

## Better This Way

By the way, it's been two years now since you broke us all apart  
By the way, I'm doing okay now even though you broke my heart  
I've been to India, I've been to Oregon, and I never thought I'd say  
I might even like it better this way

Getting used to being alone now, it's not much different from before  
Twenty years is such a long time to finally close the door  
So I went to India, I went to Oregon, and I never thought I'd say  
I might even like it better this way

Never thought I'd ever feel whole again, still not sure if I'm even there  
But I'm trying to let myself grow again, just trying to breathe the air  
I've been to India, I've been to Oregon, and I never thought I'd say  
I might even like it better this way

I still don't know why you hurt me so, it's a mystery to me  
But I've given up trying to understand so that I can find some peace  
Maybe someday when the wounds have healed  
And you can finally say you understand what I feel  
And it's a different world, and I know what's real  
We can look at each other and say  
Maybe it's better this way

By the way, it's been two years now since you broke us all apart  
By the way, I'm doing okay now even though you broke my heart  
I've been to India, I've been to Oregon, and I never thought I'd say  
I might even like it better this way

Never thought I'd ever feel whole again, still not sure if I'm even there  
But I'm trying to let myself grow again, just trying to breathe the air  
In two years I've been to hell and back  
Drunk myself unconscious, put a pack on my back  
And I've been to India, I've been to Oregon, and I never thought I'd say  
Maybe it's better this way

I still don't know why you hurt me so, it's a mystery to me  
But I've given up trying to understand so that I can find some peace  
Maybe someday when the wounds have healed  
And you can finally say you understand what I feel  
And it's a different world, and I know what's real  
We can look at each other and say  
Maybe it's better this way

I guess it might even be better this way  
Maybe we can say that it's better this way

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*  
*Michael Nowak: Electric bass, electric guitar*  
*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*


## The Ballad of Lily West

When she was five-and-a-half, she could always make 'em laugh  
Doing people's voices from TV  
In school plays she got the lead parts, she knew how to touch their hearts  
They said she was the one you've got to see

Her name was Lily West  
And she's gonna be an actress  
She'll be the very best  
She's Lily West

At nineteen she quit the scene in her hometown, small town Dairy Queen  
Bought an old brown Dodge, packed up all of her gear  
Headed south to LA, quickly found a place to stay  
Promised herself she'd make it in a year

'Cause she was Lily West  
And she's gonna be an actress



She'll be the very best  
'Cause she's Lily West

She always knew she could be a queen of the silver screen  
So long as she put some miles between herself and the Dairy Queen  
It really wasn't quite so bad being on your own  
And when she makes it big here, she'll make it home  
Or at least phone

She auditioned for a part or two, she was pretty, she knew what to do  
But work was hard to get, that's just the way that it goes  
She met a guy in her neighbourhood bar, he said he could make her a star  
All she had to do was to take off her clothes

He said "You're Lily West  
And you're gonna be an actress  
I'll make you the very best  
'Cause you're my Lily West"

Lily did become a queen of the triple-x-rated movie scene  
It wasn't what she came to the city to do  
But at least it pays off her bills for her glamorous lifestyle, the booze  
and the pills  
She is a star in LA, her dreams have come true

'Cause now she's Lily West  
And she is an actress  
She always gives her best  
Now she's Lily West

She always knew she could be a queen of the silver screen  
So long as she put some miles between herself and the Dairy Queen  
Though sometimes at night when she finds herself all alone  
She closes her eyes, tries not to cry, and thinks of home  
But she can't pick up the phone, 'cause she never wants them to guess  
What became of Lily West

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*  
*Michael Nowak: Electric bass, electric guitar, organ*  
*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*

### **Adam's Song**

You move like a dancer  
You come to me like a prayer  
You falter like you used to know the answer  
And I call to you when you're not there

It might seem like it's been a long time  
But it was only yesterday  
And I thought I recognized you  
'Cause I knew your name right away

I can't understand what I did before you came  
Since I held you in my arms, nothing's been the same  
In the morning in your eyes, everything is new  
And when you call out to me, my world becomes you

You move me like an ocean  
You breathe me like a song  
You lift me up in your emotion  
You've been carrying me all along

And to you it's really been a lifetime  
But it was only yesterday  
When they held you up so I could see you  
And I have never looked away

I can't understand how I loved before you came  
Since I held you in my arms, nothing's been the same  
In the evening in your smile, everything is true  
And when you call out to me, my world becomes you

You move just like a dancer  
You come to me like a prayer  
You falter like you used to know the answer  
And I call to you when you're not there

Adam, every day I want to thank you  
For spinning my soul across the floor  
Will you be my dancing partner  
And dance with me some more

C'mon and dance with me some more

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*

*Vania Levans: Flute*

*Mark Sullivan: Violin*

*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*

## Driving

Sitting here beside you, and I'm wondering if it's the last time  
We're driving down this same old road again  
Just like the last time, there have been way too many times  
How many ways can we make amends?

But we're getting tired now, so tired of trying now  
Somehow this thing has got to end, it's got to find a way to end

There'll be others you say, other lovers you say  
And time has a way of easing pain  
Sounds like you've made your mind up, and now I've got to find  
A way home in this driving rain

And just like the last time, there've been way too many times  
How many ways can we be just friends?  
But we're getting tired now, and you're tired of driving now  
You can let me off just around this bend, and I'll find my way home again

Sitting here at this bar now, and I'm trying to write this song now  
You know I'm always one for hanging on  
Still your words surround me, and the melody has found me  
It plays in my head long after you have gone

And I don't know why there's this Jerry Jeff Walker sigh  
In these lines, as if I've turned your car radio on  
And we're never going to get tired now, 'cause we're never going to  
stop driving now  
On and on to this driving song  
You know I can play it all night long

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*

*Michael Nowak: Electric guitar*

## What Can I Say

You've got that look I've seen on your face before  
I know you've got to go now, but can't we have one more?  
'Cause it's getting near to closing, and I have too much to say  
And anyway, you take my breath away  
What can I say, when you take my breath away

I know I shouldn't hold your eyes too long  
I know I shouldn't wait until we're the last ones gone  
'Cause the band is packing up now, it's last call I heard them say  
And anyway, you take my breath away  
Please can we stay, you take my breath away

I know she's waiting for you, wondering where you are  
I never wanted to cause her any pain  
But how was I to know that I would find it way too hard  
To never see you again, to never be with you again

It's cold outside and we're trying to say goodbye  
I want your arms around me, I'm trying hard not to cry  
And I want to hear you tell me it's all going to be okay  
And can't you say that I take your breath away  
Please can you say, I take your breath away

Cause I know she's waiting for me wondering where I am  
And I don't want to cause her any pain  
But how was I to know that I just don't think I can  
Never see you again, never be with you again

It's raining outside and we're trying to say goodbye  
You put your arms around me, looks like you're going to cry  
There's so much I want to tell you, and I have much too much to say  
But anyway, you take my breath away  
What can I say, when you take my breath away

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*

*Kempton Dexter: Vocals*

*Michael Nowak: Electric bass, electric guitar, organ*

*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*

## **The Kitsilano Café**

Will you walk with me for a time?  
And we'll pause at the corner by the Five-and-Dime  
And I'll tell you that it's only my state of mind  
I think about how it used to be

When there were pockets of endless time  
When there was only you and me  
And we'd drink cups of coffee and talk about  
How things were going to be  
But that was lifetimes ago

When there was snow on the sidewalks of Vancouver  
And we'd fly and slide down Trimble Street hill  
And throw snowballs on the beach at Locarno  
Your eyes under your red hat would fill  
With a feeling I'd never seen before

So take me back now to the Kitsilano Café  
And we'll sit at that table that's a bit out of the way  
And I remember how sometimes I couldn't hear what you'd say  
'Cause I'd get lost in you, in your way

Tell me, can we hold on to things, and keep them like butterfly wings  
Beautiful for sure, but not flying anymore  
Or do we take that leap, and close our eyes, and try to fly again  
And hope to God there's going to be more

Will you stay with me for a time?  
And maybe shop a little at the Five-and-Dime  
We can buy some picture frames to hold our past  
We can try and make the day last

And though it's raining now on the sidewalks of Vancouver  
And Trimble Street is not as steep as it was before  
I can see in your eyes a sad look of surprise  
That we're not lovers anymore

So take me back now to the Kitsilano Café  
And we'll sit at that table that's a bit out of the way  
And I remember how sometimes I couldn't hear what you'd say  
'Cause I'd get lost in you, in your way  
Just like I am today

Tell me, can we hold on to things, and keep them like butterfly wings  
Beautiful for sure, but not flying anymore  
Or do we take that leap, and close our eyes, and try to fly again  
And hope to God there's going to be more  
There's got to be something more



Will you walk with me for a time?

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*

*Michael Nowak: Electric guitar*

*Mark Sullivan: Violin*

*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*

## Shanghai Next

You called me this morning from Kyoto  
And Japan is finally letting you go  
Shanghai next, and you really don't know  
When you'll be coming home

I remember a bike ride to the stupa on the hill  
Midnight above the gravestones, it's quiet there still  
Over Hiroshima, a star beyond us fell  
We never could call that place our home

Your voice now is calling me back to you  
Photographs say that we were there  
As hard as I try I don't remember what was true  
Hiroshima sighing in the air

Midnight at Mac's bar and the night has just begun  
The whiskey never runs out, and we play for everyone  
You set your hair on fire and thought you were having fun  
And we all talked about our homes

Somewhere a bomb dropped and we ran into the street  
Rivers of burning bodies stinking in the heat  
And there is a lover or two who you will never meet  
Takes a long time to try to build a home

Your voice now is calling me back to you again  
Photographs say that we were there  
As hard as I try I don't remember what was true then  
Hiroshima sighing in the air

Did you know I was so surprised to hurt again so soon  
Guess I left just in time  
Now I'm singing your song in this lonely Vancouver room  
Hiroshima echoes in my mind

You called me this morning from Kyoto  
And Japan is finally letting you go  
Shanghai next, and you really don't know  
If you'll be coming home

Shanghai in 1945  
With Hiroshima echoing in your mind

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*


*Michael Nowak: Electric guitar, synthesizer, e-bow*

## Letters From Home

Because we held too tight, too long  
Thought that it would make us strong, but only took away  
From the lies that satisfy when we were young  
There was always another day

And the times you said, It's not all in my head  
And Australia's not so far away  
But we knew that I couldn't stay  
No, I couldn't stay

Because we speak in metaphors  
Opening double doors to places we can never see



And this pub is full of faces, desperate words, retrieving traces  
Of what they meant to be

In the corner Furberg stands  
Book of poems and empty glass in hand  
Declaring he is free  
But there's no one left but me, nobody's there but me

Arthur once came marching home  
'Nam had burnt him to the bone  
Israel sunk Wes into the river like a stone  
But Brad's still trying to find his home

Phil's down in Riverview once again  
Don's gone to New York after some women friend  
Ol' Betty and John start drinking in the morning  
As the preacher on the TV screams out his warning

The working class hero never heard the song  
'Cause it was sung for the middle-road dreamer  
Who's been dreaming for far too long

There you sit across the room  
Van Morrison in candlelight, and cigarettes always go too soon  
I say I don't know what to feel, but touch me and tell me that it's real  
Not just another tune

And the world that we built inside  
Always hiding from socializing, living by the moon  
Daylight never entered our room  
No, it never broke into our room

That we made like a barricade  
Against our pasts that we were afraid might keep us apart  
But only served to intensify 'cause the bullets flying were the ones  
inside  
And so could pierce a heart

And though we cried, are we satisfied  
With too much emotion and too much pride to make a start  
We always cried in the dark

Dear Kathy and Brad, how is school?  
Have you broken any rules?  
Is Phil still playing the religious fool?  
Has Claudia regained her cool?  
Are Lynette and Bruce back together?  
And, oh yes, how is the weather?

Please tell Nick I got his letter  
And almost fell apart, but thought better  
And though I tried to understand  
Still can't get those ink stains off my hands

Each generation has its own pain  
Though sometimes I wish we could go back again  
To Colin's class where we all got so high  
And Doug did T'ai Chi and we knew we could fly

When we touched each others' eyes, and danced to Pied Pear  
And sung songs for everyone, everyone cared  
And we could do it all, so magic and so free  
And Nirvana was real, and we'd laugh knowingly

But are the dreams of liberation  
Afforded only to those with the education?  
We all played traveler, tortured and strong  
But knew we could call home if we got too far gone

And living on the edge is a real place to be  
Though sometimes I think I may need some security  
And yes, even someone to hold me  
I may even need someone to hold me

But because we held too tight, too long  
Thought that it would make us strong, but only took away  
From the lies that satisfy when we were young  
There was always another day

Now you say something's in your way  
You lost the magic and so you've learned how to pray  
And all the letters from home contain your name  
But no one knows where you are or even if you're the same

Tell me, are you the same?  
Is it that you haven't changed?

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*  
*Mark Sullivan: Violin*

## Remembrance Day

Johnny came marching home ten years ago today  
We thanked the Lord that he was whole, but Johnny just looked away  
Now he doesn't talk at all, says he's nothing more to say  
But he signed his name to sacrifice and gave it all away

When Johnny was in school, the teachers all they said  
This boy will go right to the top, there's a lot inside his head  
Now he doesn't work at all, says he doesn't need the bread  
He'd rather take it from the ones who filled his friend with lead

Oh Johnny, where have you gone, why aren't you here anymore  
None of us know where you've been, just that people call it war  
How can you find your home when you've been in hell and returned  
In your sleep I heard you say, Lord how many more have they  
burned

Some say Johnny can't handle life, some say he's a little bent  
But when he said, Do you know death? no one knew what he meant

They say, Come on it's easy for him, the government's got them all set  
But society says it has no room for the Vietnam vet

Oh Johnny, where have you gone, why aren't you here anymore  
None of us know where you've been, just that people call it war  
Now you have no home, 'cause you've been in hell and returned  
In your sleep I heard you say, Lord how many more have they  
burned

Johnny came crawling home, ten years ago today  
None of us could understand the price he had to pay  
Now he wants to kill himself before he fades away  
And we don't know the reason, we just look another way

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar*  
*Michael Nowak: Electric bass, electric guitar*  
*Neil Hubbard: Bagpipes*  
*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*

## Passing People

You were a dream I had several weeks ago  
Have I been asleep that long?  
And yesterday I finally woke up  
Only to find you were gone

Oh the passing people, they come and go  
Make a grand entrance, then disappear  
They're moving with the circles and they're changing with the flow  
May see you again in another year, you never know

I know I couldn't look for you  
I never tried to be near  
We'll only drift as strangers and besides  
Calgary's too cold this time of year

Yes, it's too cold for me  
And this time it's getting me down  
Everything just comes and goes  
Nothing stays around anymore

And you can't touch the sun  
You can only feel its warmth and light  
And you gotta survive on that  
Try hard with all your might

And needing is just a way  
Of staying in one place  
You've got to move with your thoughts  
And pass by each familiar face

Yes, pass them by  
And be careful not to cry  
When you find you love someone  
They're just having fun, on the run, then they're done

You were a scheme I had several months ago  
Have I been awake that long?  
And tomorrow I'll finally get up and go  
Don't look for me, I'll be gone

Maybe one day we will pass by again  
Cause strangers will be strangers, and drifters don't pretend  
If you see me smile and say you've forgotten my name  
And the next day I'll be moving on, already gone, it's always the same

Just a different game  
And a different name

*Janis Harper: Vocals, dulcimer*

## Strawberry Wine

Over there the sun is shining, I can see the day's unwinding  
Peacefully, in perfect timing, oh so fine  
And over me the tree is leaning, all around the leaves are reaching  
And I know that everything I see is mine

It tastes like wine, it tastes like wine  
It tastes like strawberry wine, oh so fine

Over there's a fire glowing, I can hear the people singing  
And they're happy, oh so happy to be alive  
And we're smiling at each other, all the sisters and the brothers  
And we're happy, oh so happy, drinking wine

We taste like wine, we taste like wine  
We taste like strawberry wine, oh so fine

I'll love you when you watch me, smiling sunshine through the trees  
Breathing sweet wind upon my open face  
And I'll lay by you in the firelight, I'll hold you when the sun is bright  
And I'll know you when I find you 'cause you'll say

You taste like wine, you taste like wine  
You taste like strawberry wine, oh so fine  
You taste like wine, you taste like wine  
You taste like strawberry wine, oh so fine

*Janis Harper: Vocals, acoustic guitar, dulcimer*

*Vania Levans: Flute*

*Michael Nowak: Electric bass*

*Mark Sullivan: Violin*

*Kenton Wiens: Percussion*