

# Helen Porter Unexpected Song



# 1 Unexpected Song

It's an unexpected song we sing today  
Yesterday's songs seem so very far away  
The rhythms have changed  
The timing's rearranged and  
We don't recognise this new song  
that we play

It's an unexpected melody we hear  
The tune is unfamiliar  
and the lyric so unclear  
The pulse feels unsteady  
It began, but we weren't ready and  
How it ends? We've really no idea

But let this new song begin  
Let these strange new rhythms in  
The music really had to change some day  
The harmonies feel strange  
but they won't go away  
We don't yet know what this new song will do  
Perhaps there is no need  
to be afraid of something new

It's an unexpected song we sing today  
Yesterday's songs seem so very far away  
The rhythms have changed  
The timing's rearranged and  
It's an unexpected melody we hear  
We've had to learn it quickly  
and we had to learn by ear  
The pulse feels unsteady  
It began, but we weren't ready  
and how it ends?  
We've no idea

## 2 Lucky Day

Honey bee, dancing in the summer sky  
Honey bee, watch where you fly  
Honey bee, dancing on the water  
Honey bee, keep your wings dry  
Honeybee, struggling in the water  
Honeybee, gasping for breath  
Honeybee, sinking in the water  
Honeybee, here comes death

Honey bee, it must be your lucky day  
Lucky bee, I'm on my way to lift you  
From the water  
And set you down in the sun  
Spread your wings to dry  
Spread your wings and lift in to the sky  
It's your lucky day  
Honeybee, it's your lucky day  
Honeybee, your lucky day

## 3 Squaring the Circle

There's a long line  
Stretching all the way back  
To the beginning of time  
It curves and it bends  
It never ends  
There's a circle  
Travelling round and around  
A sun and a moon  
Circling as one  
There's a square  
Four straight lines  
Empty inside  
You're of a fixed opinion  
But I can't tow your line  
I can't square your circle  
I'm nowhere near the end of the line  
You're of a fixed opinion  
And you're running out of time



## 4 Lovebirds on a Train

Lovebirds on a train  
The song has newly started but they're  
Not yet on their way  
Lovebirds on a train  
The train has left the station now  
Their journey's just begun  
They head towards a warm sun  
Now they travel on  
The sails are rippling in the breeze  
They glide towards their  
Paradise on calm and sparkling seas  
Soon they'll discover  
That the sky can cloud over  
That the sun that licked their skin can burn  
Soon they'll discover  
That when calm seas turn rougher  
There are new skills in life they must learn  
Lovebirds on a train  
Outside the window they don't see  
The softly falling rain  
Lovebirds on a train  
So deep in thought, so lost in love  
They haven't seen the storm clouds gathering  
Up above their heads.  
They'll scale the mountains  
Dive down deep  
In stormy oceans  
Take a leap  
They'll push the boat out much too far  
They'll travel through an endless night  
And when there is no land in sight  
They might look up and find a guiding star

Lovebirds on a train  
They're holding hands in silence now  
Their journey's just begun  
They head towards a warm sun

## 5 Close Your Eyes

Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
Shut out the world for a while  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
Look for the light inside  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
See darkness disappear  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
You may hear the song  
you yearn again to hear  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
Close the curtain, close the door  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
See the light where only darkness lived  
before  
Close your eyes  
Close your eyes  
Let the light flood in

## 6 Rings

Rings that are lost  
Rings that are found  
Rings that lie hidden  
Under the ground  
Circles of silver  
Bands of gold  
A promise of love  
That never grew old

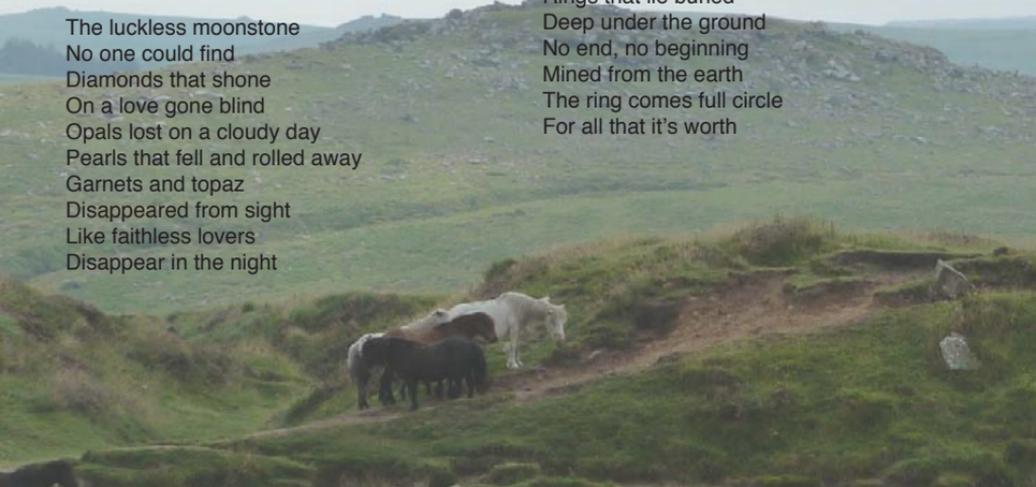
Rings that are lost  
So many years  
Fallen unnoticed  
Like lonely tears  
Under the earth  
Under the sea  
Permanence lost for eternity

The luckless moonstone  
No one could find  
Diamonds that shone  
On a love gone blind  
Opals lost on a cloudy day  
Pearls that fell and rolled away  
Garnets and topaz  
Disappeared from sight  
Like faithless lovers  
Disappear in the night

Countless diamonds  
Buried stars  
Rubies that bleed  
But leave no scars

The dark-eyed bloodstone  
Fell unseen  
Emeralds and sapphires  
Abandoned their queen  
A heart corroded  
Love worn out  
Rings never recovered -  
A ring of doubt

Rings that are lost  
Rings that are found  
Rings that lie buried  
Deep under the ground  
No end, no beginning  
Mined from the earth  
The ring comes full circle  
For all that it's worth



## 7 Friends

When life was young, and love was new  
The friends we made would see us through  
We'd shed our tears and share the wine  
Say "Love will work out some other time."  
But people change and time moves on  
The friends we made can change their song  
Not every friend is meant to last so long

There are passing friends  
and friends that fade  
Friends that don't quite make the grade  
We all fall out of love with friends we made  
There are friends we need  
and friends we don't  
Friends who will and friends who won't  
Forget about the promises they made.

There are friends that take  
and friends that give  
Friends that show us how to live and  
Friends that will be with us 'til the end  
Some say goodbye along the way  
Friends drift apart then fade away  
When there's nothing left to do or say

And some you'll lose and some you'll find  
Some appear from time to time  
You're mostly glad to see them when they do  
You'll share a trip down memory lane  
You're glad to see they're just the same  
Then you'll wave goodbye  
and may never meet again

Well, looking back, it's hard to know  
Just where we let our friendship go  
Exactly what went wrong and who's to blame  
Was I the friend I could have been?  
Were you the friend  
that you would have been?  
It doesn't matter now,  
the ending's just the same.

It's too late to make amends  
We should have been much better friends  
I loved you more than you will ever know  
I'm not the friend I could have been  
You're not the friend you would have been  
Perhaps it's time to let each other go.

When we were young, and love was new  
We'd always see each other through  
We'd shed our tears and share the wine  
Say "Love will work out some other time."



## 8 Counting Sheep

Counting sheep,  
Watching little lambs a-leaping  
'til I'm sleeping  
That's the only way I know how to drift off  
See their woolly tails a-shaking  
Such a sweet dream in the making  
Midnight now, and I can't fall asleep

Counting sheep,  
Can their little woolly fleeces  
Bring some peace into my mind?  
I'm trying hard to slumber but  
Their number keeps  
Increasing all the time  
Can nothing ease my restless mind?  
Midnight now, I can't sleep!

'Cos everything is keeping me awake tonight  
And everyone is racing  
through my mind tonight  
Half-remembered conversations  
Shopping lists and calculations  
Things that I must not forget  
Things that I forgot to get  
Midnight now, and I can't fall asleep!

Counting sheep,  
Watching little lambs a-leaping  
'til I'm sleeping  
That's the only way that I know how to drift off  
See their woolly tails a-shaking  
Such a sweet dream in the making

Midnight now, I can't fall asleep

Counting sheep  
Will those little pesky lambs not  
Just lie down and go to sleep?  
Will they never cease their play?  
'Cos while they're leaping over fences  
I cannot relieve my senses  
Gone midnight now, I can't sleep!

Cos everything is keeping me awake tonight  
And everyone is racing  
through my mind tonight  
Half-remembered conversations  
Shopping lists and calculations  
Things that I must not forget  
Things that I forgot to get

Yes, everything is keeping me awake tonight  
And everyone is racing  
through my mind tonight  
Things I said or didn't say  
Things I might have said the wrong way  
Things I wish I could forget and  
Things I know I should regret...

And just as I begin to doze  
I start to think about the world  
and all its woes..  
It's no wonder I can't sleep -  
Counting sheep!

## 9 Up in Flames

There's fire glowing  
There's a wind blowing  
There's a truth you're refusing to name  
There's a tide turning  
There's a world burning  
And your lies have been fanning the flames  
It won't be long before  
The smoke creeps under your door  
It won't be long before your door  
Is burning down  
And then you'll know for sure  
All you denied before  
Has come to pass  
And now you reap what you have sown  
There's a rumour that's travelling  
There's a plan unravelling  
There's a change and it's coming your way  
There are storm-clouds gathering  
There's a crowd clamouring  
That it's time you move out of the way  
Your door is open wide  
For you to step outside  
No place to run, nowhere to go,  
No time to hide  
Under the blackened skies  
You can't deny your eyes  
You can pray to God  
But he was never on your side  
Move out of the way  
Your time is done  
Move out of the way  
Up in flames

## 10 Ordinary Day

Living in shadows  
Man with no name  
Darkness and silence  
Honour or shame  
Whisper in corners  
Appointed abodes  
Revealing secrets  
Ciphers and codes

Did you dream of the angel of death?  
Did you murmur his name  
under your breath?

Would it be poison?  
A gun to your head?  
Thrown from a window?  
Strangled in your bed?  
The chill of blind terror could kill you instead  
The buzzard soars overhead  
Circling its prey  
Tracking its target

Ordinary day  
The buzzard falls from the sky  
Fixes its prey  
Talons tear flesh  
Ordinary day

Living in shadows  
Honour or shame  
Traitor or saviour  
Now the whole world knows your name

## 11 Picture A Place

Picture a place where birds no longer fly  
Where water sparkled and flowed  
But now the land is dry  
Picture a place where the sun shone down  
Now it scorches and burns  
Bleaches the bones that lay on the ground

Picture a place  
Where flames have licked the sky  
Raised to the ground  
Not one remembers why  
Picture a place that is parched and torn apart  
The very heart of it is gone

The climb is steep  
The load is heavy  
Children bear it every day  
They hold it in their arms  
And cradle it  
Sing a lullaby before they look away  
Beyond the clouds  
Beyond the sky  
To the place where birds no longer fly

## 12 Dark Star

Dark Star  
Seldom catching the light  
Dark star  
Weighed down by the night  
Dark Star  
No visible light  
Out of Sight

Bright star  
Catches the light  
Bright star  
Lit up in the night sky  
A bright star  
A guiding star in the night

Two stars, nearly collide  
Two stars, side by side  
An eclipse of two stars  
The bright star giving the dark star light

## 13 Shopping for Shoes

I really hate shopping for shoes  
It always gives me the blues  
I have much larger feet  
Than the average girl on the street  
I really hate shopping for shoes

One day I went shopping for shoes  
Shoe shopping is never good news  
I said: "I like the look of those  
With the little pointy toes"  
Do you have them in a pair of size 42s?

It's the moment that I dread  
The shop girl turned her lovely head  
and said:  
"I'm afraid we don't sell shoes as big as that!"  
Then she smiled so very sweetly  
Looked with pity and disdain  
She said: "We have your size in these  
If you'd like to try them – please..."  
She was pointing in the corner  
To an orthopedic boot  
So I said to her:  
"Perhaps you have a wedding dress to suit?!"

I really hate shopping for shoes  
'Specially with size 42s  
Are my feet really so much larger  
Than for a woman of my stature?

I really hate shopping for shoes  
'Specially with size 42s  
It's a bore and it's a curse  
It could hardly have been worse  
This endless search to find a shoe  
That doesn't make me blue

Ballet pumps are not for me  
My feet are much too wide, you see  
Strappy sandals that are sexy  
Only serve to vex me  
Winkle pickers pinch my toes  
I really can't wear those  
For the woman who is taller  
Why should her feet be smaller?

All you high street shops  
It would be such a treat  
If you'd stock some larger sizes  
For the girls with bigger feet  
42s and 43s  
You really should have some of these  
44 is not uncommon  
For the transitioned woman

I really hate shopping for shoes  
Shoe shopping is never good news  
So now I'm on a mission  
I'm starting a petition  
For all us women who are singing the Blues  
'Cos we really hate shopping for shoes!

## 14 The Sorrow I Once Wore

I wear my sorrow every day  
Draw a veil across my heart  
Hang a shawl around my sadness  
So I can play my part  
I wear my sorrow every day  
A hood to mask the truth  
I dress myself in sadness  
And hold myself aloof

But one day my clothes of sorrow  
Will wear a little thin  
They'll need replacing some day  
With something else to dress up in  
And when the tiny moth holes  
Let the sunlight through  
Then I'll replace my clothes of sorrow  
With something bright and new

But I won't throw away  
these threadbare clothes  
I'll keep them evermore  
And I'll look at them from time to time  
To remind me of the sorrow I once wore



# Helen Porter

## Unexpected Song

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- 3 Squaring The Circle (2:00)
- 4 Lovebirds On A Train (3:09)
- 5 Close Your Eyes (3:46)
- 6 Rings (2:40)
- 7 Friends (3:38)
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- 9 Up In Flames (2:36)
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- 14 The Sorrow I Once Wore (2:36)



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