

from the bottom up

i found my love i lost my heart
i found my love but where's my heart?
they love you from the bottom up
your head comes all apart

my price went down my youth is gone
i hate this town my youth is gone
i went to bed a head of state
and now i mow the lawns

careful what you wish for

i had a secret small and rare
hell i had secrets everywhere
they withered in the light of love
and i don't even care

if they want me i'll be found
just look for me i'll be around
i'll be wearing friday night
a few feet off the ground

careful what you wish for

for heavy lids and whole wheat hair
your sweetest smile and lusty stare
whatever i can gather up
whatever i can spare

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nola

new york is impossibly handsome
impossibly bright
but his hands are too busy
his shirts are too shiny and tight
on fridays he dances to metronomes
so he can keep counting
all night all night all night

every time that i see her
my heart ends up begging to stay
she's been calling me to her
she tortures me every day
have you been on a joyride
say your best backslide
then rocked all night
till you're trembling and sore?
just take me in your scented arms
new orleans i'm coming for more
oh, new orleans i'm coming for more

*i know angels can lie
if it lightens your load
they'll be stroking your cheek
but they're speaking in code
they'll take all your money
and then hit the road
and leave you broken and smiling
he has no use for me
he never looks in my eyes
been waking up cursing
it's no way to live or to die
i've nothing of value to bring you
i come to you wasted and poor
please take me in your scented arms
new orleans i'm coming for more
oh, new orleans i'm coming for more*

in the rush and the spin
in the flush of my sin

she'll be rolling her eyes
while she beckons me in
please god, let me love truly
forgive every nation
and walk like a woman again

baby i love you
but baby i just have to go
i've got so much to learn
she's got secrets i just have to know
i left my true love for you
oh just take everything
i'll do what you want me to do
please take me in your scented arms
new orleans i'm coming for you
oh, new orleans i'm coming for you

venezuela

that was such a lovely dream
the streets were golden in the sun
i've never been to venezuela
but my family was all there
and my mother looked so young

venezuela looked like brooklyn
though the streets were twice as wide
children spun around the trees
little tops, little sufis
mamas smile from inside

oh fernando i'm so sorry
for the love you saved for me
but my heart is locked forever
in another lovely dream

he approached me like a prince
and said he's loved me all his life
he said he knew that i'd come here
that he's been waiting all these years
that i'm meant to be his wife

and my sister was so jealous
of the love you had for me
she left, stomping 'cross the square
rigid arms flying hair
her skirt had many layers and it bounced like sandra dee's

oh fernando i'm so sorry
whatever could i say
to a man i've never met
who's the one who got away

i cried to see his heart so plainly
(for he was such a formal man)
handed to me like a daisy
in the presence of my family
from his damp and shaking hands

i said - fernando, i can't stay here
and a clock began to chime
and i opened up my shirt
and in its bony cage
ticked a paper valentine

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oh fernando i'm so sorry
whatever could i say
to a man i've never met
who's the one who got away

another black feather

i'm lonely today
but in a good way
i've let my heart lead
without mercy sometimes
i'm faithful to you
and i know i will be
and i'm not always kind, but i'm trying

there's a zydeco band
in the last sticky light
and i'm dancing with strangers, one after another
and the only thing left
to want from this night
is you dancing with me as my own sweetest lover

you're in the city and you're looking for desert
then you're in the desert and you're wishing for rain
you're in his arms looking for comfort
he's given you comfort and you're wishing for pain

not another dark waltz
i dream these too often
out in the back
digging holes for our dinner
another brass tack
for the lid of my coffin
another black feather
for the wings of a sinner

you're in the city and you're looking for desert
then you're in the desert and you're wishing for rain
you're in his arms looking for comfort
he's given you comfort now you're begging for pain

hey next time i see you
could you act like a stranger and
kiss me like you don't know love has a chance
remember that first time
in my old apartment
whenever our feet touch the ground
let 'em dance

banks of the edisto

(for gus)

i've been lazy
i've been overfed
i've been thinking
too much with my head
i was dreaming
about the life you led
on the banks of the edisto

on the banks of the edisto
where the sweet gum and the cypress grows
i want to know what the cypress knows
on the banks of the edisto

where'd you go
when you died my friend
do you see us
did your soul ascend
and i listened
for his answer then
on the banks of the edisto

heaven's here where the bard owl cries
where the smile meets my sweetheart's eyes
i'll be right here taming dragonflies
only heaven i need to know

on the banks of the edisto
where the sweet gum
and the cypress grows
i want to know what the cypress knows
on the banks of the edisto

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i've been overfed
i've been thinking too much with my head
i've been dreaming
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it's the day of atonement, 2001

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and
i'm sorry for anything i might have done
i'm sorry for everything we've left to do
i'm sorry we're still so confused

well, i never had faith -
so, we'll never be safe
we never were safe anyway
it's just that the veil was ripped from our face
on such a beautiful day

mohammed is pacing
when he isn't kneeling
jesus can't talk
he's too busy weeping
yahweh's a mother
who sighs at the ceiling
if only they knew how good it could've been

it's the day of atonement 2004
would jesus be happy we evened the score?
you hypocrites, bullies who profit from war
may your gods all spit on your graves

i say all of you gods
tell your squabbling children
whatever the color or call
they can all go to hell
(if there is such a thing)
go to hell
have it out
have a ball

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showdown

pulled out the big guns
got my best dress on
shit, i'd forgotten you were charming
- you're disarming

been playing too hard
this is a hard town
& all my old gang has broken down, somehow
I miss them all
(though not just now)
we say i'm fine, how are you

showdown

it's you & me
got you pinned up against a stark raving skyline
it's love, yeah love
just picks me up then lets me down

pulled out the big guns
got my new boots on
i'm gonna wear a groove so deep
in your mind that everyone coming after me
will be moving to my beat

showdown

we got green lights down 9th avenue
we got an ice cold slice of winter moon
we both got torture guards around our hearts
mine usedta break me down too soon

showdown

right for me

hold back the cannons
call off the guards
how did your eyes get
so mean so fast so hard?

can we do something else
we've been here before
stop dragging me into
the battles of your little wars

i don't know what you're going through
what demons you need to set free
i don't think you're right in the head
but i think you're just right for me
you're just right for me
baby you're just right for me

so call me tomorrow
when this storm has passed
when you're good you love me
like nobody else ever has

i don't know what you're going through
what demons you need to set free
i don't think you're right in the head
but i think you're just right for me
you're just right for me
baby you're just right for me

the miracle

sleep holds
nothing but
dreams hold
nothing but
we'll never know
we'll never know
we are
open
as sky can be
a birds eye
a tapped knee
we're in it now
we're in it now
we are
strangers
come this far
someday
even stars
will leave us
they'll leave us
we are
half a work of art
half smile
half heart
we'll never know
we'll never know
we are