



THE
CRADLE
OF ALL
LIVING
THINGS

Chip Taylor

CHIP TAYLOR:

VOCALS / HARMONY VOCALS / ACOUSTIC GUITAR

JOHN PLATANIA:

ELECTRIC GUITAR / NYLON GUITAR / DOBRO

TONY MERCADANTE:

BASS ON 'SOFIA'

MAGNUS OLSSON:

DRUMS / PERCUSSION / VIBRAPHONE

HEGE BRYNILDSEN:

VOCALS ON

'THE CRADLE OF ALL LIVING THINGS'

AND 'TRUE LOVE'

GORAN GRINI:

PIANO / WURLITZER PIANO / MELLOTRON

/ PUMP ORGAN / FARFISA ORGAN / CELESTA /

HARMONICA / AUTOHARP / BASS / SAMPLES

Produced by Goran Grini & Chip Taylor

Recorded in Chip Taylor and Goran Grini's home studios

Other engineers:

Milt Costakis / Tony Mercadante / Magnus Olsson / Omar Østli

John Platania endorses

Duesenberg Guitars, Godin Guitars,

LaBella Strings and Earthboard Pedalboard

Mastered by Reuben Cohen at Lurssen Mastering

Design by Elin Olsson

Photo by Jackson David

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1. THE CRADLE OF ALL LIVING THINGS

**in the cradle of all living things
words of anger.. and all other sins
words of kindness and the healing they bring
in the cradle of all living things**

**look at you.. you work your hands to the bone
or sweat your brain.. 'till it's time to go home
but you save the world
when your alarm clock rings
in the cradle of all living things**

**lucky me.. I can see you clearly now
through the fog of this life comes your promise
“you save the world
when your alarm clock rings”
in the cradle of all living things**

**bless the children.. forced to work in the fields
and bless the mothers.. who invent every meal
and the fathers.. who trade in all their dreams
in the cradle of all living things**

**and bless the babies.. that breathe the bad air
and the scientist who tries to repair
and damn the money.. that turns fools into kings
and bless us all .. as the real choir sings**

**“you save the world
when your alarm clock rings”
in the cradle of all living things**

2. ANIMALS ON THE BEACH

Prologue:

It is Nov 17, 2021. We're in Mamaroneck, New York. It is 12:30 PM. The sun is shinin'

**I saw animals on the beach
when a human turned them loose they did run
after running on the beach
some swam far into the water
one stood shivering, alone
missing a place she knew as home
'till an old friend came.. wagging his tail
and she seemed happy**

**we're all animals on the beach
what are we doing here
some open our hearts to the lonely ones
some disappear**

Setting:

Decades from now. Same place. Mamaroneck NY.

It is early morning here.

The dawning of a new day.

**I see humans on the beach
when an animal turns them loose.. they do run
after running on that beach
some swam far into the water
I'd rather swim until I die
then go back there, one human cries
there is no place for us now
with animals on the shore**

**we're all animals on the beach
what are we doing here
some open their hearts to the lonely ones ..
and some disappear**

3. TRUE LOVE

how do you know.. when it's true love
if that look from her eyes
goes straight to your heart
well that's true love

and how do you feel.. when it's true love
well two feel as one.. lonely is gone
when it's true love

does it always happen.. in a single lifetime
if you open up your heart
you can bet the house.. that it does

and how do you know.. so much about true love
well I've been around.. around and around
with my true love

4.5. ANTHONY

good races.. good faces.. good food
traces of places unknown

with those kind eyes.. that kind smile
couldn't you rest with that for a while
Anthony.. what was that all about

simple trust.. no judgment.. good words
waiting for an answer before you're heard

meaning what you say.. meaning what you say
couldn't we rest with that a while
Anthony.. what was that all about

those kind eyes.. that kind smile
couldn't we rest with that for a while
Anthony.. what was that all about

please.. no theories.. no alibis
no headlines.. just a tear
Anthony.. wish you were here

6. HOW COME THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS

**I can see sunshine.. through every dark cloud
I can hear grass grow.. anytime of the year**

**how come that always happens
how come that always happens
how come that always happens
when you appear**

**I hear only sweet notes.. in every drunken chorus
and deep in life's forest.. is the beat of your heart**

**and how come that always happens
how come that always happens
how come that always happens
and has from the start**

**and I guess you'd call it.. "I love you"
and I'd call it the same
and I'm living under skies of blue
'cause we wear the same name**

**I see New York starlight
from Malmo to Michigan
from Halden to Sunderland with you in my arms
how come that always happens
how come that always happens
how come that always happens
well it's no false alarm**

7. IT IS WRITTEN

**it is written.. I read it.. there in my heart
in the book of love in my heart
it is written.. it said it.. we'll never part
in the book of love in my heart**

**and the plans that we made for all our days
they are there in black and white
so don't worry just hurry.. and hold me tight
'cause the book of love got it right**

**it is written.. I saw it.. in your blue eyes
when I first laid eyes on you
it was given and sacred.. and paradise
in that book of love.. so true**

**and the plans that we made for all our days
they are there in black and white
so don't worry just hurry.. and hold me tight
'cause the book of love got it right**

**it is written.. I read it.. there in my heart
in the book of love in my heart
it is written.. it said it.. we'll never part
in the book of love in my heart**

8. EVEN MONEY

even money.. she'll go this way.. she'll go that
even money.. she'll ever find her way home
ain't it funny.. I'm still wonderin' where she's at
after all these years wondering alone

life's a gamble
you play the cards that you've been dealt
respect them all.. only some of them are wild
oh the wild ones
can't they hold on to your heart
and when they break they break just like a child

turn one card over.. then other
what do we have here

even money.. she'll go this way.. she'll go that
and how you wish she'd find her way back home

and oh the wild ones
don't they hold on to your heart
and when they break they break just like a child

9. SOFIA

oh oh Sofia..
oh oh.. oh
oh oh Sofia.. here comes the rain

oh oh Sofia..
oh oh.. oh
oh oh Sofia.. here it comes again

foreign voices can't disrupt your prayer
you don't have to see it to know it's there

oh oh Sofia..
oh oh.. oh
oh oh Sofia.. here comes the rain

idle gossip, rumors and photographs
like a boxer stripped of her crown
in the warm winds of Adelaide
didn't you blast that door right down

oh oh Sofia..
oh oh.. oh
oh oh Sofia.. you are lightning beyond the rain
far beyond the rain

10. ON REFLECTION

and on reflection

**would you like to take back things that you have done
and some you've said
will time let you
maybe the best that you can do is change your heart
well that's a start**

but for now

**keep the bar high keep your feet dry and step
the way a proud man steps**

and on reflection

**is there some good in the wrong ways you have turned
lessons learned
for all those tough times
have you somehow become a better man
was that his plan**

but for now

**keep the bar high keep your feet dry and step
the way a proud man steps**

and on reflection

**would you raise your hand for freedom every time
would you toe that line
God knows we need you
to feed the first and be the last in line
can you make that climb**

but for now

**keep the bar high keep your feet dry and step
the way a proud man steps**

11. TWENTY YEARS AGO

twenty years ago I was an old man
twenty years ago.. time does fly

twenty years from now you'll be an older girl
left with words from the sky

did he speak the truth.. well just maybe
a young man's anger slowly fades
did he do all he could to hold strong
and never join the parade

you knew him well
you knew him.. well
didn't you

and now you search to find the answers
to silent questions that he asked
he the poet.. you the dancer
drawing lines upon the sand

ever changing lines upon the sand

you knew him well
you knew him.. well
didn't you

12. OH IT FEELS KINDA DIFFERENT

and oh it feels kinda different
and oh it feels kinda bad
and oh it feels kind o' lucky
when I think of the good things I had

and oh it feels kinda quiet
and oh it feels kinda loud
won't somebody turn that radio down
and stop that guy laughin' so proud

what the hell does he know
certainly no more than me
and I know nothin' 'bout somethin'
like Kris said.. "least nothin' is free"

and I just want it with feeling
don't give a shit if it's in tune
just give me ol' Elvis and some song from Memphis

and keep ol' John Prine in the room

what the hell does he know
certainly no more than me
and I know nothin' from somethin'..
and ah.. oh fuck.. and.. I.. oh shit
I know somethin' 'bout nothin'
like Kris said.. "least nothin' is free"

13. TALKING OUTSIDE YOURSELF

you're talking outside yourself
you're talking outside yourself again
you'd be better off.. sayin' what you feel

you're tryin' to hide yourself
you're tryin' to hide yourself again
putting words in a space.. to dim the pain
I know you've always cared for me
and that is such a good thing
and you have always shared that with me
without any words at all

now you're talking outside yourself
you're talking outside yourself again
you'd be better off.. not saying a word

oh come over here.. (c'mon.. c'mon)
I'll wipe away those tears
put your head on my shoulder
no, don't say a word

you've been talking outside yourself
you're talking outside yourself again
you'd be better off
not saying a word

14. THE GOOD AND THE BAD

before we go any further
with this good thing that we have had
let me warn you.. about the good and the bad

well the good thing is
I will love you 'till the day that I die
and the bad thing is I have a past that I just can't
deny
and the good thing is
I will promise you I won't walk out that door
and the bad thing.. is I've promised that before

so what.. do we do.. with us now
with all of the cards on the table
do we play the last hand
until we know where we stand
or do we cash in our chips at the door

before we go any further
with this good thing that we've had
let me warn you.. about the good and the bad

15. CLOSING TIME

I've been wonderin' how.. when you think of me
when the sun goes down.. and it's time for you to sleep
do you close your eyes.. and look into mine
that's the way it is for me.. you are my closing time

you are my closing time.. you're the stars up there
you are the moon around the corner.. of my easy chair
you're my breath of spring.. when snow is on the line
you're every song I sing.. you are my closing time

recitation:

I wonder what it's like up there
guess I'm thinking about
like Trondheim Norway maybe
and I'm wondering what happens when you get tired

do you close your eyes.. and look into mine
that's the way it is for me
you are my closing time

you are my closing time
you are the stars up there
you are the moon around the corner
of my easy chair
you're my breath of spring
when snow is on the line
you're every song I sing
you are my closing time

16. LOST PICTURES

now somebody sent me a picture of someone
sort of a hero.. in kindness to me
he said, "do you remember it?"
And I answered in silence
talking to myself I said, "where could it be?"

lost pictures.. special memories
of someone.. who made you someone
better than you were

I remember in Belfast
in a place called the Rotterdam
with the loyalists on the right
and the others on the other side
just the mention of his name
would bring folks together
and we'd sit at the same table
Phil Sinclair by our side.. in spirit

lost pictures.. special memories
of someone.. who made you someone
better than you were

now as you recall the good places you've been
the warm eyes that have smiled
just to welcome you in there
somehow you were sure you would see them again
.... but time has passed us by

lost pictures.. special memories
of someone.. who made you someone
better than you were

17. I DON'T KNOW WHICH SONG I'LL SING TONIGHT

**I don't know which song I'll sing tonight
should I sing the one that finds you with me
or should I sing the one that's true
where I say, "I love you"
and you say you don't love me any more**

**I don't know which dream I'll dream tonight
most likely some sad feelings will find me
I'm sure some image of you
will be the last thing that I'll see
when I drift off to my loneliness**

**oh that's the way life goes sometimes
and that's the way life goes sometimes**

**should I sing the one that's true
where I say, "I love you"
and you say you don't love me anymore**

18. GIVE HER AWAY JONNY

there's just no right way to do it
no easy way to get through
like in an old John Prine movie
where blood looks like shadows

one day she says she loves you
the next day she's not sure
you may not know what she's thinking Jonny
but she don't know for sure
give her away Jonny
give her a way
before night turns to day Jonny
give her away

you've been playin' 8 ball
with no chalk on your cue
she's been playin' hardball Jonny
who's lookin' after you

gather the ones you're draining
put them tight in the rack
you need all the balls you got Jonny
to never look back

give her away Jonny
give her a way
before night turns to day Jonny
give her away

no compensation needed.. or wanted
or accepted

19. ONLY A SONG

**only a song.. can get me through
this hurt I feel from losing you
we had it so easy you.. and me back then**

**greens were greens and blues were blues
and any soft brush that we'd choose
could paint the beauty of the way we were**

**we were so silent then.. mmm mmm
we didn't need the words in time**

**only a song will help me now
the melody becomes the vow
it seemed so easy how.. we loved that way
it seemed so easy how.. we loved**

20. SO SELFISHLY LOVED

**and hold on.. stay strong
look to the beauty of the things you love
and hold them.. and know them
they are more beautiful with you**

**and hey you.. call me
I've got a blanket just to keep you warm
beside me.. why me
I am more beautiful with you**

**you are loved.. so loved
so selfishly loved.. by me
and I can't wait to see.. you smile**

**look to the beauty of the things you love
and hold them.. and know them
they are more beautiful with you**

**you are loved.. so loved
so selfishly loved.. by me
and I can't wait to see.. you smile**

21. THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE SKY

sometimes the sun shines
sometimes the clouds roll by
sometimes the moon disappears and I don't know why
and if it rains down here.. here's to mud in your eye
that's what I like about the sky

my friend Kate
well she orders the most expensive meals on the menu
even when she's pickin' up the check
but the truth is.. Kate never checks the prices
she just likes the food she likes.. what the heck

sometimes the sun shines
sometimes the clouds roll by
sometimes the moon disappears and I don't know why
and if it it rains down here.. here's to mud in your eye
that's what I like about the sky

we don't talk much now.. Kate moved to LA
and every now and then.. we send a text or two
I say "how you doin'.. I miss you"
she says.. "hey you.. I miss you too"

repeat chorus

22. PLANETARY SCHEME OF THINGS

no I don't want to get my way
don't want to go from last to first
if it interferes with the planetary scheme of things
in the universe

I just want what I'm supposed to get
and give love away
to those who didn't get what they're supposed to get
in the day to day
it shouldn't work that way

you can't hold me in silence
you can't hold me to war
I'm just part of the resistance
to keepin' humans on the floor
what the hell for

and I don't want to fly so fast
keep my feet on the ground
if it interferes with the planetary scheme of things
I won't make a sound
but I might rebound.. if I find out different
if it interferes with the planetary scheme of things
in the universe.. we all come first

23. ONE MORE DREAM TO GO

if you're down.. pick yourself up
find a way to do this stuff
one foot after another
one more dream to go

if you're lost.. find a trail
or find a boat.. and hoist that sail
find your island in the sun
and lay your anchor down

and find you somebody there
who could use a prayer
and a.. how are you
and when you listen a while
and give him a smile
I bet you get one too

'cause that's the way.. it goes 'round here
lonely folks need that rockin' chair
a gentle push just to get them there
one more dream to go

and find you somebody there
who could use a prayer
and a.. how are you
and when you listen a while
and you give him a smile
bet you get one too

and that's the way.. it goes 'round here
lonely folks need that rockin' chair
and a gentle push to get them there
with one more dream to go

24. I DON'T KNOW MUCH

**I know that I don't know much
but there is one thing I can touch**

**I can touch my love for you
it's right there in anything I do**

**It's so true like the breath of spring
meets the morning dew makes you start to sing
you don't sing in tune if you had a few
it don't matter much baby I love you**

**I know that I don't see much
I close my eyes it is you I touch
I touch your hair.. I touch your nose
I touch your lips and baby I suppose**

**It is true like the breath of spring
meets the morning dew and you start to sing
you don't sing in tune if you had a few
It don't matter much baby I love you**

**I know that I don't know much
but there is one thing that I can touch
I can touch my love for you
it's right there and everything I do**

25. DO YOU FEEL OK

do you feel ok.. just a little ok.. she said
'said not so bad.. thanks for asking
do you feel that pain.. do you still feel that pain
oh.. come to bed
lay your head down next to mine

when the morning comes.. when it comes
maybe all the pain will be gone
do you feel that pain.. do you still feel that pain
wish there was somethin' that I could do

and the pills don't seem to work just like they used to
I think it's time to take another

do you feel ok.. just a little ok
I wish you felt a little better

26. SOMEONE TO LIVE FOR

young man lookin'.. for someone to know
to keep to hold.. to not let go
to call his own.. as time goes by
that someone to live for

a young man cryin'.. by the side of the road
he found his true love.. but he let her go
he prays to Jesus.. to get her back
that someone to live for

and then.. he got her back again
then he screwed up again
and then he prayed again

young man walkin'.. in the twilight zone
somewhere in Amsterdam.. thinkin' 'bout home
he calls his number.. she picks up the phone
that someone to live for

he calls her number.. and she picks up the phone
that someone to live for

27. WOUNDED BIRD

hold the wounded bird in your hand and feed it
hold the wounded bird in your hand.. teach it to fly
hold the wounded bird in your hand

always understand
that a little girl is like a wounded bird

the connections of love

if the connection is strong go ahead & love her
if the connection is right.. hold her close
like the wounded bird in your hand
always understand
that a little girl is like a wounded bird

the protections of love

if she was hurt once before
be ever gentle
gentle as a strong man can be
like the wounded bird in your hand
always understand
that a little girl is like a wounded bird

like the wounded bird in your hand
always understand
that a little girl is like a wounded bird

28. WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT BEFORE

you scratch your head.. you glance around
you look up.. and you look down
you turn hard right.. and then turn left
just to see which way feels the best

and when you're finally.. all tired out
tryin' to figure out.. what this life's about
and you stop thinkin' about.. yourself
and do some little thing for somebody else

you'll say thank you.. thank you Lord
why didn't I think of that before

you think you're smart.. and mostly right
all your dreams.. play in black and white
and when someone hints.. a middle ground
you've got your list of ways.. to slam him down

and when you're finally.. all tired out
of tryin' to think about.. what this life's about
and you stop thinkin' about.. yourself
and do some little thing for somebody else

you'll say thank you.. thank you Lord
why didn't I think of that before

and your friends.. they're on the other side
but the troops keep chargin' in
and someone taps you.. on the shoulder
and says tell me son where have you been

and when you're finally.. all tired out
of tryin' to think about.. what this life's about
and you stop thinkin' about.. yourself
and do that little thing for somebody else

you will say thank you.. thank you Lord
why didn't i think of that before

and Glory Glory.. what is your story
Glory Glory... what is your story
have you stumbled in the darkness
have you finally reached the shore
why didn't I think of that before