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Twelve Conversations



SONGS
FROM
THE
MOVIE

BIG BANG

In the beginning
there was nothing at all
but a black aching emptiness
that hung like a shawl
over everything
the unblinking eye of nothingness
swallowed the sea and the sky
and then out of nowhere
a fiery handful of stars were flung
the dust and the ash
the holy primordial flash and drum

Big Bang

In the beginning
soldiers of light
threaded their colors
into the night
and stardust shivered like dew
an endless unfolding
that brought me to you
the light in your eyes
the language of all that we know
of love
from nothing, a life
the infinite echoing of
Big Bang

SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS

We're waiting around
for something to happen
we're waiting around
for the sun to rise
we've been waiting so long
guess we'll wait a little longer
though the signal is weak
it can only grow stronger

something always happens

I'm way underground
where light cannot follow
it's always today
it's never tomorrow

if God above
were a Golden Retriever
nothing but love
I'd be a believer

because
Something always happens

I'm counting on you
my only companion
I'm counting on you
my favorite thing
to emerge from a dream
and into my vision
and give me the fuel
to write and to sing
because

something always happens

DOROTHY

Dorothy
I really like your shoes
you could click away your blues in a flash
it's easy as counting up to three
take you where you long
to be
and the trees may resent you
and the monkeys track you down
but Dorothy
I really like your shoes
Dorothy
I like your cotton dress
though a little, I confess
out of style
Dorothy
don't be gone too long
we miss you here at home
when you're gone
your eyes combine deep colors
your hair a lovely mess
but Dorothy
I like your cotton dress
Dorothy
I like your open mind
the way your every thought unwinds
Tell me
would you really want to leave
such a beautiful reprieve
behind?
I am permanently smitten
by your temporary smile
Dorothy
won't you stay with me
a while?

RING ROAD

No chance of a sunflower
the weather changes every hour
I can't recall where I
put my walking stick
life runs in a circular motion
like a current in the ocean
off the thin grey shore
of Reykjavik
I'm on Ring Road
rolling down Ring Road
I'm on Ring Road
forever on Ring Road
in the morning we departed
two days later
back where we started
like shadow hands
on a sun dial
looking out at the stark terrain
through a window in the rain
828 miles
around Ring Road

COMPLICATED GIRL

Her youth's on a fade
but she's tinged with grace and glory
her eyes pull you in
like the very first line of a story
of betrayal and consequence
never reaching for cheap sentiment
you'll want to read her twice
she's fire and she's ice
she's a complicated girl
She can pace a room standing still
or dream without sleeping
she'll sift through your soul
until she finds something worth keeping
like a shell from the windy coast
you can hear the ocean roar
when you hold her up close
for better or for worse
she's a blessing and a curse
she's a complicated girl
A casual smile
and suddenly you're captured
in the blink of an eye
she'll turn your indifference to enrapture
she says success is a state of mind
she's easy to lose and hard to define
a weaker man no doubt
would be better off without
a complicated girl

THE NEXT THREE DAYS

My baby is gone
gone for a while
and I'm walking alone
through a memory maze
may sound pathetic
may sound dumb
but I'm just trying to make it
though the next three days
I'm staring at clocks
moving in slow motion
somebody tell me
it's only a phase
unless I can fathom a time machine
I'm not going to make it
through the next three days
I'm riding a car
on the misery train
counting the lines
to the end of the page
I'm under the water
tied to the tracks
caught in the grip
of the next three days

CURIOUS

How do you walk
the way you walk?
how do you leave them all
outlined in chalk?
how do you find
a way to slip
out of routine's vicious grip?
how do you cry
inside a smile?
how do you die
just for a while?
how do you crawl
out of the wreck
with perfect hair
and self respect?
I'm curious
How do you dance
in empty rooms?
how do you shine a light
through catacombs?
how do you spill
the holy wine
and somehow still invoke
the light devine?
How do you skate
smooth and precise
across a thousand miles
of broken ice?
how do you scale
frustration's wall
without the slightest risk
that you may fall?
I'm curious

A MIGHTY DISTANCE

You stand at a mighty distance
you hang in the dark like the moon
you build these beautiful ruins
you walk out of a room too soon
You stand among the living
but you hold hands with the past
I leave jewels on your doorstep
you mistake them for pieces of glass
I know none of this matters, I know you'll never change
It's in your restlessness
It's in your soul, I guess
can you hear a thing I say
when you stand that mighty distance away?
You drive into the water
off the Bridge of Broken Dreams
You are the Prodigal Daughter
up against the time machine
I know none of this matters, I know you'll never change
It's in your restlessness
It's in your soul, I guess
can you hear a thing I say
when you stand that mighty distance away?
Somewhere we were undamaged
somewhere we were ideal
now we hurry through places
the same places we used to kneel
you know all of this matters
you know we always change
It's in our restlessness
it's in our souls, I guess
it's in the things we say
when we stand that mighty distance away

WEDDING IN THE RAIN

Our love is a jet plane
that cannot land
our love is a great book
universally banned
our love is a compass
without a north
our love is et cetera
and so forth
Our love is an angel
speaking in tongues
our love is a ladder
with invisible rungs
our love is wild
without a name
our love is simply
a crying shame
I can see us there
floating in mid air
running with a cane
a wedding in the rain
Our love is an arrow
into the sun
our love is tragic
but we're having fun
our love is a movie
in black and white
no one is watching
but that's all right

LIGHT ON THE STAIRS

I can still recall
a northern tree standing tall
and you in those rooms
with colored walls
and when you spoke to me
I felt so strangely at ease
and everything was new
every night
I wanted you there
the light on the stairs
would dim every time
someone came and passed on by
and then they dimmed once again
and I turned to see you
Circles of friends
we had so many back then
and I was so alone and needing you
somewhere in that time
we left those people behind
and all the past was through
and every night...
And here I wait for you
and I guess I wait for myself too
to feel that new again
and I hope it's soon
I'm so alone without you
and I still remember when
every night...

THAT'S WHY I LOVE HER

We could always talk away
the better part of any day
from the spell she cast
I never will recover
I know it sounds clichéd
but her colors never fade
I don't need anything from anybody else
that's why I love her
People see us through a lens
of envy and coincidence
to catch so rare a glimpse
of some jewel they've discovered
she runs with her eyes shut
like a poem through my blood
naked all the time
no matter what she wears
that's why I love her
fast asleep she takes my hand
her love as deep as instinct
I'm a lucky man
The way she takes me to
places I never knew
the way she wins the war
one way or the other
the way she tells me straight
that our love is not too late
she's everywhere at once
sleeping in my arms
that's why I love her

ABSOLUTE

The sun is yellow
the sky is blue
she's not as simple as that
a broken mirror gives a broken view
her world is flat
if you wander to her very edge
you'll need a parachute
her faith is subject to
prevailing winds yet
her love is absolute
Every statue has living eyes
and the future is today
I need the truth, I need the lies
to find my way
I play my cards close to the vest
I play doubt like a flute
my faith is scattered
from east to west
but
my love is absolute
the sun is yellow
the sky is blue
it's as simple as that
give me time to spend with you
that's where it's at
I'm not looking for a plastic rose
that will never take root
I'd rather be with you here and now
in the absolute

IF YOU'RE BUILDING A WOMAN

If you're building a woman
you best take your time
the blueprints are crucial
so keep them in mind
make sure her windows
let in the light
if you're building a woman
you should do it right
If you're building a woman
with water and clay
give her a big dose
of forgiveness and sway
give her the option
to leave or to stay
if you're building a woman
it's better that way
If you're building a woman
make the foundation deep
cathedral ceilings
leaded and steep
don't cut the corners
don't move too fast
if you're building a woman
build her to last

LONG STORY SHORT

With your fingers you trace
every line on my face
and we're driving on yesterday's wheels
there's a hawk in a tree and its eyes follow me
as if it knows how it feels to try to explain
why I'm drawn to the rain
in your eyes
but I have to resort
to the long story short
it's love and that's all
that I was looking for
that's the long story short
There were ghosts in the road
in the dark they would glow
and I found myself in the ditch
there were flowers that bloomed
on a cold distant moon
and an angel with the soul of a witch
I encountered a slave who asked me to save her
and all I could do was resort
to the long story short
it's love and that's all
that I was looking for
the long story short
I return in my mind to the scene of the crime
to the wars that were doomed to be lost
I squint through the haze of 10,000 days
of a personal holocaust
but nothing is fixed the signals are mixed
and there's nothing that words won't distort
but the long story short
is it was love and that's all
that I was looking for
that's the long story short