



#### FAR CRY (5:21)

Pariah dogs and wandering madmen  
Barking at strangers and speaking in tongues  
The ebb and flow of tidal fortune  
Electrical changes are charging up the young

It's a far cry from the world we thought we'd inherit  
It's a far cry from the way we thought we'd share it  
You can almost feel the current flowing  
You can almost see the circuits blowing

*One day I feel I'm on top of the world  
And the next it's falling in on me  
I can get back on  
I can get back on  
One day I feel I'm ahead of the wheel  
And the next it's rolling over me  
I can get back on  
I can get back on*

Whirlwind life of faith and betrayal  
Rise in anger, fall back and repeat  
Slow degrees on the dark horizon  
Full moon rising, lays silver at your feet

You can almost see the circle growing  
You can almost feel the planet glowing

*One day I fly through a crack in the sky  
And the next it's falling in on me  
I can get back on  
I can get back on*

#### ARMOR AND SWORD (6:36)

The snakes and arrows a child is heir to  
Are enough to leave a thousand cuts  
We build our defenses, a place of safety  
And leave the darker places unexplored

Sometimes the fortress is too strong  
Or the love is too weak  
What should have been our armor  
Becomes a sharp and angry sword

*Our better natures seek elevation  
A refuge for the coming night  
No one gets to their heaven without a fight*

We hold beliefs as a consolation  
A way to take us out of ourselves  
Meditation, or medication  
A comfort, or a promised reward

Sometimes that spirit is too strong  
Or the flesh is too weak  
Sometimes the need is just too great  
For the solace we seek  
The suit of shining armor  
Becomes a keen and bloody sword

*A refuge for the coming night  
A future of eternal light  
No one gets to their heaven without a fight*

Confused alarms of struggle and flight  
Blood is drained of color  
By the flashes of artillery light  
*No one gets to their heaven without a fight*  
The battle flags are flown  
At the feet of a god unknown  
*No one gets to their heaven without a fight*

Sometimes the damage is too great  
Or the will is too weak  
What should have been our armor  
Becomes a sharp and burning sword

#### WORKIN' THEM ANGELS (4:47)

Driving away to the east, and into the past  
History recedes in my rear-view mirror  
Carried away on a wave of music down a desert road  
*Memory humming at the heart of a factory town*

All my life  
I've been workin' them angels overtime  
Riding and driving and living  
So close to the edge  
Workin' them angels - Overtime

Riding through the Range of Light to the wounded city  
Filling my spirit with the wildest wish to fly  
Taking the high road to the wounded city  
*Memory strumming at the heart of a moving picture*

All this time  
I've been workin' them angels overtime  
Riding and driving and flying  
Just over the edge  
Workin' them angels - Overtime

Driving down the razor's edge between the past and the future  
Turn up the music and smile  
Get carried away on the songs and stories of vanished times  
*Memory drumming at the heart of an English winter  
Memories beating at the heart of an African village*

#### THE LARGER BOWL (4:07)

(a pantoum)

if we're so much the same, like I always hear  
why such different fortunes and fates?  
some of us live in a cloud of fear  
some live behind iron gates

why such different fortunes and fates?  
some are blessed and some are cursed  
some live behind iron gates  
while others see only the worst

some are blessed and some are cursed  
the golden one or scarred from birth  
while others only see the worst  
such a lot of pain on the earth

the golden one or scarred from birth  
some things can never be changed  
such a lot of pain on this earth  
It's somehow so badly arranged

some things can never be changed  
some reasons will never come clear  
it's somehow so badly arranged  
if we're so much the same like I always hear

### SPINDRIFT (5:24)

As the waves crash in  
On the western shore  
The wind blows fierce from the east  
Wavetops torn into flying spindrift

As the waves crash in  
On the western shore  
It makes me feel uneasy  
The spray that's torn away  
Is an image of the way I feel

*What am I supposed to say?  
Where are the words to answer you  
When you talk that way?*

As sun goes down  
On the western shore  
The wind blows hard from the east  
It whips the sand into a flying spindrift

As the sun goes down  
On the western shore  
It makes me feel uneasy  
In the hot dry rasp of the devil winds  
Who cares what a fool believes?

*What am I supposed to say?  
Where are the words to answer you  
When you talk that way?  
Words that fly against the wind and waves*

*(A little closer to you)  
Where is the wave that will carry me  
A little closer to you?*

*What am I suppose to do?  
Where are the words that will make you see  
What I believe is true?*

### THE MAIN MONKEY BUSINESS (instrumental 6:01)

#### THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS (6:28)

Now it's come to this  
It's like we're back in the Dark Ages  
From the Middle East to the Middle West  
It's a world of superstition

Now it's come to this  
Wide-eyed armies of the faithful  
From the Middle East to the Middle West  
Pray, and pass the ammunition

So many people think that way  
You gotta watch what you say  
To them and them, and others too  
Who don't seem to see to things the way you do

*We can only grow the way the wind blows  
On a bare and weathered shore  
We can only bow to the here and now  
In our elemental war*

*We can only go the way the wind blows  
We can only bow to the here and now  
Or be broken down blow by blow*

Now it's come to this  
Hollow speeches of mass deception  
From the Middle East to the Middle West  
Like crusaders in unholy alliance

Now it's come to this  
Like we're back in the Dark Ages  
From the Middle East to the Middle West  
It's a plague that resists all science

It seems to leave them partly blind  
And they leave no child behind  
While evil spirits haunt their sleep  
While shepherds bless and count their sheep

*Like the solitary pine  
On a bare wind-blasted shore  
We can only grow the way the wind blows*

### HOPE (instrumental 2:02)

#### FAITHLESS (5:31)

I've got my own moral compass to steer by  
A guiding star beats a spirit in the sky  
And all the preaching voices -  
Empty vessels ring so loud  
As they move among the crowd  
Fools and thieves are well disguised  
In the temple and market place

*Like a stone in the river  
Against the floods of spring  
I will quietly resist*

*Like the willows in the wind  
Or the cliffs along the ocean  
I will quietly resist*

I don't have faith in faith  
I don't believe in belief  
You can call me faithless  
But I still cling to hope  
And I believe in love  
And that's faith enough for me

I've got my own spirit level for balance  
To tell if my choice is leaning up or down  
And all the shouting voices  
Try to throw me off my course  
Some by sermons, some by force  
Fools and thieves are dangerous  
In the temple and marketplace

*Like a forest bows to winter  
Beneath the deep white silence  
I will quietly resist*

*Like a flower in the desert  
That only blooms at night  
I will quietly resist*

### BRAVEST FACE (5:12)

*Though we might have precious little  
It's still precious*

I like that song  
About this wonderful world  
It's got a sunny point of view  
And sometimes I feel it's true  
At least for a few of us

I like that world  
It makes a wonderful song  
But there's a darker point of view  
That's sadly just as true  
For so many among us

In the sweetest child there's a vicious streak  
In the strongest man there's a child so weak  
In the whole wide world there's no magic place  
So you might as well rise, put on your bravest face

I like that show  
Where they solve all the murders  
That heroic point of view  
It's got justice and vengeance too  
At least, so the story goes

I like that story -  
Makes a satisfying case  
But there's a messy point of view  
That's sadly just as true  
For so many among us

In softest voice there's an acid tongue  
In the oldest eyes there's a soul so young  
In the shakiest will there's a core of steel  
On the smoothest ride there's a squeaky wheel

*Though we might have precious little  
It's still precious*

#### GOOD NEWS FIRST (4:51)

The best we can agree on  
Is it could have been worse  
What happened to your old  
Benevolent universe?  
You know the one with stars  
That revolve around you  
Beaming down full of promises  
To bring good news

*You used to feel that way  
The saddest words you could ever say  
But I know you'll remember that day  
And the most beautiful words I could ever say*

The worst thing about it all  
Is that you might have been right  
And I'm still not really sure  
What started that fight  
But I still get this feeling  
There's more trouble ahead  
So never mind the bad news  
Let's have the good news instead

*Some would said they never fear a thing  
Well I do  
And I'm afraid enough for both of us -  
For me and you  
Time, if nothing else, will do it's worst  
So do me that favor  
And tell me the good news first*

#### MALIGNANT NARCISSISM (instrumental 2:17)

"Usually a case of malignant narcissism brought on during childhood."

#### WE HOLD ON (4:13)

How many times  
Do we tire of all the little battles  
Threaten to call it quits  
Tempted to cut and run

How many times  
Do we weather out the stormy evenings  
Long to slam the front door  
Drive away into the setting sun

*Keep going until dawn  
How many times must another line be drawn  
We could be down and gone  
But we hold on*

How many times  
Do we chafe against the repetition  
Straining against a fate  
Measured out in coffee breaks

How many times  
Do we swallow our ambition  
Long to give up the same old way  
Find another road to take

*Keep holding on so long  
'Cause there's a chance  
that we might not be so wrong  
We could be down and gone  
But we hold on*

How many times  
Do we wonder if it's even worth it  
There's got to be some other way  
To get me through the day

*But we hold on*

Neil Peart - drums, cymbals, electronic percussion, tambourine  
 Geddy Lee - bass guitar, bass pedals, mellotron, vocals  
 Alex Lifeson - six and twelve-string electric and acoustic guitars,  
 mandola, mandolin, bouzouki

Additional Musicians  
 Ben Mink - Strings ("Faithless")

All songs composed by Lee and Lifeson, with lyrics by Peart,  
 except "Hope", composed and performed by Lerxst Lifeson, all by his  
 own self

Produced by Nick Raskulinecz and Rush

Atlantic, May 1, 2007

Brought to you by the letter "sssss"



## NOTES:

- Highest Billboard Chart Position: 3
- "The Games Of Snakes And Arrows Prize Every Time", linernotes essay, also included in the tourbook, written by Neil Peart
- "Malignant Narcissism" was nominated for the Best Rock Instrumental Performance Grammy in 2008 (their fifth nomination). The winner was "Once Upon A Time In The West" by Bruce Springsteen, from *We All Love Ennio Morricone*.