

DENISON WITMER

the ones who wait

Hold On

Of all the weather here
I like rain the most
Of all the drives I've had
The Oregon coast
Of all the poetry
The nights of Li-Young Lee
Of all the songs we sing
Songs of love

And I know how you've been worried sick for me
And I know how you've been taking after me
When you're not here the less it seems to mean
Hold on to you
Hold on to me

When you closed your eyes
And slowly turned to light
I slept through each day
And stared all night
Into our history
The rings of family trees
And backed myself into
The in between

How a father always starts out as a son
How sometimes you're both, sometimes you're only one
And we manifest things far beyond our means
I do this for you
You did this for me

Brooklyn With Your Highest Wall

Brooklyn with your highest wall
Summer leaning into fall
Someone said there would be a sign on the street

Brooklyn with your highest wall
I was answering the call
Someone said there would be a sign on the streets

Wait and see
Wait for me
Wait for me
Wait and see

Down below the bridge it's dark
I could almost feel St. Mark
He was looking for a sign underneath

Even if you want you can't
Go back to the way it was
Even if you want, you can't go back

Wait for me
Wait and see
Wait and see
Wait for me

Some people can't get enough
Others just get swallowed up
Others carry their own cup to the street

Life Before Aesthetics

I've got more important things than shiny diamond rings and modern furniture
Life before aesthetics was a nail hole in a wall, a borrowed comforter
Now I wade into the sound as if I never drown in my addition
I'm not saying that it's right but waking through the night I felt it coming
I crossed my heart
When did all this start?
Stand together, fall apart
I crossed my heart

Hear the oceans as they sing, the mountains in the spring, all it means to me
Life before aesthetics is a mindset that imparts impossibilities

Still I waste each chance to give as if I couldn't live throughout deletion
I would never say what's right but waking through the night I felt it happen

I crossed my heart
When did all this start?
Fall together, stand apart

Your Friend

We fill those rooms between us
Every day we die unto ourselves
I counted all my blessings
I signed my name across you
I took yours upon myself

I'll be your friend

Oh my love, how could you ever know me like I know myself?
Oh my love, I wait for you to know me in the ways I know myself

I'll be your friend

We were stupid kids
All those things we did scattered our young hearts in the stones
In the weeks away, how your garden changed
But day by day you hardly know

Now the fruits of our love fall out of the trees
And down across the ground
I'll be your friend

Influence

I look for you in summertime
I look for you in winter
In the faces of my friends
In the face of strangers

Love me like the way you used to
Forgive me for the things that I do

Now I wear my influence on the outside of my skin
It started with an influence on the inside of my skin

Love me like the way you used to
Forgive me for the things that I do
Take me where the water turns blue
Love me like the way you used to

Every Passing Day

I don't remember where the pieces fell
Pull all the water back up from the well
Forgive me my name
Or spell it the same way as your name
I don't remember where the pieces fell

Sometimes the moment is a distant sound
Watching the weather come up off the ground
It turns into rain
Falls down the same way as the rain
Sometimes the moment is a distant sound

I have a friend who used to say
"If you spend every passing day turning your crutches into legs, you'll find
you're blurring the lines."
I don't want to try
I don't want to die

Light On My Face

Just after two o'clock AM
There's only drunks on the roads
I asked you not to
You said you still had to go

So if you'll be sleeping late
Wont you call me when you wake?
I lay in the darkness
You will be the light my face
We build our friendships in bottles
They take a long time to set
Stand back and wonder
How did we get into that?

Where we're drowning in the waves
Where we're owning our mistakes
I was in the darkness

You became the light on my face

Nothing replaces you now
Nobody knows how
Nothing replaces you now
No one and no how

Two And A Glass Rose

I remember you in a thrift store dress
Rainfall on the taxi roof
On the morning we arrived in Amsterdam

Two church towers and a glass rose in your eyes
Jet-lagged on the canal bridge
And waiting for the boats to pass you by

If I sang a song for you, I don't know what it means
If I played guitar for you, it's lost between the strings
It's the way the oldest buildings sink into the streets
Two church towers and a glass rose in between

I consider you like a book I've read
You never really had an end
So it takes awhile until it all makes sense
Two shadows and a glass rose on one stage
Passed out in the dressing room
You're waiting for an instrument of change

If I sang a song for you I don't know what it means
If I played guitar for you it's lost between the strings
It's the way the oldest buildings sink into the streets
Two shadows and a glass rose in between

I remember you in a thrift store dress

One More Day

What if I was wiser?
Wouldn't this be easier?
What I had to do stung like truth on my tongue

I woke up in the city

Somehow it got away from me
I am one of you
You are one of me
He was one of us

One more day to offer you my love
One more day to write it for you
Patches on the elbows of my eyes
Can't you see how much this hurts me?

Seven stories high
A lifetime hanging over me
How was I to know where this ends and where this starts?

Seven stories high
I planted a book of seeds
How was I to know they would root in your heart?

One more day to offer you my love
One more day to write it for you
Patches on the elbows of my eyes
Can't you see how much I'm trying?

Cursing

Cursing in the name of God
And throwing both my hands up

If you wear the light gathered around your eyes
Maybe you know by now
What holds the stars apart

Balanced on every choice
Someone else's life
Questions appear like thorns
In my answers side

Cursing in the name of God
And throwing both my hands up
Messing all the parts up
I can see
Cursing in the name of God is what you need

Do you have a better idea than what I have?

I Live In Your Ghost

Silent heart and a listening ear
Close your eyes on your golden years

I will follow you
You will follow me
I will follow you
Ever after

Not a day passes without thought (about who you were)
Father and son and a friend of mine (with cancer inside)
Will you only know my children (through pictures and words)?
Not a day passes
Have you heard?

I live in your ghost
Your ghost lives in me
I live in your ghost
You live in the host
Ever after

Heavens gates
Live in the conscience of the ones who wait
We turn all our thoughts to you
There's no mistake
You have a home for your soul

Heavens gates
Live in the conscience of the ones who stayed
We ponder our hearts on you
There's no mistake
You have a home for your soul
It's ever after

