

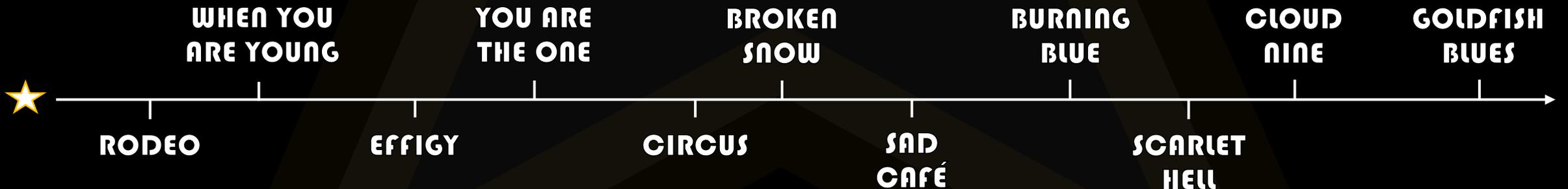


the ImPerSonaToRS

LIFE OF GRANT

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Grant was born in Greentown, IN, in 1950. Brokenhearted after his high-school sweetheart left him for another man, Grant enlisted to fight in Vietnam in 1967. He was underage but forged his parents' signatures to join the Marines. He survived the war but came back home a changed man in 1968, struggling to find his place in a society that was in turmoil. This album is the story of Grant's life from the perspective of his relationships, most importantly his two marriages, the latter of which was happy and continues to this day. The album takes the listener from Grant's youth and his first relationship rodeo to his golden years in San Francisco, where he resides now, still on cloud nine with his wife of more than thirty years, Charlotte.





RODEO

Hey girl, I'm looking for a shelter
From your acid rain
This fever makes me a flaming house of pain
City lights were swerving stars around you
Neon arrows flew
And I forgot about my lonely avenues

Now I'm all black and blue

It's true - like a fool
I put my trust and faith in you
You were my first rodeo
So cruel - I got schooled
A woman's heart can be untrue
I'm cursed with your rodeo

Simple joys were difficult illusions
Always on the mend
You're the storm, babe and you're the hurricane
Sweet thorns of acrimony
Growing through my skin
Andromeda, the galaxy of sin

I've done all I can do

You really took me for a ride
Sweet words and you were out of sight

WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG

A boy by the monkey bars
A girl by the reservoir
They cry alone
Thinking no one gives a damn
Praying for a helping hand
She's skimming stones

Like the universe at night
Glowing far and full of light
You know - being young
Wishing they were satellites
Taking pictures out of sight
You know - having fun

When you are young, you never fall that far
The sky's the limit and you're halfway on your way to stars
And when you are young, you're holding to your heart
Preparing to give it, you don't keep it by the door inside a jar

Everybody hurts and bleeds
We all need some company
That understands
To show the scars we have inside
And hear that everything is fine
To hold our hand

Life is only one-time ride
Undivorceable a bride
You know - it's here and now
Screw the lonely afternoons
The times you felt like burning through
You know - just disallow

Down here on Earth
We know what we're worth
In one single day
Our blue turns to gray



EFFIGY

Velvet dawning, beautiful embrace
Lost horizons, dreams we couldn't trace
Dry my eyes babe, the pain is going to fade
Society just got in the way

I would give the days I have
To fight back and win

An effigy is hanging from a tree
A broken man who looks a lot like me
An effigy can only make you scream
Just a whisper will never set him free
Help me take down my effigy

Blazed a trail through the frozen sky
Despite my fears, I learned how to fly
Like a clover, dancing, getting high
The greatest mystery is figuring out why

My shackles are finally breaking
I'm reborn
My unamusing brilliant plan
Is to pass on



YOU ARE THE ONE

Well it was there right from the start
When you just took my hand
Something no one could have faked
Or no one could have planned

You are the one
Your heart is shining down on me
You are my sun
You're in my heart eternally
You are the one
The one
The one

The lights are on in every town
Every city, every fair
To me you are as beautiful
As Aphrodite's fair

As long as you are here, my love
As long as you are here to stay
As long as you wear my ring
The world just falls away

I was buried under pain
You gave me fight, you made me feel
We danced out in the rain
Like stars, free again



CIRCUS

You know I come from hopelessness
Two-room apartment in Sussex
No balance here we can redress
The night falls and burns out my debts

I try like hell and cry like hell
It's been the longest fucking spell
I don't know where I should propel
Just stay here - it's my best bet

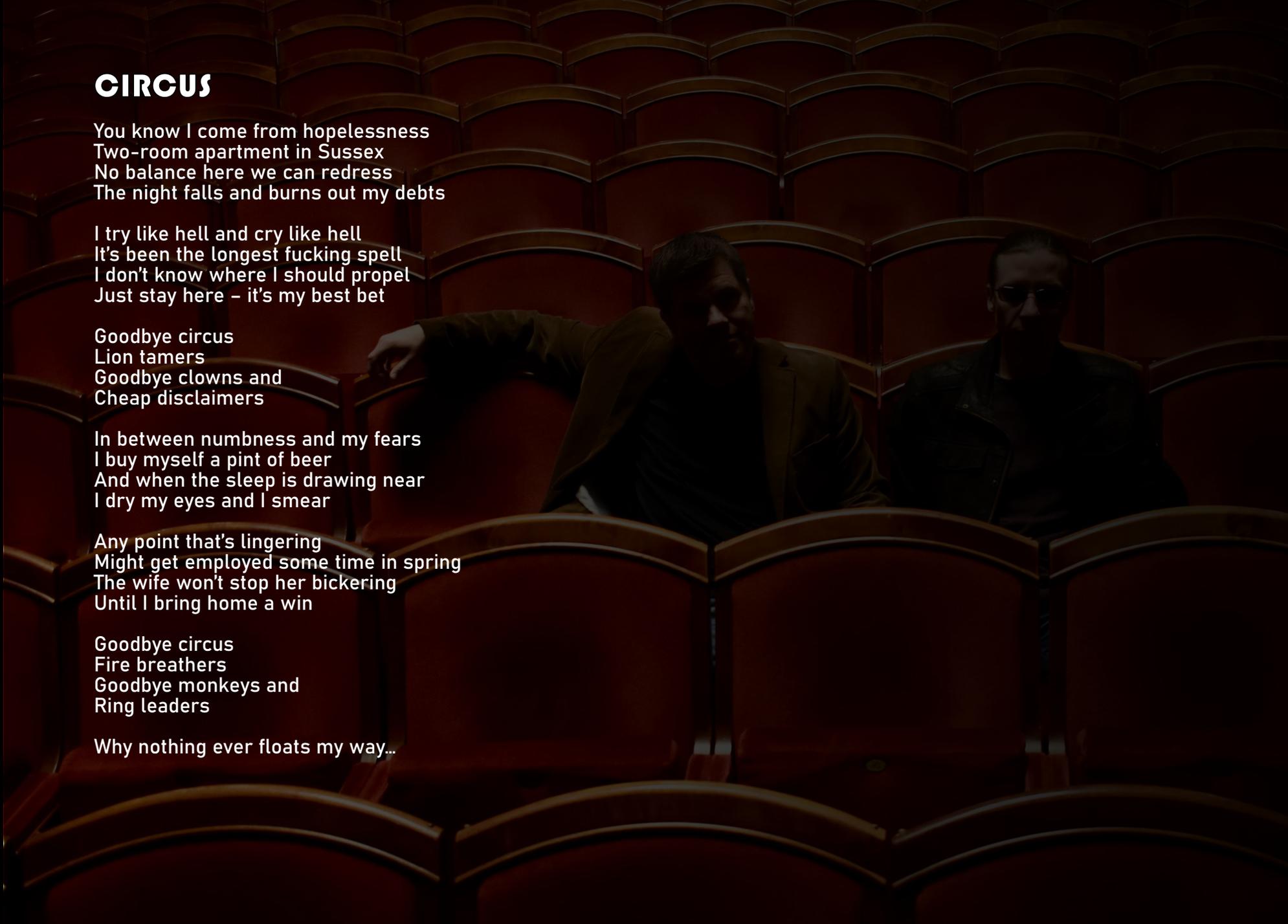
Goodbye circus
Lion tamers
Goodbye clowns and
Cheap disclaimers

In between numbness and my fears
I buy myself a pint of beer
And when the sleep is drawing near
I dry my eyes and I smear

Any point that's lingering
Might get employed some time in spring
The wife won't stop her bickering
Until I bring home a win

Goodbye circus
Fire breathers
Goodbye monkeys and
Ring leaders

Why nothing ever floats my way...



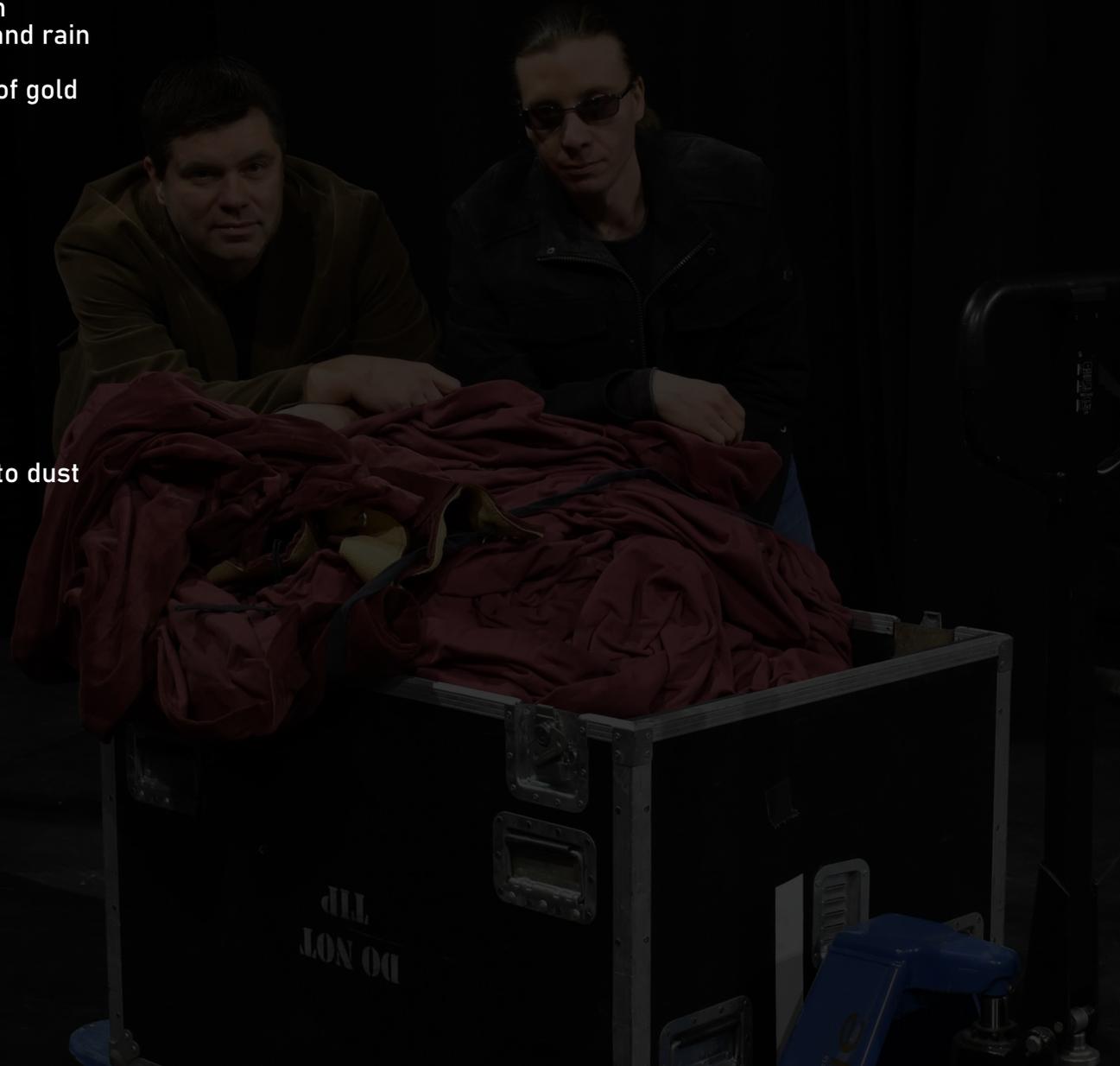
BROKEN SNOW

I've known love, honey, I've known pain
They're intertwined in me like clouds and rain
The biggest lie I was ever told
Was about the rainbows and the hills of gold

Is my broken heart out of time
Is my broken heart out of line
Is my broken heart even kind
Or handful of broken snow
Push your broken heart out of mind
Though your broken heart isn't kind
Sell your broken heart for a dime
A handful of broken snow

My final card, a real queen of hearts
Never had the slightest chance to win
Ignorance, or was it simply lust
She took my soul and burned it down to dust

Broken snow, life on hold
The way you broke my heart



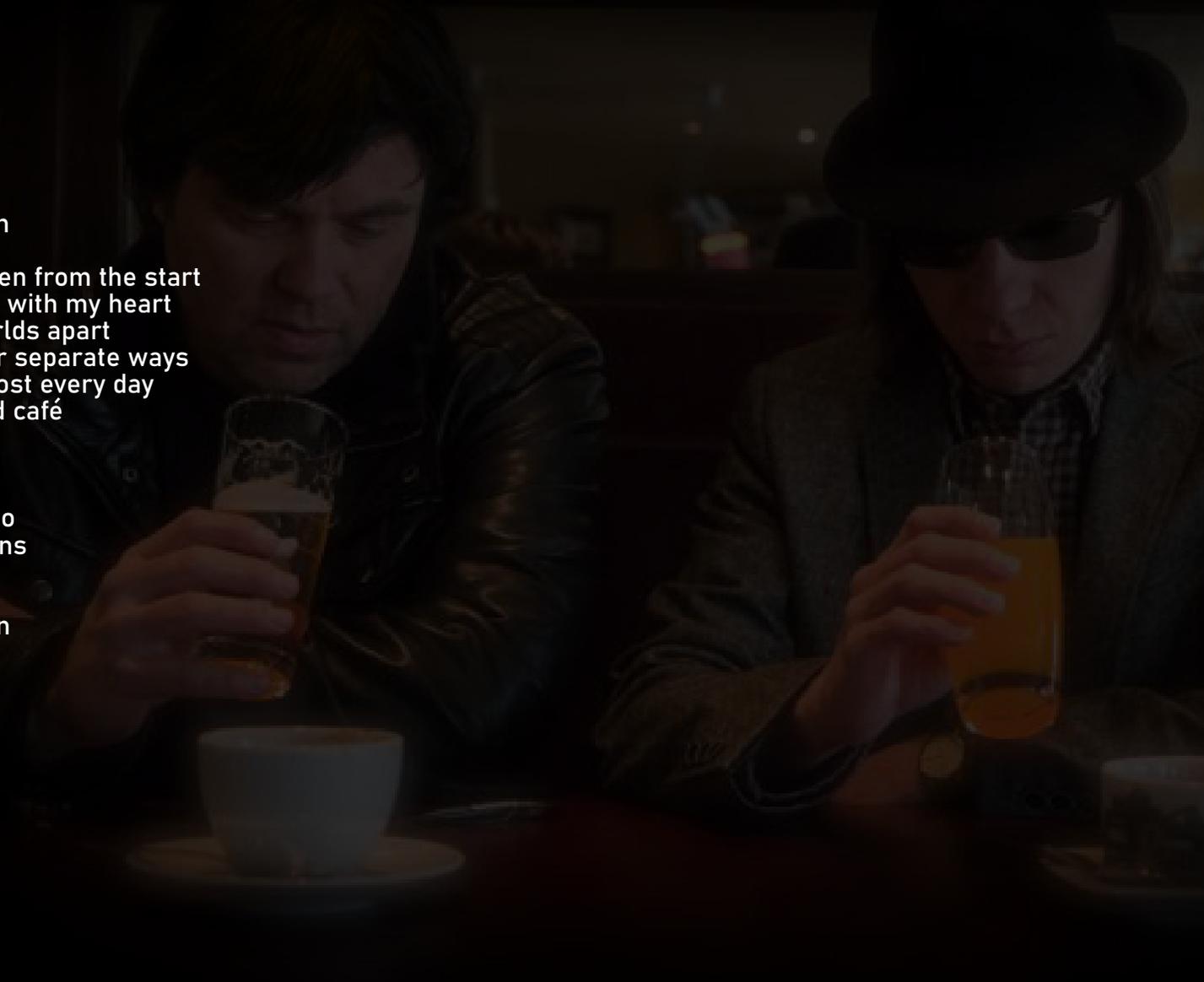
SAD CAFÉ

Done with your delta blues
Done with your explanations
You're just being cruel
It's my partial estimation
If we had money
We could heal this gloom
Today it hit me like a monsoon

I wonder if our love was broken from the start
You were busy playing games with my heart
Baby guess we really are worlds apart
We got to break up and go our separate ways
I'm tired of feeling like shit most every day
It's time we get out of this sad café

You know what? Screw you
Been broken like a stallion
And screw your high horse too
Been stripped of my medallions
Swindled like a tool
Hustled and forsaken
Today it hit me - I'm overtaken

Demands will never stop
This hell will never cease
As long as I oblige
There won't be harmony



BURNING BLUE

I saw buildings flashing by
In a dream of you and I – so real
Through the city in the night
Blinded by the neon lights – we reeled
By the river and the fair
There was music in the air – I healed
Baby, all the world was mine
I was king and life was kind – supreme

Ah a-ha, I'm burning blue

Then I lost you in the crowd
You were nowhere to be found – a tear
Couldn't reach where you had been
Summer, winter, fall and spring – a year
It was us against the world
Baby, nothing seemed to hurt – oh dear
Darling, everything was new
The wicked morning sun was cruel – to me

No matter if the world came falling down
No matter if there was no one around
No matter if I'm blue and missing you
My mind will always keep on burning blue

Baby don't you know I'm burning blue
Baby don't you know you're burning too



SCARLET HELL

Bloodshot, tired cocaine eyes
Seduce you with a crimson smile
You fantasize

She'll let you know just how she feels
If there's a moment left to steal
About her days under the spell of scarlet hell
With each and every twist of fate
You wish that you could just awake
And free her from the evil spell of scarlet hell

Broken mirrors, walls of red
There ain't no covers on her bed
She'll make you sweat, baby

She'll run her fingers through your heart
And she'll paint the walls in blood



CLOUD NINE

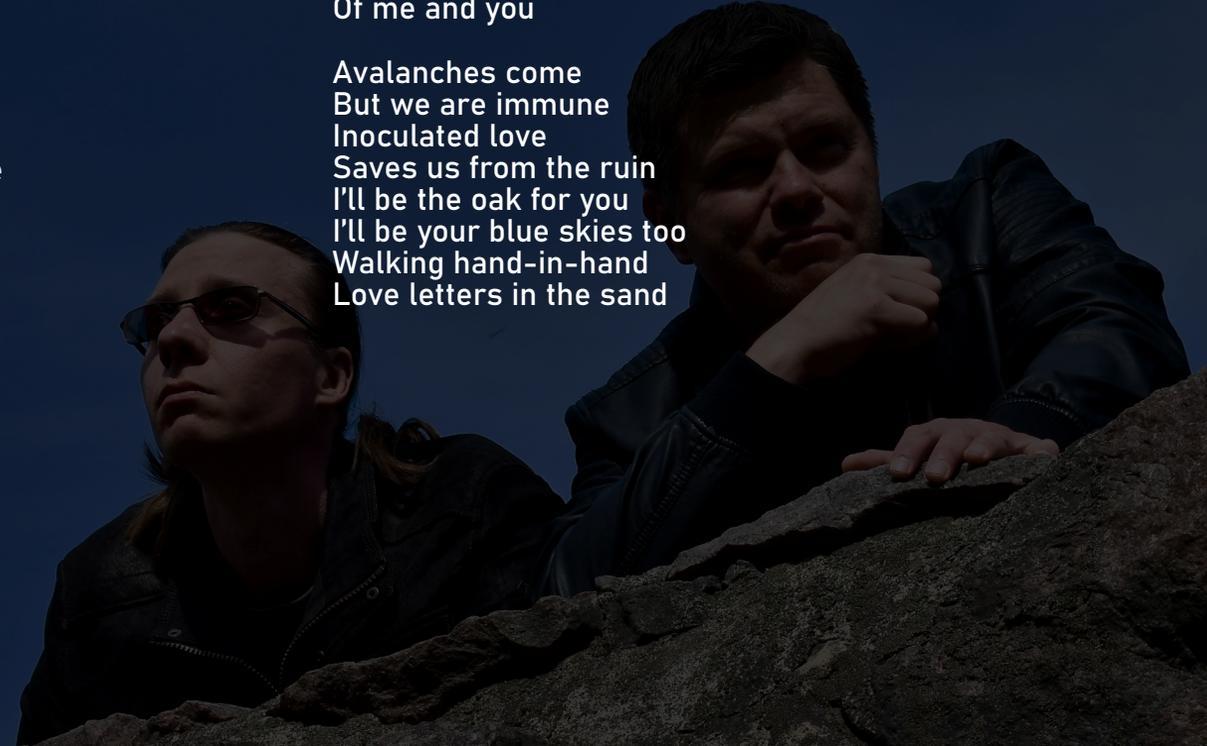
Baby, I want you by my side
At the sunset of my life
When memories and plans have all been made
And daytime turns to grayest evening shade
All that's left is you and I
We never fade

Love is never ever less
Even though it's not expressed
Words are overrated anyhow
It's what you do to keep the flame alive
In the winter's deep
Where lovers sleep

If you're way down low
I'll try to give you a smile
If you're way down low
We'll be alone for a while
If you're way down low
I'll make you realize
The stars will align
If you're way down low
I'll bring you sunny skies
If you're way down low
I'll try to melt the ice
If you're way down low
I'll make you realize
That we're on cloud nine

Baby, I want you by my side
When the dark is riding high
Standing on the precipice of life
I would follow you to our demise
Two lovers on the moon
Of me and you

Avalanches come
But we are immune
Inoculated love
Saves us from the ruin
I'll be the oak for you
I'll be your blue skies too
Walking hand-in-hand
Love letters in the sand



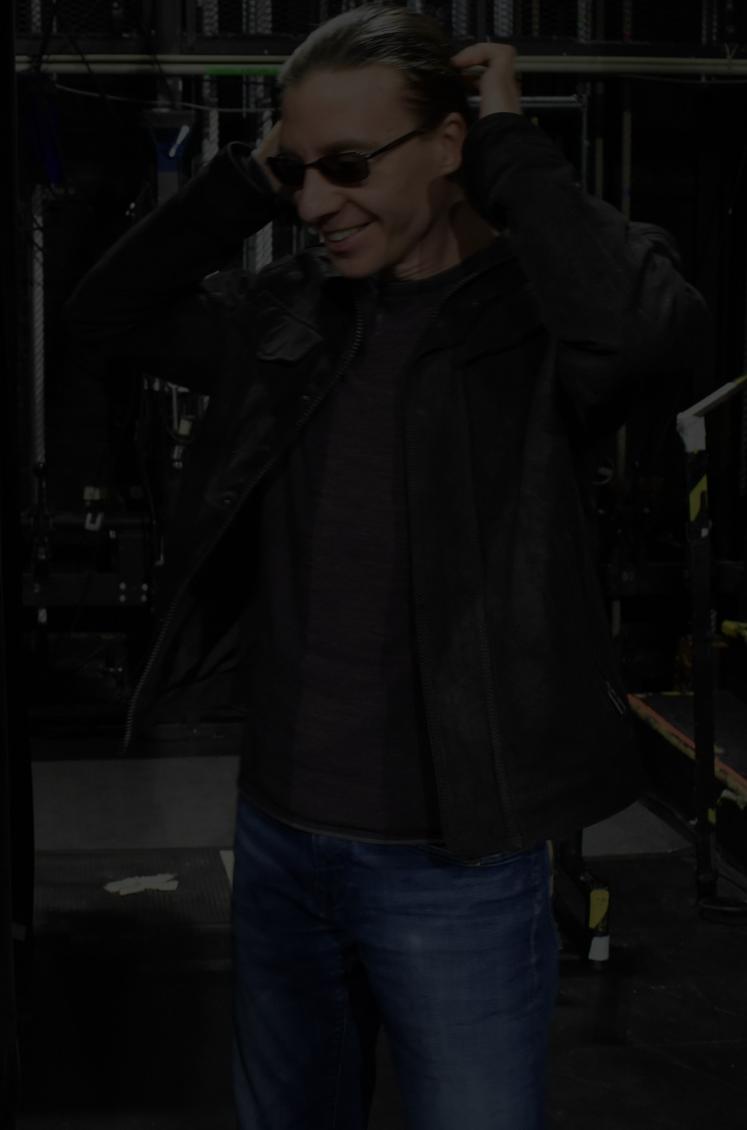
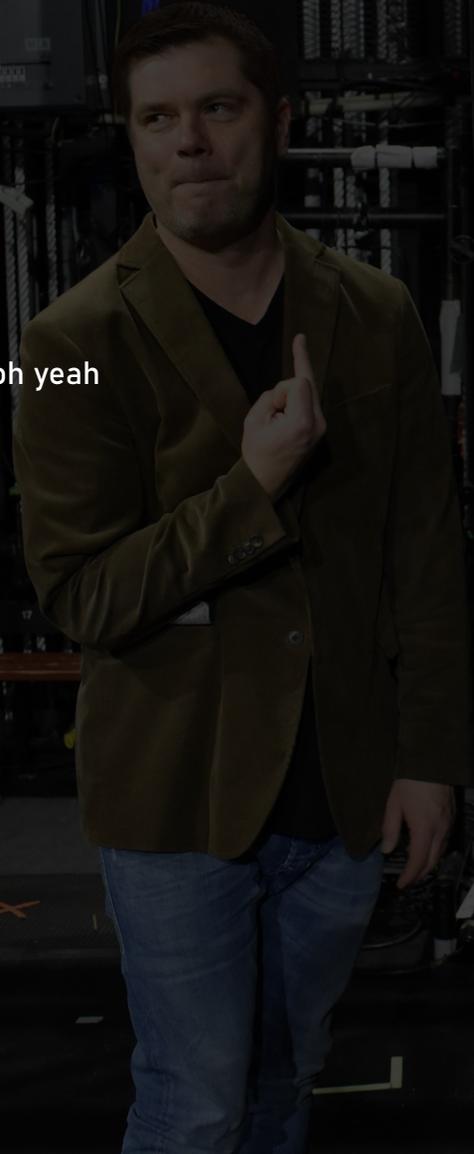
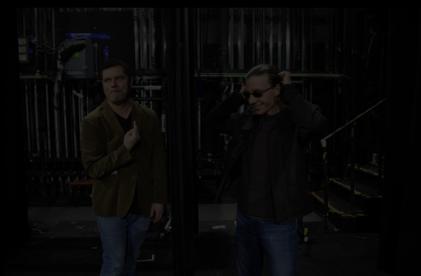
GOLDFISH BLUES

My woman drives me crazy
She keeps me up all night
My woman drives me crazy
She keeps me up all night
I try to get some sleep
I try to get some sleep, oh yeah
But that woman
She wants to start a pillow fight

I told her in the morning
This is where I draw the line
I done told her in the morning
There's a limit to feeling fine
She done stir-fried my goldfish
Ain't nothing left of my deep dish, oh yeah
Oh that woman
I got to tell that woman
This is where old Tom resigns

She done nothing but complain
Nothing but complain
If she don't stop, man
If she don't stop, yeah
I'm gonna hide
I'm gonna hide
I'm gonna hide my hearing aid

Got a mean old woman
She don't think I paid my dues
Got a mean old woman
She don't think I paid my dues
Ain't no way to tease her
Ain't no way to please her
Yeah, that woman
She stuck razors in my shoes



tHe ImPerSonaToRS

Tom Tikka & Antti Autio

All words and music by Tom Tikka & Antti Autio, except "Circus", "Cloud Nine" & "Rodeo" which are by Tom Tikka, Antti Autio & Elina Suominen

Lead vocals & lead guitars by Tom Tikka

Arranged, performed, recorded and produced by Janne Saksa & Tom Tikka

Mixed and mastered by Janne Saksa at Sound Supreme Recording Studio

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Photography: Elina Suominen & Joonas Niskanen

Cover design: Tom Tikka, Elina Suominen & Sven Klitsch

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