

LARA HERSCOVITCH ★ HIGHWAY PHILOSOPHERS

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 4. CAREFUL PORCELAIN DOLL (3:14)
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Highway Philosophers

1. NOW HERE THIS

Now Here This
Now

Can I borrow you for a minute, maybe two or three
Bring the beautiful broken pieces from you and me now, here,
this
Now

Can we forget about the world for a minute maybe two or three
What used to be trades in for infinity here, this, now
Here

We can glitter, we can shine
Swallow tails on the telephone line
Waiting for the call to arrive with this, now, here
This

Lakeside icy edges thin
Bored of the shore but what if we fall in
Oh what then, oh what then, what now, here, this
Now

Some savored sadness 'til it won
We were climbing trees to catch a little more sun
Waiting for the future to come right here, this, now
Here

We can glitter, we can shine
Swallow tails on the telephone line
Waiting for the call came just in time it's this, now, here
This

Sure as the blackbird delivers spring
We will try and fail, try again
Little did we know that everything is now, right here, this
Right here, right now

2. ANGELS

Midnight parking lot, drink up
PBR in a paper cup
Shooting satellite, you say this night will change our luck

We're gonna float away, look down at the earth and wave
Jupiter's as nice a place as we've ever been

[chorus]
Calling everybody's angels...
Maybe they can finally change us, change us, angels
Friend and foe, for real for show
Weak and strong, right and wrong
Calling everybody's angels...

In the shadows of ashes and scars
We rush off to get what's ours
You say they aim at me and you
In the true light of the hunter's moon

We're gonna float away, look down at the earth and wave
Saturn is as nice a place as we've ever been

[chorus]
Calling everybody's angels
Maybe they can finally change us, change us, angels
Foe and friend, for real, pretend
Weak and strong, right and wrong
Calling everybody's angels...

Broke down on Damascus Road
Hours waiting to be towed
Reaping all the things we've sown
Traffic always stop and go

[chorus]
Calling everybody's angels...
Maybe they can finally save us, angels, angels
Calling everybody's angels
Maybe they can finally change us, change us, angels
Green and gray, brave, afraid
Weak and strong, right and wrong
Calling everybody's angels...



SHOOTING SATELLITE,
YOU SAY THIS NIGHT
WILL CHANGE OUR
LUCK

3. HIGHWAY PHILOSOPHERS

We are highway philosophers, we can drive
Alongside all the toughest truckers we ride gently through the night
We let our lives tick by in lollipop signs
Two-tenths of a mile at a time

We flew in yesterday on dragonfly wings
Came around the bend just in time to see this new day begin
One road not taken then the next, then the next, then the next
'Til we found ourselves standing right here in this gorgeous wilderness

[chorus]
We built our home in the philosopher's stone
Questions and promises to keep
And 100, 200, 3, 4, 500 highway miles to go before we sleep

We swim in concrete rivers and dark corners of our minds
Any given moment shine a light in there, don't know what you'll find
So many theories piled high
While we watch the tire pressure getting closer to the true meaning of life

Somewhere in our container there's a door to a field
Any time of day or night just say the word we'll get the landing gear
Try to make something clear
Maybe what we found, what we lost, all the blind spots or the cost
Of where we steer

[chorus]
We built our home in the philosopher's stone
Questions & promises to keep
And 100, 200, 3, 4, 500 highway miles to go

Well tomorrow never knows, and if it did it wouldn't tell
So there really is no way to say if this is going well
I drew a compass on my skin so when any fog rolls in
I know precisely where to begin

[chorus]
We built our home in the philosopher's stone
Promises & questions to keep
And 500, 600, 7, 8, 900 highway miles to go before we sleep

4 CAREFUL PORCELAIN DOLLS

I was gonna be a New York Yankee #9
Protect the left field from the third base line
Summer green grass chasing fly balls
Grandmothers giving careful porcelain dolls

I knew I could learn to hit a home run
Over every centerfield wall
Try not to argue terrible umpire calls
Grandmothers giving careful porcelain dolls

[chorus]
Paint by numbers in reverse
What life is asking, never time to rehearse
Major league above it all
I had no time to be a careful porcelain doll

Red wine, white dinner jacket before Labor Day
Silver candlesticks all in their rightful place
In a long white dress waltzing in a rented hall
Smiling like a careful porcelain doll

If he was orchids resting in a crystal glass
I was wild roses on a mountain pass
Saw the future in that crystal ball
And all I felt was careful porcelain doll

[chorus]
Paint by numbers in reverse
What life is asking, never time to rehearse
Wildflowers above it all
I had no time to be a careful porcelain doll

Ceramic and pearl
Pirouetting ballet tiny teacup world
Or rosewood, 6-string steel
Searching sawdust to figure out what I feel

[chorus]
In reverse, in reverse
What life is asking, never time to rehearse
I sprinted into the nearest brick wall
To break all remaining careful porcelain doll
Music above it all
I have no time to be a careful porcelain doll

5. YOU USA

River's rising, they don't care
Gonna climb aboard a rocket and leave us there
Where they led us to water and poisoned the well
Offer sincere apologies only if it sells

In the land of the free, full of cages and locks
Rusty family tractors sitting up on concrete blocks
From MLK Boulevard to Arrowhead Lane
Looks like we're living for redemption some other day
Hearts of clay, USA

They want the dollar like a bullet aches to leave a gun
While we try to honor the hallowed ground we're standing on
What do the disappearing footprints have to say
Every day after day after day
To me and you, you USA

We are underestimated, undeterred, here to stay
Pins in the rafters from the rally yesterday
Learning to look each other in the eye
Power grid's gone down so we live like fireflies
Don't look away, USA

Every shade of stained-glass window shard
Glued together, here we are
Looking out at the secret garden gate
And the billion silver wishes that didn't get away
From me and you, you USA
Me and you, you, you USA
You, you, you... USA



6. SAILING TO NEWFOUNDLAND

You heard the call of the ocean, where the wind and waves
Conspire their secrets and everything they will save
Packed up your questions, pushed off the shore
Drifted into the mist, searching for so much more

Harvest moon on the rise, hang on tight
Gonna be a hell of a ride

So c'mon step aboard begin
Wait for the moments the sails catch the wind
Where you're going takes the helm from where you have been
Sailing to Newfoundland

The long horizon was all you needed to know
You will find all the places where words wouldn't go
Unfurling the sails, untangling the ropes
The ocean will lift you as you lift your hope
Some friends cut the anchor, some sharpen the steel
Let the albatross go, take turns at the wheel

Harvest moon on the rise, hang on tight
Gonna be a hell of a ride

C'mon step aboard begin
Every sailor and conifer mast understands
Everything breaks 'til it learns how to bend

There will be lightning, hurricanes, all the risks you'll have to take
Trust in the treasure map brought you all this way

Signal lamp lit, stars are alright
The future breaks open just like the green and golden sky

With the harvest moon on the rise, hang on tight
This is the ride of your life

C'mon step aboard begin
Know the northern lights will welcome you in
And you don't want to wonder all that could've been
Sailing to Newfoundland
Newfoundland, back again



HARVEST MOON
ON THE RISE,
HANG ON TIGHT
GONNA BE A HELL
OF A RID E

7. FAULT LINES

I was racing caterpillars, fuzzy 3-2-1
There was no telling if any ever won
Wandered every direction, painting slow pictures toward the trees
Their distance increasing in tiny degrees

I grew accustomed to the indifference, California summer rain
Velveteen rabbit left outside again
Throwing pink rubber kickballs and gold frisbees all around
When they're floating can't feel the tremors on the ground

[chorus]
When you live on a fault line the ground's gonna shake
You watch, maybe worry, most of all you wait
You forget, you remember, when the signs start to show
You remember, remember you know – you learn to let go

Station wagon silence 'cause there's way too much to say
Maybe they knew to speak it was to notice there's no way
No way home from the campground, propane cookstove, sunfish lake
All the shifting of the pressure on tectonic plates

We sat in the backseat 3-2-1, wondered what's next
Empty echoes and the thinning of threads that connect
Caterpillar chrysalis stories, so many fairy tales
I still wonder what that summer measured on the Richter Scale

[chorus]
When you live on a fault line the ground's gonna shake
You watch, maybe worry, most of all you wait
You forget, you remember when the signs start to show
You remember, remember you know

Now tonight he's sleeping soundly on the sofa pullout bed
I'm down the hall dreaming next to the dog instead
Of aftershocks, landslides, how'd they get all the way here
So far, so far, so near

[chorus]
When you learn from earthquakes the ground's gonna give way
What you trust is the presence of so many seismic waves
You forget, you remember, when any sign starts to show
You remember your epicenter is letting go

8. SHINE SISTER SHINE

She said she used to love the way they all rely on her
But lately feels more obligation than she prefers
Round and round, 'round same circle every day
Isn't reimbursed, 93 million miles each way

Someplace always needs her, so much at stake
Someone's got to make sure all the roosters are awake

[chorus]
She's singing I don't want work, but they need daytime
I have to shine sister shine sister shine
No I don't want work, they need daytime
So I shine sister shine sister shine

Thought she'd start a new career, got some interviews
The clouds always covered for her, eclipses too
Five billion-year background on her resume
She lives in the Milky Way but is willing to relocate

She explained she's a star, travels at the speed of light
But the interviewer did not agree that she was qualified

[chorus]
She's singing now I'm back at work, they need daytime
I have to shine sister shine sister shine
No I don't want to work, they need daytime
So I shine sister shine sister shine

Then she remembered lilac, lemongrass, honeybees
Apple pie, butterflies, jasmine tea
Falling leaves, evergreens, smooth river stones
Front porch laughter and the silence of the snow
Warming baby porcupines still fit like a glove
Then they named a flower after her and she was in love
She could finally see – what she does is who she's born to be

[chorus]
She's singing I can't wait to work, they need daytime
I get to shine sister shine sister shine
Without me it would just be nighttime
So I shine sister shine sister shine



NO WAY HOME FROM THE
CAMPGROUND, PROPANE
COOKSTOVE, SUNFISH LAKE

9. CASTLE WALLS

Watching artists fill the Pantheon with angels
Feeling a little more hopeful myself
I was lost, looking for the Spanish Steps
You rolled up your canvas and offered your help

I let you take my hand
You said my wish would be your command
We were over before we even began
But why let that ruin a perfect plan

[chorus]
The castle walls are made of ice
You're a bonfire burning bright...

Sipping cold rose at your cousin's café
I was Audrey, you - Gregory Peck
We would make a perfect escape
You got the Vespa and we rode away

You said something in Italian
I pretended to understand
From the Mouth of Truth to the Trevi Fountain
Tossing in wishes, wishes again

[chorus]

I try to finish the things I start
But you're a messy painter with a messy heart
So I'm seven miles high through the Atlantic sky
Staring out this window into the dark

'Cause that could not be my home
And I'm getting better leaving well enough alone
So I step away from the whiskey step away from the phone
Sometimes that's just how it goes

[chorus]



THE TIGER WAS TIRED,
I WAS LAST IN LINE
HIS BIG MOUTH OPENED,
I STUCK MY HEAD INSIDE

10. THE TIGER & I

The job description said come get in line
If no traffic I might make it in time
Some skills required I did not possess
Bravery needed, I would try my best

Hours later they called my name
I prayed this would not be a big mistake
The tiger was tired, I was last in line
His big mouth opened, I stuck my head inside

[chorus]
We keep moving even when it makes no sense
No past, future just present tense
The fighting pieces make amends, we are free
To do our best; and let the highway do the rest

You are hired! sounded like a curse
I didn't want the job but I needed the work
Got a golden jacket, a red top hat
And a whip I knew I'd never use, I would not harm that cat

The big top caravan was a sight to see
The tiger and I became like family
One day the ringmaster wanted bigger feats
Said I would have to use the whip, it sells more seats

[chorus]

They locked the gates from the outside
But two giraffes gave us a ride
We cleared the fence in the middle of the night
Fired up the hot air balloon and climbed inside

Just goes to show you life can take a turn
The tiger's really tall so we got a convertible
Maybe we'll see you on the open road
He's a terrible driver but he's trying to learn

[chorus]

We keep moving even when it makes no sense
No past, future just present tense
The fighting pieces make amends, we are free
To be our best; and let the highway do the rest
We let the highway do the rest
Let the highway do the rest

11. RISE

The bells of Elmira are ringing no doubt's
Singing out everything is alright
But friends all is not well in our Empire tonight

The emperor's just what he seems
Standing by all the lies he believes
Oh say can you see
Can you tell they're all buying a bridge he will sell you today
The very same one he sold me yesterday
Remember yesterday

[chorus]

He thinks back to his childhood, Geppetto would never show
How he learned to build boys whose noses wouldn't grow
He lets others pull all the strings
Long as he's paid and they're kissing his... ring

Pinocchio's friends are great puppeteers
Using their skill to make love disappear
Sending smoke through the windows, under the doors
We didn't notice 'til we couldn't breathe anymore

[chorus]

The emperor's clear he just doesn't care
About you, about me, 'cause we're "them," over there
But I'm here to tell you the emperor's scared
He knows that we know there's no clothes, no hair
And his sordid history of... let's not go there

[chorus]

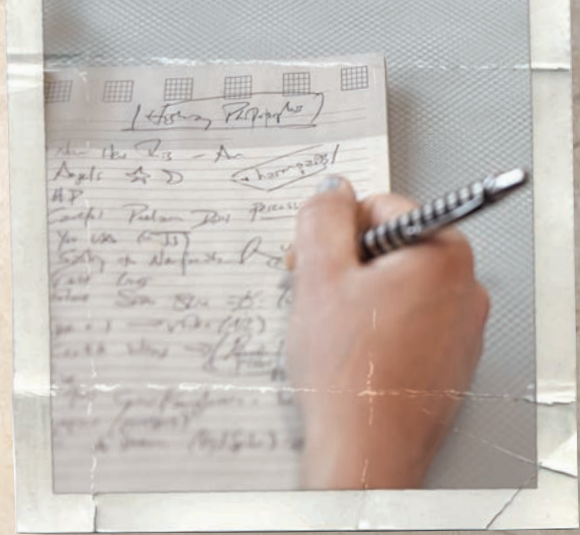
I know our faith is shaken, I feel it myself
The night feels longer than it's been
But we're better than, better than, better than him
And the sun will rise, rise again

[chorus]

Rise, rise again...



THERE WILL BE LIGHTNING,
HURRICANES, ALL THE RISKS
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE
TRUST IN THE TREASURE MAP
BROUGHT YOU ALL THIS WAY



12. IN YOUR CORNER

I'm in your corner, I've got your back
When your opponents are on the attack
When they lead with low blows, when they make you bleed
I'll bring the butterfly bandages, anything you need

[chorus]

Some days they beat you to the punch, referee is blind
Down for the count, bell doesn't ring in time
On the ropes, but strong as stone
Remember you're not in that ring alone

You move like water, duct tape and grit
Even in those rounds you're just not feeling it
Borrow my faith in you, look through my eyes
'Cause yours are black and blue, twice their normal size
I'll get the sunglasses & ice

[chorus]

Now spit out that mouth guard, this fight is through
I'm gonna throw in the towel, sometimes that's the best thing
to do

[chorus]

Some days they beat you to the punch, referee is blind
Down for the count, bell doesn't ring in time
On the ropes, but strong as stone
In your fancy shiny shorts, fast on your feet
Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee
There is always another way
We will live to fight another day
We'll live to fight another day

Sunglasses & ice...

13. WINGSPAN (ACOUSTIC)

Holy grail way over there
Nothing here but empty canyon, open air
On the ledge, at the edge someone tells me
If I can take that step the path appears

In the stillness, in my periphery
Something calling, wonder what it will be
Looking for the through line, leaning on any good sign
That tells me I am right on time

[chorus]

Working on my wingspan, doing all I can
Working on my wingspan to become who I am

I've spent my whole life fighting for my voice
Some say walk away but I never had that choice
I will stand with the poets, you know where to look
I will search for wisdom between the lines of any book

I will sing my life right out to
Windshield wipers, metronomes and you
All those things that help to get me through
Yeah I'm moving to a better view

[chorus]

No matter what the future brings
There is magic in the offering
Don't know when, and I don't know why
But somehow the ground beneath my feet turned into sky

[chorus]

Working on my wingspan, doing all I can
Yes I'm stretching out my wingspan to become who I am



I WILL SING MY LIFE
RIGHT OUT TO
WINDSHIELD WIPERS,
METRONOMES AND YOU

14. FROM A DREAM

Dona nobis pacem
Dona nobis pacem

She woke up from a dream into a dream
And in that dream
A little child sitting off in the distance
On a wooden bench in the fog
A little lonely
But everything, everything, everything would be alright

And the time, the time, the time, the time
While the child sat wondering, sometimes waiting
But not knowing what for
The mountain laurel bloomed white and pink as the strawberry
moon
Shining light onto a path to tomorrow

A spider crawled up and onto the page
As if to say this dream - your dream - is here, right now, with
me
With the child waiting in the fog
Wondering, a little lonely
But everything, everything, everything would be alright

The spider stood still, then went out into the day
Into that wilderness and all the wondering
All the wondering with the child in the fog
Waking up from a dream into a dream

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to
mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne
For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll take a cup of kindness yet for auld lang syne

And there's a hand, my trusty friend
And give a hand of thine
We'll take a right good will draught
For auld lang syne

Dona Nobis Pacem public domain [traditional]
Auld Lang Syne excerpts from poem by Robert Burns 1788, Roud
6294

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Dedicated to every highway philosopher making our world healthier, while wandering and pondering the meanings of life on pavement, gravel, dirt, pine needle and creative paths. As David Glaser (1956-2018) sang to us, "may the concrete river bring you home."

Lara



Credits

MUSICIANS:

Craig Akin - electric & upright bass

Lara Herscovitch - acoustic guitar, vocals, percussion

Joe Jencks: harmony vocals (You USA, Shine Sister Shine)

Brian Melick - percussion (You USA, Castle Walls, Wingspan [cajon])

Stephen Murphy - acoustic & electric guitar, mandolin, bass (Angels)

Adam Michael Rothberg - bass/guitar/keyboard (in Your Corner)

RECORDING / ENGINEERING:

Steve & Lara & Mixing - Murphy Recording, Bronx NY

Craig - Backbeat Sounds, Jersey City NJ

Joe - Turtle Bear Music, DeKalb IL

Brian - Uduboy Studio, Ravena NY

Adam - Mini Studio, Cambridge MA

MASTERING: Charlie Pilzer, Tonal Park, Takoma Park MD

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GRAPHIC DESIGN: George Corsillo, Design Monsters, New Haven CT



Co-produced by Stephen Murphy & Lara Herscovitch

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