

Matt Butler

Reckless Son

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“Ashes In The Snow”

Singing in a whisper in your bed
Dizzy from the cocaine wish I hadn't had

I pray those memories don't blend
Just dreaming bout my time with you again

The heat of your lips against my skin,
The only part of my past I wished would never end

But I can't live with my desire,
And I can't let it all come rushing back again

Well I don't mind crying
If I've got to let you go
Falling from the flame, like ashes in the snow
Heels down, grind me into grey
But I still lose my breath, every time I hear your name

I stare at your pictures on my phone
Each one of your features looks like home

Each smile across your face
Every look you ever thought had gone to waste

Aint nothing beginning, nothing ends
Aint never gonna have control, my friend

But it chills me to my core,
That you don't seem to love me anymore

Well I don't mind crying
If I've got to let you go
Falling from the flame, like ashes in the snow
Heels down, grind me into grey
But I still lose my breath, every time I hear your name

“Can’t Keep Looking Back”

I sit and think of you,
When I don’t know what to do
And I ask you for a sign or for a song

Are you listening to me,
When I’m praying on my knees?
Cause I’m not weak but I’m not feeling very strong

So I hold on tight to my peace of mind
And tell myself my life has just begun

But when I close my eyes, and I’m too tired to cry
I still wonder why I’m here and why you’re gone

Can you tell me what went wrong?
Cause I don’t believe that you’d just let go
That you’d just stop fighting back

Thought you were coming along
Least that’s how it seemed but I guess I’ll never know
Now you aint coming back
But I can’t keep looking back

It aint for me to understand
The big picture or the plan
That puts an end to life that’s still so young

And I know I was a friend,
And I offered you a hand
But tell me was there something more I should have done?

I should have known that something was wrong
I didn’t wanna believe that you’d just let go
That you could just stop fighting back

You know you weren’t alone,
And I wish you could see just how much you were loved
And how much we want you back
But I can’t keep looking back

So I’ll just let go
Of all the tears I’m fighting back
Because the road is long and I’ve gotta believe that I’ve still got miles to go
And there’s no turning back
And I can’t keep looking back

“Good Friday”

She said her mama died on the cross,
Wearing pearls and an albatross
With Jesus and a benzo in her brain

On Easter Sunday they laid her down,
So when I'm broke, that's when I come around
To avail myself of all my mother's pain

Mama let me in to take a shower
Mama let me in to clean my clothes
Mama let me in, to wash away the sin
But like Good Friday mama, I come and go

Under a scaffold, far below
High as hell, nowhere to go
I watched her sitting with a book between her hands

Choking on some fresh regrets
And electronic menthol cigarettes,
Praying that one day I'd understand

Mama let me in to take a shower
Mama let me in to clean my clothes
Mama let me in, to wash away the sin
But like Good Friday mama, I come and go
And I guess that's why you always tell me no

Cause you can't help,
And I can't help myself at all
Your boy is just another junkie on the street
If this is hell, and every angel has to fall
Then I'll be crawling home for one more score
With nails right through my feet

Mama let me in to take a shower
Mama let me in to clean my clothes
Mama let me in, to wash away the sin
But like Good Friday mama, I come and go
And I know that's why you had to tell me no

“Home For Good”

I was killin' some time, just drinking down at Sophie's,
told my girl I'd be home in a little while
When this dude swung in with this Jameson grin,
He said “Boy I bet I know your style”

He said “I aint sellin' it cheap, cause man you know I gotta eat,
but I got some blow that you really need to try”

So I checked my phone, I knew my girl was home alone,
But hell, it's just a little line

And heaven knows if there's one promise I've kept,
Still got my mother's Saint Christopher, hangin' round my neck
Lord knows I don't know why I don't do what I should
I swear I mean it every time I say I'm coming home,
Yea I'm coming home for good

Now I'd been up all night, I dragged myself across The Bowery
With my boots barely hanging from my feet
And the sun burned bright when I stumbled cross The Mission,
Into a man begging change in the heat

He said “You look just like my boy, and you remind me of myself,
A jean jacket rockn'roller in his prime
Now I ain't trying to score, I'm just trying to get some help”
And I thought man, this must be some kinda sign

And heaven knows if there's one promise I've kept,
Still got my mother's Saint Christopher, hangin' round my neck
Lord knows I don't know why I don't do what I should
I swear I mean it every time I say I'm coming home,
Yea I'm coming home for good

So I turned my back and I stumbled round the corner
Past the folks standing in the methadone line
And then it all turned black, but you know I still remember
How I couldn't shake the feeling I was running out of time

And heaven knows if there's one promise I've kept,
Still got my mother's Saint Christopher, hangin' round my neck
Lord knows I don't know why I don't do what I should
I swear I mean it every time I say I'm coming home,
Yea I'm coming home for good

“Reckless Son”

I've been trying to talk
With my old man
Says he knows me better
Then I'll ever understand

But still he can't explain
The things I've done
Or what it's like to be the father of a Reckless Son

For all the years I made sure I was numb
All the liquored up conversation,
Where I played deaf and dumb

For all the screaming angels in my heart
And in my head
Not a word was spoken
Until my father said

I can't hide you from your own hands
Or lift you from your knees
But I'm preparing myself to have to dig your grave
We'll both be humbled by the will of God
And the wrath of your disease
But how could any man have to be so brave
To know that nothing can be done
For the father of a Reckless Son

Alone inside a family
Where we pass around the blame
You can keep your interventions
All you gave me was my name

Waiting for the moment,
Where I can meet you with my fists
But punishing myself,
Was the only thorn that I could twist

Cause you can't hide me from my own hands
Or lift me from my knees
But you're preparing yourself to have to walk away
We'll both be humbled by the will of God,
And the power of our needs
And all that's left for you to do is pray
For all the battles that you've won
You're the father of a reckless son

And I know you've had to see me walk into the rain
And you knew you couldn't pull me back
But your love was never shown to me in vain
You put your arms around me, and the walls begin to crack

But I know I'm the only one
Who can do what must be done
So with every breath in my lungs
Hear the promise of a Reckless Son

“Ride Again”

I was praying, almost every night
To a little St. Francis that I won in a fight

Still running, on and off of the streets,
But keeping it clean since I got back east

And that’s where we met, on the lower east side,
And you told me all about the horses you used to ride

I already knew you had taken a fall,
In the dust of the summer, when the nighttime calls,
You landed here with us all

With your shattered heart, you’re coming of age,
You’re not falling down, no you’re turning the page

You’re gonna ride again
Ride again
Ride again

Racing, with the wind in your hair,
A feeling just like that, nothing could ever compare

We’re chasing things we think that we need,
When we never even bothered, with all the things we could be

Kissing the scars across my chest,
Kissing the tears running down your neck

Don’t cover it up, or wipe it away
We take a little pride in taking the pain
Cause there’s so much that remains

With your shattered heart, you’re coming of age,
You’re not falling down, no you’re turning the page

With your trembling hands, you’re taking the reins
With the strength to stand and surrender the shame

You’re gonna ride again
Ride again
Ride Again

You’re gonna ride again
Ride again
Ride again

“The Man That You've Become”

On deck aboard a pilot boat
We waited for the light

Huddled close we warmed our hands breathing fog into the night

Through ancient ways of navigation following a star

Oh brother I can't tell you where you're going, but I know just where you are

Cause every time I close my eyes
And sink into a sleep
Or stare across the sky

I hear the sound of your heart beat
I see the man that you've become
Following a dream
Dream dream

Skate across the ocean like a figure on the ice

But waves will come a crashing down
Like tumbling dice

Place no faith in destinations, be they near or far

Oh brother I can't tell you where you're going
But I know just who you are

Cause I've watched you as you've grown up tall
Humble in your rising
And gracious in a fall

You'll see the world, you'll see it all
As the man that you've become
In service of a call
Just listen for your call

And when the night begins to fall for days
Soon you'll ask what makes this world this way
Inside the silence if you start to pray
You will hear,
A voice will say

That patiently the water's waiting there for you and me

A thousand miles of ocean only leads into the sea

But your hands will trace the state of Grace, a map from up above

Cause brother I can tell that where you're going
You're bringing light and bringing love

So I'll follow as you light my way
With the wisdom of a child
Joyously at play

I'll find you as you find your own way
As the man that you've become
The man you are today

“The Very First Time”

I remember when I first saw you
The school girl skirt and the cigarette in your hand
Singing Born To Run
You said your dad was drunk and your mom was gone

I was slinging some dope on the corners
I was only a boy trying to be a man
That was all I knew
And I'd never had someone to call my own

So we got blasted from a cannon in the middle of the dark
Like a quarter stick of dynamite in Riverside park,

And I held you tight to the beat of my heart
While you whispered that nothing would ever keep us apart

Swore I'd take care of you,
Goddamn, I swear I tried but baby I just wasn't able to

We're at the mercy of what sets us free,
Remember falling in love for the very first time?
Remember getting high for the very first time?
This aint the way that this was meant to be,
Remember falling in love for the very first time,
Remember getting high for the very first time

Begged half of the year on the trains,
Grand Central winter or the dope sick New York rain,
Still playing the game,
Making just enough to kill the pain

I caught a charge, wound up in a cell
Detox in prison for a brand new personal hell
Left you with just your body to sell
From the darkness of some cheap hotel

I said this aint no way for anybody to live,
But can you ever forget or
Can you ever forgive me baby?

So when I get back we'll both stay clean,
Get on public assistance, now that I'm 18

We swore we wouldn't use,
But goddamn, we've done everything we swore we would never do

We're at the mercy of what sets us free,
Remember falling in love for the very first time?
Remember getting high for the very first time?
This aint the way that this was meant to be,
Remember falling in love for the very first time,
Remember getting high for the very first time

When I got out I knew where to find you,
You said to meet in park where we first made love
I ran the whole way

Sure enough, that's where I found you,
With blue lips and a face as white as a dove
The needle on the ground where you lay

And I held you as I tried to pray,
But there was nothing,
just nothing that I could say

We're at the mercy of what sets us free,
Remember falling in love for the very first time?
Remember getting high for the very first time?
This aint the way that this was meant to be,
Remember falling in love for the very first time,
Remember getting high for the very first time

“We Come To Each Other”

Rain starts falling on yesterday's news
Can't keep a dry eye since I saw the clues

Some stranger looking like my best friend
Is trying to hide he's back at it again

Here's what you do
You go and you use
But you've got all my love
You've got so much to lose

So we come,
We come for our lives,
We come to each other, it's how we survive
We come
And I need you to see,
I need you as much as you need me

I know that your armor is starting to thin
You feel broken and useless and can't seem to win

But hiding in silence is where it begins,
No armor can stop what attacks from within

Here's what I say
You pause and you pray,
You learn that we're taking this all day by day

So we come,
We come for our lives,
We come to each other, it's how we survive
We come
And I need you to see,
I need you as much as you need me

Oh, we're both in the dark, but you got something to say
You know you better start getting honest my friend, that's what I said
Oh, we're brothers in arms, and you have fallen behind
Oh but brother I ain't gonna leave
So just bring it to me

Yea we come,
We come for our lives,
We come to each other, it's how we survive
We come
And I need you to see,
I need you as much as you need me

“When The Sun Goes Down”

A couple of days is as long as I go

Before my hands start shaking and the fever takes hold

I got the number of a guy I know

3 A.M. yea I betcha he shows

Now I don't even try

I don't bother to pray

When all of my control starts slipping away

I hide from the obsession in the light of the day

But it's fading

So I'm just waiting

Oh I can't tell you what I'm gonna do when the sun goes down

If I get high, I know there's nothing that I won't lose when I come down

I had a girl and job that paid

And they watched me destroy everything I made

Got a couple of brothers and a mom and dad

And they watched me destroy everything I had

Now I don't even cry when they walk away

I push 'em till they break then I beg 'em to stay

Nothing ain't worth the price I pay

But I'm paying

Can't you hear me saying

Oh I can't tell you what I'm gonna do when the sun goes down

If I get high, I know there's nothing that I won't lose when I come down

I know it's my fault

I must be insane

But I've got no choice

When the thought gets in my brain

God help me it all comes down, to when the sun goes down

There has to be a hope

And there must be a way

I'm desperate and alone and I'm desperate to change

I'm willing to listen if someone's willing to say

I'm worth saving

Am I worth saving?

Cause I can't tell you what I'm gonna do when the sun goes down

If I get high, I know there's nothing that I won't lose when I come down

I know it's my fault

I must be insane

But I've got no choice

Cause I can't take this pain

God help me it all comes down, to when the sun goes down

To when the sun goes down

“Without A Sound (A Song For Susan)”

He asked her for a dance,
If she believed in fate or chance
And if she'd come to town for school
She wasn't like all the college girls who thought they were way too cool

She liked the way he laughed
The way he held the door on her behalf
And he liked the way she'd sing,
When she thought no one was around to hear a thing

They ripped through the bars and through the clubs,
Was it whiskey, was it love?
There was no slowing them down
And the ring was on her hand, when the life that she had planned
Came crumbling down,
Without a sound

She told me that he'd left,
With some sick sweetness on his breath
Ashamed to say,
She was glad to watch him go,
Cause the drink had started making him mean

He'd been driving west
Into the fire, into the sunset
Across the highways busting seams,
Burning Old Crow and gasoline

She fought hard not to think of how much he'd had to drink
And how she always said something wrong
But when the phone began to ring, she knew the news that it would bring,
Would rip her heart, right from their home,

She said
All I know, is there's no way that I can let him go
No way that I can lay him down,
And turn around
I can't pray
Wont ask God to take this pain away
So I'll take all of the love I've found
And put it in the ground,
Without a sound

She'd been drinking by herself
She pulled his pictures off her shelves
So he wasn't there to see,
That things weren't quite what they used to be

She'd been writing down her dreams
Read like holy scripture and movie scenes
But she was tired of asking why
And tired of asking what all this means

But what she saw inside herself
Was it was either die or ask for help
Cause there was no chance on her own

So she got up from her bed, got a number from a friend
And when she called, someone there said

All I know,
Is where you are and where you should go
A place for you to lay this down
Turn things round
And take my word
Our prayers are answered when our prayers are heard
When you truly seek, the way is found
It comes to you right here and now
Without a sound

“Young Man’s Prison”

Well I was seventeen, when I spent my first night in a cell

Get that liquor in me
I'll be raising all kinds of hell

It scared me half to death, how I just can't control myself
I'm begging for somebody's help but they say I can't be believed

How'd I end up here,
Here again?
Here with the lost boys in a young man's prison
How'd I end up here?
Back in the pen
Where the wind blows through the brick rows in the heat
living my life on my knees

Well I've been burning out
Every time I try

Drying myself out
On Riker's Island in July

Oh warden can't you see
The victim here is really me
The men that visit us say that I've got a disease

How'd I end up here,
Here again?
Here with the lost boys in a young man's prison
How'd I end up here?
Back in the pen
Where the wind blows through the brick rows in the heat

living my life on my knees,
I see the ocean at night in my dreams
I feel the freedom of salt on the breeze
Waking up to the clanging of keys

How'd I end up here,
Here again?
Here with the lost boys in a young man's prison
How'd I end up here?
Back in the pen
Where the wind blows through the brick rows in the heat
living my life on my knees