

THE DIRT AND THE STARS



MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER

1. Farther Along and Further In

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Electric Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

Ethan Johns: Mandolin, Continuum

Farther along and further in
I've never gone, I've never been
But I feel a shift, a turning in
I've never felt before

Farther along and further in
There's a crack in the armor, an opening
My heart seeing out and my eyes see in
Where they've never seen before
 what I chased that couldn't be caught
 was I lost I shouldn't have fought
 everything that can't be taught

Farther along and further in
I think I'm finally listening
To some kind of spirit murmuring
I've never heard before
 hold the world and trust the wait
 the road back home is never straight
 bang the drum and keep the faith

Time, memory, love and grace

The kindred eyes in a strangers face
lead down to the deeper place

Farther along and further in
We're atoms and stardust circling
catching the light then we're gone again
Farther along and further in

2. It's Ok To Be Sad

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Hammond Organ, Piano

Ethan Johns: Electric Guitar, Percussion

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar, 12 String Acoustic Guitar

It's ok to be sad, it's alright to be lonely
You won't always feel bad
Somebody told me

These feelings like weather, they come and
they go
Today I felt better, tomorrow who knows
 Could there be healing instead
 Instead of breaking I'm hoping
 That the cracks beginning to spread

Is me breaking open
And if I let everything in
The shadows as well as the light
How else could I know I'm alright
How else would I know

It's ok to be tired, fuck all the excuses
Whatever's required, there's no day that's useless
What's hollow and empty
What's lost and undone
What can and what can't be
Is how you become

Could there be beauty instead
Instead of breaking you're hoping
That the cracks beginning to spread
Is the way you break open
And if you let everything in
The shadows as well as the light
How else could you know you're alright
How else would you know

Instrumental chorus

Could there be healing instead
Instead of breaking we're hoping
That the cracks beginning to spread
Is the way we break open

Could there be loving instead
Instead of breaking we're hoping
That the cracks beginning to spread
Is the way we break open

And when we let everything in
The shadows as well as the light
That's how we know we're alright
That's how we know

3. All Broken Hearts Break Differently

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums, Percussion

Nick Pini: Bass VI, Moog, Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Ethan Johns: Electric Guitar

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

You look around with both eyes clear
How long it took to arrive right here
Where what you want and what you need
Is little more than the air you breathe

Between blades of grass or grains of sand
Nothing ever stays in your hands

Chorus:

All broken hearts break differently
Some crash and burn, some go quietly
Love only knows there's no apology
All broken hearts break differently

Those things we'd change and still we'd yearn
A dream not chased, pages still unturned
You'd wring your hands, you'd twist the knife
Trade anything for someone else's life

But like truth to dare and push to shove
We risk everything when it comes to love

Chorus:

All broken hearts break differently
Some slip the chains
Some throw away the key
Love only knows which one you will be
All broken hearts break differently
Love only knows which one you will be
All broken hearts
All broken hearts
All broken hearts break differently

4. Old D-35

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Ethan Johns: Drums

Jeremy Stacey: Hand Chimes

Nick Pini: Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

As long as there's a sky
Turning into darkness after day
as long as you and I are standing
in a photograph in a frame

As long as there's a vine of summer squash
And peach pie on a sill
As long as there's still time and room to chase it
to try and hold it still
 An old hat in the hallway
 The way the light turns gold
 Twilight on a fall day
And the sound of your old D-35

As long you appear in my dreams
To show me how it was
As long as I am here to shake a fist
At the universe above
 A shot glass filled with whisky
 A screen door that won't close
 loneliness and mystery
 and the sound of your old D-35

We find the one we're meant for
if we're truly meant to be
As if fate's in charge
and all we have to do is call on destiny

As long as there are songs
That sound like rain on an old terne roof
As long as we belong to another time
Before we knew how much we'd lose

As long as there's a sky
Turning into darkness after day
As long as you and I are frozen
In a photograph in a frame
 A cigarette's ash glowing
 An endless stretch of road
 Everything worth knowing
 And the sound of your old D-35

5. American Stooge

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar
Jeremy Stacey: Drums
Nick Pini: Electric Bass
Matt Rollins: Piano, Hammond Organ
Ethan Johns: Electric Guitar, Percussion
Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

He was a small town southern boy born and bred
A credit to his hardworking mother and dad
A clutch of diplomas and a uniform
Served his country then he shipped back home

Hung out his shingle but it didn't take
He had real big dreams that he could not shake
Left that town with his hand on his heart
Ready for his oath and his life to start
 Ah he just can't lose, he's all over the news
 batting sweet baby blues, it's the American way
 to hell with the truth, he's sucking up to the dude
 He's an American stooge,
 and maybe he likes it that way

Once he stood at a fork in the road
Scratching his head which way to go
Power on his left, conscience on his right
A soul in the balance in a knock down fight

When he's not kissing the ring and leveling threats
He's proud to be your favorite hypocrite

Polishing sound bites for the folks at home
a moth to a flame and a microphone

Ah I just can't lose, I'm all over the news
batting sweet baby blues,
baby, it's the American way
To hell with the truth, I'm sucking up to the dude
I'm an American stooge, and baby I like it that way

We all fall down, we all fall down
instrumental

Ah I just can't lose
And to hell with the truth
I'm an American stooge
and baby I like it that way
Yeah I'm starting to ooze
From my head to my shoes
I'm an American stooge
Don't care if there's hell to pay

Ah I just can't lose, I'm all over the news
batting my sweet baby blues,
baby it's the American way
to hell with the truth, I'm sucking up to the dude
I'm an American stooge, and baby I like it that way
I like it that way
I like it that way

6. Where The Beauty Is

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar
Jeremy Stacey: Drums
Nick Pini: Electric Bass
Matt Rollins: Piano, Hammond Organ
Duke Levine: Electric Guitar
Ethan Johns: Percussion

The crooked line beneath the paint
From faraway it looks straight
Where practiced hands betray a shake
That's where the beauty is

The mark upon your skin revealed
Where injury and pain were sealed
But a scars the place where you were healed
That's where the beauty is
Walk with me and hold my hand
There's so much we don't understand

The shattered pieces of a bowl
Filled and fused with dust and gold
in brokenness we are whole
That's where the beauty is
walk with me and hold my hand
there's so much we won't understand

All that's buried in your heart
The cold and lonely, hopeless part

Dig down deeper and find the spark
that's where the beauty is

7. Nocturne

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Ethan Johns: Continuum

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

It was late in the summer and the house was asleep
Except for you in the attic under the eaves
The windows were open, it was lamplight and stars
Lamplight and stars from above

You could hear a car passing way down the street
a neighbor's dog barking, and the wind in the trees
and you're the king of your castle and of all
you survey
at the end of this day that was

You thought of your children just down the stairs
Your wife sleeping deeply, the quotidian cares
some days it's easy, some days it's hard
some days it's so hard to be loved

You look like your old man when he was your age
Stepping back from the mirror, more surprised
than amazed

Same salt at the temples, same faraway eyes
a disguise you recognize now

You wish he'd been around more when you
were a kid

You wish he had told you so much more than he did
And all these regrets and they're still handed down
from father to son somehow

and what doesn't get lost in the numbing routine
what isn't a burden or casualty
you're sworn to protect from indifference and rust
what indifference and rust will allow

It's not very often but it happens sometimes
You can feel something pulling like the moon
pulls the tides

Too strong to outswim and too deep to outlast
The past like a wave on the sea

We're all trying to live up to some oath to
ourselves

Try holding back time but it will not be held
No king has the power, no mortal the skill
But still you keep trying to see

What's waiting for you at the end of your days
the wars you inherit, the truces you make

the riches you squandered, the love that you
earned
and the nocturne you heard in a dream

8. Secret Keepers

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Electric Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

Ethan Johns: Electric Guitar, Percussion

Give it up or go down with it
A secret's a boat tossed on a wave
All these years you've been living with it
And it's fucked you up every which way
Secret keepers are lost and found
Spare a little kindness when you meet someone
You never really know what they're carrying around
Every day is a battle that's never won

It's not safe to keep it hidden
and it's not safe to let it out
You just learn to do its bidding
as it blows you up from the inside out
Secret keepers are lost and found

Spare a little kindness when you meet someone
You never really know what they're carrying around
Is it a live grenade or a loaded gun
Out of sight, out of questions
With your truest friend depression
whispering me too true confession
No relief and no redemption

Secret keepers we're all the same
Looking for some kindness when we meet
someone
We get years of practice camouflaging shame
But the armor we're wearing weighs a ton
Secret keepers are lost and found
Spare a little kindness when you meet someone
You never really know what they're carrying
around...

9. Asking For A Friend

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Nick Pini: Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

How do you tell someone it's not working
Admitting it's because of you, not them

Can silence be a crueller way to hurt them
Sorry, I'm just asking for a friend

How do you explain when it feels finished
You've been trying but no longer can pretend
Why does the fact of loving you
leave them diminished
Sorry, I'm just asking for a friend

Don't worry there's nobody else
I know I haven't been myself
I guess I'm just wondering aloud
Reaching for some words that help
To lead us back to how we felt
The things love has always been about

Have you ever wondered why you feel so empty
You've been around this block,
now here you are again
Wondering why some know so little
and others plenty
Sorry, I'm just asking for a friend
[Instrumental verse]

Don't worry there's not someone else
I know I don't talk much myself
But now I'm just wondering aloud
Searching for some words that help
To lead me back to when I felt
The things love is supposed to be about

When there's nothing left to say,
how do you say it
When there's nowhere else to go
Have you reached the end
Will this song always remind me
when I play it
Sorry, I'm just asking for a friend

10. Everybody's Got Something

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Double Bass

Matt Rollins: Piano

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar, Mandolin

Ethan Johns: Mandolin

Everybody's got something babe
Everybody's dreams will someday fade
Some are wishing they were someone else
Some just want to be by themselves

Some are trying to tear it down
Some are shaky on solid ground
Some confuse guilt and blame
They can't admit when they feel ashamed

You're not the first, you're not the last
It could be worse, this will pass
I know you hurt, you hurt so bad
But a light comes shining to stitch and mend
One day you'll find you're you again
It takes some time

Some are watching the enemy
Surprise kid, it's you and me
Some keep shouting and no one hears
While the fires burn and the birds disappear

Some are yearning for something real
Saying they know just how I feel
Some are waiting for a sign
Some keep praying it comes in time

I'm not the first, I'm not the last
It could be worse, this will pass
You know it hurts, it hurts so bad
But a light comes shining to stitch and mend
Someday I'll feel like myself again
It takes some time

Some are dying to be loved
Some are hiding what they're frightened of
Some will breach every vow
Some will always feel lost somehow

Some are trying the best they know

Before it's over and time to go
So save the judging for another day
Everybody's got something babe
Everybody' got something babe
Everybody's got something babe
Everybody's got something babe
Everybody's got something babe

11. Between The Dirt And The Stars

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

Jeremy Stacey: Drums

Nick Pini: Electric Bass

Matt Rollins: Hammond Organ, Piano

Ethan Johns: Electric Guitar, Percussion

Duke Levine: Electric Guitar

Try to conjure up a night
of jessamine upon the air
I'm 17 and in a car,
ready to ride anywhere
This summer night sticks to my skin
And the beer's gone to my head
My arm hangs out the window
And I can't hear what you just said –
Over the radio
wild wild horses

everything you'll ever know
is in the choruses

Everything that made you whole
Everything that broke your heart
Whatever called you by your soul
And piece by piece took you apart
Every spark you ever chased
And all the faith love robbed you of
Every light the dark erased
And every cause that gave you up
turn on the radio
Wild wild horses
Everywhere we'd ever go
Is in the choruses

Standing on the porch tonight
All I hear is a distant car
watching the fading light
between the dirt and the stars
between the rough and smooth
the easy and the hard
the lonely sound of loneliness
that's shaped just like my heart

Years will pass before we turn
to face the place where we come from
Years will pass before we learn
What time denies to everyone
And if we're lucky ghosts and prayers

Are company not enemies
I time travel straight back there
When you were singing back to me
Along with the radio
Wild wild horses
Everything we'll ever know
is in the choruses
Over the radio
Wild wild horses
Everywhere we'll ever go
Is in the choruses



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MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER THE DIRT AND THE STARS

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MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER | THE DIRT AND THE STARS

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- 2. It's Ok To Be Sad** 5:05
- 3. All Broken Hearts Break Differently** 4:42
- 4. Old D-35** 5:53
- 5. American Stooge** 6:05
- 6. Where The Beauty Is** 3:50
- 7. Nocturne** 6:16
- 8. Secret Keepers** 3:22
- 9. Asking For A Friend** 5:12
- 10. Everybody's Got Something** 5:19
- 11. Between The Dirt And The Stars** 7:42