

LYRICS for YOUNG MAN IN AMERICA (2012)

WILDERLAND

Oh mother shelter / A mother is a shelterer
Oh mother shelter / Mother shelter us
From the wild winds howling / Ooooh

Oh father shepherd / A father is a shepherd
Oh father shepherd / Father shepherd us
From the wild wolves howling / Ooooh

Your cities are a wilderland / Look upon your children
Your cities are a wilderland / Look upon your, look upon your

Highways are a wilderland / Look upon your children
Your highways are a wilderland / Look upon your, look upon your

Look upon your children / Wandering in the wilderland
Look upon your children / Wandering in the wood, singing / Ooooooh

YOUNG MAN IN AMERICA

My mother gave a mighty shout / Opened her legs and let me out
Hungry as a prairie dog / Young man in America / Young man in America
Hungry, hungry, running every which way / Young man in Americay

I come out like a cannonball / Come of age of alcohol
Raven in a field of rye / With a black and roving eye / Black and roving eye
Ravenous, ravenous / What you got, it's not enough / Young man in America

Oh, shelter, mother shelter, mother shelter us / Oooh

My father was a lord of land / My daddy was a repo man
Put me out onto the street / Didn't give a damn for me / Did not give a damn
Daddy, daddy, gonna wish you never had me / I'm a young man

Growing right before your eyes / I might grow to such a size
Blow in like a hurricane / Everyone will know my name / Everyone'll know my name
Blowing in, blowing up / Shadow on the mountaintop / Young man in America

Oh, shepherd, father shepherd, father shepherd us / Oooh

In my feathers and furs / Clothes of many colors
Many men will envy me / When I'm in my finery / Me in my finery
Envy me, envy me / Spending all my bright money / Young man in Americay

Maybe I climb the stairs / With a girl of golden hair
Hold her like a sword and shield / Up against this lonely world / Up against the world
It's a lonely, lonely world / For a yellow-headed girl / And a young man

Like the wind I make my moan / Howl in the canyon
There's a hollow in my bones / Make me cry and carry on
Make the foam fly from my tongue / Make me want what I want

Another wayward son / Waiting on oblivion
Waiting on the kingdom come to meet me in my sin
Waiting to be born again / Mother kiss me cheek and chin
Mmm, a little medicine / Mmm, and then I shed my skin
Mmm, and lemme climb back in the bed you made me in

COMING DOWN

I never felt so high / I never felt so high
I never felt so high / I think I'm coming down

I never laughed so loud / I never laughed so loud
I never laughed so loud / I think I'm coming down

Nothing gonna stop me now / Nothing gonna stop me now
Nothing gonna stop me now

Please / Please don't leave
Easy feeling / Don't leave me like that
Not yet / Don't set me
Free, free, free, free, free

I never felt so high / I never felt so high / I never felt so high
I never laughed so loud / I never laughed so loud / I never laughed so loud
Nothing gonna stop me now / Nothing gonna stop me now / Nothing gonna stop me now

DYIN DAY

Be it work or be it rite? / Father, tell me
Brings us to the mountainside / Every day a dying day
Be it work or be it rite / Oh my sweet babe
We come to make a sacrifice / Every day a dying day

Be it ox or be it ram? / Father, tell me
Please the god of Abraham / Every day a dying day
Be it ox or be it ram / Oh my sweet babe
It is the blood of the innocent / Every day a dying day

And who are you to understand / The ways of him who holds the blade?
And who are you to stay the hand / Of him who made you?

Be it ill or be it good? / Father, tell me
Makes you bind me hand and foot / Every day a dying day
Be it ill or be it good / Oh my sweet babe
I am doing as I should / Every day a dying day x3

VENUS

I seen Venus, Venus coming / She come down in a cloud machine
And I believe, I believe that she is / The only woman I ever seen

She came curving soft and hard / Carved outta marble, tall and fair
Her heart is a temple, lover you better / Kneel if you ever enter there

She don't need no one, don't need no one / Don't need no one to hold her hand
I just wanna see her face again / I wanna see her again

Venus laughing, Venus singing / Venus moaning oh my god
It's like to set the green earth spinning / It's like to light the sky above

She opened her mouth, birds flew out / Her love was hovering all around
My love moved inside of me / A snake waked up in my body

I'm not making, I ain't making / I'm not making any kind of plan
I just wanna see her face again / And again, I wanna see her again

I seen Venus, Venus leaving / I don't even know what it means
But I believe, I believe that she is / The only woman I ever seen

HE DID

Love you, love you, love you / He did, he did, he did
He stood high above you / You were just a little kid

Your daddy was a farmer / His back was burnished red and gold
And every time he closed his eyes a rooster crowed
He sowed a hundred rows of corn / The summer you were born
And wondered what your life would yield
How it feels to be a child of his, how it feels

Your daddy was a builder / He swung his hammer brown and silver
Every time he closed his eyes a nail was drove
And you were always underfoot / Like a splinter in the wood
He couldn't pull you from his heels
How it feels, how it feels

Love you, love you, love you / He did, he did, he did
He stood so high above you / Sky around his head
Sawdust in his hair / A scarecrow of a man
He couldn't draw you near to him

But you grew up straight and you grew up true / And he kept a blue-gray eye on you
Until the day he closed his eyes and left them closed
Your daddy didn't leave a will / He left a shovel and a hole to fill
And how it feels, how it feels
How it feels to be a child of his / How it feels to be alive like this

But who gave you an axe to grind? / Who gave you a path to find?
Who gave you a row to hoe? / Who gave you your sorrow?
Who gave you the break of dawn? / A pleasure just to look upon
Who gave you a barn to build? / And an empty page... to fill

ANNMARIE

Don't matter what I do / I never do right by you / I only let you down
I walk a hundred miles / On my knees to see you smile / All you do is frown

Annmarie, have mercy on me / Can't you see my misery
Is all for thee? Have mercy / Annmarie

Don't matter what I say / You take it the wrong way / I only make you mad
I waste a hundred breaths / Begging forgiveness / You never let me have
You never let me have

Ooh when you were young / You put all your makeup on / Sang a song of Solomon

Annmarie, have mercy on me / Can't you see my misery
Is all for thee? Have mercy / Annmarie

TAILOR

When he said, when he said that he liked my cut of hair / I became a barber
When he said, when he said that my scent was eau de fleur / I became a perfumer
When he said, when he said that he liked the clothes I wore / I became a tailor

*And I sewed a party dress / In and out and in and out
With a needle and a thread / In and out and in and out
In my head the thought of him / In and out and in and out and in*

When he said, when he said he was leaving / I took up the violin
When he said, when he said that my body he'd not miss / I became a sculptress
When he said, when he said that my face he'd soon forget / I became a poet

*And the fiddle and the bow / In and out and in and out
And the chiseling stone / In and out and in and out
And the fountain pen / In and out and in and out and in*

Now that he's gone away / There isn't anyone to say if I'm a lady gay or a crazy woman
Now that he's gone away / There isn't anyone to say if I'm a diamond or a dime a dozen

Didn't I gleam in my father's eye? / Who am I, who am I?
Didn't I split my mother's side? / Who am I, who am I?
Didn't I drink her nipple dry? / Who am I?
And no one taught me how to cry / Who am I?
How to cry for what I wanted in the night / Who am I, who am I?
And didn't I cry and cry? / Who am I, who am I?

SHEPHERD

Said the shepherd to his wife / 'The crop of hay is cut and dried
I'll bale it up and bring it in / Before the coming storm begins'
'Go' she said 'and beat the storm / And then there is another chore
Today the baby will be born / You'll take me to the hospital'

Said the shepherd 'if it's true / Twere better if I stayed with you
I'd rather let the harvest go / And hasten to the hospital'
'Nay' she told him 'I'll be fine / We both have laboring to do
You do yours and I'll do mine / And the babe will wait till the work is thru'

The shepherd rode the yellow rows / The clouds above and the fields below
Until the bales had all been tied / Then homeward turned to find his wife
The sweat was wet upon her brow / Her breath it cameth laboredly
And then the rain was coming down / Upon the fields of yellow hay

Said the shepherd, 'it's no use / The rain will surely win the race
Twere better if we let it fall / And hurry to the hospital'

'Go' she said 'and work with haste / And bring the bales into the barn
Else the crop will go to waste / The babe will wait till the work is done'

The shepherd drove into the storm / And to and from the yellow barn
Till half the bales were safely in / Then went to find his wife again
How many times her name he called / But no replying would she make
Her breath it cameth not at all / She would not rise from where she lay

The storm was o'er within the hour / The shepherd saw the sun come out
The shepherd's wife saw ne'er again / He buried her and the babe within
He turned the seed into the ground / He brought the flock to feed thereon
He held the cleaver and the plow / And the shepherd's work was never done

YOU ARE FORGIVEN

Every lump inside your throat / Every crumpled little note
Every idle dial tone / Every hook you hung it on
Everything you should have said / Everything you said instead
On the stairs and in the halls / Everywhere but where he was

Anything you tried to do / Any way he looked at you
He was never one to praise / Anybody to his face
Anything he should have said / Anything he said instead
In the empty corridor / Anywhere but where you were

You are / You are forgiven

*Looked in the mirror, couldn't believe what you saw
He is as near to you now as he ever was
Grinding your teeth, trying to sleep it off
Waking up with an aching jaw*

You are / You are / You are forgiven x2 etc.

SHIPS

Down at the docks, you and me walking
Watching you watching the ships coming into the harbor
You told me again of your voyages grand
I loved you most when you spoke of the seven wonders
And you reached in your coat for your telescope / See what you could see
*When your ship comes in, when your ship comes in
When your ship comes in you'll be happy*

Down at the docks, you and me walking
Watching you watching the ships coming into the harbor
And it was my treat to buy you fine sweets
Kippers in tins. little things to bring you pleasure
And you parted your lips for a herring-fish / Didn't part them for me
When your ship comes in you'll be happy

*I won't plead and I won't beg / Shed salt tears all down your neck
When your ship comes in
I won't weep and I won't mourn / I'm gonna let my long hair down
When your ship comes in*

Who's gonna hold your hand so cold? / Who's gonna gaze in your glazing eye?
Who's gonna kiss your prattling lips? / Who's gonna lay in a bed so wide?
Who's gonna lay in your lonely bed? / Who's gonna love you like me?
When your ship comes in / When your ship comes in / When your ship comes in