




## LET'S TRY THE WHOLE THING AGAIN

And so it all begins again  
Greetings that falter like a lie  
Meetings that alter to goodbye  
Let's try the whole thing again

And so it all begins again  
The unknown places where we are  
The best-known customers by far  
Let's try the whole thing again



Let's try the whole thing again  
I think by now we know the form  
So it all begins again  
Lovers carried on the storm

And so it all begins again  
Touching smoother than a scar  
Clutching like a double star  
Let's try the whole thing again  
Let's try the whole thing again  
Let's try the whole thing again

## WISEACRE

What was it like?  
goes the cry on every tongue  
Of the new generation,  
the younger than the young  
How did it feel when the first  
rock and roll songs were sung?  
'As good as you've heard'  
is the one thing we can say

And everyone thought  
the reign of peace was on its way  
Think of that now  
as you in your turn live the day  
Of youth  
As disappointment leads us to the truth

*Music by Pete Atkin. Lyrics by Clive James  
except 'Over the High Side': lyric by Pete Atkin.  
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## THE LAKESIDE SESSIONS VOLUME 1

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY


The History and Geography of feeling less than wonderful is known to me  
The dates of broken bubbles and the whereabouts of every lost belief  
And from the Point of Tears I see how far away across the Sea of Troubles  
The Pinnacles of Happiness are halfway hidden in the Clouds of Grief

My common sense can tell me all it likes to count myself among the lucky  
For pity's sake to draw a breath and take a look around me and compare  
But all I seem to see and hear is something I'm unable to remember  
The flowing speech that stuttered out, the pretty song that faded on the air

When the jet returns me half awake and half asleep to what I call my homeland  
I look down into the midnight city through the empty inkwell of the sky  
And in that kit of instruments laid out across a velvet-covered table  
I know that nothing lives which doesn't hold its place more worthy than I

Without a home, without a name, a girl of whom to say 'this is my sister'  
For I am all the daughters of my father's house and all the brothers too  
I comb the rubble of a shattered world to find the bright face of an angel  
And say again and say again that I have written this - this is for you

The History and Geography of feeling less than wonderful is known to me  
When sunsets are unlovely and the dawns are coldly calculated light  
And from the Heights of Arrogance across the steps that later I regretted  
I see those angel faces flame their last and flicker out into the night





## CANOE

The perfect moon was huge above the sea  
 The surf was easy even on the reef  
 We were the lucky three  
 Who slid in our canoe  
 Through the flowers on the water  
 And tried to read the signals in the sky

We travelled with our necklaces of shell  
 The moon was waning through the nights and days  
 And how we dreamed of home!  
 But we couldn't find the island  
 Where you trade the shells for feathers  
 We fainted in the sun's reflected blaze

With cracking lips I turned to tell my friends  
 The time had come for all of us to die  
 "She's out a whole degree"  
 I told them as I floated  
 Checking readouts at my shoulder  
 "Re-enter at this angle and we'll fry"

The go for override came up from earth  
 We took control and we flew her with our hands  
 And how we dreamed of home!  
 We saw the south Pacific  
 As we fought to get her zeroed  
 Before the heat shield started hitting air

We came home in a roaring purple flame  
 And gave the mission back to the machines  
 We were the lucky three  
 The parachutes deployed  
 We were rocking like a cradle  
 As we drifted down in silence to the sea

## OVER THE HIGH SIDE

Summer nights we'd hang around our usual crowd  
 Doing our level best to look surly  
 Killing time by kicking walls and talking loud  
 Wishing to hell our hair wasn't curly  
 We laughed at the same old stories time and again  
 Together so much we believed we'd be always friends

And what can I say to you now?  
 What can I say to you now?  
 It's been a long long time  
 Too long

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We both got weekend jobs to raise the money down  
 Me for my first guitar, you for your bike  
 But in the end I didn't even know that you'd left town  
 I tried to call you once, but - you know what it's like  
 No one at your number knew your name  
 For all I knew you'd gone over the high side in the rain

## URBAN GUERRILLA

Automatic weapons rake the roof  
 Powdered concrete hangs around like spray  
 He huddles underneath the parapet  
 And knows there is no way  
 This is as far as he will get

The hostages and all his friends are dead  
 His turn is coming soon  
 What was it that motherfucker said?  
 Better chance of conquering the moon  
 He holds his ringing head

The happy endings never came  
 Terrors were seldom just a dream  
 Bambi was finished by the flame  
 You still could hear him scream  
 Snow White was rubbed out by the witch  
 Mary Poppins never made the scene  
 Mother Goose was just another bitch  
 Full of bullshit like the Fairy Queen

The gas grenades are telling him to run  
 He does and something hits him like a wall  
 It sends him back where he has always been  
 His nightmares laugh to see him fall

I told you they were gonna bust your ass  
 Says Tom Thumb inside an upturned glass

## GET IT OUT OF YOUR HEAD

Those halfway houses that you used to run to  
 For a friendly bed  
 And all the women you were like a son to  
 They don't fall behind  
 You can't just push them from your mind  
 So you can get that right out of your head

Those panic letters better left unwritten  
 Didn't go unread  
 Those ugly scenes that you were such a hit in  
 Critics still recall  
 You'll never quite live down them all  
 Not even the dead can bury their dead

A fresh deck of cards that'll run your way  
 Who doesn't dream of a new beginning?  
 But the dealer raises and goes on winning  
 The cloth looks worn and you don't seem to be able  
 Even at dawn to quit the table  
 And call it a day  
 And the funny thing is you didn't ask to play

You're miles too late to be absolved or shriven  
 Now the gods are gone  
 And no-one's solved how to be unforgiven  
 And yet still go on but that's the way it is  
 This is where it's at, there's nothing else instead  
 So you can get that right out of your head





And seeing you were gone I could have cried  
 And cried until I laughed it seemed so funny  
 Being spectacularly sad  
 Throwing good money after bad  
 Why go on why not just let it slide?

But sudden arrivals and early leavings  
 Mean deep sorrows, long grievings  
 And you were the kind who lights out from the crime  
 Convinced it'll all put itself right in time  
 Footloose and fancy free  
 Fancifully free with me

Why go on why not just let it slide?

But sudden arrivals and early leavings  
 Mean deep sorrows and long grievings  
 And you were the kind who lights out from the crime  
 Convinced it'll all put itself right in time  
 The wide-smiling kind who with arms akimbo  
 Goes back to looking relaxed in limbo  
 Footloose and fancy free, fancifully free with me

### FEMME FATALE

It isn't fear I feel, or lack of nerve  
 Call it just a sensible reserve  
 Faced with the intoxicating verve  
 Of anyone who scintillates like you  
 The children turning flint-wheels in the mines  
 looked pretty too  
 And sparks were shaken out like golden rain  
 And oh so very lovely were the loneliness and pain

It's not because I'm burning out or old  
 I hesitate to snuggle in the fold  
 Of body heat that really beats the cold  
 Though Icarus flew near the sun and fell  
 The chandeliers above the weeping fields  
 were warm as well  
 Flares would crumple down like fairy lights  
 And oh so very lovely were the long and fearful nights

It's all because you are too much for me  
 Too good to last, too beautiful to be  
 That you are doomed to be a casualty  
 Of the night-fight on my deeps of memory  
 A galleon with fire below  
 falls glowing through the sea  
 Every mast shall tremble like a tree  
 And oh so very lovely shine the blast  
 that breaks them free

What can I say to you now?  
 What can I say to you now?  
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 Too long  
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### MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

My brother lives in fear  
 Of the hidden cries he seems to hear  
 Somewhere ahead the King of Hell  
 Somewhere below a kitten in a well

Am I my brother's keeper?  
 Am I my brother's keeper?

My brother lives a lie  
 When his laughter splits the summer sky  
 Somewhere inside he skips a breath  
 Somewhere in there he dies the little death

Am I my brother's keeper?  
 Am I my brother's keeper?

Every second morning now for years  
 My brother has put on my brawn and brain  
 To wander through a Universe in pain  
 And all my happiness of yesterday  
 Is walked and scorned away  
 Before he returns to me in tears

My brother lives a life  
 In the narrow shadow of the knife  
 Somewhere behind a hill of skulls  
 Somewhere below a beach of dying gulls

Am I my brother's keeper?  
 Am I my brother's keeper?  
 Am I my brother's keeper?  
 Am I my brother's keeper?

### THE MAGIC WASN'T THERE

With just a word, a single sign of care  
 With just a touch, I could have been beguiled  
 But circumstances never smiled  
 Because the magic wasn't there

Who was it then, the poet who once said  
 "How beautiful they are, the trains you miss"?  
 So time can't put an end to this  
 I have the memory instead





These nothing scenes are still experience  
 You even weep for what did not take place  
 Events that don't occur are still events  
 Some people vanish with a trace

With just a word, a single sign of care  
 With just a touch, I could have been beguiled  
 But circumstances never smiled  
 Because the magic wasn't there

With just a word, a single sign of care  
 With just a touch, I could have been beguiled  
 But circumstances never smiled  
 And now what never happened drives me wild  
 Because the magic wasn't there  
 The magic wasn't there  
 The magic wasn't there

### **DREAMBOAT**

The night that you and I first were lovers  
 The schooner made ready for the sea  
 With nobody on board except the thought of you and me

And as we used our stock of borrowed time  
 The schooner navigated by the light  
 Of just the way your eyes lit up the night  
 And by the dawn was out of sight

And as the world closed in to separate us  
 The schooner's sails were curved like caves  
 Hollowed in the mountain of the sun  
 The leeward gunwale running in the waves

The day the sky fell in and we were through  
 The schooner was already long gone  
 On the green water sailing straight and true  
 She still goes on  
 Alone as me and even lovelier than you

### **I FEEL LIKE MIDNIGHT**

I feel like midnight  
 And whether a new day  
 Will ever dawn  
 Is just a guess  
 I see by starlight  
 The long road from the day  
 That I was born  
 To this address  
 And I look at where you slept  
 And I taste the tears you wept  
 And you're here again except  
 I feel like midnight

I feel like midnight  
 And you are here again  
 To mock me with a smile  
 Each time I say

I feel like midnight  
 And the only chance I had  
 To rest a while  
 I threw away  
 Give me a break  
 Give me the break of day  
 I feel like midnight  
 I feel like midnight  
 I feel like midnight

### **A MAN WHO'S BEEN AROUND**

I've drunk the wines of life to the lees  
 I knew the signs of life when they were trees  
 I've seen it all as near as dammit  
 Run the gauntlet and the gamut  
 You're looking at a man who's been around

I've hailed the kind, the true and the rare  
 I've sailed to find the new and it was there  
 I've done the mad thing and the fun thing  
 Done it all except the done thing  
 You're smiling at a man who's been around

So a kid like you is nothing new to me  
 However pleased I seem to be to see you  
 However keen I seem to be to please you  
 Don't kid yourself you mean a thing to me

I've seen the blazing young hit the top  
 I've heard their praises sung and then they flop  
 I've seen the weeping and the laughter  
 Never needed looking after  
 You're staring at a man who's been  
 Through this before, get what I mean?  
 You're dealing with a man who's been around

I've watched a million things come to pass  
 I've watched a string of kings put out to grass  
 I've made the good scene and the bad scene  
 I've even sung the mad scene  
 You're smiling at a man who's been  
 Through the fat times and the lean  
 You're dealing with a man who's been around  
 You're dealing with a man who's been around

### **SUDDEN ARRIVALS**

Sudden arrivals mean early leavings  
 Short blisses and long grievings  
 And you were the kind who appears on the scene  
 In a shower of glass, looking dauntless and keen  
 Footloose and fancy free  
 Fancifully free with me

Early leavings mean long tomorrows  
 Few favours and deep sorrows  
 And you were the kind who makes tracks in the night  
 Down the hallway, forgetting to turn out the light  
 Footloose and fancy free  
 Fancifully free with me

