

Valley of Darkness (2013)

In the middle of nowhere, where the sun never shines
She was moving through the valley of darkness and trimming the vines
She was following voices; she was drinking her wine
She was thinking of choices she'd make somewhere down the line
I gave her a lift on the first night we met
She told me her gift was to make me forget
Our journeys entwined, the learning was mine
We were burning some time waiting for a best bet.
She was deep in the shadows, always looking for light
She was moving through the valley of darkness like a ghost through the night.
I told her nothing ever was wrong
She told me how hard it would be to be strong
She'd settled for less, she cleaned up her mess
And then she confessed this was taking too long.
She's a child of the water, born a daughter of flight
She is moving through the valley of darkness like a ghost through the night.
She's been cruising through the valley of darkness to set herself right.
She is moving though the valley of darkness like an angel to light.

Top of the Stairs (2015)

You were righting a wrong, I was writing a song,
Wormholes closing as I was composing
I was watching you talk, reconciling your walk
Warm souls frozen and forces opposing,
Trying to make sense of you; something that I couldn't do
There ain't no there there at the top of the stairs.
How your things came and went, you rarely said what you meant
Just another session 'round the dining room table.
I didn't mean to deride, I just couldn't decide
Whether you believe your own fables.
Trying to make sense of you; something that I couldn't do
There ain't no there there at the top of the stairs.
We could never even play we were together,
No matter how we tried, you brushed it all aside,
Every breath was like a day with different weather
A roller coaster ride, two bodies that collide.
Now we're left with the void, what's built is quickly destroyed
Hollow talk, shifting sand and shallow water
Everything in its place, everything at its pace
Let it all revert to its natural order.
Trying to make sense of you; something that I couldn't do
There ain't no there there at the top of the stairs.

Look, Don't Touch (2013)

I like to look behind the curtain; I never start till I've begun
I'm never sure until I'm certain, I'm never finished till I'm done
I find my luau shirts in BiMart, I buy my Blues hats at Goodwill
Can't wear my bowling shoes in alleys, I think it's time to take my pills.

Cause she said Look, don't touch, I've seen your paycheck and it isn't much
I'm a girl who likes to twirl and I hope to see the world
So forget your little crush, Just look, don't touch.
She spends her leisure time in Macy's, she has a credit line at Zales
Victoria's Secret isn't racy enough, she won't buy clothes if they're on sale
She has a preference for fine dining, she looks away I pay the bill
She's waiting for the silver lining. I think it's time to take my pill
And she says: Look, don't touch, I like you very much
But I've done this all before and I want a little more
And I just don't feel the rush. So look don't touch.
Doing Tai-Chi, sipping chai tea, all night, In a dojo till my mojo's working just right
She said I'd like you so much better if we just remain unfettered
I guess I'll just forget her for a while. Look, don't touch, just smile.
She seems to savor her au gratin, creamy potatoes with appeal
She says the dandelion's rotten, maybe it's just the way I feel
I try to focus on my roast beef, she wonders if it's GMO
I tell her that I think it roamed free, She tells me that it's time to go.
Look don't touch, doesn't anyone believe in going Dutch
So get down from your high shoes, maybe show me some tattoos
I know this won't amount to much.
I may look but I won't touch.

Frack You! (2014)

I will get under your skin, I will get under your crust
If you will just let me in, I'll turn your granite to dust
I'll turn your oceans to salt, I'll steal the O from your air
You know it's nobody's fault, if nobody cares.
I'll melt the ice on your poles, I'll taint the water you drink
I'll turn your diamonds to coal, I'll change the way that you think
I'll turn your blue skies to gray, I'll strip your rainforests bare,
No one will get in my way if nobody cares
Frack you and everything that you're worth
Frack you, it's an expendable Earth
Frack you, just watch your HDTV
And pay no attention to the things that you see...
Frack you, I'll sell you pills by the pound
Frack you, Drill you a hole in the ground
Frack you, I'll fill your mailbox with spam
I'll do what I want if you don't give a damn
I will get under your skin, I will get into your blood,
I'll fetch the sales from your wind, I'll turn your rivers to mud
I'll seed your clouds so it rains, Paint you illusions to share,
I'll feed the doubts to your brain until you don't care.
I will get under your skin, I will get into your lives,
I'll turn your goodness to sin, and suck the bees from their hives
And when I'm done with this world I'll build a ship to the stars
Then when my flag is unfurled, I'll terraform Mars.

Center of the Universe (2014)

Holed up for years, got a yen to go dining
Found a place where I don't have to think
A bit of *Cheers* and a bit of *The Shining*
They know your name and they hand you a drink
Climbed the stairs just to hear some live music
Bands from town or touring l5
Getting down and dancing to blues licks
All of a sudden we were feeling alive!
See you at the center of the universe
The drinks were cold and the music was hot
The fire was toasty and the couch very cozy
The nights were rosy, such a very sweet spot
Meet you at the center of the universe, watch the people come and go
Students and boomers, some gossip and rumors.
There's no place so comfortable, that much I know.
Made some new friends, everything ends
Those days are gone, it's hard to move on
(Those days are through, I'll still look for you.)
Where do you go when you want some amusement
What do you do when you need to get out
Kick up your heels and order a meal
Where do you ponder what life's all about
Who's got your back when you're down or you're lonely
Found me a refuge in this fairy tale town
Looking for fun, not just one and only
Where will I find you the next time around?

A Year of Seasons (2011)

It doesn't count if you count when you dance
Don't count me out when you're taking a chance
I read the warning on the bottle
I peeled touched the label, I drank the wine
We took the plunge, hoping for good things
We live and learn and everything's fine.
It can't be real if what it's based on's not true
I wonder what the world looks like to you
I missed the omens, ignored the obvious signs
Caught in the moment, over the line
If something's missing I'm not to blame
I'm only listening and trying to remember your name.
It doesn't work if it doesn't compute
Square pegs and round holes no matter how cute
Might be a reason we all do what we do
A year of seasons, the colorful views
We count our blessings and watch the clock
It's all a lesson, a drive round the block.

Turn To Fall (2012)

Watching the leaves as the fall turns to winter
Watching the sky as the rain turns to snow
I'd rather walk on the beach, I'd rather be out of reach
Maybe the time has come I feel like I need to go
Nothing to say so I'll talk of the weather,
To tell you the truth, I can't say what I mean
Please don't go out of your way, as always you're welcome to stay
For good times and bad times and all the times spent in between
And I like to take it lightly, raise a finger in the air
Then I'll ask you to hold tightly, I'm not going anywhere
So I look for things in common, Trace the writing on the wall
And I take my rum with Ramen, And I try hard not to fall
What would I say if you tell me you need me
What will I say when I see you again
You'd rather dance in the moon, you'd rather sing out of tune
Walking so long and so far to be nowhere at all
Drinking and thinking that maybe it's my turn to fall.

Somewhere Over Your Head (2012)

Looking for a way in, looking for a way out
I know you want to stay in, I'd like for us to stay out
You can never know the score 'till you're somewhere over your head
It's your nature to want more, I'd rather simplify instead
Keep it light and easy tonight; I'll take you home.
Looking for an answer, looking for a question
You're looking for a dancer who moves to your direction
You can never call the winner while the lever's being pressed
We can have a lovely dinner and I'm glad that you're undressed
But tonight let's keep it light, we'll sleep alone
I know it's the proper thing to do
I tell you it's me it isn't you
I tell you I'm sorry, I tell you don't worry
I told you I don't want to be in such a big hurry.
Love is an enigma, love is an illusion
Love can be a process, never an intrusion
If you look too hard for meaning you'll forget just what it takes
If you feel this car's careening well then just apply the brakes
Keep it light and easy tonight, let's just have fun.

How Do We Get There From Here (2014)

How do we get there from here
Can we skip over miles till our smiles reappear
How do we get there from here
Can we cut through the haze till we see better days
Is this really what you mean, I hear doubt in between
Is this really what you need, nothing is guaranteed
So how do we get there from here?
How do we make this all right
Just turn over in bed and lightly kiss you goodnight
How can we both close our eyes

When we've shaken our heads and then said our good-byes
Is this really how you roll, baby look at your soul
Is this really how you feel, harsh words just seal the deal
So how do we get there from here?
There's a village, cross the ocean, where they're making sweet love and sipping good wine
And I'm filled with crazy notions that a sweet simple life could be yours and be mine
There's a mountain in the distance but it's shrouded in clouds
Overcome your own resistance; all your doubts shout too loud
So how do we get there from here—it's not clear.
How do we get there from here
When we're riddled with questions and crippled with fear
How do we jump toward the light
When we don't know what's up and we can't say what's right
Can we really make a go, Honey I just don't know
Can we really make this last, gotta get over the past
So how do we get there from here?

Vermont Sun (1976)

There's a mist about the mountains
I can see it hanging low
I can hear the river rushing
As if it's got somewhere to go
I'd like to follow it away, being fed by mountain streams
I'd like to spend my final days here, being raised on country dreams
As we follow an old railroad
Whose tracks like buried underground
Overgrown and long forgotten
Wondering what treasures can be found
Follow tracks down to the water
See how fast the river runs
Try to swim against the current
Your naked skin dries in the sun
Much too soon the summer's over
I find it hard to say good-bye
I hope that you'll think of me often
I'm gone miss your shining eyes
How I wish you could come with me
But I know it can't be done
We've both got our own commitments
And yours includes the Vermont sun
I left you on a stormy Monday
The mountain clouds were filled with rain
And I blew into New York City
Riding on a hurricane
But still I wish I had you with me
Perhaps you feel the way I do
Please let me know if you should miss me
There may be more than we both knew.

Don't Grow Away (1977)

Would, could you believe it, if I were to tell you how I feel,
Would it be any different if I could assure you this love's real,
I should know better than to get involved with you,
You are so young I never thought it'd happen like this,
Please don't think the worst of me.
As you lie there sleeping,
There is so much I feel I should say,
As our involvement was deepening,
The little excuses, they got in our way,
I should evaluate my intentions toward you,
You are so young I guess I figured I was safe from you.
Please don't let us grow away.
Can you look me in the eye and say that you don't care?
Can I make up for lost time?
I'm prepared to stop and say that there is something there,
Unless of course our love's a crime.
Girl, you are a lady and despite your age you made me a man
Though complications have plagued us
I want to stay close to you know as long as I can.
I can't be casual in a circumstance like this.
In the meantime I will find the words to say
God don't ever grow away.

Laddie Boy (2005)

Everything ends and the seasons change,
This empty patch of grass is jarringly strange
I knew from the start, I think you did, too,
A doggie so smart to admire the view
But when everything's done, I wish us more time in the sun.
The birds will fly, the wind will blow, The sun shines where you used to go
There's a void by my side and buddy I miss you so.
Laddie boy, the joy of one more treat, Once again, you will sleep at my feet.
To stroke your fur and comb your hair,
There's no home home when you're not there
The deer will graze, the cats will play,
Without you around to chase them away
Wish you could make them run for a few more days in the sun
Laddie boy, the wind is in the trees,
Way out there, I hope you can bask in the breeze.
I know in my heart that you live on
That you're waiting for me in the great beyond
That our time's just begun and we'll have plenty more days in the sun.

Wine Without Reason is: Scott Calamar (lead & backing vocals, keyboards, acoustic rhythm guitars, ukuleles); Will Bartell (pedal steel, electric, and acoustic guitars, harmonica, backing and harmony vocals); Kevin McKern (drums and percussion); Bruce McKern (bass). We thank Jim Quinby for piano on *Center of the Universe* (which is dedicated to Alex's Plaza Restaurant, formerly in Ashland).
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