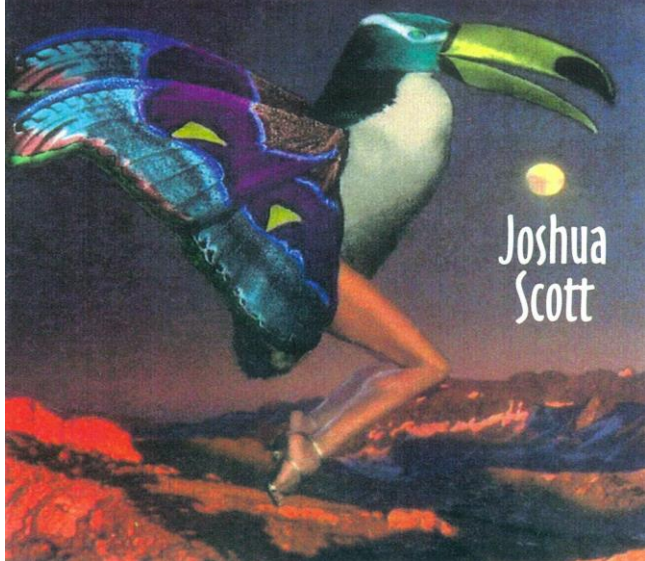


# Blood Into Rain



Joshua  
Scott

# RED BIKINI

Far away, long ago  
I was living in a bungalow  
I was drifting, high and dry  
I was just another lonely guy  
I couldn't see it, I couldn't hear it  
I turned around, found the Holy Spirit  
in a red bikini on a black sand beach

God was stunning/God looked good  
God had everything you hoped She would  
easy smile, honest eyes  
the kind of woman you could idolize  
I was overwhelmed with joy & bliss  
when God winked & blew me a kiss  
in a red bikini on a black sand beach

She said, "This is nothing, child's play  
You should see me in a negligee  
There's holiness in the dark and vile  
There's holiness everywhere, my child"  
And so it was I was restored  
To my surprise, I found the Lord  
in a red bikini on a black sand beach

You might find God at the gates of hell  
or in the lobby of a cheap motel  
or some cathedral with leaded pane  
or face down in the pouring rain  
I fall down to my knee  
to be nearer my God to thee  
in a red bikini on a black sand beach

# IF I RULED THE WORLD

Strangers would smile back  
and ballerinas would direct traffic  
and God would walk the streets  
with a gold badge and a German Shepherd  
and big police would stop the hands of time  
long enough for me to make you mine  
if I ruled the world

Angels would sleepwalk  
from the west coast to New York City  
and politicians would play the cello  
and campaign in string quartets  
and the loneliest man in the world  
would take a bride  
and I'd be there  
and you'd be by my side  
if I ruled the world

Every night would bring the circus  
with good and evil on trampoline  
and the two-headed lady  
would be laughing and crying  
and the eyes of the moon  
would be aqua blue  
and marionettes would be cut down  
and set free  
and I'd belong to you  
and you to me  
if I ruled the world

# BLOOD INTO RAIN

I smell your skin upon my sheet  
I dream you in the dripping heat  
all my naked angels writhe in vain  
they know you've turned my blood into rain

She tied me to her father's bed  
and climbed me till her fingers bled  
she rhymed me with pleasure & with pain  
till I begged her to turn my blood into rain

Red wine down the small of her back  
like a red river in a forest so black  
I drink until I feel no pain  
she moans as she turns my blood into rain

Take away the strange caress  
let me suckle emptiness  
turn all my bones into cocaine  
it's too late  
she's turned my blood into rain

# IF I KNEW THEN

I think I'll sit here for awhile  
where the moon is hanging high  
and let these memories compete  
like hungry children at my feet  
who cannot be denied

My father said to me, "Now, son,  
youth is wasted on the young"  
but the world was waiting like a bride  
I just assumed she'd take my side  
when troubled times would come

but fate is a crooked line  
a fair weather friend of mind  
who led me here but I don't know how  
little things add up and then  
you're twenty years down the road & saying  
if I knew then what I know now

Love can be a cruel duet  
when one can't forgive & one can't forget  
that kind of love can make you feel  
like you've been shackled to a wheel  
of emotional roulette  
every victory, each mistake  
sends a ripple through the lake  
did I sail or did I drown  
or drift away without a sound?  
sometimes it's hard to say

I think I'll sit here for awhile  
where the moon is hanging high  
and let these memories compete  
like hungry children at my feet  
who will not be denied

# TOO ALONE

I've been exiled to the Island of Bone  
they tied my head to a cloud  
my ankle to a stone  
they put a camera in the middle of my head  
now my dreams burn holes  
in the bottom of my bed  
I'm too alone

On the night that she left  
I laid on the roof  
flanked by angels I could not move  
they feasted for hours  
they were very well fed  
while I fixated  
on a crust of bread  
I'm too alone

Stray cat hisses through a crack in the sky  
angels blow kisses when I walk by  
but my hands are empty and my eyes are wet  
and you cannot recover when you cannot forget

The cradle keeps rocking  
but my baby is gone  
I scatter her clothes  
on my moonlit lawn  
and I pray for speed from God above  
so I may outrun the dogs of love  
I'm too alone

# I FORGIVE YOU (For Loving Me)

I forgive the moon for hanging up so high  
I forgive the rain for falling from the sky  
I forgive your tenderness  
the way you look in a long, black dress  
& I'll forgive you, my love, eventually  
for loving me

I was in a hole I could not see out  
and I walked my soul on a leash of doubt  
I was used to a restlessness  
That's just the way it was, I guess  
and I forgive you for setting my wolves free  
and for loving me

It was easier never knowing you  
it was day to day  
I was getting through  
now I have this jewel hung around my neck  
and so much to lose  
am I incorrect?

I forgive the day we met  
I'll forgive but I won't forget  
I'll forgive you, my love,  
as I live & breathe  
for loving me

# THIS MUST BE TRUE LOVE

She loves me\she loves me not  
I am distracted\I am distraught  
I was a loner\now I'm a twin  
I was without\now I'm within

I'm under a river can't you see it?  
I'm under a spell can't you feel it?  
I straddle the gate this must be true love  
between heaven and hell  
I rejoice I rejoice  
this must be true love

Testing, testing/are you there?  
yes, my love, I am everywhere  
the sad reflection in the flask  
the sanguine smile beneath the mask

Every love looks the same  
from a distance like sheets of rain  
but every love (when you squint)  
is as solitary as a fingerprint



# RUNWAYS OF THE HEART

I remember your little hands around the moon  
I remember your Polynesian smile  
I remember how you doubted my love  
with the heart of a woman and the soul of a child  
I remember our war for salvation  
I remember my bloodless coup  
I never knew that kind of forgiveness  
I never knew anyone like you

I celebrate the day I met you  
where is the man who could forget you?  
I've been lost and I've been found  
I've always been accelerating down  
the runways of your heart

I remember the wind on the island  
I remember the sky in your eyes  
I remember your muted rebellion  
just underneath your little girl disguise  
I remember a ribbon of opera  
I remember you cool and risqué  
I remember the things worth remembering  
I let all the rest just fade away

# WALK/DON'T WALK

She spends half of her time in a state of shock  
and the other half amused  
by the steady, deafening hands of the clock ticking like a fuse  
she's suspended by the strands of joy  
that cut into her wrists  
and she's fast asleep at the wheel of her life  
heading for the ditch she stands before the signal light  
a play runs through her head  
where the heroine changes every line  
and walks off stage instead  
she can't decide on anything  
and the sign reads "Walk\Don't Walk"

He ambles through the avenue  
he's a box within a box and he opens one only to find  
another one that's locked  
a woman rents a spacious room in the corner of his soul  
he walks the grounds and sweeps the halls  
though she left them long ago  
he stands before the signal light  
and his life runs through his head  
his memories forge a guillotine hanging by a thread  
he stands without conviction  
and the sign reads "Walk\Don't Walk"

Some are born to passion/others born to float  
for some the aim is certain/for others so remote  
the deck is stacked with Queens and Jacks  
and every card is wild every dream is a slot machine  
and we play them for a while we stand before the signal lights  
with visions in our heads  
but to love and love again you must remember to forget  
and the message in the bottle reads  
"Walk\Don't Walk"

# WHEREVER YOU GO

I am your man  
I am your curse  
I am wedded to your memory  
for better or worse  
whatever you do  
this much I know  
you take me with you  
wherever you go

And when you're alone  
and the stars are high  
like the eyes of lonely angels  
that blink in the sky  
if you look for me  
I hope you know  
that I'll be looking for you  
wherever you go

and don't ask me how  
my love, I don't know  
but I'd find you somehow  
wherever you go

Love is a wound  
that never heals  
a thief who leaves behind  
as much as he steals  
and in the end  
we are betrothed  
and bound from within  
wherever we go

# IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

In a phone booth in the middle of nowhere  
I reconnect with you, my friend  
a crow lands upon a billboard  
and says your world is coming to an end  
I am a man on the verge of control  
standing on top of the world's biggest hole  
I can hear you breathe  
and it helps me to breathe  
in the middle of nowhere

I celebrate my independence  
by holding hands with loneliness  
I am drunk with contradiction  
undeserving, I confess  
I am a man at a fork in the road  
anchored in place by the weight of his load  
but I can hear you breathe  
and it helps me to breathe  
in the middle of nowhere

The road I'm on is paved with silver  
the road I crave is paved with gold  
no man every changed direction  
without a hand like yours to hold  
I am a man starving for light  
cornered and drenched in darkness tonight  
but I can hear you breathe  
and it helps me to breathe  
in the middle of nowhere

# MY HAPPY HOME

There's a stranger at the door  
of my happy home  
and he has my eyes  
he has my flesh and bone  
he's turning all my loved ones  
into stone  
there's a stranger at the door  
of my happy home

I was walking  
down the middle of the road  
when I fell into  
an imaginary hole I  
lost the one I love  
but I saved my soul  
I was walking  
down the middle of the road

There's a stranger at the door  
of my happy home  
where contentment lived  
dissatisfaction roams  
you can spin your wheels  
until your wheels are gone  
so says the stranger  
at the door of my happy home

# FORGOTTEN YOU

I have forgotten  
the way you arched your back  
the way you smiled  
when your lips were cracked  
your twisted logic  
your broken laugh  
your tears of anguish  
in the aftermath  
I have forgotten you

I don't remember  
our cemetery day  
your nakedness  
took my breath away  
I don't remember the sound of rain  
like metronomes  
on your windowpane  
I have forgotten you

The bones of angels  
glitter in my hands I  
speak a language  
no one understands  
I peer down into the hole  
that you shoveled out of my soul  
I have forgotten you

# THE WAR

The big guns are quiet and the river is red  
soldiers are lying in fields of grass  
everything echoes down valleys of rage  
where renegade children are sleeping at last  
in the war against time  
in the war for salvation  
in the wars of love  
in everyone's eyes it's the war

Bands of rebels scour the mountains  
where prayers are launched into blood red skies  
the powers that be poison the waters  
and glean information from beautiful spies

in the war for the soul  
in the war for redemption  
in the wars of love  
in everyone's eyes it's the war

Surrender, they cry, from the cliffs of temptation  
surrender, they plead, with their guns held high  
but nothing will last and everything matters  
and the gods are indifferent  
and no one knows why

in the war against time  
in the war for forgiveness  
in the wars of love  
in everyone's eyes it's the war

# FOR SIMONE

You were always on a fence between a joke and a tragedy  
and I was always looking up  
to find you looking back down at me  
I was never that impressed  
but I was drawn by your inner light  
that cut its way through the dark  
like a wounded little satellite  
I remember how your dad used to sit in that rumpled chair  
and how he never said a word  
with the ghost of your sister there  
I remember how you tried leaving flowers at his feet  
and I remember how you cried ten years later on Elizabeth  
Street, with your wall to wall smile  
and your museum of Polaroids  
half woman, half child  
paralyzed by too much choice  
and your piano hands  
and your cool condescending look  
and your longing for a man  
who could give more than you took  
you were laughing at the stars  
from the bottom of a wishing well  
you were only who you are  
another angel in a living hell  
I can see you looking up  
from the pages of a thousand books  
that swirl inside your head  
like red water through a clear blue brook  
there's a beachside hotel  
where your soul ought to be with its elite clientele  
and the view from the balcony  
and the signs on the doors read  
"You can visit but you can't elope"  
and so they walk along your shoreline  
as you watch them through a telescope  
twenty years and still branded  
with the mark of the femme fatale  
twenty years and still laughing  
through the tears of a painted doll



# BEGINNING OF THE END

This is where the road divides  
this is where we must decide  
this is when the whistle blows  
one must stay and one must go  
this is the beginning  
of the end

There's a shadow on the sun  
there's an old dream come undone  
color us in shades of guilt  
abandoning the world we built  
this is the beginning  
of the end

I never meant to break your crown  
I never meant to let you down  
may my soul be damned  
but I am only who I am  
this is the beginning  
of the end

# STEER A WIDE PATH

If you've never been unraveled if  
your soul is a fragile little thing if  
your ideals are in mint condition  
better steer a wide path around love

If you prefer your wings unruffled  
if you believe in perfection, son  
if your nature is unforgiving  
better steer a wide path around love

better steer a wide, wide path  
better steer a wide, wide path  
better steer a wide, wide path  
around love

If your crime is a misdemeanor  
if your faith can't take a punch  
if your heart has a fence around it  
better steer a wide path around love

If you've never learned to juggle  
if your vows are made of glass  
if you can't spit in the face of trouble  
better steer a wide path around love  
to live without it is to get no rest  
from the pounding hoofbeats  
of your loneliness

See the ones with fame and fortune  
see the ones with plastic youth  
remember this: it all means nothing  
when you steer a wide path around love

# YOU HATE ME TOO MUCH

I used to be the one that you loved  
my little finger fit right in your glove  
but now you scowl and recoil at my touch  
I'd ask you out  
but you hate me too much

Your little sister looks a lot like you  
you never should've introduced us two  
while you were out  
she came through in the clutch  
I could explain  
but you hate me too much

Don't be bitter and don't be blue  
You know I'll always be  
thinking of you  
while I'm making love to some other lush  
Your turn me on  
when you hate me so much