

BAD & BETTER ANGELS

lyrics and liners

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THE BIRTHING OF THIS PROJECT HELD
MOMENTS OF EXCRUCIATING PAIN,
AND OF INDESCRIBABLE BEAUTY.
THAT'S WHAT BAD AND BETTER ANGELS IS.
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS.
THIS RECORD IS DECIDEDLY RAW,
AND LIKE LIFE, OFFERS TRIUMPH, DISPAIR,
LIGHT, DARKNESS, HOPE, SADNESS, HUMOR,
FAITH AND LOVE.

WHAT IF WE DECIDE
TO EMBRACE OUR WHOLE SELVES?
THE DARK AND THE LIGHT?
THE BAD AND THE BETTER?
THE WORST AND THE BEST?
WHAT IF WE DECIDE
TO DANCE IN THE DICHOTOMY?
WHAT IF WE DETERMINE
THERE AREN'T GOOD OR BAD EXPERIENCES,
BUT SIMPLY EXPERIENCES?
ONES THAT INSPIRE, INFORM, CHALLENGE,
CHANGE, HUMBLE, AND ENLIGHTEN?
WHAT IF WE POUR
ENERGY INTO STANDING FOR WHAT MATTERS
INSTEAD OF AGAINST WHAT OFFENDS?
WHAT IF WE SPEND
WHAT ENERGY WE HAVE LEFT
TO JUST LOVE EACH OTHER?
JUST. LOVE.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

DIONNE, FOR BRINGING PASSION TO THIS
PROJECT AND BEAUTY TO THESE SONGS.
FOR HELPING ME TELL THESE STORIES.

CHUCK, FOR CONTINUING TO FIND WAYS
TO CONTRIBUTE AS THIS MUSIC EVOLVES.
FOR BRINGING A SENSITIVITY FOR WHAT IS IN
SERVICE TO A SONG AND PLAYING
JUST THE RIGHT PART.

REV, FOR BUYING IN TO MY VISION FOR THIS
PROJECT TO MAKE IT BIGGER BY MAKING
IT SMALLER, AND THEN TAKING IT TO
THE NEXT LEVEL BY HELPING US
WRING OUT EVERY POSSIBILITY.

JOHN, FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND
ENCOURAGEMENT, AND FOR LENDING
YOUR TALENT AND COOL VIBE.

LISA & BARB, FOR BELIEVING IN
THIS BOOK OF SONGS AND THE MESSAGES
HELD WITHIN. AND FOR HELPING US
SHARE THEM WITH THE WORLD.

THE DEAREST OF FRIENDS
WHO CONTINUE TO STAND BESIDE ME
THROUGH THE BAD AND THE BETTER.
I COUNT YOU AS TREASURE.

PRODUCTION

Cari Ray lead vocals,
acoustic & resonator guitar, playing card

Dionne Ward backing vocals, drums & hand
percussion

All songs written by
Cari Ray

Chuck Wills electric guitar

Rev. Peyton electric guitar

John Bowyer mandolin

Produced by
Reverend Peyton

Mastered by
Paul Mahern

Tracked and mixed at Primary Sounds Studios
by **Jake Belser**

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SISTAH HEY

I saw you in town today
you caught my eye
and then you looked away
guess you didn't have nothin
nice to say
at least you didn't say
nothin at all

then on tuesday night
you go downtown
for devotions with
the recently found
when they were lost
you never came around
did you really
answer the call

**sistah hey brothah hey
best be mindin what you say
while you are watchin
what you do
you know the good lord
is watchin too**

you pray on sunday
for the lost
in the front pew
with your ankles crossed
but for the homeless
you got no coin toss
you can't even spare a few

then the tv preacher
with the shiny grin
is askin you
to send your money in
you write a big check
while you shout amen
cause he's a prayin
just for you

CHORUS

hey there sistah
better than you
you gonna have some
explainin to do
when your time in this
old world is through
and you stand before
you-know-who

I NEED YOU

well i need to start on supper
as soon as i get home
i need to call my mama
back on the telephone
and you know that damned
old dog ran off again

i need to see my sister
how long has it been
a stack of bills need payin
when i can get to them
i need a second job
and a way to clone myself
i've a neverending list
of things i need to do
but just one thing i need to know i'll see it
through

**i need you
to pick me up when i fall down
to take me to the moon
and never leave the ground
i need you
to love me just the way i am
to be my voice of reason
and my biggest fan
i need just one thing
to know i'll see it through
i need you**

some days i'm th poster girl
for throwin in the towel
when everything i need to do
needs doin now
and i can't begin to know
where i should start

and at my weakest moment
you take me by the hand
and even though you don't say much
i know you understand
that sometimes it's almost
too much to take

CHORUS

just when i am sure
that there's no way
you keep me on
this winnin' streak
for one more day

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR

when i met you in the springtime
i knew by summer i'd fall
and by the time the snow was flyin
i had given you my all
for many seasons
we were happy
as two crows about to caw
then you started stayin out late
and never comin home at all

**so i been climbin the walls
i been walkin the floor
i been bangin on the window
i been a hangin on the door
you said you had to leave because
you didn't love me any more
broke my tender little heart
what did you do that for**

i never felt this way before dear
i'll never feel it again
but it's hard to tell you losin
when it seems you're bound to win
you acted so much like you loved me
i would've given you the part
but the curtain all but fell dear
before the show could even start

CHORUS

was it wanderlust or passion
that turned your head around
to leave me standin in the kitchen
a slammin door the only sound
i have never been so lonesome
my heart is callin out to you
and now that you have had
some time dear
i hope you're longin for me too

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he said sister won't you tell me
why am I alone
i got no little children
no woman warm at home
she said brother look around
how do you spect
to find no wife
when you're holdin
down a barstool
nearly seven nights

**each of us has angels
flyin all around
bright shiny ones from heaven
and dark ones from the ground
and if you're bein christian
or if you're bein mean
it's the bad and better angels
that carry you between**

she said i have often wondered
why the rain must fall
on the saint and on the sinnah
good lord gonna soak us all
i said sister look around
how do you plan on stayin dry
when you're diggin
in your neighbor's
instead of your own eye

CHORUS

now hasten little children
and listen what i say
let's all save the judgin
for the judgin day
lest you look around
on the decidin of your fate
to find that you are standin
on the wrong side
of that gate

HOUSE KEYS

i ran across his ring today
shoved way back in a drawer
remembered what he's said to me
about what rings are for
they're for keepin things together
that used to be apart
less and more important things
like house keys and like hearts

what you know at seventeen
would barely fill a jar
and it's hard to mean forever
when you can't quite see that far
they bought a little house
it wasn't much but was a start
of a lifetime they'd spend sharin things
like house keys and like hearts

on the day he went to heaven
i was standin by his bed
and when i asked him how they'd stayed
in love
for all those years he said
there really is no secret
there really is no art
you just find the joy in sharin things
like house keys and like hearts

**somehow for sixty years
and nineteen days
when they woke up in the dark
they'd find their way**

I ran across his ring today
shoved way back in a drawer
turned it over in my hand
thought about what rings are for
they're for keepin things together
that used to be apart
less and more important things
like house keys and like hearts

sometimes the only way
to make it through the hardest parts
is holdin on to little things
like house keys and like hearts.

KILLIN YOU

i got rocks in both my shoes
from kickin up the dust with you
i saw you feelin dirty too
i watched you look for somethin new

**i don't mind who you're seein
hell, you've got the right to choose
but i won't abide you leavin
you know i've got my rights too
and this might be hurtin me
but it's killin you**

you knew i'd chase you if you ran
so you said catch me if you can
now there's blood on both my hands
it was my deed but not my plan

CHORUS

you tried to run
in the middle of the night
reached for my gun
flipped on the light
said if this ends, it ends my way
did what i did to make you stay

now there's mud on both my boots
and there's some on my shovel too
i made use of my hatchet new
and buried it along with you

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BOUND TO

i was bound
to change the world
and you were bound
to change my mind
i was good and bound for leavin
you were bound to stay behind
but the damndest thing bout leavin
is learnin to let go
when your heart's just tryin
to break loose
from everything you know

**now i'm bound
like a gambler to the game
like a dry old piece of ground's
just bound to soak the rain
and i ain't quite gettin through
ain't quite gettin over you
but i'm bound to
you know i'm bound to**

they say i'm bound
for bigger things
and its bound
to be real soon
you're bound
to hear me on your radio
cause i'm bound
straight for the moon
but some nights when i'm playin
could swear you were in the crowd
takes all the prayers i'm prayin
not to say your name out loud

CHORUS

so this is how it feels to be a winner
with a lonely losin streak
sippin champagne in that penthouse
while my heart's out on the street

MIDWESTERN HELL

i woke up this mornin
beside myself again
made a single cup of coffee
let out the dog let him back in
and i walked right past that picture
cause i had no time for tears
and drove in to the job i've worked
for twenty seven years

**i raise my voice to the wind
like a midwestern sail
sweet jesus are you listenin
sometimes i can't tell
but i sure could use some help
for my soul to prevail
sweet jesus won't you save me
from this midwestern hell**

you don't know of dyin
til you try to live a life
with no sunrise in the mornin
and no stars to fill the night
and you don't know of losin
fill a single twist of fate
takes your angel back to heaven
and leaves you here to wait

CHORUS

if you could spare the time
for a single ray of light
if i could be so bold
a little peace tonight

THERE YOU ARE

she said i need
to get away from my old man
he's the glue that has me
stuck here where i am
it wasn't me but him
who made this bed
he's no good for me
just like my daddy said

**wherever you go
there you are
you can travel that road
but you won't get far
hop on a train
take a bus or a car
get where you're goin to
there you are**

he said this
job i'm workin is a joke
i'm givin all i got
and i'm still broke
i see all my neighbors
barely gettin by
but you know i'll still be behind
the day i die

CHORUS

you know sometimes
no matter how i try
life walks by and
pokes me in the eye
then i look around
to find someone to blame
to see i'm standin all alone
ain't that a shame

CHORUS

sometimes i think
the best thing for my health
is a restrainin order filed
against myself

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FEELIN FINE

i'm finally back and i'll say
well that was one hellish ride
the weather is clearin up
and sometimes
you just need to go outside
this day has taken its sweet time
and it's good to be feelin fine

i've been down

**where i fear the most
wrestlin an unholy ghost
now i'm safe in the arms
of the one i love the most**

i said a few things did a thing
or two you just shouldn't do
got lost on the way to the truth
and still don't have a clue
just how i crossed that center line
but it's good to be feelin fine

CHORUS

sometimes we know
not what we do
sometimes we hurt
we know not who

A LITTLE HIGHER

daniel with the lion
had no need to be afraid
for he know the good lord
gonna reach down to his aid
king called out to daniel
why that lion don't eat you
he said i climbed a little higher
found a better view

samson lost his strength to
ole deiliah's tender hand
then he cried to the good lord
help me make one final stand
one shove from mighty samson
many evil men were few
you see he climbed a little higher
found a better view

**you gotta climb a little higher
just press on and through the night
you gotta climb a little higher
when it's hard to see the light
you just turn your eyes to heaven
like the saints of old would do
and you can climb a little higher
find a better view**

pharaoh had a dream that
made no sense to any man
then joseph come to tell him
hunger comin to your land
but no one here will perish
if you do as i say do
you see i climbed a little higher
found a better view

mary loved the savior
she was ever by his side
she walked out to the tomb to
find no savior was inside
when they saw that he had risen
they asked her how she knew
she said i climbed a little higher
found a better view

CHORUS

you just follow saints before you
and you'll know just what to do
and then you'll climb a little higher
find a better view