

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



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Unexpected Song

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