

Helen Porter
Constant as the World



1 Spin

Planet earth circling in space
And all aboard, the human race
Listen people, take heed
We're losing control and gathering speed

Sun rises, moon disappears
The seasons turn the passing years
The wheel of fortune slowly rolls
But are we spinning out of control?

Hurricanes are blowing and the forest fires are burning
The ocean level's rising, and the struggle is surviving
And this centrifugal force is blowing everything off course
And we hope that we are winning, but everything's still spinning
And heaven knows what's happening
The skies above are blackening
The sun is disappearing and the moon is growing dim
The stars are falling from the sky
And all around the people cry "Hang on in!"

Presidents, prime ministers, dictators and despots
All spinning around in circles, all promising the earth
While the rains are falling heavier
And the winds are blowing fiercer
And humankind is fighting for whatever life is worth.

Hold on, slow down
Try to stop spinning around
Listen people, here's the thing
We're all in the hands of fools and kings.

2 Conversation

Some conversations are
Whispered by lovers
In romantic places
Sharing their secrets,
Their sighs and their kisses on
Candlelit faces

And some conversations
Occur between strangers
On buses, in bars
A chance remark,
A bench in the park,
Gazing up at the stars

Some conversations
Take place between rivals
On busy street corners
Airing a grievance,
Swearing allegiance,
A threat or a warning

And some conversations
Take place between nations
Behind closed doors
Dividing a union,
Discussing pollution,
Engaging in wars.

Political discourse
Telling a tale
Spreading the gossip
Clinching the deal
Sharing a joke
Communing with God
It seems everybody
Has something to say

Our conversation
Took place in the kitchen
The end of an ordinary day
Our conversation
So unexpected
There's usually not much to say
Our conversation
A revelation
It quite took my breath away
Some conversation....
Now there is nothing left to say



3 Old Clothes in the Attic

Old Clothes in the Attic
Clothes that remind me of you
The colours are faded
The fabric is jaded
And the moths have
Eaten right through those
Old Clothes in the Attic
Clothes that remind me of you
Loose thread, worn out cotton
A scarf I'd forgotten
But still it reminds me of you
You laughed when I told you
I'd stored them one day
But now it's too late
To throw them away those
Old Clothes in the Attic
Clothes that remind me of you
The elastic is loose and the
Zip's of no use, there's a
Hole in the knees but I
Still see you wearing these
Old Clothes in the Attic
Clothes that remind me of you
All of our dreams
Were once joined at the seams
Now they're no longer so new, those
Old Clothes in the Attic
Clothes that remind me of you
You'll never need them
So why do I keep them?
Just to remind me of you.

4 Underground

Here beneath the quiet trees
Where ivy climbs and shadows fall
Whispering echoes from the past
Are men who breathed their daylight hours
Underground, underground
And calling from their underworld
Where labyrinths of shafts and tunnels wind
They lead me on then let me go
My imagination flies, birds take wing
And a voice rises up like a song from
underground
Those distant voices shadow men
Whose hearts were beating underground
They sing, they let me sing
My imagination flies, birds take wing
And the forest transforms
As the night begins to sing

5 Island Love

Our love is gone, and all our dreams
Have come to dust, it really seems
We can't go on, we haven't got the heart
This romance has turned really sour
But with every passing hour
It gets harder to find a way to part

My Island Love, it's really tough
I know you don't love me enough
But we must try to find a way to come
through it
I know that part of you is keen to stay
But the other half would leave today
If only we could find a way to do it

We're not in tune
You don't bring flowers anymore
And I'm not waiting at the door when you
come home
We're not in tune
You never ask me how my day has gone
And now you're going it alone

We made a promise, made a pact
But the deal is off and that's a fact
And now you say you have to walk away
On many things we can't agree
Heaven knows why you married me
And now you say that you don't want to
stay
You said some things we can't forget
And now you're full of sad regret
But tomorrow really is another day,
So I'm not falling on my knees
You've only got yourself to please
And no one here is begging you to stay

We're not in tune
We sing beneath a different moon
And we don't see the stars in June,

My Island Love
We're not in tune
There's chaos and confusion now
You've broken off our union
Much too soon

So now it's time to say goodbye
Though the tears are falling from our eyes
'Cos breaking up is so hard to do
But if it's what you really choose
If you're sure that you've got nothing to lose
Then I will wave goodbye and never think
of you
My darling, who knows what's in store?
You're not my problem any more
So don't come knocking at my door when
times are hard
And while we're wondering if it's right or
wrong
Why our parting takes so very long and like
this song
Goes on and on and on and on...

We're not in tune
You're floating in a lonely sea
And only time will tell if you'll be missing me
We're not in tune
You chose to go it all alone
And now you're really on your own
My Island Love

(I give my heart, she freely takes it
And then she goes and 'breaks it'..)

6 Shadows on her Face

Shadows on her face
Delicate and fine as lace
Who can know what thoughts are
Dancing in her heart?
Corals illumine the deep ocean floor
Curtains drawn at noon
Shutting out the light too soon
Like the clouded skies that hide the sun in
winter
Darkness envelops
Light still bleeds through

The gold that's hidden in the rock
The sands beneath the sea
Treasure buried in the earth
All the things our eyes can't see
The embers in the afterglow
Lavender beneath the snow
Buried life that leaves no trace
And the shadows flicker on her face

Shadows on her face
Delicate and fine as lace
Who can know what thoughts are
Dancing in her heart?
Corals illumine the deep ocean floor

7 Cars in the Water

Cars in the water
Boats on dry land
Birds are falling from the sky
And trees lie on the ground
The sun is slowly sinking
The river's dry as sand
But we're still building bridges
And we're still holding hands
When promises are empty
When words are not enough
When the messenger is silenced
And the joker dare not laugh
When the cards are on the table
But no one plays the game
When everything is changing
And nothing stays the same

Cars in the water
Boats on dry land
Birds are falling from the sky
And trees lie on the ground
The sun is slowly sinking
The river's dry as sand
But we're still building bridges and
We're still holding hands

When books have lost their pages
When the ink has all run dry
When the stories are unfinished
And no one questions why

When promises are broken
When the broken cannot mend
Will we still believe we're not to blame
And the world can never end?
Cars in the water
Boats on dry land
Birds are falling from the sky
And trees lie on the ground
The sun is slowly sinking
The river's dry as sand
But we're still building bridges and
We're still holding hands

When the wine has turned to water
When the water's all used up
When up is down and down is out
And the world's a broken cup
When a mother's arms are empty
When the babies cease to cry
When we're inside out and upside down
And it's too late to question why
We're building bridges,
Why we're holding hands
Why we're living in a world
We can barely understand

Cars in the water
Boats on dry land
Birds are falling from the sky
And trees lie on the ground
The sun is slowly sinking
The river's dry as sand
But we're still building bridges
And we're still holding hands

8 First Square on the Board

Born in freedom, raised in fear
Lost in transit, now you're here
To live in exile from a troubled land
That curbed your song and stayed your hand
Its torments you could not endure
And so you fled to try to rid a
Sickness deep within your heart
A brand new game, a brand-new start,
From the First Square on the Board

You travelled over land and sea
'Neath desert sun and salty breeze
In every footstep on the way
Reminded of the price you paid
For freedom and for peace of mind
You left your dreams, your family behind
To the First Square on the Board

So now the die is cast, the game begun
And now there's nowhere left to run
To win or lose, the odds are open wide
How can you ever really know who's
playing on your side?
It's a game of chance, a game of trust
The chance is slim, but play you must
For time is what you have
And time is what you want to lose
Enough of waiting in this waiting room
This journey must begin

From the First Square on the Board

So take the good run with the bad
Remember what it was you fled
Play by the rules, and keep your head
This game of chance goes on and on
There are winners, losers all the way
The choice is yours – to play, or not to play
You could win one day
From the First Square on the Board

9 Why is it so Hard?

Why is it so hard
When life turns its back on you
Takes its hand away
Covers its face
Turns to the wall
Leans to the dark
Buries its head in the earth
Lies down and gives up?
Is it too much to ask
To dance on the shadows
To shine with the stars
To see light in the dark
To cling to a dream
To give hope to the future
To learn from the past?

10 Words

Words tell stories
Make you smile and frown
Words can lift you up
Bring you tumbling down
Words can chime and ring
Words can tear at your heart
Words can be a comfort
Or a reason to part
Words can bruise
Words can sting
Words can cut like a knife
Words can dance and sing
Words can change your life
Words can leave scars
That may fade over time
Words can have meaning
Without reason or rhyme
Words can take hold
They can wound and smart
Words can lift up your soul
Or break your heart

So tell me a story
Write a poem
Say a prayer
Sing a song
Write a letter
Let your words fly through the air
Just one word from you
One word will do
One word from you
Will bring me home

11 Sundial

Sundial, sandglass
The daylight hours pass
The face of a timepiece
A hand that goes 'round and around
The turn of the tide
The trickle of sand

Sundial, sandglass
The night dark hours pass
The face of a kindness
A hand stretched out in need
In a world full of stops and starts
In a world full of broken and beating
hearts

Time cannot be beaten
Time runs on and on
Life will cast its shadows
Until our time is done

Sundial, sandglass
The dreaming hours pass
The cast of a gnomon
The clock that stares down from the
wall
The clock that does not strike
That does not mark the hours
Does not beat time at all

12 Constant as the World

Don't be afraid of falling
I will catch you in my arms
And sing to you
As I've always sung
For the world is turning
And the moon is always rising and falling
And the sun is still burning
And the night is always dark
I'm as constant as the world
As constant as the world

Rest your head on my shoulder
And I'll lead you gently on
And we'll follow the breeze
And breathe as one
Whatever the stars may bring
I will always sing to you



13 Who Knows?

Who knows what's right?
Who knows what's wrong?
Who'll write the lyric and who'll sing the song?
Who makes the rules?
Who keeps the score?
Who knows if someday we'll be
Back to play some more?
Who knows?
Who plays the game?
Who'll throw the dice?
Who takes the winnings and
Who'll pay the price?
Who pulls the strings?
Who gets to choose?
Who'll make it lucky and
Who has to lose?
Who knows?

Do I toss a coin or
Turn a card
Take a gamble
Search the stars
Ask a neighbour
Phone a friend?
I may find out in the end

Should I
Drive a car or take a train
Sail a boat , fly a plane
Make a trip, step ashore

Abandon ship , jump overboard?
Who knows?

If it's here today
Gone tomorrow
Should I stay at home
Drown my sorrows
Or paint the town
Throw a party
Live my life
Hale and hearty?

Should I make a wish or
Say a prayer
Lay a bet or take a dare
Tell a story, turn the page or
Take a bow and
Leave the stage...
Who knows?

Who knows what's right?
Who knows what's wrong?
Who'll write the lyric and
Who'll sing the song?
Nothing is certain
Nothing is sure
We may not even
Make it back to play some more but...
Who knows?



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