



JAN 18 2023 Office Visit
Ann Riccobene
Perlmutter Cancer Center
34th St - Medical Onc

JAN 18 2023 Outpatient
Perlmutter Cancer Center
34th St - Radiation Onc

CHIP TAYLOR *Behind the Sky*

FEB 2 2023 Weekly Evaluation
Kenneth S Hu
Perlmutter Cancer Center
34th St - Radiation Onc

FEB 2 2023 Outpatient
Perlmutter Cancer Center
34th St - Radiation Onc

FEB 1 2023 Outpatient
Perlmutter Cancer Center

Chip Taylor
John Platania
Tony Mercadante
Tony Leone
Goran Grini

Vocals / Harmony Vocals / Acoustic Guitar
Electric Guitar
Bass
Drums
Keyboards / Mellotron / Pump Organ /
Bass on 'Without Hearing'

John Platania endorses Duesenberg Guitars, Godin Guitars,
LaBella Strings and Earthboard Pedalboard

Recorded by Huck Bennert
Mixed by Huck Bennert
Produced by Goran Grini & Chip Taylor

Photos by Ambrose Blaine
Artwork by Elin Olsson

Mastered by Reuben Cohen at Lurssen Mastering

ALL SONGS WRITTEN BY CHIP TAYLOR
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In the summer of 2022 I had been feeling a little pebble-like bump in the roof of my mouth which on early examination was thought to be "nothing serious", but in October it seemed more pronounced and this time a tumor was identified and was diagnosed as throat cancer.

Through the lightning fast efforts of my primary care doctor, I had quick appointments with specialists, who came up with a treatment plan for ridding me of the tumor. Radiation and chemotherapy were scheduled from the beginning of January through February with the next month for dealing with immediate post-treatment issues.

My biggest blessing with all of this was being with my wife, Joan. Despite dealing with her own health issues, she was with me every step of the way. From the morning walks to catch a cab, to waiting for me through my treatment time, to the leisurely walks toward home after treatment. Joan can hardly catch a word. Her hearing aids just don't seem to work now. Yet we communicate so well. She'll smile and watch me as I speak .. and here and there I'll write a note on one of those kid's small magic message boards. We're doing fine!

My treatment would be chemo one day a week and radiation 5 days a week. I was warned from the beginning that treatment would lead to certain "bad" things.

1) I was strongly warned about constipation. "You must start preparing or it will be a big problem", both Dr Li and Dr Hu had said. Preparing meant taking multiple types of pills throughout the day. This was one warning I should have taken more seriously.

2) "You will lose your sense of taste totally and very soon!" I was told. That was true - it happened around the end of the first week.

3) At some point, after about the third week, "You'll feel a strong gagging sensation accompanied by dizziness .. then, a few days later, you will start dealing with (mostly when trying to sleep) a massive amount of sticky mucus pouring into your mouth and out leaving you (after only a few hours sleep) soaked all over your face and shirt!

All along the radiation caused the wound to hurt. For a two week period at the end of January, the tumor was neatly flattened and wasn't as painful without imposing

on it. But when you tried to eat and drink anything it was very painful.

Since it was impossible to eat any regular food at a restaurant and since I had to get at least the minimal nourishment, my job was to make at least 3, preferably 4, shakes a day based on a basic extra protein and calorie mix. The shakes took care of the "food" part. BUT I NEEDED TO DRINK WATER - preferably Gatorade for the electrolytes - one quart a day. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE! The shakes were bad enough, but had a smooth cushion. Water had no cushion - the pain was impossible so I received intravenous hydration.

There was one blessing from my radiation experience. Probably the single best thing that happened .. that totally eased all problems of dealing with the radiation was Kareem and John Prine.

Each patient had to be fitted for a mask that clamped down over your face as the radiation was given. The radiologist that was guiding this procedure was a great guy named Kareem, who turned out to be a great friend through all of the treatment.

After about 15 minutes of mask-fitting, Kareem said, "Ok, Mr Voight .. I'll see you Monday at noon. The whole thing will take less than 15 minutes. Once you're fitted with the mask and comfortable, the radiation will be less than 10 minutes. Oh, by the way ... is there anything you would like to hear while this is taking place?"

THAT WAS IT!! - THAT WAS THE GAME CHANGING QUESTION!!

I said, "Kareem .. what the heck did you just say? Are you saying you will play any music I choose during the radiation??!!"

He said, "Well .. yes. What would you like to hear?"

"Kareem, the singer's name is John Prine. Any song that he's singing will be fine with me!"

And that was that. As the treatment went on, Kareem discovered I was a singer and one day he surprised me. Right after John's "Lake Marie" came "Fuck All The Perfect People".

Toward the end of treatment there was a small audience of Doctors and interns that would come by for the John Prine/Chip Taylor "concert". What a blessing!!! Huge thanks to Kareem & George and all the folks in radiation.

After several weeks everything began to get a bit better each day. I knew things were improving when I had my first fried egg and soft white bread - and WHAT WAS THIS!! Not only was it soft to eat and swallow, but IT TASTED SORT OF LIKE AN EGG!!!

From then on, my taste was returning. Oh my God! What a blessing!!

While I was undergoing treatment Joan had asked if I would go to church. So, she and I went to St John's 10:30 Sunday Mass. And I liked it! A lot! We were surprised the churchgoers were so young - 20s to 60s - but mostly younger.

To me the sermons felt too strict in interpreting Matthew, Mark, etc. as "the word of God". But there was lots of goodness floating around the church - lots of kind and humble people. It was easy to love the spirit there.

On Sunday, March 12th, after mass - I wrote "The Blessing"

Thanks to the folks that got me through this - Dr. Tobias, my primary care doctor, who guided me to Dr. Lane Krevitt - who then enlisted Dr Hu & his team, including Cathy, my "coach" and Linda who was the amazing behind-the-scenes coordinator. Dr. Li and his great team .. especially my great friend, Nina from the Ukraine who was in charge of delivering the magic chemo at every session. And Liz who was the first to welcome me to every session and set such a positive tone.

Of course there were my music-therapy friends Kareem & George in radiation and Dave who greeted Joan and I in the kindest manner every time we walked in the door to begin therapy .. huge thanks to all.

Do Somethin' Good

*if you do somethin' good .. it'll help you
but if you don't .. it won't
so.. c'mon everybody .. c'mon .. help yourself
if you do somethin' bad .. it'll make you feel bad
at the end of a sad lonely day
so c'mon everybody .. do somethin' good*

*and if you do somethin' good ..
it's gonna make you feel good inside
because the you inside .. he will jump up and say "hey you.. way to go"
and if you do somethin' good .. even I
may run around in circles .. and say, "who said that"
well you said that ..
and I told you that a long time ago
so if you do somethin' good .. it'll help you
if you don't .. it won't
so c'mon everybody .. do somethin' good
one more.. I said c'mon everybody .. here we go
do somethin' good*

Speakin' of Horses

*now speakin' of horses .. I remember one time
up at the green mountain ..
and the kids didn't they shine
standing up on the hood of that old Chevrolet ..
rootin' for Daddy's horse ..
to just blow them away..
now when they rounded the turn..
Black Mast was in third
about to explode as he heard every word*

*from our Kristian & Kelly .. and when it was done
Black Mast didn't he shine ..
from his duel in the sun
and why am I talkin' about horses
and driftin' back to old memories
you were the queen .. and I was the king
of doin' crazy things*

*and we sat on the patio .. 10 years ago
at a tavern in White Plains with the sun sinkin' low
with a whisper of summer .. you asked for the truth
would I marry again .. I said only to you*

*and why am I talkin' about horses
and driftin' back to old memories
you were the queen... and I was the king
of doin' crazy things*

*now this is a tough one .. whadya say
we started this together ..
we'll go out the same way about horses
and driftin' back to old memories
you were the queen .. and I was the king
of doin' crazy things*

*in a chapel in Las Vegas .. we tied knot #2
with the grandkids as bridesmaids ..
but nothin' prettier than you
I was 13 years old .. when I gave love a whirl
and yodeled a tune for my sweet Crestwood girl
tell me why am i talkin' about horses
still holdin' hands .. with the race almost run
like Black Mast ..
didn't he shine with his duel in the sun*

Radiation Song

*Kareem was getting me fitted for my radiation
He pulled the mask down over my head
As they clamped me in with the nuts and the bolts
I thought I'd never move again*

*He said "Hey Mr. Voight,
I know it ain't an easy ride,
I need a good 10 minutes now
On a bed with you in it
But if it makes you feel good inside"*

*Tell me just what you want here
Give me a song that will just please your ear
Then another one to just get you through
And ease your tortured soul back home*

*So I said to Kareem, I said "Hey Kareem,
You are my new best friend,
you've got to be kidding me
You mean I can just whisper a song, a singer's name
And you'll play the song for free?"
I said alright, Let's test this out,
get you working overtime*

*"Kareem, every time you strap me in, do me a favor
Just play me a little John Prine"*

*He said anything you want here
Give me a song that will just please your ear
Then another one to just get you through
And ease your tortured soul back home*

*Well that was that
From then on in, I was out on Lake Marie
Where blood looks like shadows
On a black and white TV
And the speed of the sound of loneliness
Is the glory of true love
And if the song was half way over
When they rolled me back, I gave a shove*

*Kareem, give me five more minutes of radiation
Please don't take me out of here, just let me stay
I was in the middle of a John Prine levitation
To end it now would be a sin
I need my five more minutes of radiation
I need John's Glory of True Love
(love you John)
I need by JP meditation
Just thinking about you John
We all could use your message from above*

Momma Was the Queen

*Momma liked the stragglers that never quite
made it through
up to the standards of most around
Daddy liked the strivers .. who had a drink or two
listenin' to his stories late at night when he sat down
daddy was a prince.. Daddy was a good guy
Momma was the queen .. queen of my world
now Momma got a call one day from the
principal of a local high school
he that I (me that is) had broken into their gymnasium
(I remember it like it was yesterday)
momma put the man on hold and said,
'hey did you do that?!'
I said "no Ma"
she said "Mr Principal, you are over-using your station!"
Daddy was a prince .. Daddy was a good guy
Momma was the queen .. queen of my world*

*and my brothers .. don't get me started on that one
good catholic boys through and through
one talks to the fish and the mountains and me
one taking his own path to forever
Daddy was a prince .. Daddy was a good guy
Momma was the queen .. queen of my world
Daddy was a prince .. Daddy was a good guy
Momma was the queen .. queen of the world
Momma liked the stragglers that never quite
made it through
up to the standards of most around
love you Mom*

Other Side of the Moon

*It's on the other side of the moon .. why bother
last I heard I had no business .. no business over there
it's on the other side of the street ..
and it's gettin late in my week
I've got things that need takin' care of here
you've got to fend for yourself in the long run
bad things they find a way to even out and disappear
and it's probably not as bad
as they're sayin' in the papers
every network's blastin' headlines in my ear
who's that voice I hear .. talkin' through his hat
all I know is son, you weren't brought up like that
it's your father Elmer here .. talkin' behind the sky
your mother's here with me..
don't make my Barbara cry
what the heck was that ..
damn these nightmares I've been havin'
blame it on those foreigners ..
that got nothin the hell to do with me*

*it's march madness now ..
give me some ball team I can root for
instead of some dumb war live on my TV*

*who's that voice I hear .. talkin' through his hat
all i know is son .. you weren't brought up like that
it's your father Elmer here .. talkin' beyond the sky
your mother's here with me .. don't make my Barbara cry*

*if someone's in need .. if there's a mouth to feed
there's a long line of family .. who'd step up to bat
it's your father Elmer here .. talkin beyond the sky
your mothers here with me son,
don't make my Barbara cry*

Nurse Joan

recitation:

*Sometimes it's first things you do
first time ever in life you do it
by necessity you have to do it
and this is.. kind of a story about that sort of thing*

*Joan had somethin' needed doin'
it was hard for her to do it
but she did it
she said get up on the bed honey
get your pillow rest your head
c'mon .. let's do it
then run into the sit down ..
and hold it back a minute
then let yourself let yourself ..
then get out all that's in it
she never did that thing before ..
with someone least all alone*

*she's got all her friends..
callin' all her friends ..
with her new name .. Nurse Joan
Nurse Joan .. can you help me
Nurse Joan .. whadya say
Nurse Joan .. your reputation is spreading
and I need some help today
Nurse Joan, Nurse Joan ..
honey they're callin' you Nurse Joan
oh my baby, baby
look at what you did for me*

*you did it all for me
c'mon c'mon .. I love you honey.. I love you
she never did this thing before
least with someone all alone
and she's got all her friends callin' all her friends
with her new name Nurse Joan .. Joan*

Without Hearing

*And you're listening to me
Without hearing at all
And you see from my eyes
When I rise and I fall*

*And we fell in love a long time ago
And we're falling in love again*

*In my bed jolts a pain
You pray till they're gone
And you pray and you pray
Yet a few linger on*

*But we fell in love a long time ago
And we're falling in love again*

*And oh me and oh my
Who would believe as days go by
Love would find us hanging around again*

*And I wake in the night
With some new words to say
And my heart tells my brain
Just get out of the way*

*we fell in love a long time ago
And we're falling in love again*

The Blessing

*The blessing of the Lord is simple.. you've got it
The blessing of the Lord.. you've got it
When you walk in your own footsteps.. he's beside you
so walk in your own footsteps with the Lord
he likes the you in you.. he learns from what you do
and if you do it in his name
it makes him happy.. thank the Lord
The blessing of the Lord is simple.. we all need it need it
The blessing of the Lord.. he needs it too*

instrumental

*he likes the you in you.. he learns from what you do
and if you do it in his name
you make him happy.. thank the Lord*

If A Door Slams in Prison

*If a door slams in prison .. do you ever hear the sound
well than maybe you should listen .. to the teardrops underground
take a short walk with me through the gates of that town
If a door slams in prison .. do you ever hear the sound
open the gates .. for a walk in their garden
for a drink of their sun
for a smile with a friend
open the gates .. where the Lord gives his pardon
and we'll be together .. together again
if a door slams inn prison
do you ever hear the sound
then maybe you should listen .. to the teardrops underground*

George in Radiation

*George in radiation
said to his co-worker Kareem
I've been thinkin' 'bout .. how lucky we are
we wake up in Long Island .. take the trains to NYC
just to help people
just to help somebody .. to turn a day around
trade a bad dream .. for a good one comin' down*

*and up on the 5th floor
with her heart back in the Ukraine
she's there to help my chemo flow
oh Nina Nina .. if kindness has a name, it is you
you were born .. to help people
just to help somebody .. to turn a day around
trade a bad dream .. for a good one comin' down
down on 34th Street .. and 3rd Avenue
they are there for you .. this team
led by Dr Hu & Dr Li*

*and I thank my lucky stars that they were there for me
down in the basement .. with some wisdom for the week
is my friend Cathy .. my great friend Cathy
she says somethin' like.. you just keep believin' Mr Voight*

*and these words will ring true
we will get this thing
before it ever gets to you
just to help somebody.. to turn a day around
trade a bad dream.. for a good one comin' down*

Hey Skip Along With Me

*Hey, skip along with me
girl, you're doin' fine
Hey, skip along with me
put your hand in mine
don't worry bout some little thing ..
like not knowin' how
come on girl .. just skip along with me now
Hey, skip along with me
our path is up ahead
Hey, skip along with me
don't listen to what that fool said
we got power in the spirit
and the spirit moves the shoes
and the shoe's say what're ya waitin' for
we got nothin' left to lose
Hey, skip along with me*

*girl, you're doin' fine
Hey, skip along with me
put your little hand in mine
don't worry bout some little thing ..
like not knowin' how
come on girl .. skip along with me now*

*will do it this way .. or that way
whatever way you find
I'll do it your way and some day .. you will do it mine
there's just no right way or wrong way ..
there's just how you do
only a fool .. will stay a fool ..
if he won't skip along with you*