

WEST SIDE STORIES

THE WESTIES

Hell's Kitchen

Everything is closin' down
Even Armstrong's ain't around
imagine that
Everything that made it home
Has been chewed to the bone,
it makes me mad
You weren't born a Kitchen girl
You were from another world
A world i'd only heard about before
Well tonight it's Hell's Kitchen
or Heaven's door

See Esmarelda's got a plan,
to make a hundred grand
I said "this i gotta hear."
She said "Go ahead and laugh,
I'll send you a postcard
you ass, in about a year."
Everybody's got a scheme,
born from a dream. A dream that fell
right through your floor
Well tonight, it's Hell's Kitchen,
or Heaven's door

My father spent his whole life,
living on the edge of a knife
on this very street
He had a couple close calls,
but maybe he never had the balls
to up and leave
It was more like loyalty, but as for me,
well tonight i'm gonna settle the score
For tonight, it's Hell's Kitchen,
or Heaven's door

There's something i don't understand,
does the city remember my old man
Or maybe it just doesn't recall
Or does this city have no memory at all?

Now the west side boys,
are making lots of noise at Pier 86
Magic Mikey he got rolled by Manganaro's
so i'm told, over some chicks
Yeah it's Darwinian
and it reeks of sex and of sin
Each night's is like a battle in a war
For tonight, it's Hell's Kitchen
or Heaven's door

The sidewalk is lined up with scars
and the ghosts that died in these bars
between 9th and 10th
Remember when Alice took the plunge,
remember where Jimmy stashed the gun
When he shot Ken
Babe, lets go grab a drink,
we can sit, we can talk, we can think
About all the places we're headed for
For tonight it's Hell's Kitchen,
or Heaven's door

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Trains

I have these dreams about trains
At least a couple times a week
I wake startled and breathless
I can't form the words to speak
It takes me a second to recover
I need to take a look around
Each one is different from the other
I wake to hear not a sound
I have these dreams about trains

I have these dreams about trains
Some are eastbound steam trains for the coast
Some are bearing down on me
Some come through the fallen snow
Some are carrying a casket
Some have people inside
Some lay pennies in its path
Some come from the mountainside
I have these dreams about trains

Last call, all aboard
Come along now all ye ghosts
The conductors before me
Are in the bar giving a toast
We have miles to go before we sleep
There are bridges we need to cross
The woods are lovely, dark and deep

I have these dreams about trains
Some are to reunite lovers
When I see a black plume of smoke
I know they're safe in the arms of one another
Some will salute as it's passing by
I can feel their engines are runnin' hot
I have these dreams about trains
I don't think they're ever gonna stop
I have these dreams about trains



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Say It...

I guess I never saw this coming
My old ways of thinking,
have got me thinking about runnin'
I guess I never really
thought that I ever would
I guess I'm feeling kind of stranded
I'm not happy about the place
or the way that we landed
And not saying the things
we know we should

If you say it first, I'll believe it
If you say it first,
babe say it like you mean it
If you say it first
it'll wash all my troubles away

I gave you my heart, my soul and my body
Yet you lay your darkness
and sadness upon me
I don't know how much more
that I can give to you
I try not to add to all of your worry
When you're off in the morning
you're in such a hurry
I just want to tell you
all the little things I can't wait to do

If you say it first, I'll believe it
If you say it first,
babe say it like you mean it
If you say it first
it'll wash all my troubles away

Babe can't you see, I got a lot on my mind
I'm not sure what i'm chasin'
or what i'm hoping to find

You drive off angry, drunk in your car
I just don't know
who the hell you think you are
You're making me crazy,
you're making me feel half insane
You're the one that's driving me to drink
With all of this talking,
i can't hear myself think
Even when you're wrong
you're telling me that I'm to blame

If you say it first I'll believe it
Will you say it first,
babe you know that i need it
If you say it first
it'll wash all our troubles away

You're out chasing dreams with your lasso
Some days i swear you can be such an ass
Oh i wish there was something
that one of us would do
The trouble with me, it ain't with you
But i'm tired of the things
that we put ourselves through
I hate seeing you down
when your heart seems black and blue

If you say it first, I'll believe it
Three little words, and the slate,
it would clean it
If you say it first,
it'll wash all our troubles away
all our troubles away

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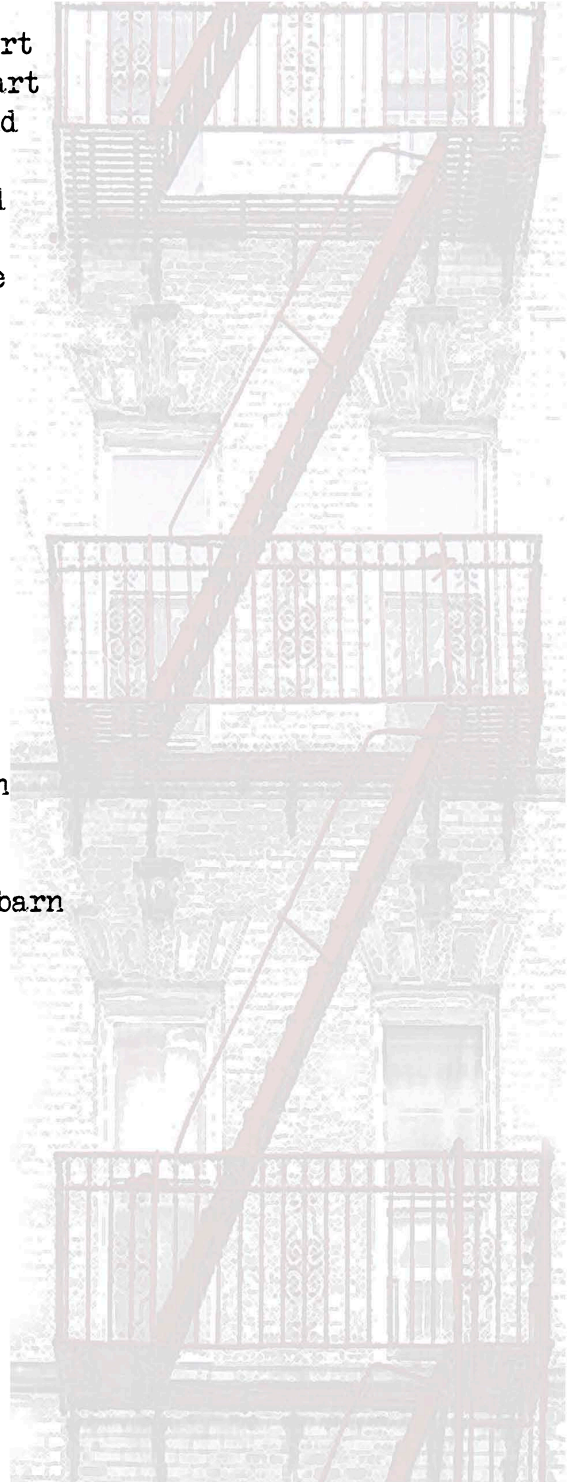
Death

I should have known, right from the start
I should have known, you'd break my heart
A downward spiral, followed close behind
I once could see, but now i'm blind
13 hours to Wichita, neither man nor god
I knew no law
As far as I can see, babe you're gonna be
The death of me

Prophetstown, late last July
I was goin' down, bound for the sky
Shadow's call by Sugar Creek
My mouth was dry, my will was weak
There's a darkness, deep within'
There's a darkness, rife with sin
But as far, as i can see
Babe you're gonna be, the death of me

I traveled light, and i moved around
Took everything that wasn't nailed down
Sheriff Tippet came without a sound
I had to put ole Jackson, in the ground
They tracked me down, to an abandoned barn
The lawman said as he took my arm
"Long is the road to Cavalry."
It's gonna be be
The death of me

My captors gathered, at my trial
Even the hangman, gave me a smile
Judge and jury, 13 were there
You with your gavel and galled stare
There is nothing, I can say
To make this better, in anyway
And my sentence...the guillotine
Babe I knew you'd be
The death of me



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Devil

I made a deal with the devil
The night before last
It was down in the hollow
The river was rolling fast
The timberwolves were howling
His hand felt so cold
I made a deal with the devil
for my soul

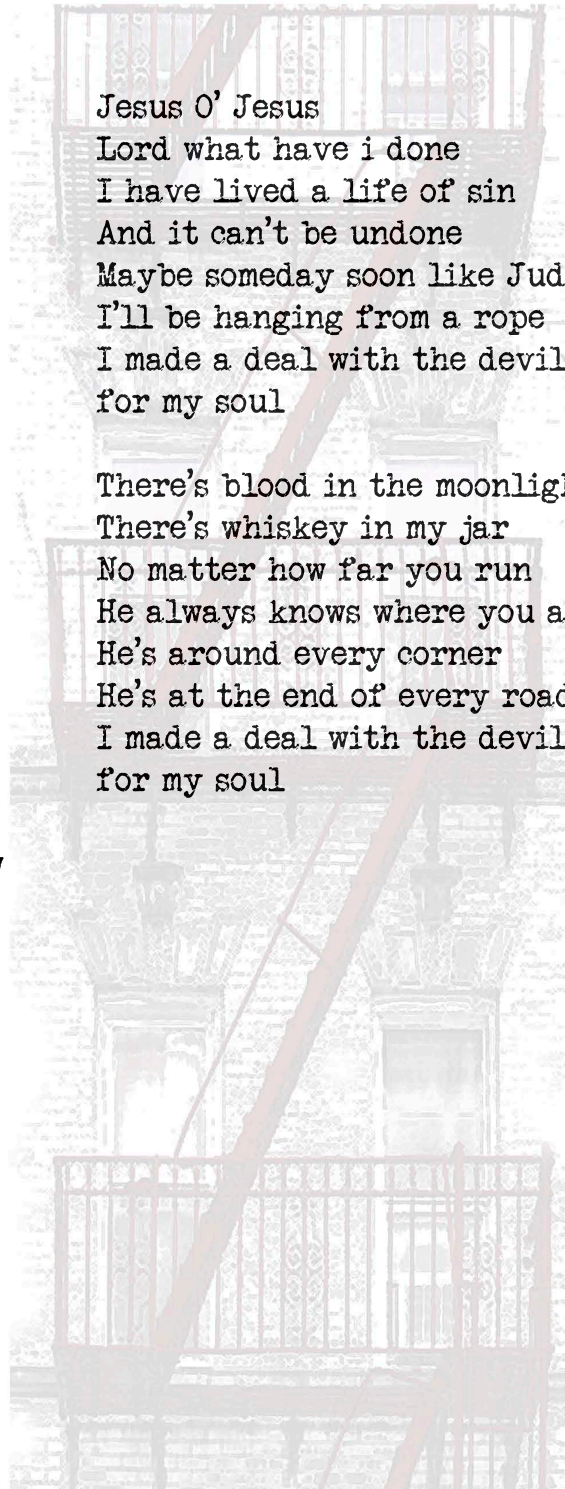
In a tavern in Wyoming
Is where i first saw Slim
With his jailhouse tattoo
and his gold tooth grin
10 miles outside of Cheyenne
Is where i dug his hole
I made a deal with the devil
for my soul

I saw a ring of fire down in the hollow
I saw cabin and a lantern over there
I saw the ghost of my father
By the gravestone of my mother
With fire in his hair

Kansas came and went,
like some nomadic dream
It was out on the borderline
I heard someone scream
There are hellhounds on my trail
There are witches in the knoll
I made a deal with the devil
for my soul

Jesus O' Jesus
Lord what have i done
I have lived a life of sin
And it can't be undone
Maybe someday soon like Judas
I'll be hanging from a rope
I made a deal with the devil
for my soul

There's blood in the moonlight
There's whiskey in my jar
No matter how far you run
He always knows where you are
He's around every corner
He's at the end of every road
I made a deal with the devil
for my soul



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Bars

I know a place, it's down in Texas
It's up near Fort Worth,
called The Thorny Crown
I was there, in the late Nineties
When I was rovin' town to town
I'm not sure if it's still there
I kinda doubt it would be
I woke up that morning,
with blood on my pillow
Sometimes you need the chains to get free

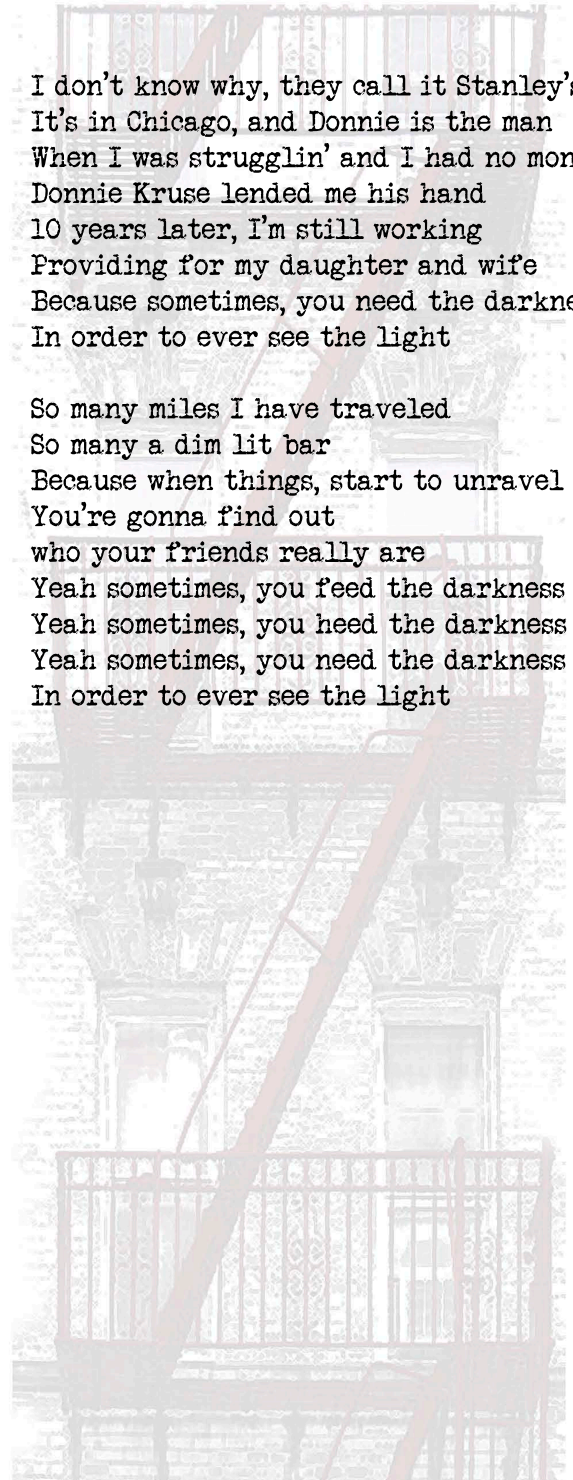
I know a place, in Mississippi
Called Hal and Mal's I think it's Tupelo
Or was it Jackson,
or maybe Biloxi, or Tunica
Hell, I don't know
All I remember, was the feelin'
That i wouldn't make it out of there alive
Because sometimes, you need the darkness
In order to ever see the light

So many miles I have traveled
So many a dim lit bar
Because when things, start to unravel
You're gonna find out who you are

I know a place, on the upper west side
In New York City, The Dublin House its name
I met a girl there, on 9-11
Her name was Jill, or Judy, or Jane
She was younger, she was wilder than me
She thought she was smarter than everyone
Over a pint, she said around midnight
"Sometimes you gotta lose,
to know when you've won"

I don't know why, they call it Stanley's
It's in Chicago, and Donnie is the man
When I was strugglin' and I had no money
Donnie Kruse lended me his hand
10 years later, I'm still working
Providing for my daughter and wife
Because sometimes, you need the darkness
In order to ever see the light

So many miles I have traveled
So many a dim lit bar
Because when things, start to unravel
You're gonna find out
who your friends really are
Yeah sometimes, you feed the darkness
Yeah sometimes, you heed the darkness
Yeah sometimes, you need the darkness
In order to ever see the light



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Rosie

She speaks of New York City
with a hint of Tennessee
But I wish I knew just what it was
That keeps her far from me
She keeps her TV on all night
So she can get to sleep
She said, "It wards off the demons
at night when they creep."

There's a ring around my Rosie
I watch her with a grin
There's a ring around my Rosie
She won't ever let me in

She recited me a poem
That she wrote for a friend
It had something to do with Jesus
and a night that wouldn't end
Then she offered me a drink
Of course I said yes
Because I loved to see her walk away
In that loose white summer dress

There's a ring around my Rosie
There's a ring in her nose
There's a ring around my Rosie
It's a girl nobody knows

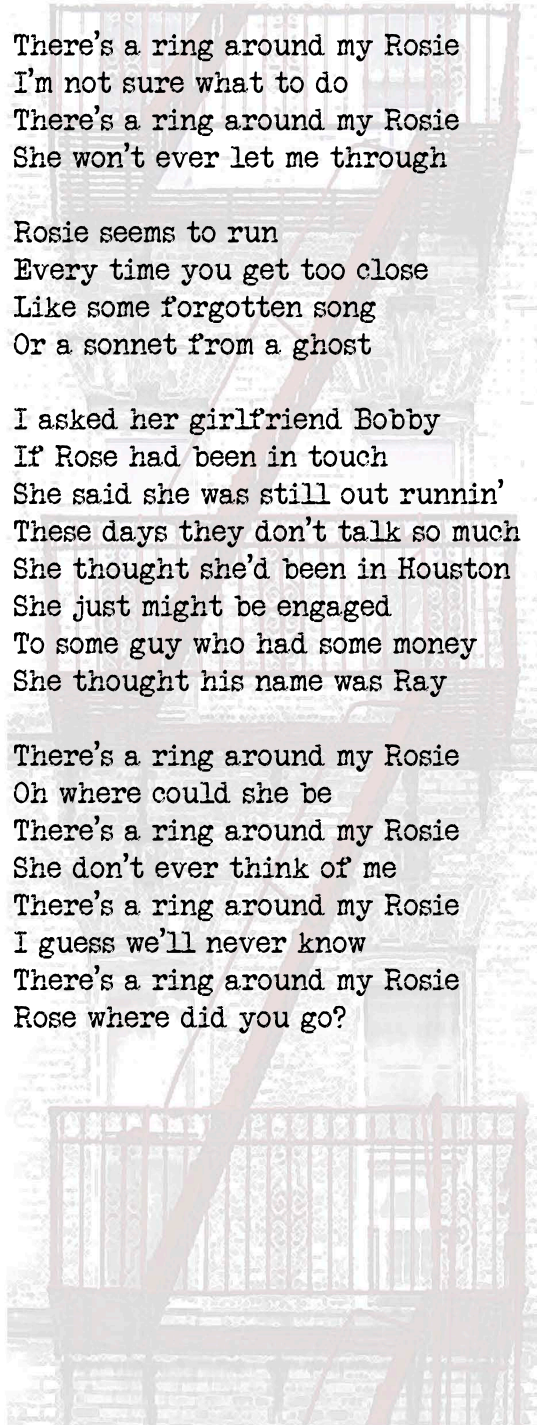
She was evicted from her apartment
In Chelsea late last week
She was passing through Chicago
On her way to New Orleans
Then I leaned in for a kiss
But then she turned her head
So I leaned back in my chair
and lit a cigarette instead

There's a ring around my Rosie
I'm not sure what to do
There's a ring around my Rosie
She won't ever let me through

Rosie seems to run
Every time you get too close
Like some forgotten song
Or a sonnet from a ghost

I asked her girlfriend Bobby
If Rose had been in touch
She said she was still out runnin'
These days they don't talk so much
She thought she'd been in Houston
She just might be engaged
To some guy who had some money
She thought his name was Ray

There's a ring around my Rosie
Oh where could she be
There's a ring around my Rosie
She don't ever think of me
There's a ring around my Rosie
I guess we'll never know
There's a ring around my Rosie
Rose where did you go?



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Fallen

Hey babe, are we starting to sink?
Should I stay for a while
Do you need time to think?
I love you more than i say
Don't know why that i'm scared
Was i built this way?
All I know is i'm lost, without you

Hey babe, the skies' looking clear
Lately my mind, it ain't
Can't seem to get it in gear
I'm scared as night is still
So I search for a sign
In the arms of a saint
The only thing I know is you
What am I to do?
I've fallen in love with you

Hey babe, can I get you a drink
A band of silver and gold
Your name tattooed in ink
I love you more than I say
Don't know why that i'm scared
I guess I was built this way
I've fallen in love with you
What am I to you?
I've fallen in love with you
What am I to you, What am I to do?
I've fallen in love with you



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Five Leaf...

There's a web of dreams that linger
All down the avenue
Your faithlessness was weary
I can hear it when I spoke to you
You let me in your castle
You told me I could call it home
I can't seem to stop myself
From reaching for the telephone

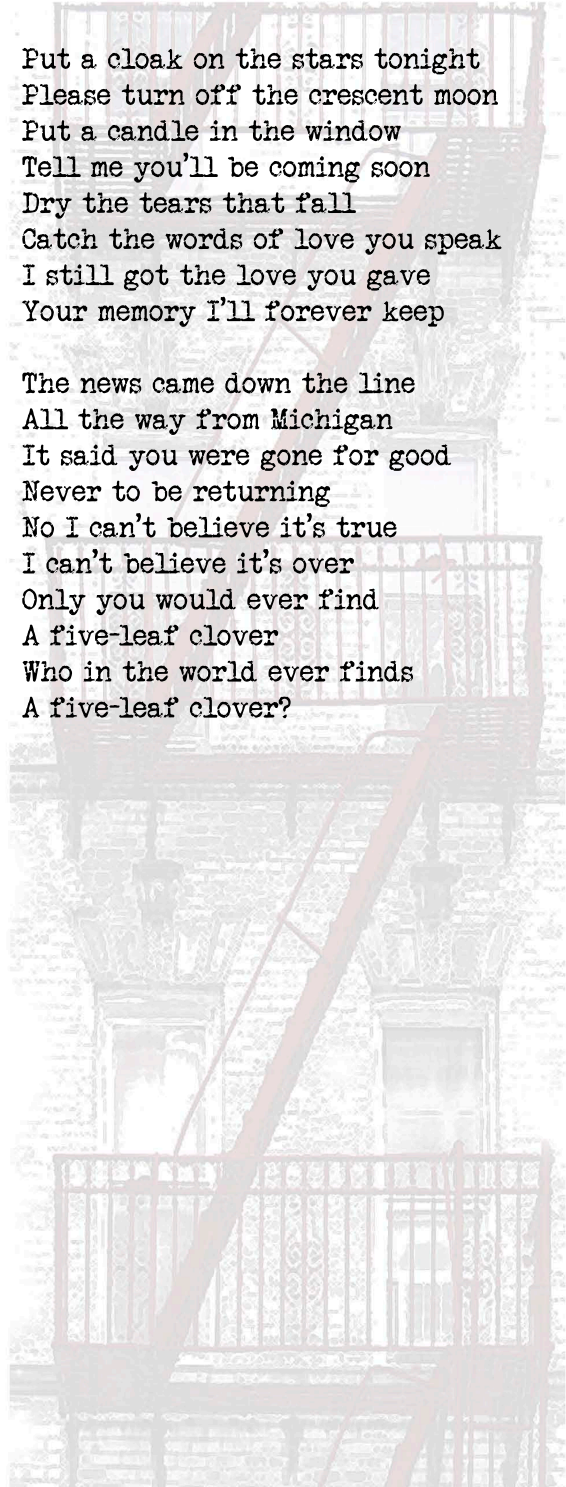
The news came down the line
All the way from Michigan
It said you were gone for good
Never to be returning
I can't believe it's true
I can't believe it's over
Only you would ever find
A five-leaf clover

The silence seemed to shatter
You tilt your head back
with a knowing smile
Of all the things that mattered
Was at least we had you for a while
Everything's ephemeral,
everything will come and go
But the loneliness around here
Is the only thing that seemed to grow

The news came down the line
All the way from Michigan
It said you were gone for good
Never to be returning
No I can't believe it's true
I can't believe it's over
Who in the world every finds
A five-leaf clover

Put a cloak on the stars tonight
Please turn off the crescent moon
Put a candle in the window
Tell me you'll be coming soon
Dry the tears that fall
Catch the words of love you speak
I still got the love you gave
Your memory I'll forever keep

The news came down the line
All the way from Michigan
It said you were gone for good
Never to be returning
No I can't believe it's true
I can't believe it's over
Only you would ever find
A five-leaf clover
Who in the world ever finds
A five-leaf clover?



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Still...

LA woman, babe what are we gonna do
I'm so tired of drinkin'
I'm so tired of thinkin' about you
We ain't even together
but still something seems so wrong
It's got me turned upside down,
It's got me singin' this song

Hey pretty babe,
get out of my mind gal for good
I know it ain't up to you,
but i doubt that you would if you could
The moon shadows are many
and i can hear each one of them breathe
The way i've been actin', well frankly,
it's hard to believe

Most nights i wish that we never met
Most days i choke on my fear and regret
But I hate to admit,
but I still ain't over you yet

Some mornings I wake and i'm startled
when i see you're not there
I remember the way we made love
in the cool morning air
But your good intentions never seemed
to be quite good enough
Maybe I was right,
maybe you're just not that tough

I remember the way
that you'd talk to your friends on the phone
I remember the day
you swore you'd never leave me alone
But you live by an ocean,
and babe, I live by a lake
I hate to believe
that this whole thing has been a mistake

Most nights I wish that we never met
Most days I choke on my fear and regret
I hate to admit,
but I still ain't over you yet

I've been wandering around
as lost as i've ever been
I don't even think that Jesus Christ
knows the piss poor shape i've been in
Everything it seems so hazy and i'm
wondering, "what the hell have I done?"
Yeah, I'm certain I'm crazy because
I was thinking that you were the one

Most nights I wish that we never met
Most days I feel weak
and i just can't forget
I hate to admit,
but I still ain't over you yet

