

I Contain Multitudes

Today and tomorrow and yesterday too
The flowers are dying like all things do
Follow me close, I'm going to Bally-na-Lee
I'll lose my mind if you don't come with me
I fuss with my hair and I fight blood feuds
I contain multitudes

Got a tell-tale heart like Mr. Poe
Got skeletons in the walls of people you know
I'll drink to the truth and the things we said
I'll drink to the man that shares your bed
I paint landscapes and I paint nudes
I contain multitudes

Red Cadillac and a black moustache
Rings on my fingers that sparkle and flash
Tell me what's next, what shall we do?
Half my soul, baby, belongs to you
I rollick and I frolic with all the young dudes
I contain multitudes

I'm just like Anne Frank, like Indiana Jones
And them British bad boys, the Rolling Stones
I go right to the edge, I go right to the end
I go right where all things lost are made good again

I sing the songs of experience like William Blake
I have no apologies to make
Everything's flowing all at the same time
I live on a boulevard of crime
I drive fast cars and I eat fast foods
I contain multitudes

Pink pedal pushers, red blue jeans
All the pretty maids and all the old queens
All the old queens from all my past lives
I carry four pistols and two large knives
I'm a man of contradictions, I'm a man of many moods
I contain multitudes

You greedy old wolf, I'll show you my heart
But not all of it, only the hateful part
I'll sell you down the river and put a price on your head
What more can I tell ya? I sleep with life and death in the same bed

Get lost, madam, get up off my knee
Keep your mouth away from me
I'll keep the path open, the path in my mind
I'll see to it that there's no love left behind
I play Beethoven's sonatas, Chopin's preludes
I contain multitudes

False Prophet

Another day that don't end, another ship goin' out
Another day of anger, bitterness, and doubt
I know how it happened; I saw it begin
I opened my heart to the world and the world came in

Hello Mary Lou, hello Miss Pearl
My fleet-footed guides from the underworld
No stars in the sky shine brighter than you
You girls mean business and I do too

Well I'm the enemy of treason, a enemy of strife
I'm the enemy of the un-lived meaningless life
I ain't no false prophet, I just know what I know
I go where only the lonely can go

I'm first among equals, second to none
The last of the best, you can bury the rest
Bury 'em naked with their silver and gold

Put 'em six feet under and pray for their souls

What are you lookin' at, there's nothing to see?
Just a cool breeze that's encircling me
Let's go for a walk in the garden, so far and so wide
We can sit in the shade by the fountain-side

I search the world over for the Holy Grail
I sing songs of love, I sing songs of betrayal
Don't care what I drink, I don't care what I eat
I climbed a mountain of swords on my bare feet

You don't know me darlin', you never would guess
I'm nothing like my ghostly appearance would suggest
I ain't no false prophet, I just said what I said
I'm just here to bring vengeance on somebody's head

Put out your hand, there's nothing to hold
Open your mouth, I'll stuff it with gold
Oh, you poor devil look up if you will
The city of God is there on the hill

Hello stranger, hello and goodbye
You rule the land but so do I
You lusty old mule, you got a poisoned brain
I'll marry you to a ball and chain

You know darlin', the kind of life that I live
When your smile meets my smile, something's got to give
I ain't no false prophet, no I'm nobody's bride
Can't remember when I was born and I forgot when I died

My Own Version of You

All through the summers into January
I've been visiting morgues and monasteries
Lookin' for the necessary body parts
Limbs and livers and brains and hearts
I'll bring someone to life is what I wanna do
I wanna create my own version of you

Well it must be the winter of my discontent
I wish you'd have taken me with you wherever you went
They talk all night, and they talk all day
Not for a minute do I believe anything they say
I'm going to make some other life, someone I've never seen
You know what I mean, you know exactly what I mean

I'll take the Scarface Pacino and the Godfather Brando
Mix it up in a tank and get a robot commando
If I do it up right and put the head on straight
I'll be saved by the creature that I create

I'll get blood from a cactus, gunpowder from ice
I don't gamble with cards, and I don't shoot no dice
If you look at my face with your sightless eye
Can you cross your heart and hope to die?
I'll bring someone to life, someone for real
Someone who feels the way that I feel

I study Sanskrit and Arabic to improve my mind
I want to do things for the benefit of all mankind
I say to the willow tree, don't weep for me
I'm saying to hell to all things that used to be

Well I get into trouble, then I hit the wall
No place to turn, no place at all
I pick a number between one and two
And I ask myself what would Julius Caesar do?
I will bring someone to life, in more ways than one
Don't matter how long it takes, it'll be done when it's done

I'm gonna make you play the piano like Leon Russell
Like Liberace, like St. John the Apostle
I'll play every number that I can play
I'll see you maybe on Judgment Day

After midnight, if you still want to meet
I'll be at the Black Horse tavern on Armageddon Street
Two doors down, not that far to walk
I'll hear your footsteps, you won't have to knock
I'll bring someone to life, balance the scales
I'm not gonna get involved in any insignificant details

You can bring it to St Peter, you can bring it to Jerome
You can bring it all the way over, bring it all the way home
Bring it to the corner, where the children play
You can bring it to me on a silver tray
I'll bring someone to life, spare no expense
Do it with decency and common sense

Can you tell me what it means; to be or not to be?
You won't get away with foolin' me
Can you help me walk that moonlight mile?
Can you give me the blessings of your smile?
I'll bring someone to life, use all of my powers
Do it in the dark, in the wee, small hours

I can see the history of the whole human race
It's all right there, it's carved into your face
Should I break it all down, should I fall on my knees
Is there light at the end of the tunnel, can you tell me please?

Stand over there by the cypress tree
Where the Trojan women and children are sold into slavery
Long before the first crusade
Way back 'fore England or America were made

Step right into the burning hell
Where some of the best-known enemies of mankind dwell
Mr. Freud with his dreams, Mr. Marx with his axe
See the rawhide lash rip the skin from their backs

Got the right spirit, you can feel it you can hear it
You got what they call the immortal spirit
You can feel it all night, you can feel it in the morn'
It creeps in your body the day you are born

One strike of lightning is all that I need
And a blast of 'lectricity that runs at top speed
Shimmy your ribs, I'll stick in the knife
Gonna jump-start my creation to life
I wanna bring someone to life, turn back the years
Do it with laughter and do it with tears

I've Made Up My Mind to Give Myself to You

I'm sitting on my terrace, lost in the stars
Listening to the sounds of the sad guitars
Been thinking it all over, and I thought it all through
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I saw the first fall of snow
I saw the flowers come and go
I don't think that anyone ever else ever knew
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

I'm giving myself to you, I am
From Salt Lake City to Birmingham
From East LA to San Antone
I don't think I could bear to live my life alone

My eye is like a shooting star
It looks at nothing here or there, looks at nothing near or far
No one ever told me, it's just something I knew
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

If I had the wings of a snow-white dove
I'd preach the gospel, the gospel of love
A love so real, a love so true
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Take me out travelling, your travelling man

Show me something that I'll understand
I'm not what I was, things aren't what they were
I'm going far away from home with her

I travelled the long road of despair
I've met no other traveller there
Lotta people gone, a lotta people I knew
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Well my heart's like a river, a river that sings
Just takes me a while to realize things
I'll see you at sunrise, I'll see you at dawn
I'll lay down beside you when everyone's gone

I travelled from the mountains to the sea
I hope that the gods go easy with me
I knew you'd say yes, I'm saying it too
I've made up my mind to give myself to you

Black Rider

Black rider, black rider, you been living too hard
Been up all night, have to stay on your guard
The path that you're on, too narrow to walk
Every step of the way, another stumbling block
The road that you're on, the same road that you know
Just not the same as it was a minute ago

Black rider, black rider, you've seen it all
You've seen the great world, and you've seen the small
You fell into the fire, and you're eating the flame
Better seal up your lips if you want to stay in the game
Be reasonable mister, be honest, be fair
Let all of your earthly thoughts be of prayer

Black rider, black rider, all dressed in black
I'm walking away, you try to make me look back
My heart is at rest, I'd like to keep it that way
I don't want to fight, at least not today
Go home to your wife, stop visiting mine
One of these days, I'll forget to be kind

Black rider, black rider, tell me when, tell me how
If there ever was a time, then let it be now
Let me go through, open the door
My soul is distressed, my mind is at war
Don't hug me, don't flatter me, don't turn on the charm
I take a sword, and hack off your arm

Black rider, black rider, hold it right there
The size of your cock won't get you nowhere
I suffer in silence, I'll not make a sound
Maybe I'll take the high moral ground
Some enchanted evening, I'll sing you a song
Black rider, black rider, you've been on the job too long

Goodbye Jimmy Reed

I live on a street named after a saint
Women in the churches wear powder and paint
Where the Jews and the Catholics and the Muslims all pray
I can tell a party from a mile away
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, Jimmy Reed indeed
Give me that old-time religion, it's just what I need

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the Glory
Go tell it on the mountain, go tell the real story
Tell it in that straightforward puritanical tone
In the mystic hours, when a person's alone
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, God speed
Thump on the bible, proclaim a creed

You won't amount to much, the people all said
'Cos I didn't play guitar behind my head

Never pandered, never acted proud
Never took off my shoes, threw 'em into the crowd
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good night
Put a jewel in your crown and I'll put out the light

They threw everything at me, everything in the book
I had nothing to fight with but a butcher's hook
They had no pity, they never lent a hand
I can't sing a song that I don't understand
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and good luck
I can't play the record 'cos my needle got stuck

Transparent woman in a transparent dress
Suits you well I must confess
I break open your grapes, I suck out the juice
I need you like my head needs a noose
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, goodbye and so long
I thought I could resist her, but I was so wrong

God be with you, brother dear
If you don't mind me asking, what brings you here?
Ah nothing much, I'm just looking for the man
Came to see where he's lying in this lost land
Goodbye Jimmy Reed, and everything within you
Can't you hear me calling from down in Virginia

Mother of Muses

Mother of muses sing for me
Sing of the mountains and the deep dark sea
Sing of the lakes and the nymphs of the forest
Sing your hearts out, all ye women of the chorus
Sing of honour and faith, and glory be
Mother of muses, sing for me

Mother of muses, sing for my heart
Sing of a love, too soon to depart
Sing of the heroes, who stood alone
Whose names are engraved on tablets of stone
Who struggled with pain so the world could go free
Mother of muses, sing for me

Sing of Sherman, Montgomery and Scott
And of Zhukov, and Patton, and the battles they fought
Who cleared the path for Presley to sing
Who carved the path for Martin Luther King
Who did what they did and they went on their way
Man, I could tell their stories all day

I'm falling in love with Calliope
She don't belong to anyone, why not give her to me?
She's speaking to me, speaking with her eyes
I've grown so tired of chasing lies
Mother of muses, wherever you are
I've already outlived my life by far

Mother of muses, unleash your wrath
Things I can't see, they're blocking my path
Show me your wisdom, tell me my fate
Put me upright, make me walk straight
Forge my identity from the inside out
You know what I'm talking about

Take me to the river, release your charms
Let me lay down once in your sweet lovin' arms
Wake me, shake me, free me from sin
Make me invisible like the wind
Got a mind to ramble, got a mind to roam
I'm travelling light, and I'm a-slow coming home

Crossing the Rubicon

I crossed the Rubicon on the 14th day
Of the most dangerous month of the year

At the worst time, at the worst place that's all I seem to hear
I got up early so I could greet the Goddess of the dawn
I painted my wagon, abandoned all hope
And I crossed the Rubicon

Well, the Rubicon is a red river
Going gently as she flows
Redder than your ruby lips
And the blood that flows from the rose
Three miles north of purgatory
One step from the great beyond
I prayed to the cross, I kissed the girls
And I crossed the Rubicon

One of these dark days I'll see
In this world so badly bent
How can I redeem the time?
The time so idly spent?
How much longer can it last, how long can it go on?
I embraced my love, put down my head
And I crossed the Rubicon

I can feel the bones beneath my skin
And they're trembling with rage
I'll make your wife a widow
You'll never see old age
Show me one good man in sight
That the sun shines down upon
I pawned my watch, I paid my debts
And I crossed the Rubicon

I put my hide up on the hill
Where some happiness I learned
If I survive then let me love
Let the hour be mine
Take the high road, take the low
Take any one you're on
I poured the cup, I passed it along
And I crossed the Rubicon

Well you defiled the most lovely flower
In all of womanhood
Others can be tolerant
Others can be good
I'll cut you up with a crooked knife
Lord, and I'll miss you when you're gone
I stood between heaven and earth
And I crossed the Rubicon

You won't find any happiness here
No happiness or joy
Go back to the gutter, try your luck
Find you some nice pretty boy
Tell me how many men I need
And who can I count upon
I strapped my belt, I buttoned my coat
And I crossed the Rubicon

I feel the Holy Spirit inside
See the light that freedom gives
I believe it's in the reach of
Every man who lives
Keep as far away as possible
It's darkest 'fore the dawn (O Lord)
I turned the key then broke it off
And I crossed the Rubicon

Mona, baby, are you still in my mind?
I truly believe that you are
Could it be anybody else but you?
Who's come with me this far
The killing frost is on the ground
And the autumn leaves are gone
I lit the torch, I looked to the East
And I crossed the Rubicon

Key West (Philosopher Pirate)

McKinley hollered; McKinley squalled
Doctor said McKinley, death is on the wall
Say it to me, if you got something to confess
I heard all about it, he was goin' down slow
I heard it on the wireless radio
From down in the boondocks, way down in Key West

I'm searching for love, for inspiration
On that pirate radio station
Coming out of Luxembourg and Budapest
Radio signal's clear as can be
I'm so deep in love that I can hardly see
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be
If you're looking for immortality
Stay on the road, follow the highway sign
Key West is fine and fair
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there
Key West is on the horizon line

I was born on the wrong side of the railroad track
Like Ginsberg, Corso and Kerouac
Like Louis, and Jimmy and Buddy and all the rest
Well, it might not be the thing to do
But I'm sticking with you through and through
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

I got both my feet planted square on the ground
Got my right hand high, with the thumb down
Such is life, such is happiness
Hibiscus flowers, they grow everywhere here
If you wear one, put it behind your ear
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to go
Down by the Gulf of Mexico
Beyond the sea, beyond the shifting sands
Key West is the gateway key
To innocence and purity
Key West, Key West is the enchanted land

I've never lived in the land of Oz
Or wasted my time with an unworthy cause
It's hot down here, and you can't be overdressed
Tiny blossoms on a toxic plant
They can make you dizzy, I'd like to help you but I can't
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Well the fishtail ponds, and the orchid trees
They can give you that bleeding heart disease
People tell me I ought to try a little tenderness
On Newton Street, Bayview Park
Walking in the shadow after dark
Down under, way down in Key West

I play gumbo limbo spirituals
I know all the Hindu rituals
People tell me that I'm truly blessed
Bougainvillea blooming in the summer, in the spring
Winter here is an unknown thing
Down in the flatlands, way down in Key West

Key West is under the sun
Under the radar, under the gun
You stay to the left, and then you lean to the right
Feel the sunlight on your skin
And the healing virtues of the wind
Key West, Key West is the land of light

Wherever I travel, wherever I roam
I'm not that far from the convent home
I do what I think is right, what I think is best
History Street off of Mallory Square

Truman had his White House there
Eastbound, Westbound, way down in Key West

Twelve years old, they put me in a suit
Forced me to marry a prostitute
There were gold fringes on her wedding dress
That's my story, but not where it ends
She's still cute, and we're still friends
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

I play both sides against the middle
Trying to pick up that pirate radio signal
I heard the news, I heard your last request
Fly around my pretty little Miss
I don't love nobody, give me a kiss
Down on the bottom, way down in Key West

Key West is the place to be
If you're looking for immortality
Key West is paradise divine
Key West is fine and fair
If you lost your mind, you'll find it there
Key West is on the horizon line

Murder Most Foul

'Twas a dark day in Dallas, November '63
A day that will live on in infamy
President Kennedy was a-ridin' high
Good day to be livin' and a good day to die
Being led to the slaughter like a sacrificial lamb
He said, "Wait a minute, boys, you know who I am?"
"Of course, we do, we know who you are!"
Then they blew off his head while he was still in the car
Shot down like a dog in broad daylight
Was a matter of timing and the timing was right
You got unpaid debts, we've come to collect
We're gonna kill you with hatred, without any respect
We'll mock you and shock you and we'll put it in your face
We've already got someone here to take your place
The day they blew out the brains of the king
Thousands were watching, no one saw a thing
It happened so quickly, so quick, by surprise
Right there in front of everyone's eyes
Greatest magic trick ever under the sun
Perfectly executed, skillfully done
Wolfman, oh Wolfman, oh Wolfman, howl
Rub-a-dub-dub, it's a murder most foul

Hush, little children, you're gonna stand
The Beatles are comin', they're gonna hold your hand
Slide down the banister, go get your coat
Ferry 'cross the Mersey and go for the throat
There's three bums comin' all dressed in rags
Pick up the pieces and lower the flags
I'm goin' to Woodstock, it's the Aquarian Age
Then I'll go over to Altamont and sit near the stage
Put your head out the window, let the good times roll
There's a party going on behind the Grassy Knoll
Stack up the bricks, pour the cement
Don't say Dallas don't love you, Mr. President
Put your foot in the tank and then step on the gas
Try to make it to the triple underpass
Blackface singer, whiteface clown
Better not show your faces after the sun goes down
Up in the red-light district, they've got cop on the beat
Living in a nightmare on Elm Street
When you're down on Deep Ellum, put your money in your shoe
Don't ask what your country can do for you
Cash on the barrelhead, money to burn
Dealey Plaza, make a left-hand turn
I'm going down to the crossroads, gonna flag a ride
The place where faith, hope, and charity died

Shoot him while he runs, boy, shoot him while you can
See if you can shoot the invisible man
Goodbye, Charlie! Goodbye, Uncle Sam
Frankly, Miss Scarlett, I don't give a damn
What is the truth, and where did it go?
Ask Oswald and Ruby, they ought to know
"Shut your mouth," say the wise old owl
Business is business, and it's a murder most foul

Tommy, can you hear me? I'm the Acid Queen
I'm riding in a long, black Lincoln limousine
Ridin' in the back seat next to my wife
Heading straight on into the afterlife
I'm leaning to the left, got my head in her lap
Oh Lord, I been led into some kind of a trap
Well, we ask no quarter and no quarter do we give
We're right down the street, from the street where you live
They mutilated his body and they took out his brain
What more could they do? They piled on the pain
But his soul was not there where it was supposed to be at
For the last fifty years they've been searchin' for that
Freedom, oh freedom, freedom over me
I hate to tell you, mister, but only dead men are free
Send me some lovin', tell me no lie
Throw the gun in the gutter and walk on by
Wake up, little Susie, let's go for a drive
Cross the Trinity River, let's keep hope alive
Turn the radio on, don't touch the dial
Parkland Hospital, only six more miles
You got me dizzy, Miss Lizzy, you fill me with lead
That magic bullet of yours has gone to my head
I'm just a patsy like Patsy Cline
Never shot anyone from in front or behind
Got blood in my eye, got blood in my ear
I'm never gonna make it to the new frontier
Zapruder's film, I've seen that before
Seen it thirty-three times, maybe more
It's vile and deceitful, it's cruel and it's mean
Ugliest thing that you ever have seen
They killed him once and they killed him twice
Killed him like a human sacrifice
The day that they killed him, someone said to me, "Son
The age of the Antichrist has just only begun"
Air Force One coming in through the gate
Johnson sworn in at 2:38
Let me know when you decide to throw in the towel
It is what it is, and it's murder most foul

What's new, pussycat? What'd I say?
I said the soul of a nation been torn away
And it's beginning to go into a slow decay
And that it's thirty-six hours past Judgment Day
Wolfman Jack, he's speaking in tongues
He's going on and on at the top of his lungs
Play me a song, Mr. Wolfman Jack
Play it for me in my long Cadillac
Play me that "Only the Good Die Young"
Take me to the place Tom Dooley was hung
Play "St. James Infirmary" and the Court of King James
If you want to remember, you better write down the names
Play Etta James, too, play "I'd Rather Go Blind"

Play it for the man with the telepathic mind
Play John Lee Hooker, play "Scratch My Back"
Play it for that strip club owner named Jack
Guitar Slim going down slow
Play it for me and for Marilyn Monroe

Play "Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood"
Play it for the First Lady, she ain't feeling too good
Play Don Henley, play Glenn Frey
Take it to the limit and let it go by
Play it for Carl Wilson, too
Looking far, far away down Gower Avenue
Play "Tragedy", play "Twilight Time"
Take me back to Tulsa to the scene of the crime
Play another one and "Another One Bites the Dust"
Play "The Old Rugged Cross" and "In God We Trust"
Ride the pink horse down that long, lonesome road
Stand there and wait for his head to explode
Play "Mystery Train" for Mr. Mystery
The man who fell down dead like a rootless tree
Play it for the reverend, play it for the pastor
Play it for the dog that got no master
Play Oscar Peterson, play Stan Getz
Play "Blue Sky," play Dickey Betts
Play Art Pepper, Thelonious Monk
Charlie Parker and all that junk
All that junk and "All That Jazz"
Play something for the Birdman of Alcatraz
Play Buster Keaton, play Harold Lloyd
Play Bugsy Siegel, play Pretty Boy Floyd
Play the numbers, play the odds
Play "Cry Me a River" for the Lord of the gods
Play Number nine, play Number six
Play it for Lindsey and Stevie Nicks
Play Nat King Cole, play "Nature Boy"
Play "Down in the Boondocks" for Terry Malloy
Play "It Happened One Night" and "One Night of Sin"
There's twelve million souls that are listening in
Play "Merchant of Venice", play "Merchants of Death"
Play "Stella by Starlight" for Lady Macbeth
Don't worry, Mr. President, help's on the way
Your brothers are coming, there'll be hell to pay
Brothers? What brothers? What's this about hell?
Tell them, "We're waiting, keep coming," we'll get them as well
Love Field is where his plane touched down
But it never did get back up off the ground
Was a hard act to follow, second to none
They killed him on the altar of the rising sun
Play "Misty" for me and "That Old Devil Moon"
Play "Anything Goes" and "Memphis in June"
Play "Lonely at the Top" and "Lonely Are the Brave"
Play it for Houdini spinning around in his grave
Play Jelly Roll Morton, play "Lucille"
Play "Deep in a Dream", and play "Driving Wheel"
Play "Moonlight Sonata" in F-sharp
And the "Key to the Highway" for the king on the harp
Play "Marching Through Georgia" and "Dumbarton's Drums"
Play darkness and death will come when it comes
Play "Love Me or Leave Me" by the great Bud Powell
Play "The Blood-Stained Banner", play "Murder Most Foul"