

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, is playing a white acoustic guitar in a grassy field. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange glow on the horizon and a blue sky with scattered clouds. A bird is flying in the distance on the left. The woman is smiling and looking down at the guitar. The guitar has a white body and a dark fretboard.

# CARRIE NEWCOMER

The Age  
of  
Possibility

## When It's Gone it's Gone

The New York Central Railroad was something in her day  
A million tons of coal and steel must have passed this way  
The Ghost of some old engineer  
Walks this earth and you might hear  
While looking down on all those lights  
"Could I see your ticket please."

**Chorus:** When It's gone it's gone  
But the echoes just go on and on and on and on  
We send it out like our breath  
And somebody takes it in, Somebody takes it in  
Someone

In the age of possibility cheap gas, John Glenn and tube TV  
When Martin walked many miles to stand beside Gandhi  
But faith was stoned with cans and rocks  
And the neighbor kid came home in a box  
Now we don't believe so much of everything we hear

**Chorus:** When It's gone it's gone  
But the echoes just go on and on and on and on  
We send it out like our breath  
And somebody takes it in, Somebody takes it in  
Someone

**Bridge:** Tomorrow's just to far to see  
To far to know to love or grieve  
Every action is received  
Like a legacy  
It is our legacy

Route 26 was open fields and I remember when  
Now every town I pass on through  
Has the same outer skin

How could he sell his father's bones  
All the others did but he just won't  
He says "When I'm dead you can take it all  
But for now just let them graze."  
Ah

**Chorus:** When It's gone it's gone  
But the echoes just go on and on and on and on  
We send it out like our breath  
And somebody takes it in, Somebody takes it in  
Someone  
When It's gone it's gone  
But the echoes just go on and on and on and on  
We send it out like our breath  
And somebody takes it in, Somebody takes it in  
Someone  
Carrie Newcomer 2000

## **Tornado Alley**

You and I are two of a kind  
Two restless spirits of the same mind  
We know about the risks and yet we stay  
We're brave or crazy or stubborn that way

**Chorus** When you live your life  
In the shadow of a whirlwind  
It might just come back again  
I'll hold on to you  
You hold on to me  
And we'll stand our ground on Tornado Alley

Old ones talk about the one in 43  
It blew through town unexpectedly  
A little girl found cryin' down by the mill run  
and to this day nobody knows where she came from

**Chorus** When you live your life  
In the shadow of a whirlwind  
It might just come back again  
I'll hold on to you  
You hold on to me  
And we'll stand our ground on Tornado Alley

**Bridge:** Now Everyone got some story of narrow escape  
Won by luck, fate or grace  
You can run for cover, but you cannot hide  
The only safe place is one that you hold inside

It's a misfit a wild card it's living in your backyard  
It hears no voice but it's own  
There's just some things that you just can't tame  
Some mysteries you'll never call by name

**Chorus** When you live your life  
In the shadow of a whirlwind  
It might just come back again  
I'll hold on to you  
You hold on to me  
And we'll stand our ground on Tornado Alley

**Chorus** When you live your life  
In the shadow of a whirlwind  
It might just come back again  
I'll hold on to you  
You hold on to me  
And we'll stand our ground on Tornado Alley

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## Threads

I have hands like my grandma  
Rough and wide  
A smile like my father  
Kinda crooked at one side  
And the thread of our union  
Pulls through the years  
Through burdens and rejoicing  
Through the courage and fear

**Chorus:** Let the wind blow like horses  
Running wild across the sky  
Let the doors close and open  
Pull us in or pass us by  
We have followed the fabric  
Where ever it led  
Joined to one an other by  
Invisible thread

We were mean mama lions  
With babies on our hips  
Two were workin' at the grocery,  
One was livin' on tips  
Two fell sick and one recovered,  
Three divorced and one went clean  
One lost a child last April  
One's still chasin' a dream

**Chorus:** Let the wind blow like horses  
Running wild across the sky  
Let the doors close and open  
Pull us in or pass us by  
We have followed the fabric

Where ever it led  
Joined to one an other by  
Invisible thread

If I live to be 100  
I won't forget your eyes  
Or the feel of your body  
Lying next to mine  
No one loves you like I do  
No one knows you so well  
All the ghost that still haunt you  
Or the secrets you won't tell

**Chorus:** Let the wind blow like horses  
Running wild across the sky  
Let the doors close and open  
Pull us in or pass us by  
We have followed the fabric  
Where ever it led  
Joined to one an other by  
Invisible threads

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## **Love is Wide**

I love you for all the worn places  
What's smooth, ragged or raw  
For what you've been and what you are  
I love it all  
I know it hard I know it's scary  
I'm not saying you don't have the right

**Chorus:** Come on baby it's not what you're thinking  
You've got nothing you need the hide  
I'm still here and I'm not leaving  
Life is deep and Love is Wide

For every lie somebody told you  
for every dream you've drug this far  
For every time someone else held you  
I love you as you are  
I know it hard I know it's scary  
I'm not saying you don't have the right

**Chorus:** Come on baby it's not what you're thinking  
You've got nothing you need the hide  
I'm still here and I'm not leaving  
Life is deep and Love is Wide

## **Bridge**

I know there are some  
And there's some that you've got to be careful  
But I'll never leave you or ever forsake you  
Where ever this takes you and I

For every loss you counted like sparrows  
And badge you've had to earn  
For every time you lay down with sorrow

I love you for what you've learned  
I know it hard I know it's scary  
I'm not saying you don't have the right

**Chorus:** Come on baby it's not what you're thinking  
You've got nothing you need the hide  
I'm still here and I'm not leaving  
Life is deep and Love is Wide

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## **All I Know**

Its never been a matter of sureness  
It's always been a matter of heart  
Truth is not like a bird that sings  
Its more like a rifle shot  
Put on any pretense  
But you can't be what your not

All I know  
All I see  
Is all pretty simple really

Take a deep breath in the morning  
And know it won't come again  
Let go of your regrets  
This is now and that was then  
All things change in the long run  
Most come around in the end

All I know  
All I see  
Is all pretty simple really

Bridge: What's the deal?  
Whats the difference?  
What's matter now?  
It's not the fact you walk this life,  
but that you can, You do  
and How

Love as much as you can love  
Even if you won't get it back  
There's this longing inside you  
And there's nothing that you lack  
Be kind as you can be

Come on and cut yourself some slack

All I know  
All I see  
Is all pretty simple really

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## **Bare to the Bone**

Here I am without a message  
Here I stand with empty hands  
Just a spirit tired of wandering like a stranger in this land  
Walking wide eyed through this world is the only way I've known  
Wrapped in hope and good intentions and  
Bare to the Bone

There is nothing I won't show you  
There is nothing I can hide  
I've risked it all and dreamt it all  
And seldom questioned why.  
You took me in when I was hungry  
When my spirit ached and groaned  
Laid wide open and defenseless  
And Bare to the Bone

## **Chorus**

When I rise I rise in Glory  
If I do I do by grace  
Time will wash away our footprints  
And we'll leave without a trace  
Between here and now and forever  
is such precious little time  
What we do in love and kindness  
is all we ever leave behind

When my eyes are slowly fading  
When the light is softly waning  
When the evening sun is setting  
and the world is barely breathing  
Then your voice will gently call me  
and your hand will lead me home  
like a newborn awed and naked  
And Bare to the Bone

## **Chorus**

When I rise I rise in Glory  
If I do I do by grace  
Time will wash away our footprints  
And we'll leave without a trace  
Between her and now and forever  
is such precious little time  
What we do in love and kindness  
is all we ever leave behind

Here I am without a message  
Here I stand with empty hands  
Just a spirit tired of wandering like a stranger in this land  
Walking wide eyed through this world is the only way I've known  
Wrapped in hope and good intentions and  
Bare to the Bone

*Carrie Newcomer 1998*

## Anything with Wings

It wasn't what I planned  
It's just how it's comin' down  
I didn't understand  
Just doing what I could

### **Chorus:**

I was out of my mind  
Thinking it couldn't break me  
Driving blind  
Anywhere this thing would take me

I've held it in my hand  
Pressed my cheek against it  
But it slipped through like water or sand  
or some well intentioned words

**Chorus:** I will never believe  
This is time wasted  
I will not grieve  
Anything with wings

### **Bridge**

Now that's the point of waking dreams  
The unexpected living brings  
I won't regret or stop hoping  
In anyone or anything with wings

I've known it all along  
That's the way the world runs  
It's not right or wrong  
Just to ask for what is fair

Goodnight sounds like goodbye

But that's just how it's comin' down  
I never got it right  
That don't mean it isn't true

### **Chorus:**

I was out of my mind,  
Thinking it couldn't break me  
Driving blind  
Anywhere this thing would take me  
I will never believe  
This is time wasted  
I will not grieve  
Anything with wings

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*



## One Just Like Downtown

I grew up on a island  
Somewhere near Chicago  
Learned how to talk tough  
Just like downtown  
You could drive to the lake  
And it sure seemed to me  
It smelled like fresh water  
But felt like the sea

**Chorus:** That's right it's so long now  
You cannot fight this thing any old how  
You can run fast, you can try so hard  
But you can't shake the ache or the lake of  
Who you are

There was nothing to do  
But to shut up and drive  
To the water  
Down the backroads  
To the south and east sides  
Some girls got through high school  
And some never will  
And some walked with a hunger  
They never would fill

**Chorus:** That's right it's so long now  
You cannot fight this thing any old how  
You can run fast, you can try so hard  
But you can't shake the ache or the lake of  
Who you are

You can cough out the city  
You can change your old clothes  
You can soften your accent

So nobody knows  
But when ever I'm honest  
Something in me  
Still looks for fresh water  
That feels like the sea

**Chorus:** That's right it's so long now  
You cannot fight this thing any old how  
You can run fast, you can try so hard  
But you can't shake the ache or the lake of  
Who you are

### Bridge

I close, my, eyes and I can still see  
That no one forgets  
What it's like to be  
Who it is to be

If you see me inclining when no one is speaking  
If you sense I'm wandering somewhere in my mind  
If you listen real close you might hear the whisper  
Or see how the sunsets on the lake could shine and shine

**Chorus:** That's right it's so long now  
You cannot fight this thing any old how  
You can run fast, you can try so hard  
But you can't shake the ache or the lake of  
Who you are

I grew up on an island somewhere near Chicago  
Learned how to talk tough just like downtown.

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## **Sparrow**

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

When the evening like a sparrow  
Folds down it's small wings  
All the light bones and the feathers of the day  
It is then in that moment  
Stop the rushing and just hold me  
Lay your hands where it hurts  
And we'll leave it that way

I have often dreamt of angels  
But I very rarely see them  
But I know that they've been here  
Because something smells like sky  
In the rustle of their presence  
It sounds a lot like your breathing  
Sounds a lot like a promise  
But I can't say why

### **Bridge:**

I have searched all the wise and the unwise places  
I have known the price of passion  
And what solitude can buy  
But it was you I was looking for in all those faces  
Always you I was hoping for  
When I closed my eyes

I will gather all the feathers  
That collect up in the corners  
All the rising and the fallings  
In the quiet of the day  
When you speak there's a flutter  
Of some winged thing stirring  
Lay your head on my heart  
And we'll leave it that way

## Seven Dreams

Walking like a ghost in my own movie  
Touching you then letting you go  
Hand in hand we walk these halls together  
Then Letting you go

I dreamt I told you a dream I'd had  
That once I had dreamt of you  
You touched my face and you told me "hush"  
And that you already knew

There's room enough here for women and men  
Silence and letting it go  
Strangers here walk hand in hand  
Silence and letting it go

I heard the voices of women singing  
Coming on up from the lowest floors  
I stood amazed for I knew the songs  
And who they were written for

I stand in a circle of light  
You stand in a circle

I dreamt I brought a book for you to see  
True and forever more  
On the first page rode a queen  
Singing "True and forevermore."  
Page after page were familiar faces  
Walking behind in a joyous line  
Heroes, saints, and some so old  
Their names had been lost in the fog of time  
Hand in hand, we stepped on in

True and forevermore

## **It's Not OK**

It's not ok and I won't say so  
Til I'm good and read to let this one go  
This onstopped me cold Pute me on my knees  
Say "god if your're listening take this cup from me."  
It's not ok, and it can't be right  
Any kind of good sense has taken flight  
All I can do now is hold on tight  
Saying "god if youre listening, stay close tonight."

There is no reason, there is no fault or blame  
There is no justice or jury  
No judge  
There is no mercy  
There are no names

I's not ok and it feels like hell  
And how long this thing will ache, no one can tell  
No one promised life was going to be fair  
God are you listening, are you even there?

It's not ok, so lay me down  
Beside the still waters before I drown  
From this dark valley is where I'm bound  
Gonna leave what I've lost and keep what I've found  
Goonna leave what I've lost

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## One Great Cry

A thousand cry out in wonder  
A million pray "God could you give us a sign?"  
"It's a heavy burden we're under  
If you carry your, I'll carry mine"

### Chorus

How fine, how sweet the sound  
When I lay these sorrows and this poor heart down  
It was love that always saved me  
Hope that always found me  
I was blind but now I see

We are no more than a moment  
We're forever and ever and that's a fact  
In joy and hope and hunger  
In words and deeds we can't take back

Where do we go from here  
And what does it mean  
Is there some perfect madness of faith  
That believes in what can't be seen

So hold out your hands like altars  
We are meant to be here  
And we are meant to ask why  
If only to rise and falter  
If only to give out one great cry

*Carrie Newcomer 2000*

## **This Too Will Pass**

Hold tight hold hands with me  
All is trouble just as far as you can see  
So here we are and here we stand  
So we'll stare it down just to prove we can  
and ride it out to the last  
It's true, This too will pass

Small comfort when it goes that deep  
and you roll at night in fitful sleep  
But I'll tell you what I know  
As sure as trouble comes Yeh, Trouble will go  
I'll say it though you didn't ask  
It's true, This too will pass

Bridge  
Lay it down lay it down right here  
All your sorrows, all your troubles and your fears

Can't tell you how it went this far  
Or explain why it gets so damn hard  
But there are times that shine like jewels  
And will be all the brighter for what you've been through  
Hold those times tightly clasp  
It's true, This too will pass

So out of the darkest place  
and the hardest times you've had to face  
Were more tender than others believe  
and still find it hard to ask for what we need  
But don't give it up to fast  
It's true, This too will pass

So out of the darkest place  
and the hardest tiems that you've ever had to face

We're more tender than others believe  
and still find it hard to ask for what we need  
But don't give it up to fast  
It's true this too will pass  
Carrie Newcomer 2000