanctuary to be
Free of the demons
In sleep
In dream

A fantasy foreseen and shimmering
Upon a horizon that awaits
Just out of reach
For now
But as I close my eyes
And whisper her name

I welcome the waiting wickedness
Of her sexy grin
Staring back at me
As I open my eyes
And pull her close
In dream

Hey Bitch

I see you wiggle worthlessly
Worming your way through
Every tree fallen apple
Changing your disguise
With such ease
I see the real you now
Bloated and rotting
Full of disease
I see you
Manifest infestation
Like a plague on the wind
Your lies bubble over like blisters
I see now just how
Quickly you can cocoon
And reform your everything
To fit in so perfectly
With just a single second of time
You are reborn
Reformed
Reconfigured
But still the same
Pathetic pretender
No matter the web of lies
You so quickly use to wet
Some new stranger's eyes

From Water Bed to What the Fuck

The thunder of your heart beat wakes me
As I lay with closed eyes
Letting my cheek rest against your thigh
And the warm embrace of perfection
Washes over us

Open my eyes to find

The waves crashing against the breakers
As I grip tight the drift wood worn smooth
The sand sucking me under
While the sun burns from above

Faltering Phoenix

Tired of the screams
Echoing down imaginary hallways
The strings pulling every piece
A different direction
While the voices laugh and plead
In rain washed streets of glistening
Lines obscured by the flood
Directional stand still
Incapable of breathing

As the Phoenix rises to break
Shadows grab and drag
Back into the ashes of alone
A plume of ash and ember
Swirling
The cloud of confusion enveloping
Everything

So tired of trying
Let me rest beneath these chains
The time for flight
Is not quite right

Prodigal Son

A shifting in the sky
Accumulated debris pulled apart
Stretched thin
Until there is nothing

Nothing left to conceal
To cover and protect
To rain down reassurance
Wash away the worry

Worry about the sun
The heat and anger
Frustration finally pushing through
Radiating the pent up penance

Penance for the suffering
For being beaten down
By thy rod and they staff
Whipped and chained

Chained away by the quiet abuse
Smoldering in suffering
Generating rage and animosity
Towards a single creator

Father forgive me not
This is my time
My finally
My choice to abolish you
Break apart and berate
Banish and betray
This is my time
My time
To teach you
You
Of the man you made

Thief of Dreams

From the boy you raised
In thy own image
Be aware
That only once
Will you witness
This cold dark stare

Returning to Sender

Trickling rain
The cool window glass
Faced with the reflection
Of the faceless
As our fingers touch
Moving together
The candle light flickers
Shadows dance in celebration
Welcoming me home
A smile falters
The frown returning
As my eyes wet with tears
And rain
Close
My hand pulling away
The candles flame flutters
Dousing us in darkness
I open my eyes
Seeing nothing within
No invitation
No acceptance
I step away slowly
Remembering
What it was like
Before I died

Shadows & Flames

The lone knock upon the door
Taunting and teasing
As the paint bubbles
Smoke drifting under
Sucked back by your inhale
As you wait
Wishfully
For me to allow you in
My shadows scream
Tired of dancing around your flames
Trying to contain the madness
A frustrated puff of ash
Curls out from under the door
Swirls into my sanctuary
Dusting me with gray
But I will brush you off
Just like before
And leave you and your destructive embers
Burning outside my door

Solid Metaphors

Seedling stirring
A hint of green begins
Birth of life occurring
Atop the soil the pebble pins
Holding everything back
The little yearning stock
Succumbing to the angle of attack
From some dumb metamorphic rock

Which Way is Right?

Speaking of moving
Forward
Marching on
Backwards retreating
To rectify clarity
Backtracking
Backspacing
Saving us from
Something
We used to know

Dog is mans best friend
God his enemy
God damn these dog days of summer
Nightmares and night sweats
God is mans hero
Dog his squire
Placing no blame
Quick to accept the madness spiral

Move forward
Speaking backwards
The cagey strange perfection
Each word soothingly brings
Side stepping
Sorrow
Borrow
Another shiny line
From the old crumbled pages
We used to know

Heroine

She always said
Let me share the stage
But cringed at the spotlight
As if it were a cage
A broken promise
A smile of rage
The heroin addict
Of the Victorian age

I Love You, Shadow

I see you silently
Mocking me
Eternally stretched to tearing
Pulling hard from the light
Trying desperately
To find the dark
I feel you touching me
Teasing me
Taunting me towards the safety
I want to follow
Give in to the madness
Let sanity vanish
And step into the abyss
With you
My love
My savior
My beautiful shadow
Always at my side
Within touching distance
A reassuring shoulder
To lean on
As we run from everyone
Alone together
Forever

If You Only Knew

The wind lashes out
Sending your hair whipping
And I see you
Standing so stubbornly
Facing the coming storm
With a trembling lip
Of loneliness and determination
So cold out there
If only I had the ability
To walk out beside you
Hold your cold cheek to my chest
And let you know you are not alone
If only I was not
Locked away in this cell
Bound by these chains
With nothing but the taunt of windows
Showing me the world I will never know

To Dance With Lightning

They say silver
Lines those clouds of rain
That sunlight lay
Just beyond patience

I still stand waiting
Soaked through and in vain
Trying to catch lightning
In trembling hands of alone

The wind screams
The siren wail of the banshee
The rolling thunder
Devils laughter
Echoes across the hills

I dance alone
The scarred
The frightened
But no longer defeated
Dreamer of brighter days
And I will be here
Until I am called forth
Into the Suns warming rays
No longer wearing worry
But laughing like a lunatic
In the face of the Devils fury

The Mime & I

Paint stained tears
Trickled down
As the crowd jeered
I watched in horror
As he searched for cracks
Within the invisible walls
And found none
Mumbled obscenities circulated
Artless souls trying to spread disease
But today I felt alive
And so from the angry crowd I emerged
Face to face with a sorrowful mime
And together we danced and smiled
Today we folded reality into invisibility
And in our own world
We became the crowd
The King
And the jesters
As we danced in the sunlight
Oblivious to the shadows

Ant Stuck in Gum on the Side of the Road

Won't you shake me free of this mooring
Vibrate me into feeling
Something more
Than beaten down and torn

Let the moon pull loose
These entwined roots of regret
As darkness gives way to dawn
Let the wind carry me on

Undertow

Picked up and pitched parallel
The waves roll like wrecking balls
No ground
No sand
No reef of reality to reach out to
Tumble into the thunder of turmoil
Roar of darkness deafening
Violently pulled deep
Promise of breath extinguished
As the calm of the abyss
Reaches up with cold hands
To take back all that exists

Waves of Lust

My hands find you
Gasping, groping, moaning for more
As my lips kiss through
The tides of wanting
Shaking breath loose
My tongue silently hunting
For a climax to induce

My hands find you
Grinning, rolling, taking control
As you move to dominate
The tides forever turning
Pushing and pulling
Teasing the pauses of yearning
Looking down upon me
Like the Queen of Tides
Forever churning

Voluptas

Entangle me in enticement
Spiral me into ascent
Radiating brilliance in a wreath
Of wonderment

Come twirl my thoughts
In a air of arrival
Send me sailing into serene
Seas of silent revival

Catapult me completely
Across the abyss of cowardice
Catch me cautiously
Off guard with a kiss
Leave me languidly revolving
In lusts reminisce
Forever remembering
That eternal enchantment
Still exists

Casualty of Cowardice

Carefully I comb the branches
Letting fingertips trace gently
The trees reaching embrace
Shivering a little differently
As a fallen leaf shimmies free
And falters towards me

Fragile and chewed through
We dance together as we fall
Sustained by the curious breeze
If only for a moment, we flew
Unlearned ability to crawl
Leaves us laying at the waters edge
Wishing for a wind to carry us
Freely passed the last ledge of safety

Down, down, down
We spiral through cowardice
Out from under courage
A final sigh of acceptance
Carries us into the encouraged
Waiting waters of flagrance

Separated by force
Plunged deep into desperate darkness
Searching franticly for forgiveness
Eyes turned toward the surface
The leaf, waiting
Struggle to give chase
Loneliness quickly abating
My brother, my friend, myself
Slowly turning, pulling
Fading away

Ratata

Meaningful madness
A race of revolving revelations
Circling in chaos
Like ribbons of retribution
Fluttering for future favor

Fog of the Forgotten

Amber Swirls

Amber swirls
Like some mysterious liquid jewel
Long since melted down
The last diamond of cold

One more kiss
Drawn out seduction
Feel the smooth touch
Against trembling lips

Let the fire push down
Make believe the moment
Is made of whiskey
Not heartache pulling
Menacingly
At the letter
Laying gently
On a felt covered card table
Waiting

Must be raining now
In this living room of longing
Will the tears away
To wipe away is to acknowledge
The reality of regret

Witness a moment of weakness
The glass shattering
A thousand tiny sparkles of light
Against the backdrop of painted plaster
The drama masks changing fast
From smiles to sadness

Fists of anger rattle the room
Table jumps under pressure
A diamond ring falling from the folds

Thief of Dreams

Of a letter left unread
Waiting

Waiting
A bottle half empty
Yet half full of amber acceptance
No need for a glass
This whiskey won't last

Nomad

Anxiety creeping in
Only escape is the dark
Quick to flip switches
Sit in the dark of shadow
Letting the sweat slowly dry
As normalcy returns
Temporarily

Returning

Thoughts pull like barbed wire
A sickness of want
Struggled hard to never hide
Found a glimpse of glory
Wrapped fingers around
A sliver of success
Tasted the tenderness of love
Witnessed life

Now it all swirls around a drain
As I hold the plug
Half wanting to let it all
Swirl away
And return once again
To a more concrete fate
Wandering alley ways
With a few precious possessions
Packed away in a dirty back pack
Practicing the penance of panhandling
Laughing with imagined friends
As we dissolve from public view
No longer having to worry
About petty things
Bring it back to the basics
To the primeval

Return

From the dark a message appears
A reminder that someone out there
Someone who has no reason
Has no requirement
Yet still
They care

It does matter
No matter how many times
I can never bring myself to say it
I am grateful
I am
Thankful

Turn the lights back on
The lights

Step back out
Into the day
Into life

Revive

Twenty Five to Life

Born in 1972
The roughness of your edges
Slowly smoothed over time
A few blemishes here and there
Yet you feel so good
The weight and substance
Is real
I can hold you and know
That I have something
Worth more than a thought
You are the foundation
Of dreams
The framework
For progression
Your history although infinite
Is hidden from view
No one will ever know
The full existence of you
I let slip from my fingers
Watching you tumble
End over end
Toward the waters below
A quiet splash
As you enter
Leaving me with a glimpse
Of reflected light
As you curve under the surface
And vanish into the depths
To be lost forever
From the warmth of touch

Prison Break

Distant whisper of memory
Dull thud of a heart beat
Paranoia pulled tight
Every hair reaches far
In the absence of sight

Pulse quickening
Blood rushing to awaken
Cold sweat you feel
Sanity disintegrating
The nightmare all too real

Breathless sigh released
As you sink into the covers
The house still in dream
Everything is normal
No one heard the scream

Black Angel

Does the mirror smile
When you push out a tear
Successfully

I see you constantly
Trying to pull sympathy
From the hearts of society

With your fake regret
Oh you're upset
Never will you forget

You fuck

Fake

Fuck faking cunt

I see your truth

I was there

When it offended

When you scoffed
Huffed
Puffed
Waddled to your window sill
In full blown disgust
Opening your heart to chill
The breeze as it gusts
By

Crying about injustice
Unfairness
Calling for awareness

But I was there

Watching

As the people took to sympathize

As you turned from the ledge

And smiled

Fuck you

Hookers & Happiness

Shuttering breath
Blowing out
The candles flame
Enveloping dark
Rushing in
Nobody to blame
Outstretched arms
Cold of alone
Embraced by shame
All I ever
Wanted
Was for
Someone
To call
Out my name
In a breath of
Want
Need
Acceptance

The knife
Of temporary
Cuts quick
Please
Pull it free
Of my back
Before you depart
Or plunge it deeper
Than ever before
Into my heart
Please

Golden Gate Bridge (Safe)

The blue sign
With white lettering
Crisis counseling
The phone sits waiting
As I walk on by

Yellow lights
Phantoms of fog
Swirling under illumination
And carried out over
The bay
By the wind

Tall maroon towers
Fade into the mist
Trailing cables
The occasional red light
Blinking
Signaling
Slowly
From high above

The light posts numbered
Standing between
109 and 111
Looking east
Towards Alcatraz
But seeing only the grey and black
Blanket of fog
The black water
The occasional sea foam
Silently speeding out to sea
Four foot high railing
Hands reach out to touch it
Wet with the morning dew
Cold yet alive

Terry McGhee

It vibrates
With the passing cars

The loud thud of the roadway
As vehicles speed passed
A sound repeated endlessly
Yet still cause a start
A scare
Trucks rumble by
The bridge flexes and bounces
Amazing

So many lives lost
Without sunlight
With only the dark
Of early morning
You can feel them
So many tears
So much pain
Companionship found
Silently standing alone

Between 109 and 111
A white beanie lies on the other side
Its embroidered logo obscured
Did it belong to someone
Who leapt to freedom
Or someone casually walking by
Dropped by a child's hand
As it fell just out of reach
Disappointment in their eyes

The dark red and green lights
Of boats pass underneath
Headed out to sea
Bicyclists zip passed
Without a glance back
Perhaps it isn't their place
To offer a kind word
To even say hello

Thief of Dreams

Feeling like a ghost already
You can stand for hours
Without ever being bothered
Watching as the bridge lights
Wink out just before
6am
And then the spot lights
That shine into the sky
Follow suit
Plunging the bridge into darkness
As it awaits the sun
The bay coming into view slowly
The fog starting to burn away
Climb up onto the railing
Completely terrified of heights
Yet it doesn't look that far
Birds fly by just off the surface
The sea looks so
Welcoming
Inviting

Something else stirs the air
Mixing in with the wind
Echoes of imagination maybe
But I feel something
Stir within
Whispered words
Encourage me
To step down

As I step off the bridge I pass by the sign
White lettering
A waiting phone
A key sits atop the box
A key
I will not need
The dead have spoken
Not today

Father, Forgive Me

A lifetime of forgiveness
God fearing practices
Twenty seven years of kindness
Start to lift to sin
With the smoke
Of a burning bible

Eyes glazing over
With swirling shadows
As I remove the collar
Stand from the altar
And walk with vengeance
Through the pews of practice

An hour earlier
And a lifetime ago
The news found its way to me
Mother dead
Father grandstanding
With his chief of police blues
Before a microphone
Proclaiming the manhunt
To begin immediately

No tears upon his cheeks
No sorrow in his voice
I recall the nighttime bed stories
When I coward under covering
Listening to them thunder
Through every room
The yelling
The threatening
The promising

I remember

Thief of Dreams

Every syllable said

Every threat handed out

And I can still hear her
Crying softly
Only for my safety

As I stand before his office door
I feel the weight of the gun
Tucked in my pocket
My hands snake around the handles
Of both door and weapon
As I enter

"Hello father…"

Honey, I'm Home!

I'm this close
On the verge
Teetering
Leaning over
That line you drew
Bitch

I watch as they cheer
Applaud your precious paintings
Of the emotionally lost
Little girl
Oh how you said
Inspiration comes
From deep within
Your past
So full of sadness
Comes to life
Upon the canvas

I want to splash turpentine
Over that sunset
Burst out in laughter
As the guests scatter
In horror they flee
As a mad man runs
Flinging matches
Hello babe, remember me

Shown now
Those cold eyes
You cast a stare
Oh so familiar
Yet foreign
To everyone but me
You want to paint of the past
Of the emotions

Thief of Dreams

You swam through
To be here today
But honey that painting
Is covered in clothes
And devoid of men
You should take up the brush
Collect your paints
And try again

Merry Mother Fucking Christmas

I see it now
The downcast glance
As you walk outside
Leaving the rest to celebrate
Their children's success

Many branches
Of the tree have gathered
For a feast of thanks
Stories and questions
So much to catch up on
Everyone smiles

For the first time
I saw you
Walk away
I always thought
It was just to escape
The hectic commentary
But today I saw
For the first time
The reason

You're ashamed
To have a child
Who is not a man
Who has done nothing
But fail
No stories to share
No accomplishments to wave

For so long
I hated you
For abandoning those close
But today I realized
I am the one

Thief of Dreams

Who has failed

I watched my father
Slide out the back door
And I know
I am the reason

Room Mates

I wake up
Snuggled against you
Feeling like life
Has just hit perfection
Once again

The dreams like fog
Start to burn away
Replaced by reality
And I know
This was a mistake

Your offer of shelter
Shattered quietly
With a few well meant kisses
And more

As I walk down the hall
A smile crawls across
This face
How good it feels
To know she is still mine
That what we had
Is still there

I hear his key hit the lock
As my head hits the couch
A smile half a mile wide
As his eyebrows frown
My ears following him down the hall
To his naked wife
Asleep in bed
And his warm pillow
Next to her head.

Bring it on Home

It builds in pressure
Threatening to pull apart
Every last sane thought

Raging without worry
Caution tossed
Torn to shreds
Driven by force
Never to touch the ground

Seasons change
The sun pulls moisture
Soaking it into the clouds
Before it rains down
The cycle

Something is wrong
These storms
They rip sideways
Pushing
Pulling
Plunging me into the dark
With only flashes of light
To disorient
As I tumble

Stumbling around
Head held in hands
The agony
The invisible pain
Ever present
As I look deep
Into your eyes
And smile
Nothing is wrong

Terry McGhee

God damn these things
Why do you force me
To be the clown
Why can't you
Just take a deep breath
Let me do what it is needed
Just let me go
One final time
Without
The blanket of guilt
You so quickly use
To try an smother the flames
Of this burning soul

Just let go of that blanket
Let go
Or pull me close
Hold me tight
Let me feel the safety
Let me know
I am not alone
In this unending storm
Please

Fifty One Fifty

Metallic snap dragon
Click and the clack
Pull the slide
Thumb the release
Everyone just stand back
Please

Desperate degeneration
Eyes screaming in horror
Panicked look of chaos
Blossoms with alarming reality
Bank robbery slash self explorer
Materializing theatricality

Police cars line the street
Guns drawn, aimed
Held steady waiting
The front door swings wide
He walks unashamed
Head held high

The police line thunders
Drop the weapon
Do it now
Their voices are lost in his smile
Raise the metallic snap dragon
In a action called hostile

A single shot is heard
A split second before the world explodes
War zone descriptions race across the TV screen
Reporters stand shocked and appalled
Crime scene tape ropes off the roads
The public enthralled

Metallic snap dragon

Terry McGhee

Never loaded
No money removed
From a bank
Full of fear and confusion
Just a suicide note
Written on the back
Of a deposit slip
Apologizing for it all

Driving Home

Moonlit fields
Slide by the window
The silver sickle hard at work
Cutting down wheat
As the odometer climbs
Steadily passed safety

The road dips and curves
Into a forest of evergreens
Living statues of ancient beings
Shaking branches in sympathy
Roll the windows down
Let in natures symphony

The echo of the engine
Quick squeal of tires
Straining to stay on course
As I press harder the accelerator
Losing myself to the memories
Suicide vindicator

Explode from the tree line
Shooting up a small incline
Bathed in the full moon
As it hangs bloody and waiting
Over the bend
Above rolling hills of alone
Calling for me to ascend

The rush of the wind
Filling the car like a cyclone
I remove my glasses
Hold them at arms length
Let them tumble from sight
Swallowed by the darkness
I won't need them tonight

The ocean glistens
Waiting to embrace me
One final time
Crash through the warning sign
The impact like a gunshot
As the wood explodes
I rise from my seat
As the car leaves the cliff
Free falling in silence
Watching the sparkling sea
Welcoming me
One final time

Burn

Playing with fire
Grinning in the moonlight
Strike a match
Reflected in black eyes
The flame
Comes to life
Though
I walk through the valley of death
Setting ablaze
Every yellowing field
I will fear no evil
As the flames crawl up my legs
Like a serpents slithering tongue
Thou art with me
The piercing scream of the banshee
Thy rod and thy staff
They comfort me
As the fires roar
My own scream of release
Swallowed by the flames
Completely

Until Death Do We Part

Shadow eclipse
Look up to see you
Look down
Catch a glimpse
Flip a switch
From content to consequence
It's on now, bitch

Aggravated assault
Pull the knife from my spine
Return it under your ribcage
This is your fault
You tripped and fell
Right into my rage
Let me catch you quickly
With handfuls of salt
To grind menacingly
Into your open wound
That empty vault
Of a heart
Graffiti of blood strewn
As I depart

Shadow eclipse
Look down to see you
Look up
Catch a glimpse
Flip a switch
From consequence to content
It's over now, bitch

Imprisoned

Salvation sounds nice
Oh how lovely it would be
But then the handcuffs
The restraints
The lock down
Protection from ourselves

Let us lock up those we love
Love them so much
We can not let them go
No matter how much pain
How much suffering
As long as they are there
For us to see
On occasion
Talk to
Once a year
Share a joke with
Sometimes

It is for their own good
That we do these things
Drug them into ignorance
Tie them down at night
Blanket them in guilt
Kiss them on the forehead
But don't turn out the light
Tonight is suicide watch

The person that you see
Is not always the real me
I have a lifetime of experience
In hiding what I feel
I do not
Want to fucking be here
Anymore

Yet I will dance for you
I will sing and laugh
I will joke and juggle
Just so long as you don't
Call the fucking cops
I will suffer through
Everything
Just for you

Fucked Fortune Cookie

So cold the stare
That never shows the eyes
So painful the realization
When hope dies

Foolish idiot
Who held faithful his hope
While releasing his grip
On the only safety rope

Do not dream
Nightmares are everywhere
Don't trust your heart
It will only show you despair

Warning: Addictive

Tasting your tenderness
My lips sliding
Across your sympathy
Your claws
Leaving scars
In the debris
That used to be
A taller version
Of what you see

Only ashes and dust
Remain
Scattered in the aftermath
Of your lust
Watching the dark descend
Fearing the storms path
The rains that may
Wash it all away
In tears of wrath

I Want You So Bad

The repetitive roar of raindrops
Thumping, plinking, pounding
Lightning crashing till caught
Peripheral imperfections
Slapped with a snapshot
Remember

Loose pebbles vibrate
A quiet quake of conscience
Quick glimpse of the wall
Safety swinging from a nail
Will the rocks to fall
Rage

Familiar taste of distain
Whispering softly her name
Held upon a pedestal
That sparkles anew
Dripping wet with petrol
Burn

Casual Castaway

With closed eyes we kiss
Fondle and fornicate
Between the whispered hiss
Of lust mingled with fate

With each thrust
A new taboo
Excitement runs anew
Don't worry baby
I'm not thinking of you

Politics

You mangle the angle
Warp the peripheral
Distort the disastrous
Mirage the misery
Drastically
Dismantle the deathly
Cost of casualties
Casually

Driving Me Mad

Cracked apart and revealed
The make up melted
This mask came away
Leaving bare
Everything I tried to hide
In these eyes
For so long

It took an end
Well thought out
Planned to perfection
And accepted
That last day
Where the world
Seemed to have a hue
And then the night
That followed

I was a blossomed example of me
Fully exposed
Eager to greet the world
Without walls
To try an fix
This broken mind

Pulling into town
Thinking this would
A new trial
Asking for help
Accepting the shame

Then came the smell
That familiar smell of home
And the mask solidified
In a second
Fully repaired

Thief of Dreams

Fully covering
Every little piece
That is me

I wrapped ignorance tight
And I will not let go
Realization has set in
There is nothing
No one
And
No time to try

The bridge was beautiful
Long gone now
Left to the passed
The romantic ideas
Of leaving no mess
Has disappeared

No longer able to paint
A beautiful ending
With long lazy brush strokes
Upon a pastel canvas
No
Now it will be
Something shocking
Something horrific
Splatter pattern artwork
Cover their hands in red
Catch them
Of guard
Stunningly shocking
As will be
The memory

Escapist

Across a sea of dreams
With gentle black water
Soothingly lapping at the shore
In a world devoid of light
I reside

Your world is
Multi colored banners of abandon
Planned to perfection promises
Poised to strike poses
Smiling hopeful happiness
And I do not belong

Standing upon a stairway
With no where to go
Nothing feels as safe
As the solitary of this stairwell
Until someone comes
Footfalls echo
Long before they slide beside me
Taking away my safety
Leaving me not so alone
With a scowl and a look
I do not belong

Night time turn out
Sitting quietly
In the solitude of the car stereo
Until the blazing lights
Of some lonesome officer
Illuminate everything I wish to hide
My face frozen in the light
I know he can see me
This person I do not want to be
Accusing questions
I do not belong

I just need some deep dark place
Devoid of light
With only the soothing waters
To keep me sane
A constant sound
In a complete darkness
Where no reflections show
The person I am
I need a place
A place I belong

The End

The cold of alone

Playing fingers through the smoke
As it curls
From the wick
Breathing in the fumes
Of the kerosene soaked sheets
The tearstained pillow
Wrapping comfort around chaos
So familiar
Safe
Welcoming

The cold of alone

With a final breath
The candle slips
Falls free
In a moment of glory
I close my eyes to the rush
The sound of the flames
Sucking the air from my lungs
The tears of happiness
Evaporate instantly

Eternal warmth
So foreign
Safe
Welcoming

Envelope me in flames