



### **FORCE TEN** (4:28)

Tough times demand tough talk  
demand tough hearts demand tough songs  
demand-

We can rise and fall like empires  
Flow in and out like the tide  
Be vain and smart, humble and dumb  
We can hit and miss like pride

We can circle around like hurricanes  
Dance and dream like lovers  
Attack the day like birds of prey  
Or scavengers under cover

*Look in-  
To the eye of the storm  
Look out-  
For the force without form  
Look around-  
At the sight and the sound  
Look in look out look around-*

We can move with savage grace  
To the rhythms of the night  
Cool and remote like dancing girls  
In the heat of the beat and the lights

We can wear the rose of romance  
An air of joie de vivre  
Too-tender hearts upon our sleeves  
Or skin as thick as thieves'

rising falling at force ten  
we twist the world and ride the wind

Look in- look the storm in the eye  
Look out- to the sea and the sky  
Look around- at the sight and the sound  
Look in look out look around-

### **TIME STAND STILL** (5:07)

I turn my back to the wind  
To catch my breath,  
Before I start off again.  
Driven on,  
Without a moment to spend  
To pass an evening  
With a drink and a friend

I let my skin get too thin  
I'd like to pause,  
No matter what I pretend  
Like some pilgrim-  
Who learns to transcend-  
Learns to live  
As if each step was the end

*Time stand still-  
I'm not looking back  
But I want to look around me now  
See more of the people  
And the places that surround me now*

*Freeze this moment a little bit longer  
Make each sensation a little bit stronger  
Experience slips away...*

I turn my face to the sun  
Close my eyes.  
Let my defences down-  
All those wounds  
That I can't get unwound

I let my past go too fast  
No time to pause-  
If I could slow it all down  
Like some captain,  
Whose ship runs aground-  
I can wait until the tide comes around

*Make each impression a little bit stronger  
Freeze this motion a little bit longer  
The innocence slips away...*

*Summer's going fast,  
Nights growing colder  
Children growing up-  
Old friends growing older  
Experience slips away...*

### **OPEN SECRETS** (5:37)

It went right by me-  
At the time it went over my head  
I was looking out the window  
I should have looked at your face instead

It went right by me-  
Just another wall  
There should have been a moment  
When we let our barriers fall  
I never meant what you're thinking-  
That is not what I meant at all...

*Well I guess we all have these feelings  
We can't leave unreconciled  
Some of them burned on our ceilings  
Some of them learned as a child  
The things that we're concealing  
Will never let us grow  
Time will do its healing  
You've got to let it go*

Closed for my protection-  
Open to your scorn  
Between these two directions  
My heart is sometimes torn

I lie awake with my secrets  
spinning around my head  
something that somehow escaped me-  
Something you shouldn't have said  
I was looking out the window  
I should have looked at your face instead...

*I find no absolution  
In my rational point of view  
Maybe some things are instinctive  
But there's one thing you could do  
You could try to understand me-  
I could try to understand you...*

### **SECOND NATURE** (4:35)

A memo to a higher office  
Open letter to the powers-that-be  
To a God, a king, a head of state  
A captain of industry  
To the movers and the shakers-  
Can't everybody see?

It ought to be second nature-  
I mean, the places where we live!  
Let's talk about this sensibly-  
We're not insensitive  
I know progress has no patience-  
But something's got to give

*I know you're different-  
You know I'm the same  
We're both too busy  
To be taking the blame  
I'd like some changes  
But you don't have the time  
We can't go on thinking  
It's a victimless crime  
No one is blameless  
But we're all without shame  
We fight the fire-  
While we're feeding the flames*

Folks have got to make choices-  
And choices got to have voices  
Folks are basically decent  
Conventional wisdom would say  
Well, we read about the exceptions  
In the papers every day

It ought to be second nature-  
At least, that's what I feel  
"Now I lay me down in Dreamland"-  
I know perfect's not for real  
I thought we might get closer-  
But I'm ready to make a deal

*Today is different,  
And tomorrow the same  
It's hard to take the world  
The way that it came  
Too many rapids  
Keep us sweeping along  
Too many captains  
Keep on steering us wrong  
It's hard to take the heat-  
It's hard to lay blame  
To fight the fire-  
While we're feeding the flames*

### **PRIME MOVER (5:19)**

Basic elemental instinct to survive  
Stirs the higher passions  
Thrill to be alive  
Alternating currents in a tidewater surge  
Rational resistance to an unwise urge

*anything can happen*

*From the point of conception  
To the moment of Truth  
At the point of surrender  
To the burden of proof*

*From the point of ignition  
To the final drive  
The point of the journey is not to arrive*

*anything can happen*

Basic temperamental filters on our eyes  
Alter our perceptions  
Lenses polarize

Alternating currents force a show of hands  
Rational responses force a change of plans

*anything can happen*

*From a point on the compass  
To magnetic north  
The point of the needle moving back and forth*

*From the point of entry-  
Until the candle is burned  
The point of departure is not to return*

*anything can happen*

I set the wheels in motion  
turn up all the machines  
activate the programs  
and run behind the scene

I set the clouds in motion  
turn up light and sound  
activate the window  
and watch the world go 'round-

*anything can happen*

### **LOCK AND KEY (5:08)**

*I don't want to face  
The killer instinct-  
Face it in your or me*

We carry a sensitive cargo  
Below the waterline-  
Ticking like a time bomb  
With a primitive design

Behind the finer feelings-  
This civilized veneer-  
The heart of a lonely hunter  
Guards a dangerous frontier

*The balance can sometimes fail-  
Strong emotions can tip the scale-*

*Don't want to silence  
A desperate voice  
For the sake of security  
No one wants to make a terrible choice  
On the price of being free  
I don't want to face the killer instinct-  
Face it in you or me  
So we keep it under lock and key...*

It's not a matter of mercy  
It's not a matter of laws  
Plenty of people will kill you for some fanatical cause

It's not a matter of conscience-  
A search for probable cause  
It's just a matter of instinct- a matter of fatal flaws

No reward for resistance  
No assistance-  
No applause...

*we don't want to be victims  
on that we all agree,  
so we lock up the killer instinct-  
and throw away the key...*

### **MISSION (5:15)**

*Hold your fire-  
Keep it burning bright  
Hold the flame 'til the dream ignites-  
A spirit with a vision is a dream with a mission*

I hear their passionate music  
Read the words that touch my heart  
I gaze at their feverish pictures

The secrets that set them apart

When I feel the powerful visions  
Their fire has made alive  
I wish I had that instinct-  
I wish I had that drive

*Spirits fly on dangerous missions  
Imaginations on fire  
Focused high on soaring ambitions  
Consumed in a single desire*

*In the grip of a nameless possession-  
A slave to the drive of obsession-  
A spirit with a vision  
Is a dream with a mission...*

I watch their images flicker  
Bringing light to a lifeless screen  
I walk through their beautiful buildings  
And I wish I had their dreams

But dreams don't need to have motion  
To keep their spark alive  
Obsession has to have action-  
Pride turns on the drive

*It's cold comfort  
To the ones without it  
To know how they struggled-  
How they suffered about it*

*If their lives were exotic and strange  
They would likely have gladly exchanged them  
For something a little more plain  
Maybe something a little more sane*

*We each pay a fabulous price  
For our visions of paradise  
But a spirit with a vision  
Is a dream with a mission...*

#### **TURN THE PAGE (4:53)**

Nothing can survive in a vacuum  
No one can exist all alone  
We pretend things only happen to strangers  
We've all got problems of our own

It's enough to learn to share our pleasures  
We can't sooth pain with sympathy  
All that we can do is be reminded-  
We shake our heads at the tragedy

*Every day we're standing in a time capsule  
Racing down a river from the past  
Every day we're standing in a wind tunnel  
Facing down the future coming fast*

*It's just the age  
It's just a stage-  
We disengage-  
We turn the page...*

Looking at the long-range forecast  
Catching all the names in the news  
Checking out the state of the nation  
Learning the environmental blues

Truth is after all a moving target  
Hairs to split, and pieces that don't fit  
How can anybody be enlightened?  
Truth is after all so poorly lit

#### **TAI SHAN (4:14)**

High on the sacred mountain  
Up the seven thousand stairs  
In the golden light of autumn  
There was magic in the air

Clouds surrounded the summit  
The wind blew strong and cold  
Among the silent temples  
And the writing carved in gold  
*Somewhere in my instincts  
The primitive took hold...*

*I stood at the top of the mountain  
And China sang to me  
In the peaceful haze of harvest time  
A song of eternity-*

If you raise your hands to heaven  
You will live a hundred years  
I stood there like a mystic  
Lost in the atmosphere

The clouds were suddenly parted  
For a moment I could see  
The patterns of the landscape  
Reaching to the eastern sea  
*I looked upon a presence  
Spanning forty centuries...*

*I thought of time and distance  
The hardships of history  
I heard the hope and the hunger  
When China sang to me...*

#### **HIGH WATER (5:32)**

When the waters rose in the darkness  
In the wake of the endless flood  
It flowed into our memory-  
It flowed into our blood-

When something broke the surface  
Just to see the starry dome-  
We still feel that relation  
*When the water takes us home  
In the flying spray of the ocean  
The water takes you home-*

Springing from the weight of the mountains  
Like the heart of the earth would burst  
Flowing out from marble fountains  
In the dreams of a desert thirst

Something swam through the jungles  
Where the mighty rivers roam-  
*Something breaks the silence  
When the water takes you home  
I hear the wordless voices  
When the water takes me home-*

Waves that crash on the shoreline  
Torrents of tropical rain streaming down  
Beyond our memory  
Streaming down inside our veins

When something left the ocean  
To crawl high above the foam-  
*We still feel that elation  
When the water takes us home  
In a driving rain of redemption  
The water takes me home...*

Geddy Lee - Bass Guitars/Synthesizers/Bass Pedals/Vocals  
Alex Lifeson - Acoustic And Electric Guitars  
Neil Peart - Drums/Acoustic And Electronic Percussion

Additional Musicians

Jim Burgess - Synthesizer Programming  
Aimee Mann - Vocals ("Time Stand Still")  
Andy Richards - Keyboards/Synthesizer Programming

Music by Lee and Lifeson  
Lyrics by Peart, except  
"Force Ten" by Peart and Dubois

Produced by Peter Collins and Rush  
Engineered by Jimbo Barton

Mercury, September 8, 1987



NOTES:

- Certified Gold by RIAA: November 9, 1987 - Highest Billboard Chart Position: 13
- "Ironically, the opening song, 'Force Ten', was almost an afterthought. In the tradition of those last-minute, spontaneous songs like 'New World Man', 'Vital Signs' and 'Natural Science', we put it together on the very last two days we had for writing." - Neil Peart, *"Fireworks"*, *Hold Your Fire Tourbook*
- "I remember 'Mission' was a song Peter Collins just loved. And at some point in Britain, when we were working on it, he really wanted to do what he called The Full Monty - put orchestra and choir on it...and there's a particular sound of an English brass band, which I guess was something he grew up with that we had no feel for, the kind of band you saw in the park on Sunday playing the gazebo. He was kind of obsessed with finding an authentic one. And he tracked one down in the north of England, and he wanted them to play on this track. We were really working hard on that record, and there was this weekend where this band was available. We were all supposed to fly up there to record them, and we just said, 'Look, Pete, you go. You know what you want, we're pooped, why don't you go and record them? This will be a treat for you.' And he did. And he brought it back, and he was all excited about it of course. And we never really shared the same enthusiasm for it [laughs]. And, in the end, the version of the song that we released was kind of stripped down; I don't think we used the brass band very much. We didn't use the whole arrangement. So there is another version of that song that exists that I hope we'll release that has The Full Monty on it." - Geddy Lee, *Contents Under Pressure*
- "I had them try a colliery band on that song ["Mission"] - sort of the 'Hovis' sound. It was a little too much for them,' he says. 'I remember thinking, perhaps I have gone a little too far this time, but at least they tried it! That was what was always so fantastic about them, if I had a strong idea they would always try it even if they didn't use it.' Peter went to enormous lengths to find what he wanted - eventually settling on the William Faery brass band, recorded in Oldham in the North of England." - *Chemistry*
- "...I couldn't resist the benefits of triggers and pads, of having literally any sound I wanted under my sitcks or my feet- marimba, church bells, West African djembes, a self-made recording of a plastic waterbottle struck by a toothbrush (used in 'Tai Shan')...." - Neil Peart, *Roadshow*