

# **The Bird or The Wing**

**Carrie Newcomer**

1995 Lyrics

## **Holy Ground**

There's more to this than me  
There's more to this than you  
More to this than the sum of all it's parts  
More to this than I can just keep in my heart

Chorus: There's a woman offering a spirit like wine  
And a man in a suit who is trying to sell you God  
Close you eyes, bow you head, and sing without a sound  
And take off your shoes cause your on Holy Ground  
Holy Ground

It comes up from the earth  
It comes right through my feet  
It comes down through my head and out my fingers  
It bounces off the back wall  
It's sent out like a letter from you

Chorus: There's a woman offering a spirit like wine  
And a man in a suit who is trying to sell you God  
Close you eyes, bow you head, and sing without a sound  
And take off your shoes cause your on Holy Ground  
Holy Ground

Lay down like a lion  
Lay down like a lamb  
Lay down in the dark next to me  
Understand what can folk and unfold

Chorus: There's a woman offering a spirit like wine  
And a man in a suit who is trying to sell you God  
Close you eyes, bow you head, and sing without a sound  
And take off your shoes cause your on Holy Ground  
Holy Ground

## **The Bird or the Wing**

You've got that crooked way of smilin', you got that soft way of talking  
You got that crazy way you put our arms around me when we're walkin' that all right with me, that's all right with me  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I am the wing  
But that's all right

I got this place out on the water, I've got a dog and a daughter  
I've got a care that's getting old but it's runnin' fine  
That's all right with me, that's all right with me  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I am the wing  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I'm am the wing  
But that's all right

I've been walking around your table, I've been circling around the fountain  
I've been flying like a falcon, just as hungry as the ocean  
But that's all right, that's all right with me  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I am the wing  
But that's all right  
It's is deeper than the place where we'll walk in the shadows  
It's clearer than the note that we can sing  
That's all right with me, that's all right with me  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I am the wing  
But that's alright

You got that crooked way of smiling, you go that soft way of talking  
You got that crazy way of putting your arms around me when we're walkin' That's all right with me, that's alright with me  
I don't know if I'm the bird or if I am the wing  
But that's all right

## **Nomads**

It's hard out on the border, it's cold out on the line  
I've haven't slept for hours and hours this time  
I get the jitters in my legs, I get wound so damn tight  
NI can't turn off the voices talking in my head at night  
Nothing is ever really gone, it's all here in my mind  
A face will rise u to the surface, smile and fall below the waterline  
Were like waves out on the water, we touch then move away  
Living in a circle not a line  
Just seeing how much compassion in the world we'll fine  
Like nomads  
Childhood races quicker than the speed of sound  
You were once my baby, soon you're be walkin around downtown  
I've been working long hours, I've been out there on the road  
Hopin' when I come home you're someone I still know  
Someday I'm going to fly like an angel in the air  
Someday I'm going to close my eyes and be halfway there  
Someday I'm going to hear a voice I heard once in a dream

## **Tenderly With You**

I don't mind the years gone by when I think I'm getting better  
I don't mind to fall so far when I think I can get up  
But I mind the anger I have learned to acquire  
And I mind the tough I've grown to wear around like armor  
I could live with out you but I don't want to try  
I could do it all alone but what would it prove and why  
To get beyond our proud and tough  
And learn when tenderly enough  
I just want to be tenderly with you  
I just want to be tenderly with you  
When I was a little girl my mother would brush my hair  
Now I've learned to brush my own and act like I don't care  
And say, "It's not so hard to be so strong"  
And do what's right even when they say it's wrong  
Yet there days I'd just like to belong  
Somewhere  
I just want to be tenderly with you  
I just want to be tenderly with you  
Must we always hurt the ones we love  
Does push always heave to come to shove  
I just don't believe that's true  
There's a hundred ways to guard your heart, if you really want to know  
There's a thousand way to stay at arms length if you really wish it so  
But I have found that sure resolve, a mystery I'm going to solve  
And a hard shell I will dissolve

## **The Love Letter**

When you look real close you can see real good  
You can see the imperfections  
Now that we know the crooked and the straight  
We can love in real completion  
It's a danger to love for tomorrow  
It's a danger to love for the better  
But if it's not there it's just not there  
With the things that really matter  
Taking it just the way that it is\  
I'm taking it at face value  
Things can look better in the distance  
But that not the way I want to love you

I want to love you that close  
I want to love you that close  
I want to love you that close

I'm taking it just the way that it is  
Opinion s will fly back and forth  
And to disagree can be treason  
But you have loved my stronger side  
And I have loved the reasons  
Takin' it just the way that it is  
I'm takin' it at face value  
Things can look better in the distance  
But that's not the way I want to love you  
I've been drinking my coffee from a china cup  
I've been feeling holy and better  
In a borrowed apartment in Boston  
I sat down and wrote you this love letter.

## **The Yes of Yes**

When the morning comes like a moment blessed

Breathing next to you my yes of Yes,  
And hold you like some promises made  
It's a way of way of praying  
I hold her little tender hand, walk side by walking side  
She asks me why, I smile and say  
"It's a way of, way of praying."  
It's moments so fleeting that make our whole life long  
Oh, some things come and some things go  
And some things we will never know  
Some mysteries will guide our way  
It's a way of way of praying  
I raise my hands to frame the light  
I raise my voice in the middle of the night  
I close my eyes when I start to sign  
It's a way of, way of praying  
In the silence you surround my soul  
In the laughter you can make me whole  
I hold it all like some promise made  
It's a way of, way of praying

## **Wisdom is Watching**

He believes he's right, she believes she's right  
He stepped out of the car, he stepped into the light  
He stepped into a war, believing he was right  
He believes he's right, he believes he's right  
He stepped into the circle, he read between the lines  
With a blood lust religion saying, "vengeance is mine"  
But God is watching, Wisdom is weeping  
This is not what was meant, this is not what was said  
I am shakin', it's crazy and absurd  
It comes down to what you love  
Not down to who you hurt  
She believes she's right, he believes he's' right  
He's lying on the ground and he's bleeding out his life  
Like an unwilling hero, believing that he's right  
But God is watching, Wisdom is weeping  
This is not what was meant, this is not what was said  
I'm shaken, it's crazy and absurd  
It comes down to what our love  
Not down to what you hurt  
She believes she's right, she believes she's right  
She steps out of the car, she steps out in the light  
she steps into a war, believing that she's right.

## **Under Your Skin**

I spent time in a truck stop, time pouring coffee  
I was wearing my hair long, I was loving an angry man  
I wore too much eyeliner  
I spent time in a new town, playing covers for tips  
I spent my birthday this year in Ohio in a Day's Inn hotel  
It's all in who you are and where you've been  
That gets into your bones that get under your skin  
It's not just the memories you take from them  
That gets into your bones than get written on your heart  
That gets under your skin  
I spent time on Lake Michigan, we were drinking in high school  
We were restless and waiting, restless and wanting  
For something to break  
And time and another I was watching it wither  
I was holding my hands out, holding my hands up  
Holding it together  
There have been people and partings  
And those things that you should have seen coming  
There have been memories and moments  
And those faces you can't forget  
I lay back with my baby, we were lit up like lanterns  
We were rolling like laughter, rolling like thunder  
Rolling around in your arms  
It's a strange adventure, this whole getting older  
There is so much to measure, so much to treasure  
So much to grieve  
And there is a girl at the counter and she's pouring me coffee  
She's wearing her hair long, she's got too much eyeliner  
Like I used to wear  
She 's pouring me coffee, she's got to much eyeliner  
Like I used to wear

## **I'm not Going to Let you Break My Heart**

You lay down you money and you take your ride  
You reach out in the darkness and you step inside  
You keep on believe not matter what's died  
You raise up your head and you wipe your eyes  
I'm not going to let you break my heart again  
I'm not going to let you break my heart  
I've tried and I've asked abut that was all in the past  
And I'm not going to let you break my heart  
Skin can be salty and love can be sweet  
And I know every work cause I've said them complete  
I wont get caught up in the struggle to get close  
And I won't lose myself to the thing I want the most  
I'm not going to let you break my heart again  
I'm not going to let you break my heart  
I've tried and I've asked but that was all in the past  
And I'm not going to let you break my heart  
You got the letter that I tacked on your door  
And I guess that last phone call was words and nothing more  
I found myself crying in the shower thin morn  
Well, I might be forsaken, but I'm not forlorn.

## **Closer to Home**

This is a lovely place that is hard to leave  
And there is a loneliness that we will always grieve  
So give what you can and only take what you need  
And hope your heart will know what your eyes can't see  
When I was a child I still thought like a child  
And I still feel like a child sometimes  
But I'm learning the farthest I'll travel each day  
Is to the edge of my blindness, and then a little more ways  
We will meet again I'm sure  
Someday when our sorrows are cured  
And we'll walk like friends, embrace again  
Much closer to home we'll be then

The world will build walls without any doors  
And it is easy to forget what we are climbing them for  
But I saw an angel with hope on its face saying  
"There's good work to do, and there is no time to waste"

Chorus

We are closer to home, we are closer to home  
We are closer to home that we know  
I felt your soul in your fingertips  
And I have held your hand and brushed them to my lips  
And I saw the child that I birthed in my pain  
And when she opened her eyes there were your eyes again

Chorus

## Looking For Something

There no black and white, no easy answer I've found  
Only shades of gray on a gray on a gray background  
It's got nothing to do with your spirit it's got everything to do with politics  
It's got nothing to do with love, its only power and who's wielding it.  
I really couldn't tell you, I really couldn't say  
How love can hold you, love transforms you, love stops away  
Love will fight like two cats in the alley, or slam the door in rage  
Love shines like reason in the darkness, love turns the next page  
But you say you love me and you've loved me all along  
But how can I trust my heart when it's been so wrong  
How can I believe this is not another near miss  
How could I put my heart into your hands and take another risk  
Chorus: I've been looking for some thing  
Looking for something all my life  
How restless how uneven the time has been until now  
Though everything has brought me here, though I couldn't tell you how  
We have been alone together, we've been separate and complete  
But how it shivers and it trembles in the place we meet  
But you say you love me and you've loved me along  
How can I ever trust my heart cause it's been so wrong  
How can I believe this is not another near miss  
How can I put my love into you hands and take another risk  
Chorus: I've been looking for some thing  
Looking for something all my life  
He said the one of you without any wrong could throw the first stone  
And they all got very quiet and they had to slip away home  
He walked right over and picked up a stone, put it in her hand and said," There s no one here to judge you  
here and I understand  
You've been looking for something looking for something all your life.

## **The Prelude**

It's a prelude to goodbye  
When you close your eyes  
You didn't see the signs Maybe I'm right, maybe I'm wrong  
Maybe I thought I had met my match  
But maybe I'm not that strong  
I'm all right I'm just fine  
I've been hurt harder than I've been hurt this time  
It's a shame you can't take words back  
Cause they hang in the air, they linger and that's a fact  
Words can be arrows, they can be windows  
They can do so very much of mean so very little  
Maybe I'm just amazed that I could feel thins hard  
Maybe when I fall these days, I only fall so far  
It's a way of letting go, when you steel yourself  
For some kind of trouble, and cut your losses low  
And you smile like it's no big deal  
Like it's one more misjudgment  
In the way that you thought you'd feel  
But I'm not finished I'm not done  
Maybe I've just started, maybe I'm only numb  
Maybe I'm just amazed that I could feel this hard  
Maybe when I fall these days  
I only fall so far

## **Distance**

Distance can deepen your appreciation  
I think it makes your heart forgetful  
Sometimes I wonder what we do this for  
But I can feel you sitting in the side seat  
I can hear you whispering against my cheek  
Hotel beds get big and wide  
I can see me coming home to you  
I can see me walking real slow and sure  
I can see me coming home to you  
Coming home  
I've always been like so much running water  
Smoothed your heart like stones in the riverbed  
But sometimes I don't know my own heart and head  
You are also restless and moving  
You are crossing another state line  
You say that you love me, but it's been a long long time  
I can see me coming home to you  
I can see me walking real slow and sure  
I can see me coming home to you  
Coming home, coming home to you  
I've got hours to go, just me and my radio  
With my hands filled with time I've got a hungry mind to know know it and to know you  
Making peace with the past and the things that we've come to learn it like we've earned it  
To live after a fashion a with some kind of passion  
It's another love song that I don't have an end for  
Another way of saying I hope this whole thing works out again  
But I've always kept a part of my heart free  
And that's the part you've been asking of me  
I can see me coming home to you  
I can see me walking real slow and sure  
I can see me coming home to you  
Coming home coming home to you.