

Adam Heldring

“PORTS OF CALL” – ALBUM LYRICS

A1. YOU/MORE

it was beyond, beyond control
you were so damn cold, but you weren't wrong
I knew from the past, that kind of love can't last

I wanted you and you wanted more

you woke me up, 'cause you saw a ghost
I told you love, it's in your head
you said you were sure, that it wore
your mother's dress

I wanted you and you wanted more
I wanted you and you wanted more

I walked away and you don't have to worry
there's nothing to say and that's more than okay
I wish you well and I heard you got married
there's nothing to tell and that's more than okay

that heart grenade, inside your rib cage
it had my name, right on the lever
when I pulled you close, should have known
it would explode

I wanted you and you wanted more
I wanted you and you wanted more

A2. LIVE TOGETHER, DIE ALONE

she said I should get by
with this mind and this guitar
I'll probably sell them both
and get myself a car
we'll drive off in the sunset
and navigate by stars
smoke a thousand cigarettes
blow rings that drip with tar
oh oh, oh oh, oh

we'll drive through tiny cities
make stops at shady bars
pick fights with local heroes
drive pool cues through their hearts
play slow songs on the jukebox
break chairs over people's backs
then drink and smash the glasses
leave bartenders with heart attacks
oh oh, oh oh, oh

then we'll fly down interstates
not a stop for several days
find a cabin in the woods
paint a white cross on the hood
make our way up to Alaska
where weather is just like home
and wait to be forgiven
live together die alone
oh oh, oh oh, oh

A3. GOLDEN STATE

I could be a bad actor out in LA
bartend all night, pretend all day
like they do in Cali
out in California

I'll get my stuff boxed up
and stored away out in Jersey
I'll tell my friends goodbye and hail a cab
and say hey go to JFK

out in California, out in California

and I'll go into town and rent a wreck
like say, a rusty old Chevrolet
Swedish heart, American engine
northbound on the PCH
out in California

and I'll go up the coast to San Francisco
and walk the Golden Gate
like I did when I was a kid on holiday
out in California

out in California, out in California

I'll buy a clean suit with some dirty bucks
it costs money to have a soul
I'll let my blood run cold
chase my ghosts away
in a Malibu estate

out in California, out in California

A4. NEVER TOO LATE TO GIVE UP

it's never too late to give up
never too late to say fuck you
but it's way too late
to say I think we should give this a shot

never too late to say hey
never too late to say it's been too long
how've you been
and who did you get that gold ring from

never too late to say I'm okay
never too late to say I've been well
and it's true but I'd rather be in hell with you

so we cry together apart
and the tears turn into water under the bridges
and the blood you cry with your heart soon will run
in some kid you'll have with another man
that you'll never love

it's never too late to leave things unsaid
never too late to state time goes on
but it's way too late to say
I think I was the one who was wrong

you used to say that my arms kept you safe
that when you were with me you were never afraid
I'm sure you say that still

only this time it's to someone else
never too late to say I'm glad you were once mine
never too late to say I'm sure I'll be fine
and it's true but I'd rather be in hell with you

so we cry together apart
and the tears turn into water under the bridges
and the blood you cry with your heart soon will run
in some kid you'll have with another man
that you'll never love

A5. SLEEPER

with that spark down in your eyes
you could set the world on fire
just by looking at it once
I surely wouldn't mind
if it would keep me warm at night
and both my feet up off the ground
my only real concern would be
what shit would be left behind
not the things that it would burn
'cause you and I are a smoking gun
I suppose we've both gone blind
from starrng at the sun

you told me just what I wished you wouldn't say
not much of a sleeper anyway

saw you the other day
with that guy who looks like me
and I wondered what you'd think
if you knew that I was there
blank starrng at your hair
'cause I know just how it smells
and I wondered what you'd say
if you knew that I too was there with
somebody else that looks like you
somebody new but just like you
and does what you do

you whispered something I wish I'd never heard
not much of a sleeper anyway

some things you find
when you're told you've always known
like ocean tide it dries and floods your mind

saved a corner of my heart
where I will put you in the dark
as soon as this whole thing falls apart
never looking back
but always looking for just that
which can remind me of the one
who always made the water taste like wine
but made real wine taste like blood
I don't wonder why but I wonder
how we could be intertwined
yet hate to be one

you told me just what I wished you wouldn't say
not much of a sleeper anyway

A6. LATE NIGHT LONG RIDES

death don't scare me
like it did when we were
all alone, all alone, all alone
you wind me up
like a clock and tick tock
I can tell, I can tell
time is running out

late night, long rides
on the ground, face up, hopes down

if you're passing through my town
tell my first love she better
move on, move on, move on
please don't tell her that I lie
awake and wonder every night
running through past times
in black and white

late night, long rides
on the ground, face up, hopes down

paying bills and paying dues
making money, making love
everyone, everyone, everyone
wants to be on the news
everyone I know wants
everything all the time
and end up without

late night, long rides
on the ground, face up, hopes down

B1. DANCE

the government keeps following the paranoid
while the rest of us keep breaking the weak
we document through the lens of your polaroid
in this little town where everyone is a dj

so let the girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance
girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance, dance

millionaires throwing coins at the homeless
hitting heads and stepping on their tails
but they keep their bills
tightly rolled in their rubber bands
in this little town where everyone is a cliché

so let the girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance
girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance, dance

I don't want to go home
let's hail down another cab and move on
let's find a place where the lights are still on
let's hit it until the sun has made another lap

in a dirty lounge with martinis and back slicks
some runaround is spinning singles for chicks
with broken banks the real gold is on seven inch
in this little town where no one leaves a tip

so let the girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance
girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance, dance
let the girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance
girls choose the records
and see if the boys can dance, dance

B2. DOWNTOWN TO HOLLYWOOD

threw the dice in the drink short of ice
rolled it down my throat
familiar burn didn't win anything
but I felt my luck had turned
I find myself lost on the sidewalk
block after block killing time
'cause cabs don't work in this valley
where broken dreams go to die

from downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
from downtown

found some flowers for my lover and asked
mister how much, he said well what do you have
stuck a hand in my pocket to see
and felt a button and a list of demands
I said I'll give you the next line I think of
he said fine you'll get the next seed I sow
so I walked away with a flower of glimmering gold
wrapped not in paper but hope

from downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
from downtown

a forty-five foot sign steered my feet
from Skid Row to Vine
sky risers in back passed the junction
between standards over Highland
way over romance

they ring the bell time to close time to tell
the girl at your arm if it's on
sign the name of your enemy's friend
on the check get your coat hat and hammer
she said what's with all the glamour and spit out a smile
that could have made another man cry
I left her off at her doorstep
rang the bell and said goodbye

from downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
downtown to Hollywood
from downtown

B3. NO BROTHER LEFT BEHIND

it's the hardest thing to live at all
and you're doing it wrong you're doing it all wrong
your dying black heart is the best thing you've got
it's a diamond in glass
a needle in a haystack so get it back
we'll form a line and chase it out

where the East River runs out and turns into sea
is where a young guy ran too and turned into me
well I'm not running now I stopped and I found
that if I slow down
I'm getting there anyhow so I turn to you now
if you're alive it means you're alright

they say you've been slipping down, down
well we're not going to leave no brother left behind
I'm not leaving this place and if I do it'll be in a box

every dead circus town with long dusty streets
has got a sad lonely clown blowing with the tumbleweeds
so wash that old face from dirt and paint
and show it off straight
truth, wrinkles and real pain 'cause it won't hurt you now you
took the ride you've seen the low down wild

they say you've been slipping down, down
well we're not going to leave no brother left behind
I'm not leaving this place and if I do it'll be in a box

no wheels, no game but you're on your way
out in the rain, no coat, no blame
more black than red running in your veins
the things you said back then they saved my life

B4. FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR

born on the first day of the year
and the way the stars aligned dubbed a capricorn
just like Jesus Christ, 1982 years before
not old enough yet to be looking back
yet not young enough to hope
for a future made of gold
just the middle of the road
trying to catch a ride out in the cold

someone told me that I, that I'm trying too hard
I'm either stuck to the ground, or I'm flying too high
but it can't hold me back, 'cause I'm trying too hard
and it can't pull me down, 'cause I'm flying too high

some rusty airplane is painting the sky
with an engine for a brush and for paint carbon dioxide
drawing straight white double lines
like it's five a.m. uptown a friday night
four hundred strangers going somewhere
that I've probably never been
they're up there laughing in the cabin
while I'm just going home
looking up to feel a little less alone

someone told me that I, that I'm trying too hard
I'm either stuck to the ground, or I'm flying too high
but it can't hold me back, 'cause I'm trying too hard
and it can't pull me down, 'cause I'm flying too high

another year has come and gone
it's another world just looks a lot like the other one
that we used to make when we were young
now others have come and it's their turn
I turn it over I give it up

I press my face up against the glass
and leave a foggy mark looking like a mask
that I'm sure if it was asked
would tell you every secret that I have
some things just seem like random chance
and some would call it luck others call it romance
things I know about myself that I'll make sure
never to tell anyone else

someone told me that I, that I'm trying too hard
I'm either stuck to the ground, or I'm flying too high
but it can't hold me back, 'cause I'm trying too hard
and it can't pull me down, 'cause I'm flying too high

B5. SAY MY NAME

say my name like you love the taste
like it is your favorite word of all
like it hurts your mouth as the first
drop after drought, that keeps you alive

hold me now like your arms grew out
just so you could wrap them around
my soul like it meant something like we weren't just
surrounded by dark and cold black space

tell me the lie you know I want to hear
yeah just say that instead of goodbye
it's the one thing we don't talk about
it's the one thing you know that I fear
just tell me we're not going to die

say my name is all

Music & lyrics by Adam Heldring.