

## STATUETTE

he throws all his clothes off  
natural, smiling and laughing  
of marble and pearl  
what do i know?  
i bathe in the glow

to you, not me  
it all comes too easy  
the perfect occasion  
seen through perfect eyes  
the perfect pose  
noble and powerful  
my beautiful athlete  
you're nobody's prize

a crucible of him  
but glowing and molten  
forged into a statuette  
heavy and golden  
i bury it in the ground  
this object, this token  
who knows what might sprout up?  
who knows what i'm hoping?

a spotlight?  
what's going on here?  
they're calling my name  
i'm giving my speech  
the music swells up  
i thank the academy  
my own little academy

## **A FAVOR**

of all the souls in the city  
no one makes me feel colder  
i wanna be told i'm pretty  
i wanna lay my head on your shoulder  
someone to make it look easy  
i wanna be inside  
your soft cocoon of protection  
wrapping your ego around my pride

we all need a favor  
we do

so now i'm throwing in with the fire  
like the phoenix i'll rise anew  
the sword above my head  
the things our parents said  
cut me deeply  
there's holes in everything that i do

we all need a favor  
we do

## OPTIMIST

you packed it all up for him  
gave us what wouldn't fit  
you austere optimist  
i'm full of nerves to see you sit  
atop your craigslist motorcycle  
kick the stand up and smile  
you'd ride through anything  
you'd ride through anything

you'd ride through anything  
through any weather  
out on the road telling yourself  
it's for the better

we made it upstate  
where the bones of forest glades  
harbor glowing flames  
of the northwestern rains  
on great plains interstates  
the cornfields boxed you in  
is that where life begins?  
you'd ride through anything

why there?  
whatcha leaving for?  
the year is young  
the friendships strong  
the long nights spent up singin'  
the shiso and the bugs  
new york misses you  
here you are loved

you'd ride through anything  
through any weather  
out on the road telling yourself  
it's for the better

## THE NEEDLE POINTS YOU HOME

you assholes make me sick  
why must you rub my face in it?  
this pail of crabs i'm living in  
they're gonna tear me limb from limb  
and it might not seem so grim—  
where we're going and where we've been—  
if i could read those squiggly lines  
all tangled up  
remapping blind

at the crossroads of ignorance and bliss  
enjoy it, the ride it rarely lasts

the needle points you home  
the roads all pull you back to rome  
its people won't leave you alone  
senatus populusque no!  
i can't find no escape  
they tear my clothes and cause me pain  
tell me what you need from me  
tell me what you need

when old friends are chewing off your ears  
and true magnetic north is shifting year to year  
unmoored from all place and time  
the compass lets you roam  
as sure as the sun does shine  
the needle points you home

## GOOD EGG

please forgive me, i've fucked up again  
i didn't mean to act a fool with your friends  
i very nearly pitched a perfect game  
but the rain delayed my glory  
i almost caught you having fun  
but my big, dumb mouth kept on prattling on  
giving voice to words that were best  
left inside my head

it's not enough to have good intentions  
i gotta work to be the best that i can

a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be

the savage ways we get along  
the savage things we have said and done  
we savor what's been salvaged from  
the words we left unspoken  
there ain't no way to replace the truth that  
you're a foreign city without a map  
i've been walking around without a  
sense of where i'm goin'

all my dreams are all about you  
i don't ever wanna live without you

a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be

i never claimed to be a perfect human  
all i want is to do right by you, yeah

a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be a good egg  
i just wanna be

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