

Ashes (2004)



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Arm Yourself

Dim lit dreams dance in darkened doorways
While the scent lingers of a crescent moon goodbye
The phantom Jack of Irons scours the highways
While the swan and the nightingale cry

On this Memphis street, the demons they do roar/roam

So Arm yourself with my love
Arm yourself with my love
'Cause I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours

C'mon

And lead us not into temptation
But rather lead us down a road that winds to a righteous path
You're frolicking in your fields of frustration
It's never funny but sometimes I still laugh

Your leaving baby shook me to the core

So arm yourself with my love
Arm yourself with my love
'Cause I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours

Hey la hey my love
Hey la hey my love
Hey la hey
Hey la hey
Hey la, hey la, hey la hey

Last night we danced with a bottle and humility

Babe, I'd almost forgotten how good this could feel

There's so much I'd like to discard from my memory
Sometimes it's hard to tell if this is really real

My love I ask of you before the war/
we go to war

So Arm yourself with my love
Arm yourself with my love
'Cause I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours, babe

I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours
I've already armed myself with yours

Yeah-eh

Michael J. Bennett

One Way To Go

You say your luck's run out
You don't feel like you can make it through
You can't change where it is you come from
But you can change where you're going to

You've been under a lot of pressure
You've been carrying a mighty weight
You find pain in your own pleasure
And find love in the things you hate

Along the waterline everything seemed fine
One thing for certain was clear
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

Are you embarrassed by your transgressions?
Do you wallow in your guilt?
Will you offer up your confessions
Of destroying all you've built?

You beat yourself up every evening
And every morning you feel so dazed
Well, the last train of faith will be leaving
The day your flag of defeat is raised

The way that we were, when we were so sure
Which way we wanted to steer
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

You're so tired of being tired
Yeah, you're angry because you're mad
Beaten and uninspired
Yeah, you're happy because you're sad

You get high from all your falling
You get down when you're not high
You don't hear the voices calling
Imploring you to try

A voice/words from above, answered with love
But are you ready to hear?
There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

There's only one way to go
One way to go from here

Michael McDermott

Hellfire in the Holyland

He woke up near a Damascus cave/gate
With a widow's mite sittin' in his hand
He wasn't sure what happened
Twas something no one else would understand

He flipped the coin down King George street
And as he looked in wonder
The sky, it cracked right open
Twas the sound of rollin' thunder

I saw him by the disco
Talking to somebody at the bar
I saw him by the explosion
As he was walking to his car

In a flash the world erupted
Roared with light and shattered glass
People lying everywhere
And other's were just running fast

Come tomorrow, an unanswered prayer
Come tomorrow, will I find you there?
You turn the cheek, and offer up your hand
Cause there's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land

Oh-oh, oo
Oh-oh, oo

He wasn't sure just what it was
But as he was moving closer
We noticed he was walking on
The Via Dolorosa

I heard him around the corner
Speaking in some parable decree
A Esau and Jacob are at it again
Killing each other with glee/so easily

He said he was looking for a lift
He said to Bethlehem that he was bound

He said he had to see for himself
The kind of shit he heard was going down

On the streets of the city
He saw the carnage that was there
Tears flow like rivers run/red
Flesh and sulphur filled the air

Come tomorrow a symphony of peace
Come tomorrow when you're on your knees
Cause I'm just looking for to understand
Why there's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land

There's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land

A listening to bullets talk
Is a language hard to grasp. he said
Var. 1 - We fill ourselves with fury
Var. 2 - Tears sound like fury
Var. 3 - Wonder shouts with fury
And we're still walking among the dead

With each loss the collective heart
Gets weaker all the more
Pride's relentless stronghold
Is banished by my father's door

Come tomorrow an unanswered prayer
Come tomorrow will I find you there?
Tearin' down the castles made of sand
Cause there's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land

There's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land
There's hellfire tonight, in the Holy Land

Singin' halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah
(repeat to fade)

Baby I

Through this time, uncertainty
I just couldn't let it be
Still you call, through the night
Baby it will be alright
Trust in me, I'll trust in you
I know we will make it through

Oh baby I,
I got nickel whiskey eyes
Oh baby I,
I'm your hero in disguise
Oh baby I,
Baby I wish I was

Look at me, looking at you
Know I have such love for you
But wishing won't, change a thing
Heed these words my love, I sing
You are such a rarity
I wish I was more than me

Oh baby I,
I'm the only one for you
Oh baby I,
Cuz I'm so rare and true
Oh baby I,
Baby I wish I was

There's a feeling when the silence comes
We thought we were the chosen ones
In the shadows where the end begins
There are games we play, no one ever wins
Somewhere down,

Oh baby I,
I got nickel whiskey eyes
Oh baby I,
There'll come a day my love we'll meet
But everywhere that I roam
Know your heart still is my home
Who knows what, this life will bring
Who knows if you'll wear my ring

Oh baby I,
I'm true and dutiful
Oh baby I,
I'm pure and beautiful

Michael McDermott

Dance With Me

Tell me, tell me true
Do you speak with the spirits, the way I do?
Do you dance their dance, with their hands on you?
Do you sleep at night?

Coming down from above
I heard the trumpet speaking of love
But there's no peace here, any peace to speak of
Will you dance with me?

What difference does it make?
You can walk the line or make a mistake
Forgive me now, I got something to shake
Do you see that monkey here?

So dance with me, take my hand
I've become a person I don't understand
With you I can finally find a place to land
If you dance with me

Fear not, I fear you no more
You can dress in black, or crawl on the floor
You can touch me now, or wait by the door
You'll always have your chance

I'll write the song of my life
I'll cast it in the air, as sharp as a knife
I'll puncture it, and feed it some light
We can call it death

This room, sweats of your name
You know it too, cause we love the pain
Blinded by, the colors of rain
Haunting me

So dance with me just one time
I'll do anything if you can name the crime
I'll accept everything, I'll be fine
If you dance with me

Who cares and what if they do?
It's no one's life, it's yours and it's you
Will you kill me if I asked you to?
Do you know me yet?

Free me, free me from this
It hurts like hell, but they tell me it's bliss
I'd sell my soul, my love for one kiss

Would you offer it to me?

Candle burning it's still
Up there in your window sill
High upon the loneliest hill
Is that light for me?

So dance with me a silent dance
With you to my breast
I could stand a chance
Beyond the perimeters of circumstance
Will you walk with me?

Talk with me
Lend me your smile
I've been twisting and turning awhile
Been one long lonely mile after mile
Will you dance with me?

C'mon dance with me, take my hand
I've become a person I don't understand
With you I can finally find a place to land
Will you dance with me?

C'mon dance with me
C'mon dance with me
C'mon dance with me
Dance with me

Hold Back a River

Man, I hate nights when I find myself
Back here feelin' like this
I swear sometimes that God had made your
Lips for me to kiss

But right now I can barely find the forest
Looking for you through the trees
And right now I can barely find the water
While I set sail on your seas

All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river
All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river

Singin' yeah, yeah
Singin' yeah, yeah

You seem just a little crazy sometimes
In varying degrees
You're like a feather floating through my night skies
Drifting through my dreams

And I wish I knew if it was you
That I was looking for
Across this muddy delta water
I'm still wading towards your shore

All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river
All my love, love I'm gonna give
It's like trying to hold back a river

Singin' yeah, yeah
Singin' yeah, yeah

Got a roof over my head
But my floor's fallin' through
Getting' drunk/dizzy every night
From talking/thinking about you

My sea legs beneath me
And this weary heart
But I'll keep on holding on
Until I fall apart

Yeah-eh
Tryin' to hold back a river

May the currents keep and guide you
And steer you from disgrace
It feels I'm drifting way too deep
Every time I touch your face

I find the strength to surrender one last time
Before I close these doors for good
Babe, do you really think you'd want this heart of
mine
Do you think you ever would?

All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river

All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river

All my love, love I'm gonna give her
It's like trying to hold back a river

Singin' yeah, yeah
Tryin' to hold back a river
Singin' yeah, yeah
Tryin' to hold back a river
Singin' yeah, yeah
Tryin' to hold back a river

Darkest Night of All

William rose through the Tennessee mud like a savior
And moved up here late last year
But lately he's had such erratic behavior
But nobody wanted to interfere

He got himself a gun down at Nick's Pawn
And went to Rick's for a drink
He was talking to the statue on St. Joseph's front lawn
And nobody knew what to think

He said he was flat broke as he lit up a smoke
He said it's such a long way down
Nobody ever listened to him when he spoke
He said they think I'm just a clown

William with a .357
In the town of Black River Falls
Said I'll carve my own way to heaven
In the darkest night of all

Now Martha, I swear, I know what you're thinking
Can't say I disagree
I never would have thought this ship would be sinking
I could tell by the way that you look at me

The pestilent fear still sings in your ear
The crippling songs of the weak
You think that I abuse and I always lose
The things that you knew I couldn't keep

Do you hear the sound of angels
Martha for you I will crawl
Jesus I can't seem to find you here
In the darkest night of all

In the darkest night of all

Know the sun never rises when you're wearing
disguises
It seems like it stays dark for days

And weakened we walk into our compromises
Right into a brand new malaise

And the bridges are burning from lack of discerning
Till the day they fall from the sky
And maybe these wheels weren't meant for turning
Each day I feel another part of you die

I just don't know what we've been doing
I don't know if I can climb this wall
Every road just seems to lead to ruin
In the darkest night of all

Do you hear the sounds of angels
For to find you I will crawl
Jesus tell me how I got here
In the darkest night of all

Do you hear the sounds of angels
Read the prayers written on your wall
Jesus tell me how we got here
On the darkest night of all

On the darkest night of all

Grace of God

The sun came up this morning
While I was laying myself down
The dawn broke like a warning
Telling me I ought to leave this town

Cause dying ain't no way to make a living
And I ain't quite ready to die

Yeah there but for the grace of God go I

From the foothills of my memories
To the flatlands of my youth
Shrouded like the holiest mysteries/symphonies
Are you sure you're ready for the truth?

Cause you know you're entitled to the answers
But the river of truth is running dry

Yeah there but for the grace of God go I

Baptized in blood, fire and water
You're wonderin' why you're never feeling clean
Your boat's pulled out from the harbor
And you're on the dock abandoned in between

So dance the dance of witches neath the moonlight
While the rattlesnake's rhythm keeps the beat
Sullen stand the wounded neath the searchlight
Remembering our heroes in defeat

Wondering on roads still leading further
Forever neath the Colorado sky

Yeah there but for the grace of God go I
Yeah there but for the grace of God go I

Michael McDermott

Everything I Got

I couldn't believe my eyes that night
I couldn't believe what I heard
Watching you walkin' down Broadway
Without even saying a word

But this ain't nothing new
We've been through this drill before
Smashin' dishes in the kitchen
And slammin' our bedroom door

And all the time we've been together
Most of that time was good
You never got what you wanted
And I knew you never would

I wander the graveyards of my mind
Searching for something true
With each step I realize
That I'm not the man for you

You've given everything you could
But I can't be something I'm not
And what you're gettin' baby isn't enough
I've given it everything that I've got

I told you just how hard it would be
And how hard it'd be on you
'Cause I only know how to destroy
Things so rare and true

I take no pride in all these feelings
No pride in these feelings at all
Addictions, afflictions and contradictions
Are bound to make a good man fall

I came home/keep movin' every chance I got
It's the way I've been taught to think
I chase things I don't even want
I stay up all night and drink

I wander the graveyards of my mind
Searching for something to pull us through
With each gravestone I realize
That I'm not the man for you

You've given everything you could
But I can't be something I'm not
And what you're getting baby isn't enough

I've given it everything I got

I don't know why I do half the things I do
Or say half the things that I say
All you wanted was a love so true
But you found a man to paint your blue skies gray

It's hard for me to put it into words
It's hard for me to communicate
I have all these feelings that I feel
But when they come out, they disintegrate

I wander 'round the graveyards of my mind
Searching for something new
With each step I realize
That I'm not the man for you

You've given everything you could
But I can't be something I'm not
What you're getting baby isn't enough
But I've given it everything I've got

What you're getting baby isn't enough
We've given it everything we got
I wander round the graveyard of my mind
For something true

With each gravestone I realize
I'm not the man for you
You've given everything to me
But I can't be something I'm not

What you're getting baby isn't enough
I've given it everything I've got

Sword of Democles

Wake up to the sounds of your aching heart
To see your soul's enemy approach your rampart
It's the same damn battles we fight every day
You don't want to leave but you don't want to stay

Tryin' and trippin' and keepin' alive
You do what you do and what you will to survive
I couldn't shake this gorilla off my back
And I awoke to see the city was under attack

I saw Dionysus in his usual booth
He was never one who wanted to hear the truth
But I always seem to talk too much to him anyway
He's talkin about Bandini with John Fante

Looking for the trinity down on your knees
But light still shines from the sword of Damocles

I was getting side tracked on side streets in circles of
dust
Watching pretty girls begin to rust
I always wanted one worth at least a million and
change

But they always end up thinkin' I'm far too strange

Cicero and Brutus both spoke of the tale
Of the drifters they met in that Texas jail
They were the kind of stories that made everybody
laugh
C said just be happy with what you have

We took what we wanted, a couple of thieves
Still hanging above was the sword of Damocles

Yeah hanging above was the sword of Damocles

You find an ember and fan it ablaze
To snap you right out of the cruel malaise
A potion of poetry, a dream, and some faith
It's sad to see someone's soul going to waste

Down around the bookstore is where I saw Jan
She was holdin that dagger in the palm of her hand
She was looking for somebody that had done her
wrong
Anyone would do, and it wouldn't be long

Is this life the life you want or one you're settlin for
Are you gonna roll the dice or double lock your door
No water it seems will ever get you clean
No map will lead you from this bitter in between

Is it your reflection or just a disease
When you gaze upon the sword of Damocles
Light still shines from the sword of Damocles
Light still shines from the sword of Damocles

Can't you see that light shine
Can you see that light shine

Gonna Be Good

I've got a feeling, maybe I'm dreaming
Maybe everything is finally turning around
Maybe I'm stupid, or slightly deluded
For the first time it feels like stable ground

We've been through all our apologies
We've confessed to each and every crime

But it's gonna be good this time

I know your parents, they don't care for me
No, your friends they don't understand
My folks ain't crazy about you babe
But they don't know what we got here in our hand

I know we got some roadblocks up ahead
I know we got some walls to climb

But it's gonna be good this time

Remember those nights near the garden wall
And days of laying in that tall summer grass
Listening to the bells of St. James
Walkin' home after high Sunday mass

I know we've tried this thing a few times now
But forgiveness can be so sublime

I swear it's gonna be good this time

I've got a feeling, maybe I'm dreaming
Maybe everything is finally turning around

It's gonna be good this time
I swear it's gonna be good

It's gonna be good this time

Michael McDermott

Can't Sleep Tonight

I can't sleep tonight
How it is anyone can?
And I'm holding this pen
Like a gun in my hand

And there's a shiver of silence
Hanging over this land
I can't sleep tonight
How it is anyone can?

I can't sleep tonight
How is it anyone could?
Because the battle is raging
Between the evil and good

And the laws that I've lived by
I've always misunderstood
I can't sleep tonight
How is it anyone could?

I can't sleep tonight
I wonder if I ever will
Is there/there's a beacon of hope
Shining up on that hill?

Yeah love is a cup
One I never can fill
I can't sleep tonight
I wonder if I ever will

I can't sleep tonight
And I'm feeling half dead
And I think of the things
I know I should've said

This place is on fire babe
And I built this bed

I can't sleep tonight
Babe I can't sleep tonight

I can't sleep tonight
Lord this must be a dream
Cause it feels at any moment
That I might start to scream

And there are things that I say
That I know I don't mean

I can't sleep tonight
Lord this must be a dream

I can't sleep tonight
I wonder if its because
I'm thinking about the person
I know I once was

I wonder where did he go
I wonder what is that he does
I can't sleep tonight
I wonder if it's because

I can't sleep tonight
Somebody get me a gun
Too many nights
When you're soul's on the run

How is it we became
That which we've become
I can't sleep tonight
Babe I can't sleep tonight

I can't sleep tonight
How is it anyone can?
When I'm holding this guitar
Like a gun in my hand

I act like a boy
When I should be a man
I can't sleep tonight
How is it anyone can?

Michael McDermott

Around the World

Go ahead and throw your punches
I can take whatever you've got to give
Because I've cheated death so many times
Even when I didn't want to live

So come down from your alter
And then baby I'll come down from my throne
Yeah I had to travel around the world
Just to find my way home

I went walkin' with a bedlamite
Near the Champs-Elysees in Paris France
I bedded down with a starlet
Even when I didn't think I stood a chance

So come down from your alter
And then maybe I'll come down from my throne
Yeah I had to travel around the world
Just to find my way home

I've been in books I've been in movies
I've rubbed elbows with many celebrities
I've jettisoned with the jet-set
I've flown over six of the seven seas

So come down from your alter
And then maybe I'll come down from my throne
Yeah I had to travel around the world
Just to find my way home

I think that I have met some prophets
And I've befriended the lowest of the low
For a while I was a rich man
Now I haven't even a seed that I can sow

So come down from your alter
And then I'll come down from my throne
Yeah I had to travel around the world
Just to find my way home

Michael McDermott