# **Notes for My Mind**

Ryan Wilbert

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# То

The vaquita whales. We love you.

What a pleasure it is to speak to a potential audience. It's daunting to be held under a sun or some sort of artificial light for an unknown period of time, but the excitement wipes the fear off with a stroke of grace. At least, I like to believe.

This body of work contains pieces of my writing I have created over the past four (long?) years. I have selected them based upon their merit and memorability, serving as time pieces that detail the journey I have embarked upon. I aim to preserve their authentic structure with little alterations, but modifications have arisen when necessary. As any artist might share, it seems wholly unimaginable to ever consider putting a piece to rest, for if we were to stop, we would be forced to create something new. Therefore, I must be ready to stop sifting through synonyms as if my life depended upon it.

I am at some level, as always, terrified at the thought of sharing my imagination. How can we define the line between what it is we hold so tightly to our chests and what we must release into the world? I have concluded that in solidarity is strength, and in strength we create art. I have resided in my own notes and sketches for so long to bring out the tool I carry everywhere I go. I do not use it lightly. It is a weapon — it can be used for aggression and it can defend the deepest parts of ourselves held together by thick bonds. My work can be obscure or it can be bluntly direct; it can be solemn or it

can be offensively intact. I do not relish in wordplay to hide from anyone but myself. The mind can be our greatest danger, but it can also, if handled with care, become our greatest weapon. I have learned as such and I believe my work makes this self evident.

It can be easy to become stuck and immovable, lost between trees or washed up on seashores. Perhaps you are a bumblebee glued to the walls of your hive, a forgotten whale harvested at sea, or a lonely fish swimming uneasily. Perhaps you are unsure of what it is that you are. Perhaps, at the forefront of your mind, you are merely concerned with how annoying the grand significance I place upon these words is becoming. As the end approaches, I recognize all that I say as nothing more than an attempt at understanding. I believe, though, that any attempt we might reach for will always be greater than trying to forget, remaining ignorant, and becoming lost within ourselves. It is almost entirely impossible to be successful on the first try, but I hope I have made a considerable attempt.

Ryan Wilbert April 2024

# **Notes for My Mind**

Ryan Wilbert

#### Friend

Look around, my dear friend
Take a gander over distant lands and listen
You might sit around, reflect way too hard
Look up and see you've wasted the weekend
You'll see kids that joke around and get pushed
For at home they fear of getting quickly shushed
Online they seek for reassurance, for a home
Just for them to get blocked out, cussed out once more

We live in a world where we don't trust our trust
Yet we gag of disgust at others distrust
Finally home you think your emotions are just
But can you give your own thoughts true trust?
So I yelled "Go on and change! Show me some growth!
Move on from each and every one of your friends!"
The problem has always been the deep disconnect
On how your heart shines what love truly is

The problem of our own fault, our demise
Is the separation of ideas and what we call trends
Growing up we tragically lose an image of real
Now we can't conclude, only personally defend
The problem is following others into the Sun
Shocked at relationships coming to an end
Upon reflection, we wish we could ignore
Every little thing the therapist recommends

It is all too much when growing up
Losing that boredom, that time to think
It's all rooted right back to those distant lands
And the lack of trust we have in our friends
Oh simply,
Your trust in your friends
I hope for you to trust your friends,
Friend

#### Black Rose

Stuck indoors, your head grows some spores
Really makes you think
"Who even cares?"
Small projects completed, the days feel repeated
Isolation for me
Black rose can't be defeated

# **Funny**

Funny,
It is, when I try to clear my head
Ride my bike, I end up thinking
More than before
End up crashing into another,
Quick panic of death
Funny,
Life used to be easier than this,
I swore

# Again and Again

When I stuck those sticks in the mud
I thought I had my brain strapped on
A horse gallops, too fast for me
Spinning on a carousel, it seems
Things are different from that memory
Felt at peace watching us all, I gleamed
Honesty revealed within heart to heart talk
Eventually we'll pull all of the sticks out

But now I've lost a friend

I wonder if it'd be different
If I just got on the carousel
I'm too scared to test the waters
Everyone else lost all fear
Maybe all feel

Maybe if I was a better friend

I was too busy thinking of fire
Rockets fired at the carnival
The carnival full of fun
I saw us all together, as one
But too blind to see us splitting apart

The carousel ride is over
God, we were getting closer
The numbers were going up
Now back in the mud I'm stuck
I just want to keep riding again, and again, and again, and

#### A Conversation On the Phone

Ring ring!
It's canceled
You can't cancel a period of time!
Yeah,
But you can surely waste it

#### Done with starting up a war

Ah ah ah All the same Ta ta ta Talk over again Sing the vocals when I can't sing You still hold on, clinging What's wrong? Fade out, you keep trying to call I don't think this is a Ah ah ah Coincidence Guitar strums you can't stall Bleed out from these thumb tacks Ack, ack! Can't bandage that! Hang up those picture frames But I've seen them before Bored of playing the same game Done with starting up a war

# Paint Stained Jeans

Paint stained jeans And my hands are shaking Don't worry, next year! Can't see the timeline I'm not a prophet And my hands are shaking Don't worry, four years! That seems like a sign Leaves blow Leaves fall It's fall Wait already? Yes, of course! These years are short Spinning faster than you think Spiral notebook Remains untouched in the sink My hands are paint stained My jeans are stained too A muddy green color Go team spirit! Fix the world while you're at it! Oh, you Yeah, what?

You clock in, clock out

X crossed faces

Three in a row

You've lost!

Origami leap frogs

Now they all seem the same

The life you've lead

Isn't appealing to me

You say I've got time

But I'd rather be dead

Than have mindless writing

Mindless typing

Nicely wrapped scroll

Only gets you cheap food

I've tripped down since fifth grade

That spark died out

Or that spark never came

As it was smothered

In the grass my jeans were stained

It might be just me

But whatever the case

My minds overflowing

So without yelling like this

My paint stained jeans

Would be such a waste

# Juice

Apple core not pitted Gone too ripe My eyes flicker Skin pulled down My eyes want to cry Streams of juice

#### Charlie Brown

Ignoring the loud ringing noise With curtains sealed real tight No light can leak down the house Colder out, so sleepy now Waking up from strange dreams Forgetting where my mind has been Tick tock, it's a cycle Never changes The days are the same The season has finally changed But I don't fully understand Self esteem is low But I've got high expectations Since it's the time of year To venture the place my mind fears Bright lights Up high spirits Praise the Holy Spirit I don't quite get it But I think I finally get Charlie Brown

#### Carbonated Drink

Shut blinds
Learning what it means to have
Radiant eyes
Last resort
Baby bird, don't leave the tree
Won't admit
Wait for her to slip
Everybody wants
A cold glass filled
They only want
Attention drilled
Into their thick skulls
Everyone wants a taste
Of that sweet fizz

# Don't shoot the messenger

Don't shoot the messenger Just know I could Be so much worse Split in the middle Uneven purpose You didn't realize When you pointed at me a Loaded gun At first I thought it was Part of the fun But I sent a letter And you replied with Thanks, bro Heart Man, you better Run

#### Heater

He's mocking me Once again Saying don't speak to the less **Fortunate** It's mid-December And I'm dripping sweat I spilled my tea Now my shirts all wet Doesn't matter When you can't freeze Snow doesn't fall When you're a buzzing bee No joy, no spirit It's warm inside So why did you buy A heater for 40.99?

#### Adam and Eve #1

How many times have I wrote before A mess of words on a clean day With a wind catching you up on what's going on Can't focus on enjoying unpolished songs

I had arrived to write my final letter Saw that you two were long gone I just hope you'll feel a little bit better Once I'm finally out of the picture frame

I wonder if Eve ever cared for Adam
Or did it have to take
A loud snake
To be a nuisance
Getting them both in big trouble
Disproportionate sins
He never really paid the price
Otherwise, today, I wouldn't be alive

Albeit that sounds depressing
Filled to the brim with self deprecation
I swear I'm not saying I wish to be dead
Just wondering if it makes any sense
To remember the lines from
Your favorite novel
Remembering it's all fiction
But in reality's demands
I felt unreal firsthand

# If I had shown zero interest

I apologize for not speaking up
Even if I tried
I'd get a boring response
Your voice isn't working once more
Question rings, "why are you down?"
I waited, wanting to hear
Humming lingers, "why are you down?"
Well, I can't lose what I fear

Would my character be different
If I had shown zero interest
In lifting up my fingers and thumbs
Drifting across keyboard notes
Oh lord
Such a rigorous course
Discovering these hardships
To be true in my heart

I think that he's made you change, a voice sang
But you should consider
What you see on your screen
When signaling for the next game to play
Maybe it's because you only join
When Adam picks the fruit
You followed him across a garden
Ignoring all the cries of the forgotten

I'm not angry
No, no, not trying to be rude
You've been there for me
Much longer than I had presumed
Your presence has closed the gates
And the app I reside in
Keeps crashing, my words fade
I'll stop writing in here
Perhaps, one day
Give or take

I'll put the passion into getting better tonight So when morning comes, I'll have a blank mind A clean template to redo all my naive ways Of creating to overcompensate

#### The Beach

Float through the warm room
A fresh air to breathe
Sticky seat, I can't leave
But got too much time to think
Still a buzzing bee
Maybe I can take advantage
Of how much shelter there is
Living isolated
Is it me
Or them
People or the future
Not painted so clear
Which direction is the choice
No comfort in my own voice

They all disagree
The veggies and the fruits
Not sure which pair of shoes
Will assure that I don't lose
All security and friends
That I've built up
Storm is raging
Stand up and hope
I help them all
My sandcastle is crumbling
The waves are grumbling
Not much time before
I'm pulled off the shore

# King Saul

Switching sides Opening your eyes Fell asleep on me again I think I bored you to death Cold winter The space to sit and consider the better Things that I could make Will you still be here You'll grow big kid he said Be popular some day He said this with a cheer Raised the bar, now I fear You went along and said You couldn't handle a high paying job, friend You're impatient, full of dread Sorry, this is the way I am

Stomach aches
Hear it out for your sake
I hope your creation becomes
A vacation
You deserve the world
King Saul
My stomach aches
For reasons I don't like to explain

Maybe I realized your talking leaves me pondering if my death is soon
Leave the nest
I need to grow up
Otherwise it'll be like
Last year's February to June

# I'm a small forgotten branch

They're so quiet Keeping me trapped in the walls Shelter my ears I'm a small buzzing bee Whisper when alone I hear it each night In the bathroom upstairs Won't admit my awful sight So quiet it's unfair Look in the mirror What are you I said I'm grounded Left as a tree I'm a small forgotten branch That breaks too easily

# I will wake up

Things are changing More thoughts to think No sun in sight Deserted place to be It's plain It's overcrowded Not empty Like the nearby mall The whole place To ourselves Orange lights Food court sales Hung up photos Burned away Hell's fire and games I won't let it go to waste I water plants Not friends Can't hold you back I won't pretend I'll miss you I've missed good times Shaking my shoulders Soak up the dry lands

I'll stay here for as long as I can
In The Garden, I have no plans
For when we want to visit Japan
Or if I want to start a band
Grow up
We'll see some sun
It sucks
It's not always fun
But
I will wake up
Just wait and see
Tomorrow I'll say
Good day
Maybe

#### Dream #1

They were talking And having fun I laughed and Cheered them on Here to help Make some breakfast. Wait, what's wrong? Dropped the spatula In the digital reflection Something stared at me I knew I was smiling But it didn't smile back at me I was enjoying the moment But my mouth wouldn't move A timer runs down Running from the ticking time

## Morning

Choked up on nothing Up and hungry Fuzzy feeling It's just another day Wooden built fences Get that blanket off Mixed like I knew Frey Tall tree thrown in the fray Arise Hair too long Down my neck What time is it? Too early Clock is broken They bought him a watch He uses me as an alarm clock

## The Orange Sea Pt. I

The wicked man has left me
And I'm supposed to find that funny
"Sleep well" you whisper soft
I'll listen once you don't leave for long
At last, the man comes back
I'll speak loudly first to clear the air
I hope I'm not becoming a distress
To whatever exactly it is this is

Soon it'll be fun

Fun

Fun

Fun

Can't say it is anymore

When I question where the path has taken me I watch the trail unfold like a film Lights dim in my home theater room You need money
You need a job
You need a better personality
Than whatever this is meant to be
Embarrassed
Shameful
Only rapture can be the savior
Between you and me

Pull me out from the Orange Sea Framed pictures hang over me Eyes gaze into my soul Take advantage of it I'll take control

## The Orange Sea Pt. II

The largest battle
You'll ever fight
Is the man that roams
In your head at night
Do you message her?
Should you cry for her?
Maybe read more
You should fill out your forms
Is there a difference?
Should these be the same?
It's all just my life
These thoughts put me to shame

It's really dumb I'll say it, quite frankly There's no manuel they hand out In the Being a Human class at school saying "Read here to be less of a fool Learn how to put so much in And in return, get the desired amount Of attention and affirmation Never overthink these things It can't be that hard Buy a bouquet of flowers And offer them up to one you love That side project you have lying about Pick it up again with a grin Move those fragile branches, your hands And see the person you've always been"

Gazing out my fogged up window
Seeing the stillness of the deep winter
Stars droop down on the snow covered roads
I think I'll think of you when I see the flowers grow

## You gotta write for you!

Draw some more too
Sing a bit louder too
Plan out a plan too
Don't lose who you are
You idiot, swim up
You're sinking, sinking deep
Humor me, God
I'm confident I'm no star

Weak, weak, weak, let go of it, please
Banners hang along empty walls
Attempting to pull them down
With my long twigs for arms
They're here, they're not leaving
Blurry faces appear when I stop believing
I'm lacking the guidance I dearly rely upon
To keep my head afloat, over the sheet of seafoam
I've had an early death, I said
Deep in the Orange Sea
I keep the door open
For my mind is bursting with creativity

## The Orange Sea Pt. III

You admit to what has been said
But "It's not meant to get you down"
So get up from the ground
Go to bed and, just, figure yourself out
It's so sweet the way you talk
Our lives are clouded with doubt
You have the passion to work real hard
Draw more lines, please don't fall apart

The Sun is setting
The waves catch your eye
And hugs you so tight
The ocean has devoured you
The world is flipped upside down
Spiraling down
Down
To the ocean floor

Face the fact that you're sinking
It's the first step to break your thinking
The cold water envelops, you shake
And the bundle of bubbles around you break
Move spastically to warm up
Swim up high and face the sky
I can't end all of my lines with used to be's
I won't drown in the Orange Sea

#### Mello Yello

I'm a mello cello
Full range of notes
Took me Mello Yello
Back then to stay up
Now I wake up down
Afternoon rolls around
I'm alright, until it's dinnertime
Answering questions with a stack of lies

I keep on trying to find who's me
Float like Air Suite No. 3
Hey, why are you still here?
I'm the Prelude, I've just arrived
There's a house of animals I'm stuck in
Rode the carnival carousel again
I've said it before, not the brightest around
Yet The Swan stood out to me

You'll never fully get what they think They'll never get why you can't blink Seven billion and plenty more songs It doesn't matter I'll drink Mello Yello Until I'm gone

#### New Year

Be honest, you can't do it all
Air out the flames before they grow too tall
We've all got our own compiling problems
So give some space, let the flowers blossom
There's always something to overthink
But there also can be good things to dream
Today might be an entire waste
But there's still another 364 days

# Light Blue Walls

Making out strange faces
In the threads of the bath mat
Whispers delicately placed on my ears
Remain still, I listened, patiently I sat
Confined to the cool tiled floor
The walls close in, stirring rubble to fall
Debris shattered the sight in my eyes
But I see it's just my hair has grown too long
I desperately try blocking out the sound
The cacophony rumbling through the ground
Legs curled up, chin resting on my knees
Hands cusped, praying it all moves by me

Did I read that right
Did I hear you correctly
I only deserve a response
When I reach out, begging with a please
It's that scary man again
Who keeps the water nice and warm
But burns your open eyes
For being too cold

I'm not upset
I'm not upset
I'm positive
I always will be
But the first stage of getting over
These light blue walls
Is accepting that
You're not happy where you are

### Mountains, Fields, Beaches, and the Sea

Lie through your teeth What do you believe? It's all fun until it spills out Now it's your job to hold the leash Money, success, and fame I've lost interest in playing games Now I ponder Like a renaissance artist What makes a friend Is it blue skies Or red roses too Stone sculptures built up One day they'll collapse Over and over Small conversation Goes miles, like cars racing It's not a competition But if you're left behind You're the laughing stock For years to come

Pull me out

Pull me up

Glass panes reflect

It's upside down

Not see-through

Not what the sea threw

Mirror shop

Paints a dripping man

Call you out

Reach for stars

I've shared my deepest worries

Not to any other friend

I see you here

Together

In The Garden

It's a lot to take in

## My drink used to be red

It leaves me sick to my head
"Why don't you try it, it's so common"
Vast wealth and no leaking roof
Starts off as a forward miracle
But if done wrong, it builds insecurity
Falling short of your own maturity
Uncomfortable portraits
Show the light of this world
It's dark for me
My drink used to be red
Years drift by
Now you have to pick a side
My drink has faded
I stare blankly at black liquid

#### Adam and Eve #2

I'm so tired But hold off when there's a party So I arrive, hearing repeated lines Printed out from my typewriter Hey, wait, those were our words We came up with that We talked over that together Laughed it away Now I'm out of lines And here she comes again Translucent hands raised me up And pulled me towards shore Goodbye, I said I've gotta get things to work Goodbye, I said That tired has caught up to my work Now I'm drowning alone Fall asleep You're not worth the time Life of lies Don't have time to say goodbye

We're growing apart
After he burnt me to ashes
Adam and Eve
The tree gave them rashes
Such mindless beings
Who are unaware of death
All that matters
Is the fruit hanging in front of them

# Upside Down

"He had a goal in life One that he strives for" Speeding boat, dived head first My foot got tangled on the rope Now I'm off deck Into a tangled mess What's at the bottom No one knows The darkest area Haunts your mind Block it out Close your eyes He's breathing a new type of air Is it even fair Born with the tongue To make friends anywhere I'm gasping for air Upside down Pulled to the bottom When I'm dead I'll be forgotten

#### Dream #2

Team up It's just us Looking out for my space It's alright, I won't save it Funny name Turns my stomach around Melts me to a puddle Not bad, I like the sound It's around us Every news channel Sky shifts to a shade of orange Smoke haze, the world might be gone It's a rising tide But out here, we are so far Said it in a French accent Wonder if there is life on Mars

### Writer's Block

I don't know
If I can finish this off
I don't think
I can write a happy ending once more
I'm in denial
They've said for fun
I've got no special style
I'm sulking on the run
They can't find out
Or it'll all be over
Why can't I write
Anything other than "I"?

Sun comes up
Well, there's still the others
Moon comes up
Your mind is full of troubles
The Garden is never ending
Can't write the trees away
In reality, you're not like them
You're an absent void
Never been present

### You and I

Constant state
Of nervousness
A nest settled in my chest
Bend on over
Spit it out
Blood red hanging spider webs
I wish I said it sooner
But in the beginning
I was a nervous wreck
You and I are so alike
But so different
You are my hero
You are my demise
Let's make this work
Won't wish for change this time

# Persevere Through The Castle

Within a made-up hierarchy
There is an evil throne
Someone has to take up the place
To begin the building of your grave

Intertwining
Weaving lines
You're cut off
You've fallen behind

Hints arrive here and there
And the quietest processes it best
There's the Queen, there's the King
At this court is Adam and Eve
The royal guards come together
Cutting blades of grass, kneeling before
That too tall castle watching over everything that grows
Flowers rise then shrivel up down below
Once they find your hiding place
They lock you up, far away
Above the sea shimmering strange shades
It's a maze with no escape

You've read too much
You think stupid thoughts
It's like the rolling rover on Mars
My battery is low and it's getting dark
They throw you away to what is only weeds
Crippled, dripping blood, there you sat
Stuck in a forgotten bag
At long last, declared dead is the cat

### I know his name

I know his name
Put away the chariot
It's a walking day
Won't bother to race
Losing game
Same stomach ache
Slammed my head
While opening the car door
Ow
I'm such a fool
Sun is coming out
The moon is up the same
Holding your body with a careful caress
Escape isn't to be celebrated

### Don't let the soil rise

Open your eyes Sunlight rolls in Something tickles your skin Dips in red Rolling down Stains your face Mark it off It's a burning star Round ball of yellow Pollinate the flowers Be it burning heat Or the outer space beat The soil covers your leg And there's petals in your hair So maybe I should cut it off This year, it's grown too long Obscure your vision Blind your eyes Walk through the burning light The stars will itch And your wings will melt away Don't let the soil rise Find out how to grow today

# It's too clear today

Ranting of the same old things
Hosting the same story each night
I sparked the conversation
Left it quickly
Now to my comfort station

Blue walls
Green towels
White bottles
And a sink
Underneath the clear mirror
It's too clear today
I see deeper
Than bare skin

Breathe in

Breathe out

Aching limbs

Follow a route

Look out in the distance

Confined, the walls insist it

Think bigger

My mind is stuck

I'm told my education is of the utmost importance

But what are you left with when school is all over

#### Passion Fruit

Panicking Focus on the room The too small room The too big room Nothing is working Shaking breath These games are boring Wandering halls gets boring Doing nothing is boring Nothing is working Squeeze the fruit The juice down your chin Need passion fruit Or is it hobby Should there be a difference It pulls me in

Eyes glued to the sight
I could talk for hours
In love with what defines art
Feel the power from
A picture frame
Holding back
Memories
Face glued to space
Head up in clouds
Stare up at the stars
My headspace is too loud

# Food For Thought

It's a pain going to bed each night
It's an overwhelming challenge to fight
Pure darkness blanketed over the room
Comfort in the sheets only found physically
As your mind is spinning away
You've got no time to regain a
Sense of peace
Close those eyes
Gateway opened to the crazy
Orchard
Tended by a man in disguise

Tended by a Eat this fruit

Bite it deeply

Tastes so good

To have company

But they piss you off

They follow only one man, the Ruler

Two faced

Backstabbing

Untrusting

It hurts

I want more of that orange

Now the throat is clogged

Nose is snobbed

What do you do?

In your future?

What do you do?

In the now

You just

Suffer

You want more still

Food for thought

The thoughts absorbed it

No more fruit

No more

No more

No

# Stare off into the lakeshore

Stuffed up
Foot vibrates with a thump
Drum beat tapping in my head
Faster and faster
When will it end

Make it til January
Then February to March
Time keeps boiling the pot of water
New problems are
Loudly popping
Small appetite
To be completely fair
You're not very strong

Stare off into the lakeshore
Guardrails
Prevent a crash
Serves as a reminder you might not last
Sun on the rise
Wishing for one month more
But every month your stars grow more

# You've gotta do it

I've found the best birthday cake
One that's sweeter than them all
I'll stand so proud and so tall
My reservations are free of shame
I pray upon an interplanetary rotation
Waiting for this show's standing ovation
Sun squints at me, piercing my eyes
Inverting colors around the frame of my brain

Am I in heaven?
Or am I in hell?
Does it really matter
When they both have assigned seats
So many strangers I can't recall
Distance keeps closing in
The chariot man has a real name
I heard it from my Dad in the car

So, you might have a point
Does anyone have a true color?
Can the puppet be the mastermind
Behind the extravagant show's lights
Heavy thoughts only hit
Every now and then
Pavement for the tires
They are calling
Streets say my name

### Oh

Music pulls you awake
Telling you to create
Piano keys open the eyelids
Wash over me
Pull me down
It's not out of reach
It's opened your eyes
Your eyes open from the sound
Your eyes open wide from the sound
Your eyes are opened from the sound
Eyes closed from the sound

Overpriced flower bouquets
With color that melts in your ears
Take me away
You've gotta do it
Close the door
Salute you off today
Wave to the sky
Rocket has made its choice
Jet congratulates its decision
Your undecided is decided

### **Watercolors**

He doesn't exist on any plain Never persist, forget they left you Mother let slip how he waved good day Maybe he doesn't want to make it to May

Your special day
I don't want it
Same comments
I don't want it
Did no one speak up
When they left me at sea
The bottom is unexplored to many
But I visit it on the daily

My

My stained

Stained water

Sour

Not good anymore

No angel on my shoulder

Saying hold up

No devil on my shoulder

Saying hurry up

It's just you, the stars, and black painted scars

No man can love the color

### Then what am I

The wet smell of rain Makes me aware of warming days With you, my time I hope to spend But I think I'm stuck in an ecosystem Eat some more But that makes my stomach worse I'm sorry I'm not like the rest Draw some more I don't have the motivation to pour My soul out on a page I'm sorry I'm not saved Mother Nature Is not your savior Can't rely On the changing times Hotter days Won't pull you up From this garden place The growing flowers Can't pull you up From the sinking tower A mess of color Makes up the vast sea

Labels' words are fading
How I want it to be
I want your help
But if I don't do it myself
Then what am I
When the ship waves goodbye

#### Dream #3

Last night I dreamed I was with the band of dreamers
The room was covered in balloons and streamers
I smiled for the photo but my face felt off
They were happy to see me, but when I woke up, they were
gone

I sat up with tears in my eyes
Who might be mine, for the love of God
Or rather the absence of love, as none reach me
She remarked in surprise that I smiled in a dream

# Find Something Interesting In Every Person You Meet

Mind run wild
It's a childlike wonder
Flowers sprung
And an older brother
Who watches afar
Changed before your eyes
Overflowing memory
Your heart is one of psychometry
Keep on talking
I want to hear
Your life is like a movie
For I watch it in tears

## Dream #4

All eyes on you
Big, strong men
You're a follower
Not a leader
But next time I'll
Come back stronger
Stuck at a spiral island
You'll never be in the band
Don't you pick that up
You were just stepping in hot sand

#### Dream #5

The other night I dreamed You were trying to kill me But the knife you threw missed And hit the wall behind me Next moment I was on the stairs And she was trying to kill me You've got the wrong person, I swear It wasn't my fault, to yell is to fail You aren't putting enough focus on Your future that has nothing going on Don't you know you peak in youth Your magnum opus should be now, move! My fingertips ache from soldered pains I don't think I can learn anything My strings snapped one year ago And this time it's taking me below

# There is always a backdoor

There is always a backdoor So they barricade it off with a gate Suicide is for cowards But I've never been a brave man

It's not that I can't sleep
It's a choice, deciding I don't want to
For when I wake up
My problems aren't magically solved
They'll say "He can't help but get the feeling
That things aren't gonna be changing
If this year repeats the same as last
He needs more water, he can't be sad
His roots are showing signs of decay
As now that he has gotten older
The sunlight that was his guidance
Has burned away his hopeful eyelids"

The closet shelf's bar is seen at night Wonder if it would hold right Uplift a human body's weight Hey He has so much left to say In the end, what will it matter
If he can't hold tight onto another
As he is always too big or too small
To handle expectations of them all
The sunlight has grown an enemy
And the water he drank has gone poison
No matter how and what he eats
In his mind he aches as Hannah weeps

There is always a backdoor exit
He tries to block it off again
For suicide is for cowards
They would never be proud of
You letting life live bound to the gates
They say it isn't a race
But the fields of flowers
And David's friend
Speak in tongues
To say otherwise

# Caged Like An Animal

Pushed to the ground Legs are sore Looking at the sky What is my role Is it here What makes up here Can it be the gunshot's bang Is there a place Somewhere else Up there in the sky Where it's safe And away from land That's soaked in power Push you down Pull your hairs Caged like an animal Do you see it when I meet your eyes?

#### Summer Fair

Funnel of no fun Open up your ears It's made from scratch It's made of rats See the metal plates Creak Hear the ringmaster Squeak He's got a mullet And she's got long bangs Making something unique To make you think Oh wow! This town is overcrowded With nothing to do You always lose Online or in your mind In curtains hid behind Fake town How do I leave this town

## Dream #6

Someones knocking on the door I don't know who he's here for Angry face and a brown shirt I just ran for the bathroom Online Your presence makes sense Yell some loud words Just mute the speakers At your door The rain will pour See it in their eyes No words to get the feeling Anything could happen Anything could happen Sell me cookies Or step in with a gun Walking a big dog Wishing I was long gone From here

#### Cancer

**Buzzing ringing** Fun depleted Summer's over I wish I sung more Slight breeze As I stopped here to agree That I can do better Than give up so easily Purple Is my favorite color Will he remember That a life of riddles and jokes Isn't worth royalty Deal with the problems Deal with the devil Learning science was a wreck Now I don't trust anyone, not even myself So I want to look up All of my symptoms But Google might have nothing And I'm all alone Or I tragically have cancer And I'm a buried sack of bones

## Crime Scene

There is no compromise
When the officer will deny
Misuse of his possessions
Impulsive decision and obsession
Ran out of currency to spend
Instability in his pockets
Why so nervous?
Why so nervous?
Why ask for pity?
If you've done nothing wrong?
His eyes lie on the fields outside
No closure, all leverage
Car wreckage
Won't say goodbye

# Flipped

That voice isn't mine
It's a mirror raising the wrong hand
Speak up, share your mind
I say aloud the wrong line

## Broken Pencils

Oh sand worm, swallow me whole Save me a trip from the black hole Jars and ointments filled with blood Poured out from the broken pencils spilled on the floor

### The Fish

At an empty pond
I could set a fish free
Watch it swim away
No strings could tie it up
Running on double A batteries
It would have no family
Fisherman would reach for control
The fish can never truly be free

Misheard the lyric for
"I want to die
Don't ask me questions"
From a loaded gun
Front and center stage
I might breakdown
If you fish one more time
I'm all done, out of energy

## Eyes On Me

I can feel it in my shoes this time
It's holding me down
Weight on my chest
Sunk to my knees
Bare legs in the mirror, it glares
I feel their eyes on me when they stare
Trying to turn down the iris
Keep some light to stop the virus

# Vaquitas

The most endangered you can get
Caught in a fisherman's net
Tangled up in someone else's problem
At best, we scrape the barrel's bottom
Incapable of learning how to escape
As momentary bliss falls away so soon
One of many, mistaken for someone else
Not sure what to make of you or myself
When I see dark rings around your eyes
As you can't get off the phone tonight
We don't know anything about your health
Or why you can't seem to sit still well

Well,

So little is known about a dying species
And it's breaking my heart to shards and pieces
Stories untold, your tale is not done
Rip the nets from your tail, watch it sink, the Sun
For we only last a couple of years
Before our minds are shot, harpoon in the ears
Put into a position of abuse, conditioned
Into breathing manually, used as ammunition
God, so little is known about this dying species
And I won't stand for half-assed speeches
About a shoulder to lean on or a voice to be heard
When all that matters is your own words

## **Predestined Outcomes**

Calendar is marked with black ink
Saying today's the day you meet your end
Wave goodbye to your spirit and soul
Flip the page, find a new article
What would be left over if I leave the store
If I choose to not buy red apples
Would that open the door to open the floor
A car outside to run me over

## Dream #7

You were walking down the hall
Wearing the same red hoodie
That I had dreamed I saw you in
Was it made of real dye or my blood
The mess I've made with a metal pole
Limp on the sidewalk

### Hover Over The Send Button

Pacing in place Decisions scattered in my head Closed off with the blinds shut tight Spinning with rose tinted glasses, I might Think about sending something Saying words All that I muster Is man I'm bored Cracked and dry Blissful tightening of the chest It's a comfort, yet not a rest As unnerving thoughts Gallop 'round my mind Fast clicking The right song to find For a potential moment Of unwinded honesty That's terrifying The song said "Darling, your head's not right"

## Hesitation | Dream #8

I'm way too scared to message you
After three years of failing groups
Full of oblivious, mindless people
Who don't reciprocate the feelings
That I give out in my words
It's a fear of underwhelming
Or not being good enough
Not seeing the metal pole on the sidewalk
Falling for every time you talk
Knees scraped on pavement
It's never what I had meant
To do, when I cried out for help

Everyone around watched the caged animal
A plea to be free was just plain laughable
Stared him down, taking pictures of his frown
Shirt covered in blood, he needs to turn his life around
You can't negotiate with those who've given up
On trying to be kind or understanding how to love
Cut your hair, style your hair
Put on a new shirt, worry about yourself
I want no more blood, no more whining
I'm not picking out groceries with her in the same isle
Not talking to a wall nor a selfish fisherman
I want to talk to someone who's more mature than that

Yet I hesitate to ask away
Do I start my sentence with the short word "hey"
Or does that feel awkward, is there a better word than that
Is there another word that I can greet you with back

# Notes for My Mind

How do I ship a letter Dodge a hook, climb a ladder Write it out before I run out of time There's just so many notes for my mind

## It'll All Make Sense in the End

Thanks so much They appreciate it all And I keep shoveling dirt Expecting nothing in return Offered some money You deserve a reward But no monetary value Fills the empty hole So I keep shoveling some dirt I have to fill up this hole Carry this load On a wheelbarrow Down the hill, toss it down For if I stop moving I'll sink into the ground Thanks I keep hearing thanks But for some reason The sentiment doesn't land

I keep on thinking That I've been doing so good I've been lifting weights Eating more now I've tried not to annoy What's left of my friends When will I see My acts mean something greater Than waiting to be caught By a man fishing in sticky weather It's like playing on a blacktop court Without any shoes When the Sun's out, hot and bright Yet expected not to lose If this is my human fate Then I resist wasting away I've got so much love to give Show me cosmic powers, big man watching in the sky, a deity of knowledge, an allegiance made up of thoughts for

my mind

Show me that I can truly live

# **Optimism**

Deciding if you should care or not Would be easier if you knew at all How a certain decision With pinpoint precision Changes the direction Of the road you're on So I stay up, even later In hopes that she'll message first Thinking of every single Thing I could do I'm getting optimistic Something's sure to go wrong soon Soon An idea never seems to escape your mind Or at least, not if it's important to find A key to open A closed up cage A brand new emotion A car coming closer Open up! Open up! Take me away! Uncomfortable positivity This is strange

# **Bonfire**

A fire crackles as the stars come out See the glint in your eyes from a glow stick Volleyball with new people and the Beach Boys Quiet down, lower the noise, my raspy voice Don't let me leave without a see you later If not, write it out on digital paper

### On the Dance Floor

Terribly loud, sick sick humans Buzzing of pointless words It can be any color you want But none of them are yours As the thought of what dress you wear Or how you put up your hair Remains absent in my head When I can't see you anywhere It's getting too hot in here And someone's passed out The stars aligned to make it go wrong On the dance floor, I move on It'll work out another day On the dance floor, I'll go on I'm so sorry tonight ended this way But I'd rather see you off the dance floor anyway

# The Question

How to never let go
Or keep wishing it all away
The better parts of your life
Her gaze
I love her gaze

### Just Another Refrain

Her eyes reach yours from across the room
Now I'm not sure what to say or how to move
Will it last? Will it remain?
Or is it just another song's refrain?
Can true optimism come to fruition?
Not just me alone wishing
The fishermen have left the scene
It's just you and me, I like to believe
We could both add a bucket of paint
Our own creation for us to make

### Tip of My Tongue

Adam has finally left
Now you can close your eyes
Truly reflect
That those pictures you held on to
For way too long
Can be thrown into the garbage dump
A caged animal that's finally free
But do you remember
How to flap your wings
She says that she enjoyed tonight
And I'm struggling
To come up with a way to write
That I wish I could never leave her side
Colder without you
Let me take flight

Fill in the last puzzle piece
The poems final refrain
You mean so much to me
And in your warmth I find peace

#### Water With Lemon

They don't know what to order It's just drinks
So I order first
(I always order a water)
But then someone else says
They'll say
Oh, you know
I'll just have water with lemon
But I just wanted water
(Water without lemon)
They come out
With lemons in all the water
But I just wanted water
No lemons
Not water with lemons

#### Frankenstein

Being pulled by the wind
Standing still in the middle of the hall
With a darkened dead stare expression
Glimpses of the others so tall
The calendar page blew along too quick
Tried to grab it before it ripped
It's no use to hold on tight
When your mind can change night to night
There's a monster hidden in the trees
Creeping behind with intent to eat
Or at least your mind has tricked you to believe it so
Time to move past my creation's toxic radioactive glow

#### You

Stomach is twisted up in to
Knots making up just us two
Never want to leave this place with you
I'm tangled up
By the foot
Pulled in to the deep end
A brand new look
Into the world that I've created
Upon delicate lines and sticky notes
Making waves with my magnificent fins
Your words keep my face in a grin
And after all the "you"s you wrote
I'll never want to let go again

#### On The Kitchen Floor

On the kitchen floor
For the day is such a bore
He won't move
And she can't get through
And it's always your own happiness
Used against you
So now I lay here
On hardwood floor
It's not really that comfortable
But it's better than whatever awaits me out in the world

#### I've Got Writer's Block

Don't be afraid to write shit

Shit

Shit

Shit, shit, shit

#### Blah Blah

Insert here
Load a disc
Running off a 6 hour shift
To reset your brain
Obstruct your complaints
Talking head with a tinnitus script

#### Sentimental

It's almost done Rational thoughts are long gone Glass dome, make amends And I'll never see it snow again

#### Turtle On the Road

Somewhere, out there Is a turtle on the road A car comes speeding in too fast That's the end of it. The car door comes open The man sees the mess In disbelief, At his knees What a wreck. That could happen That could happen, it could. You can't change the cards that's been dealt Or the weights hung against your belt Speed mileage signs restrain the leatherback Add another page Live another age Something may be missing But at least your shell Hasn't fallen off your back.

#### Fake Sun

I'm always on the run Hiding away from a fake sun Find the time to move out far Residing in the peace of a tranquil bike ride Down Down Down along the street Clap my hands to a rapid heart beat Level my focus To the level of bugs Glue my thoughts Stuck to sweet mud Yellow barricades keep me inside Holding me back from a greater state of mind Looking up at the real sunshine The fake can't beat what is real in time

#### Cycles

Early morning haze
Or late night completion
The difference is small and subtle
See it reflect off the puddle
The satisfaction of another day passed
Reborn again in the bright night light
Your throat is held with a gentle fondle
I'd kill you again if you left me to wander

# The Crux of Life

It's not about me and my problems this time Removing all the "I"s from a revised line Figuring out it's not how much you say But the space between words and what it conveys

### I Had a Terrible Thought

Echo effect on your voice
Makes it seem like it's something of worth
When really you're all alone
Chair glued to your bedroom floor
Tubing attached to the motor of your boat
Morality is stuck like gum in your throat
I panicked when I swallowed it whole
Hands numb
Sharp shock
A spark
And a knock
He's coming for me if I don't spit it out

### Pepper on the Grass

Novel all that your fragile heart can pour
If your head hurts, keep an eye to the floor
It's our own little place to be
Stay, stay there
With the burning bulb glow
Pepper the ground with the flakes of your skin
The problem might be more than I first let in

Is the path to happiness paved through a thorn bush? If so, the pen's ink would melt from the Sun Anyway, they say
You're not allergic to grass
It just brushes skin deep
Making you think
I'm going insane
I need to push it all away
One at a time, surviving day after day

### The Boiling Pot

The cool wash of a soft breeze Has never come easily And the beating of your quick heart Never allowed you a head start There's always a pressure brewing underneath And the advice to let yourself breathe Comes and goes Only when it wants to show Its face, hidden in the trees Waiting for that gentle hill breeze But it's not coming this time It won't come until you can find A way to turn off the oven How to stop running Stove-top keeps burning I watch it ignite, wondering Did I fill it up too full Did I make it too hot Should I let it settle Did I use the wrong pot A watched pot won't ever boil But it spills over when I'm glued to the timer Blinking lights, wait 'til the time is right On the kitchen floor for my whole life

#### Laundry Room

I'm chewing on my gums
Although I ate an hour ago
The taste of blood slithers around my tongue
Ready to pounce for an attack undone
A battle yet to be won

There's a dirty sock yet to be washed And an unopened bottle of laundry detergent Sitting on a table where no one can use it It's so obvious, it's right in your face Whoever left it must've forgot to clean today

I can't wait to write one day
That it was all just a game to play
I climbed the ladder, I made it out
I made all of my family proud
No, not yet
I just sit here on my phone
I'm writing out more boring words
Here in the laundry room

#### You're Losing Him

Walking carefully along the crosswalk
Stopping inconsistently
Keep your movements random
Or a driving force will pull you easily
I saw her just two hours ago
Now the Sun's already headed below
It warms my back and guides me forward
But my shadow stretches me so thin

### Sidewalk to Nothing

Wake up and repeat! Did you get enough sleep? Probably not, but it's irrelevant Pedal harder than I did in the past Go to bed, wake up, do it again I gotta get better Keep building up my strength Impossible to make these functions work When I'm running low on creativity White painted boring wall Stares straight into my soul Watches over until two in the morning I'm still just as small as before I can't come up with the right rhythm The right rock ballad to stop you from tripping It's a treadmill I've been running for a thousand years Picture frames melt into one I'm running up a sidewalk to nothing

#### Chair

A chair rocks back and forth
Never knows what it's worth
For every day, it hits the floor
Say goodbye
Know nothing more
It already expects what comes next
Every early morning and evening at night
A tall climb up into the bed
Isolated, free and out of sight
For a couple of hours at a time
They've gone over the edge
Hearing a quiet bundle of sighs
"I have to ask," said the chair,
"Are you really alive?"

### Rainfall

It seems like every year
You wait for color to appear
But the leaves always fall off the trees
Right when you say it's finally fall
(Yes please)
I'm trying to let go of it
Start over on a blank slate
But I can't help but say his name
When I remember what used to be
Watch the rain splatter against the windows
As it tries to claw its way inside
The water is absolute shit in this place
And the stars have once again covered my face

# Lake of Ice

I wish I could stop thinking about you And all the things we wanted to do No one else has seen what we saw So I draft up another stupid song Asking where you've been Texas, Colorado, hell, even Japan You built the stars and then took off And now I don't know where I am this fall It's already snowing hard I think I'll need a new pair of gloves But didn't I write that once before The moment before you took me below Skating across the lake of ice Where you claimed you had rode your bike It can't support us two Suppress a yell when my skin turns blue I fell deep in the frozen lake I'll take more than four years to change at this rate

#### Old Cartoons

Unexplainable
Can't complain no more
The simplest of things
Should no longer bother me
I'm all caught up in the notion of "that's life"
I didn't have time to see it snow outside
My friends are all here, they pat me on the back
But I can't seem to believe it will last

It's always so pretty, the first snowfall, that is
Lingers for a moment before you forget your bliss
I used to like it, being younger, sledding down steep hills
Now when I pass those trees, I wish I could just disappear
For only a day or two, really, no one will know
Use up my freetime doing something I love
Watch my favorite cartoons, those that used to confuse me
Now that I finally get Charlie Brown and Snoopy

# Finding Happiness

All I ever wanted was a best friend Someone who would trust me until the very end Yet it's so hard for you to believe my words and smile I can't carry the weight of all our problems that pile It never lasts long enough to see it blossom And I'm always more happy than you guite often We shouldn't put the blame on only one of us So please, refrain from saying I don't love you nearly as much Not a single day goes by where I don't care About your feelings and which thoughts of yours blare I don't like being on my own, I don't I just can't be the only who seems to know How to find happiness in the smallest of things Because I surely know you can't wait for the phone to ring You can't cancel time, it's plans have been made You have to accept it'll pass and let yourself wait I've watched my pot boil up for years And I'm tired, so tired, of being consumed by fear If you won't try to get better this time That burning pot will spill all over my skin

#### Shower

Stand still in a box that confines
Feeling smaller each and every time
I can't tell if I'm going insane or if it's real
But the temperature of water keeps dropping in here
I get out, let water drip down from my hair
Before I get dry and put on something to wear
It teaches me to remember how it feels
Helpless, exposed, and covered in tears

### Socially Inept

How can it be that I feel so confined
When in an open room
Full of people to find
Everywhere I sit, there's always an open seat
Are they unaware
Or are they staring straight through me
I get out, looking down at my phone
Because after months
I still don't know anyone
Run to grab the last bus back my way
And I still judge the narrow face
Reflecting back what I want to say

#### Wrong Investment

I learned to be careful
With money years ago
After watching how quickly
It molds an ego
A smile at the beach
Saying "It's all on me"
But losing your mind
So, so secretly

Now I'm here with all these unopened packages
Not sure if I'm ever going to see your reaction
And I can't go to sleep without thinking of you and me
And how you want me to be a man you've never seen

#### SN2024A

There's a thousand words I haven't said I'm afraid to make you worry 'bout how I've been And I just wish for a little more time To stop it all from moving for awhile Sit down and fish up those buried thoughts Right out of my own dead bait pile

It's like a burning star that served its purpose
To only be named something absurdly unimportant
Like SN2024A
For the first to die before it hits May

It seems my very own hivemind
Of irreparable space fabric
Was ripped by a temporal piercing gun
Of my simple mad magic
If it's mind over matter
And things are destined to change
Why must I battle to be content
With connections in my range
Of
A tractor beam with headlights
Shining way too bright
As I burn, combust
Brain drops to my knees

Due to the sudden release of gravity

Plummet into deep space
Down cosmic stairs of great heights
And for a sliver of time
I'm the brightest man alive
Until I'm cataloged as just one of a certain kind

With my final breath of air I'd cry out in despair: "Oh there's a thousand words I've yet to say Like 'without you I'd be a sight To see by May' And I'd demand a plea for the Untreated like-minded Such as the boy who's hidden Behind small eyelids If it came across as one of Universal curiosity And not as selfish prayers Without mindful modesty Considering all that has been said I am of the greatest concern That I'm not the right kind Of person deserving of your time"

### I Built a Boy

I built a boy
Out of what was nothing
Until it became something
Once I turned to the void

Although it may be true
That I'm nothing without you
I find myself wandering further away
From your face

I built a man
Rereading pages of an old book
Learning from the ashes
Out came the absence of a plan

Although for years it seemed I would never face uncertainty I find myself unable to escape From his face

### Compartmentalization

I rationalize my thoughts
Into unlabelled compartments
Allowing myself to forget for a while
Before I wake up prematurely, short of the Sun's rest
Knowing my day hasn't seen the best
Of what I know I can compile

Locked up and hidden behind walls
Is an understanding of the grass that grows
Solemnly passes and curls at your feet
Hollering expressive cries
A pleading attempt to resolve
The distasteful state of uneasy you so hastily try to leave

Cement paving leads you forward
Past what is done, what is a change in importance
Leaving behind a time when darkness coated your eyes
Sharp vocals knock you down all the same
And you've compartmentalized
It back into the same grave

Alas, we've come back
To the same place of your past
Reminders of the locks and keys you've buried
Emerge in the sample of grass and dirt
You tumbled over in a bush
It all goes to great lengths to follow you around
Convincing yourself it's fair to compartmentalize
When knowing someone out there has it so much worse

### In Theory

In theory, it would be
The greatest of ideas
Please the mind, pleasure the soul
Bend the silk
Craft a tender ghost

In theory, control the ends
Of your own fingertips
Guiding them along dangerous songs
Past the evil hums
Of harmonious cheer

In theory, it's always easy
Listening to words, believing
That the scribbles etched in your brain
Represent you greater
Than hidden wraiths

In theory, it isn't
The way I've been living
I ignore the warning signs on the road
Ending in a place I hate to stay
Virtue is long gone

This is the end of what I have wrote
But it is not the end of what is to come
The punctuation stands not to put thoughts a halt
Rather materialize an ellipsis to guide you past fault
Find your place jumping in a bottomless pit
Even when at first glance it seems easy to resist
A tidal force of déjà vu, a pitfall stomach drop
Cracking your nails on the wall, pleading to stop

You can't change the cards you've been dealt
And you can't resist when Time, on the phone, yells
"Cancellation of the plans you once made
Seek to instill doubt in all that you create
But the truth runs a little deeper than what is first seen
I know what you hide behind uncertain beliefs
It's a little boy who fronts as characters in life
Writing out notes to keep them free of his mind

You fear the loss of your translucent identity
You fear the moment you no longer believe in
The charge of a galvanized string of control
The passion fruit bursting, a bucket that overflows"
The booming bellows of the unlikely fellow
Ricochet bullets sounding of a vibrating cello
You've got a time budget you aren't ready to waste
But what's the fun in stressing every second of today?

I stumbled upon a colored sea at an empty beach
Since my inception, and I have fallen in so deep
I once sought for help, a line above the tide
A hand to drag me towards I place I can call mine
But after a profound phone call lasting four years
I think it's fair to say I get by forgetting to breathe
I'm proudly drowning in this prism of scattered light
Not imprisoned by the sharp shells and rocks I find

I am a whale, I am a shark, I am a buzzing bee
I am a turtle, I am a fish, I am a dying tree
I am a star, I am the Sun, I am a pot to brew tea
I am a messenger, I am a ship, I am all that I choose to be
I am both indecisive and too certain of what I want
I must leave something behind for when I'm gone
So although this is the end of what you can read
It is merely the beginning of who you can be

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