

### **the way it didn't go (martin)**

where is the life the life we might have led  
it started on the corner where we never met  
i nearly turned to you you nearly turned to me  
at the intersection of what is & what could be  
what would have happened we'll never know  
that's the way it didn't go

i saw a child who might have had our name  
he passed me in a crowd just the other day  
he spoke some words but none of them were clear  
our shadows nearly touched as he disappeared  
did he have your eyes -chorus

i'm not myself today & you're not who you are  
we're one lane over riding in that car  
they read a map but they don't recognize the road  
& if they think about us they don't let it show  
where did they turn - chorus

the door you didn't walk through  
the girl you didn't talk to  
the light you didn't run that day  
the call you didn't answer  
the unrequited dancer  
you met her glance & turned away

put it down lightly  
you know how things can break  
i can't forget the love we didn't make  
the sun that didn't rise  
through the window that's not there  
the way it didn't fall  
on your face & on your hair  
what did you dream - chorus

### **all the bricks in Baltimore (martin-grey)**

she came up from the underground  
or on a half shell from the sea  
either way i invented her  
it was all the same to me

& the tide goes in & the tide goes out  
like the lovers at her door  
& they all look the same to me  
like all the bricks in baltimore

she's got a window on the harbor  
that overlooks the sea  
she's got the wind in the curtains  
to keep her company

chorus

you can ask me for directions  
you can ask me for some change  
just don't ask me for the reason  
why I'm on this street again

chorus

### **sleeper on a westbound train (martin)**

coming down to sea level  
where everything tastes like salt  
the road was dry as a desert lake  
in my headlights as night began to fall

i was one step ahead of the weather  
one step behind your memory  
it looks like freedom but i know better  
i wish that you were here with me

last night i dreamed i was dreaming  
& something carried me away  
it carried me across your fine soft land  
like a sleeper on a westbound train

spinning like a dust devil  
like a motel ceiling fan  
everything's spinning but not moving  
& i'm moving as fast as I can

Chorus

what is it brings me back to you  
something that doesn't have a name  
i came here in a borrowed car  
but i'm leaving on a westbound train

chorus

### **23rd street runs into heaven (martin)**

23rd street runs into heaven  
you had your last supper there  
she sat across from you at the table  
in your flat at the top of the stairs

you wrote a poem all about it  
that's true but now you're out of print  
& those words seem so far away  
& i've been looking for you ever since

& the street feels like its heavy  
when it's wet after a rain  
& does your heart weigh more when it's empty  
does it weigh more than it did yesterday

down below the fire escape  
where the lonely bus stop sits  
two lovers fumble each other  
as they steal a goodnight kiss

chorus

23rd street runs into heaven  
you can see the sunset from the roof  
out where the river draws a crooked line  
between my memory & the truth

chorus

### **steel rail nightingale (martin)**

i put my ear to the railroad tracks  
i kept it there all night long  
i thought I heard you coming back  
all I heard was this song

steel rail nightingale  
you were just passing through  
slower than a night in jail  
i'm getting over you

i gave you a watch that broke  
cause you love me only twice a day  
you gave me a goodbye note  
cause you love me more when you're away

chorus

the world is always flat out here  
it's all horizon nothing bends  
i watched you fade into a dot  
somewhere at a sentence end

chorus

### **a story that could be true (martin)**

you were framed in the doorway  
when you first were mine  
in that corner of the house  
where the sun used to shine  
& i remember your footsteps  
as you crossed the room

let's kiss & make up  
a story that could be true

was i there in the mirror  
as you brushed out your hair  
were there words that we traded  
& a bed that we shared  
moments like this one  
always looked good on you

chorus

tomorrow i might be a memory at most  
Just a ghost i suppose to you  
& if i should leave would you still believe  
a story that could be true

you wore our love  
like a loose fitting dress  
it fell all around you  
as careless as a kiss  
& i could say that i love you  
but that's nothing new

Chorus

### **sky the wrong color (martin)**

he woke up early in the morning  
he rolled out of bed  
he could hear her down in the kitchen  
with half the secrets that they kept

jackknife on the dresser  
he had since he was ten  
it's funny how our histories  
are written on our skin

there's a sky the wrong color  
for the time of the year  
& the sun & moon keep turning  
round a woman and man down here

she put her ring down on the sink there  
felt the ghost of the band  
felt the memory of first kisses  
& how the sun still touched her hand

she could see him out on the front porch  
with coffee & a cigarette  
she saw the sunrise through the window  
chase the moon off to the west

chorus

### **another name for gone (martin)**

back alley & a '50 ford  
garage doors don't say a word  
this place is not my home

grass grows like a stubborn thought  
in the factory parking lot  
this is not where i belong  
here is just another name for gone

back yard & an orange grove  
bale of hay & a recurve bow  
this place is not my home

fist fight & a bloody nose  
reservoir down the road  
this is not where i belong  
here is just another name for gone  
winter flood in the creek  
now it's made of concrete  
this place is not my home  
i almost lost a cousin there  
he lives close i don't know where  
this is not where i belong  
here is just another name for gone  
i came here the other night  
it was too small & i fit too tight  
this place is not my home  
mercy is as mercy does  
forgive me I'm not what i was  
this is not where i belong  
here is just another name for gone

### **wooden nickels (martin)**

put a pair of pennies on my eyes  
when i go up in smoke  
heads up on one on the other tails  
like i'm winking at some joke  
& save a thought or two for me  
when you sit down to play  
i'm a fender amp & a genie's lamp  
don't rub me the wrong way

just whistle past the graveyard  
keep your eye on the ball  
& don't take wooden nickels  
if you take anything at all

i went down to the roadhouse  
i met my cory there  
she had legs as long as kansas  
and wheat field colored hair  
she took my heart said keep the change  
i haven't seen her since  
now i'm driving to missouri  
trying to find my common sense  
chorus

put a pair of quarters in your shoes  
when you go downtown  
you can use them not to call me  
when you don't want me around  
but if you need to telephone  
be sure to call collect  
& ill be sure not to answer  
out of self respect  
chorus

### **Bethlehem (martin-hicks)**

the shadows are long & the days are short  
the bars are full tonight  
& the hills that lie on the edge of town  
are still & quiet & white

gabriel looks down on church street  
& the smokestacks hold up the sky  
in bethlehem pennsylvania  
late december 1999

beneath the ice the river runs  
some nights i barely know  
where the river ends  
& the land begins & where all things will flow

chorus

I had a dream & the dream was real  
about a woman & a burning light  
& the words we whispered  
in the early spring  
are more than words tonight  
chorus repeat verse 1

### **interstate (martin)**

last summer on a back road in nevada  
i stopped for a tank of gas  
the kid at the pump  
gave me his life history  
he said i know you didn't even ask  
but they moved the highway  
a mile down the road  
& people don't come round here no more  
& main street used to have three theaters  
now they've shut down  
& turned to discount stores

some things run on the interstate  
they're all future & no blame  
some are back there on some frontage road  
they're just water towers & names

I went back to my home town last year  
to see the house where i was brought up  
when i got there I saw that they'd torn it down  
& replaced it with a parking lot  
it was at the edge of a local high school  
named after a dead president  
& i swear it felt just like a head shot  
I just stood there & wondered what it meant  
chorus

sent off the past in a letter  
licked the envelope & got a paper cut  
& It Just left a funny taste in my mouth  
it's the taste of what seals things shut  
chorus

### **evening sky (martin-hicks)**

love & lust lie down in our bed  
they sleep somewhere between the heart & head  
they rub together create the sparks & glue  
that holds you to me & me to you

so keep me in your dreams when i'm not there  
cause when you close your eyes i disappear  
your look reminds me who i am tonight  
you see the evening sky through your lover's eyes

a friend of mine went to mexico  
left his wife & daughter home  
without them he forgot he was someone  
he's all gone he's all done  
now no one ever sees him as a father  
no one even sees him as a man  
his daughter always saw through his disguise  
& the evening sky through her father's eyes

the eyes of those you love will remind you  
what is real & what is true  
& nothing really matters anyway  
but who is there at the end of the day  
so keep me in your dreams when i'm not there  
cause when you close your eyes i disappear  
your look reminds me i am tonight  
you see the evening sky through your lover's eyes

chorus