



01 imposter syndrome

i'm still having every conversation
i've ever started
tending to my anxiety
like a secret garden

everybody loves me until they know me
then they're disappointed
shiny bottle looks like wine
but there's nothing in it
like some kind of gimmick

so i think i'll just head home
i start to sound like someone i don't know
everybody's watching and i
i wouldn't know friendship if it was knocking down my door
imposter syndrome got me dancing alone
with everyone i know

all my friends are there for me
but all i ever do is let them down
so i spend my evenings inventing reasons
they should cut me out
'til i can't keep count

yeah, i think i'll just head home
i start to sound like someone i don't know
everybody's watching and i
i wouldn't know friendship if it laid me out on the floor
imposter syndrome got me dancing alone
with everyone i know

i don't know who i am
only who you want me to be
i don't know what i want
i only know what you want from me
i don't know who i am
only who you want me to be
i don't know what i want
i only know what you want from me

so i think i'll just head home
i start to sound like someone i don't know
everybody's watching and i
i wouldn't know friendship if it saved my life when i'm low
imposter syndrome got me dancing alone
with everyone i know

i wouldn't know friendship if it was knocking down my door
imposter syndrome got me dancing alone
with everyone i know

02 marry me

your best friend introduced us
she said, "play it cool"
but no one played it cooler than you
i assuage my pride
i tell myself you're shy
or maybe i'm not the type you're into

i tried to forget you
shouldn't it be simple?
at least it seemed so simple for you
then two weeks later on
you kissed me at a party
in front of everybody we knew

you pulled me near and
the room disappeared and
your hair was a mess
and i thought, 'men have started wars for less'

and then i black in, i'm on one knee
in the middle of the party in my beat-up sneakers
and i'm out of my mind, and you're out of my league
and darling you don't know it yet, but you're gonna marry me

oh, i know i came off crazy
blew every shot you gave me
we were gorgeous ships in the dark
days turned into months, i
heard you're with some tall guy
who never gets a character arc

we weren't even talking
when i saw you dancing
on a table in a sundress
and men have started wars over so much less

and then i black in, i'm on one knee
in new york at midnight on a crowded street
and i'm out of my mind, and you're out of my league
and darling you don't know it yet, but you're gonna
marry me

no easy road is worth the going
we're on and we're off again,
but i keep your letters and
wait for a sign
devised or divine
like it hadn't been right there
all this time

and then i black in, i'm on one knee
with my father's conviction and your grandma's ring
and i'm out of my mind and you're out of my league
but i know that look in your eye
it looks like you're gonna marry me

oh, no easy road is worth the going
we're on and we're off again,
but i keep your letters and
wait for a sign
devised or divine
like it hadn't been right there
all this time

03 you're just not her

oh, i think it's over
think it's safe to come out now
falling in love is an avalanche
i lost you in the aftermath

in the silence
when the smoke clears
there is a choice that you have to make
fight for it or walk away
if she's the one you'll stay

and **you're just not her**
i'm sorry you're not her
i'm sorry you're not the last call on the drive home
when you found the one and the rest is a blur
and you're just not her

must've known her in a past life
must've sold my soul to her
every glimmer of new love fades
in her cosmic meteor rains
all the cards had
her name on them
you're intricate and wild and bright
magnificent and right

you're just not her
i'm sorry you're not her
i'm sorry that i led you on
tried to make it feel right
when i knew the whole time
this was never gonna work
'cause you're just not her

you ask me why
i just stare blindly
were there signs?
i demur politely
my alibi
always to claim the nice guy
play it right
so well that i fooled even me, too
biding time pretending to choose
but i picture her every single time i kiss you
i tried to love you

but you're just not her
you're just not her

she'll always be the last call on the drive home
you'll move on and find someone who
lights up when you walk in the room
just for you the way i do for her
for me it's her
and you're just not her
you're just not her



04 love dies

my love, who're you gonna blame now
without me there to hold you down?
on the sideline still opining on how it ain't fair
must get lonely watching life go by from there

you lose your shot if you play it cool
castles fall when no one rules
flowers wilt if you let them dry
and if you won't even fuckin' try
love dies

so you move back home
and wait for your life to start
you've got big dreams
but only in the dark
and your mother never liked me or never had time
either way you never tried to change her mind

you lose your shot if you play it cool
castles fall when no one rules
flowers wilt if you let them dry
and if you won't even fuckin' try
love dies

186 miles had nothing on the distance in your eyes
and i've never seen someone so talented and so dead
inside

so you call from your parents' place
to say it's all too much and you need space
the only move you'd make
is turn your back and walk away

you walk away

you lose your shot if you play it cool
castles fall when no one rules
flowers wilt if you let them dry
and if you won't even fuckin' try
love dies

05 don't be that guy

twelve years old crying home to mom
kids can make you feel so small
like there must be some missing piece
to make them want to hang with me

so i count the days 'til summer's gone
saturday just waiting by the phone
rehearsing conversations
fill the blank social equations
somehow i'm not adding up each time
so i told myself, "don't be that guy"

feeling cool in a baby blue car
back from school and my hair was long
talk the talk, did he sound like me?
at the dance with a flask full of whiskey

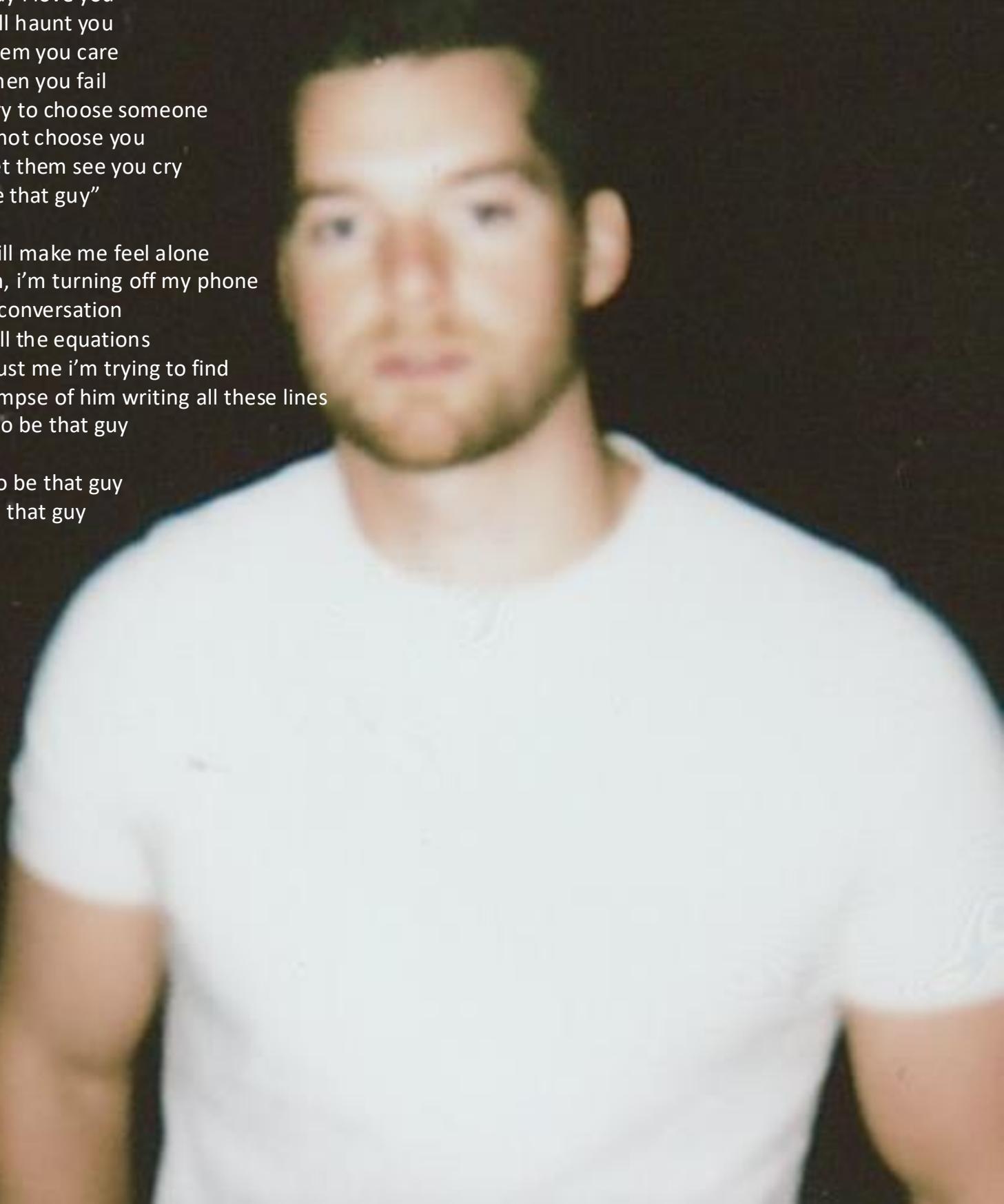
so i count the days 'til summer's gone
saturday, just waiting by the phone
replaying conversations
analyze social equations
i invented someone you could like
and he said, "don't be that guy"

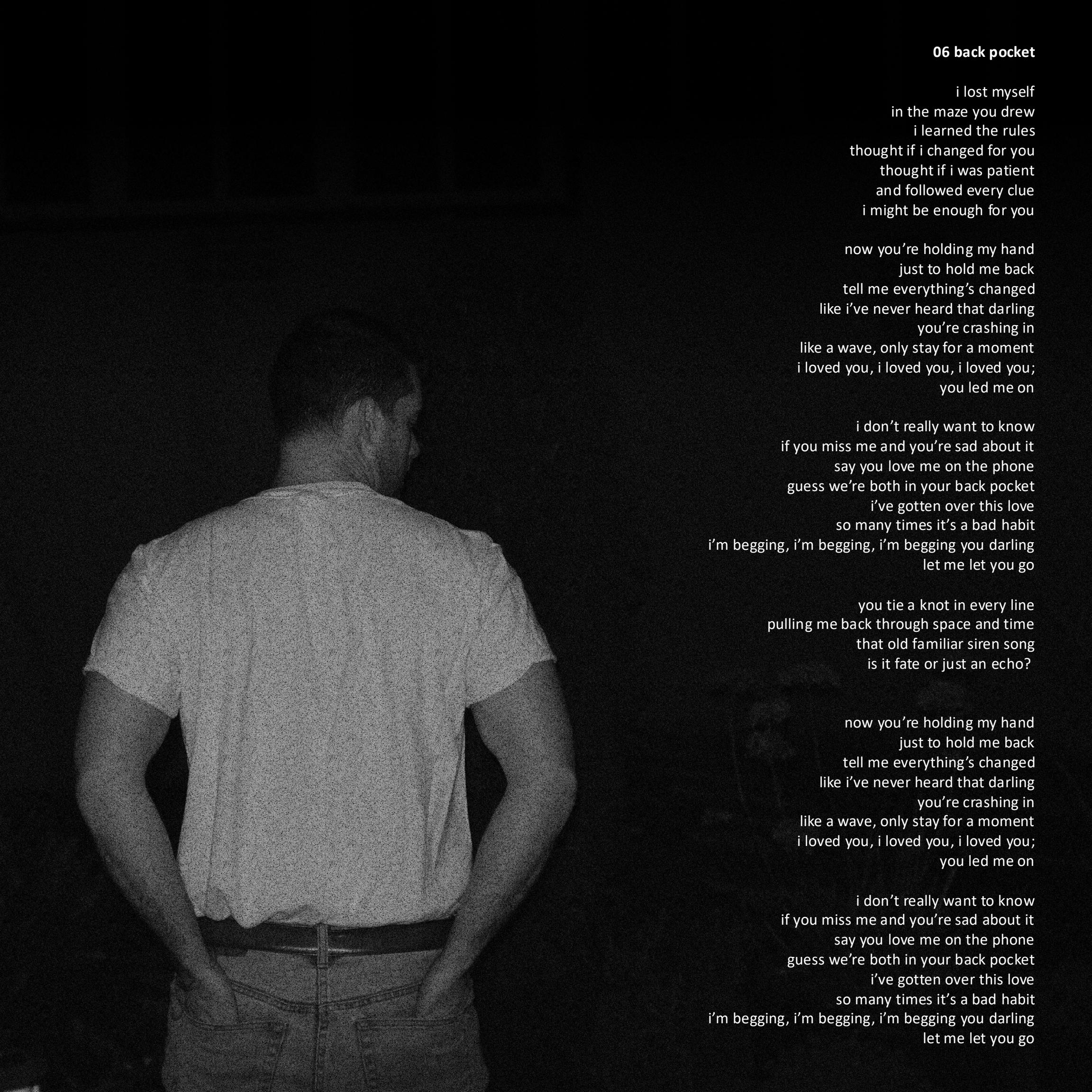
"don't chase your dreams
you're a fake, they can see it
just hold your head high
so you seem like a tough guy
and don't say you're hurting
you're such a fucking burden
just look on the bright side
so they stay on your side

and don't say i love you
the echo will haunt you
don't tell them you care
it will kill when you fail
and don't try to choose someone
they might not choose you
and don't let them see you cry
oh, don't be that guy"

summers still make me feel alone
deep breath, i'm turning off my phone
just want a conversation
throw out all the equations
maybe it's just me i'm trying to find
caught a glimpse of him writing all these lines
and i want to be that guy

oh, i want to be that guy
i want to be that guy





i lost myself
in the maze you drew
i learned the rules
thought if i changed for you
thought if i was patient
and followed every clue
i might be enough for you

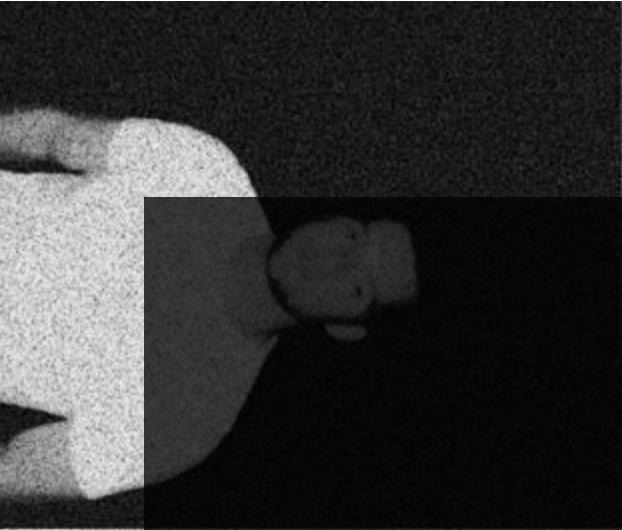
now you're holding my hand
just to hold me back
tell me everything's changed
like i've never heard that darling
you're crashing in
like a wave, only stay for a moment
i loved you, i loved you, i loved you;
you led me on

i don't really want to know
if you miss me and you're sad about it
say you love me on the phone
guess we're both in your back pocket
i've gotten over this love
so many times it's a bad habit
i'm begging, i'm begging, i'm begging you darling
let me let you go

you tie a knot in every line
pulling me back through space and time
that old familiar siren song
is it fate or just an echo?

now you're holding my hand
just to hold me back
tell me everything's changed
like i've never heard that darling
you're crashing in
like a wave, only stay for a moment
i loved you, i loved you, i loved you;
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so many times it's a bad habit
i'm begging, i'm begging, i'm begging you darling
let me let you go



07 the boys back home

well, the boys were never alright
won't you tell me what's on your mind
no one showed me how to open
the doors i keep on closing
locked tight

so,
to the boys back home:
i'm so fucking glad i know you
didn't tell you i'm home, but you're coming over
and i didn't choose you then but i choose you now
it was a place to hide, but now it's armor

so if you're looking for a shoulder
i'll always be there for you
to hope for what you're hoping
or carry what you're holding
tonight

to the boys back home:
i'm so fucking glad i know you
didn't tell you i'm home, but you're coming over
and i didn't choose you then but i choose you now
it was a place to land but now we're soaring

and you tell me your stories
and you tell me your stories
and i tell you my stories

an old friend i feel i just met for the first time
an old joke i knew but i just got the punchline
an old friend i feel i just met for the first time
my hometown but tonight i found a new skyline

to the boys back home:
i'm so fucking glad i know you
didn't tell you i'm home, but you're coming over
and i didn't choose you then but i choose you now
it was circumstance but now it's poetry

A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. He is leaning forward, looking down at something in his hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

08 let me down

i used to pray someone would bring up your name
any excuse to feel you again
i looked for you in every room i walked in
all of my castles i built on your land

i let you in, over, and all around
made you my dream and let you ease my doubts
i let you become someone i couldn't live without
you only ever let me down

i used to search your words for hidden meaning
give me your worst lie, i'll believe it
they say it's a delusion
call a spade and dig your way out quick
but they'll never know you the way i thought i did

i let you in, over, and all around
made you my dream and let you ease my doubts
i let you become someone i couldn't live without
you only ever let me down

i let you hold the pen that makes the meaning
tear out the pages, write your name on all my endings
i let you become someone i couldn't live without
and you only ever let me down

you wanted me but not to choose
wanted games you couldn't lose
asked for time, i gave you years
asked for space while i stay here

you called it peace then waged a war
left the court but kept the score
stacked the deck and called my bluff
made a bet and called it love

but it wasn't love, no
it wasn't love

i let you in, over, and all around
made you my dream and let you ease my doubts
i let you become someone i couldn't live without
you only ever let me down

i let you hold the pen that writes the meaning
tear out the pages, write your name on all my endings
i let you become someone i couldn't live without
and you only ever let me down

i let you in over and all around
and you only ever let me down



09 evergreen

today i almost stayed in my bed again
shades of blue crashing all around my mind
weighing down like oceans heavy
dragged away the currents led me
floating out to sea without a line

she's a friend in a room full of strangers
the quiet voice that says it's gonna be ok
didn't know where i was going
played it cool 'til i felt frozen
'til her spring breeze swept across my face

she's evergreen
dancing in the kitchen
windows open even though it's raining
she holds tight to me and i can breathe again
she's evergreen
the wind outside is changing
she is steady she's just swaying
she feels everything and then she's free again
she's evergreen

she pours wine and plays a record from the sixties
the vandellas singing 'love is like a heatwave'
so she lets it fill her up
to keep her warm when winter comes
and when it breaks she'll dance out in the rain

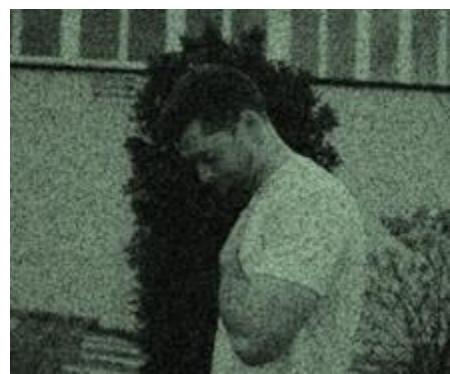


and if the girls who made her cry back in high school
could see the garden she watered with those tears
they would feel all of the joy
even they could not destroy
and wish they'd been planting lilies
not poison ivy all those years

she's evergreen
she's dancing in the kitchen
windows open even though it's raining
she holds tight to me and i can breathe again
she's evergreen
the wind outside is changing
she is steady she's just swaying
she feels everything and then she's free again
she's evergreen

wild and sweet she's everything to me
and when it gets dark she shines her light on me
oh, she's evergreen

the wind outside is changing
she is steady she's just swaying
she feels everything and then she's free
she's evergreen



10 poems

will you ride the wind with me?
will you drink coffee in the kitchen?
will you dance the galaxies with me?
will you squeeze my hand at the station?

i'll write you in my poems
get you drunk on what's in my mind
trace new constellations
from the glimmer in my eyes

i swear i'll take your breath away
falling in a giddy haze
swear i'll give you the best of me
will it be enough when it's just me?

will you tempt the fates with me?
walk the neighborhood at twilight
if i show you my wildest dreams
will you stay for the morning quiet?

i'll write you in my poems
get you drunk on what's in my mind
trace new constellations
from the glimmer in my eye

i swear i'll take your breath away
falling in a giddy haze
swear i'll give you the best of me
will it be enough...?

when the smoke clears and the light's gone
when the music stops and the crowd's gone home
when the rain falls and the storms come
when i'm lost in thought on the car ride home
when the magic dies and i can't pretend
when the night was long and the week was shit
when i hold this hurt, when i'm feeling low
when i gave my all but i came up short?

will it be enough?
will i be enough...?

and i tried to play it cool
oh, i tried to play it cool

but i've never fucking played it cool
not one fucking day in my life

