

Halfway to Houston

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Recorded by John Anthony at Gradwell Studios, Haddon Heights NJ • Erik Johnson at High Hill Studios, Downingtown PA • Austin TX recording: Marvin Dykhuis • Mixed by John Anthony • Mastered by Tom Volpicelli
Susan Werner, vocals, acoustic guitars • Mike (SloMo) Brenner, dobro & lap steel • John Cunningham, bass • Mark Schreiber, drums • Jim Cohen, pedal steel • Kevin Hanson, electric guitars • Erik Johnson, drums, bass, accordion • Eliza Jones, backing vocals • Dan Nosheny, accordion • Chip Dolan, accordion • John Anthony, percussion • Clay Sears, mandolin, high string and electric guitars • Guest vocal on Sisters, Tish Hinojosa • Photo editing: Scott Montgomery • Graphic Design: Natalia Zukerman • Tour sponsor: Lane Horse Instruments (www.lanehorse.net), Austin TX, Chris and Jeremy Jenkins • Album promotion: Ellen Stanley, EFS Publicity • Booking: Lara Supan, Midwood Entertainment • Management: Patty Romanoff, Bulletproof Artists

LAKE OF STARS

I TOOK I TEN EAST FROM EL PASO
THEN I TURNED SOUTH AT VAN HORN
I HAD NEVER BEEN TO WEST TEXAS
BUT I BLESS THE DAY I WAS BORN

JUST TO SEE THAT SKY AT NIGHT
FAR FROM ALL THE CITY LIGHTS
I PULLED OVER NEAR ALPINE
WHERE THE AIR'S COOL AND THIN
I CLIMBED ON TOP OF MY CAR
TOOK A BREATH AND DOVE IN

SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS
SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS
OUT BEYOND THE MOON AND MARS
INTO THE DEEPEST BLUE
GLIDING THROUGH THE GALAXIES
ANDROMEDA AND PLEIADES
FLOATING EASY AS YOU PLEASE
BACK TO THIS WORLD OF OURS
SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS

I LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF ORION
AND SAW MYSTERIOUS THINGS
DIDN'T TURN AROUND TIL MORNING
WHEN I TOUCHED PEGASUS' WINGS

JUST BEFORE THE LIGHT OF DAY
MY HAIR WAS FULL OF MILKY WAY
MY SKIN SEEMED TO SHIMMER
WITH A SILVERY LIGHT
I KNOW THAT ALL OF MY DAYS
I WILL REMEMBER THAT NIGHT

SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS
SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS
OUT BEYOND THE MOON AND MARS
INTO THE DEEPEST BLUE
GLIDING THROUGH THE GALAXIES
ANDROMEDA AND PLEIADES
FLOATING EASY AS YOU PLEASE
BACK TO THIS WORLD OF OURS
SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF STARS

SWIMMING SO LIGHT
SWIMMING SO EASY
AQUARIUS ABOVE
AND PISCES BENEATH ME
I FLOATED DOWN TO EARTH
LIKE THE MORTAL I AM
BUT DAMN
WEST TEXAS ISN'T KIDDING AROUND

WELCOME!

WE GOT THE LIVE OAK AND THE PINEY WOODS
WE GOT THE HORSES AND THE TANNED LEATHER GOODS
WE GOT THE BRAZOS AND THE RIO GRANDE
WE GOT THE POLITICS YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND
OIL AND GAS
LARGEMOUTH BASS
BUC-EES AND THE H E B
WELCOME TO TEXAS
WHERE THE SKIES ARE BLUE
IF YOU DON'T MIND THE HAZE
OVER HOUSTON MOST DAYS
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT REFINERIES DO
WELCOME TO TEXAS
WELCOME HOME

WE GOT THE STOCKYARDS UP IN OLD FORT WORTH
WE GOT THE BARBECUE TO GIVE YOU SOME GIRTH
WE GOT THE RIVERWALK IN SAN ANTOINE
WE GOT THE RATTLESNAKES YOU'D BEST LEAVE ALONE
BORDER WALLS
TRUCKS WITH BALLS
OKLAHOMA HATES US, TOO

WELCOME TO TEXAS
WHERE THE WEATHER'S FINE
IF YOU DON'T MIND THE HEAT
AS IT BURNS THROUGH YOUR FEET
AND THE SMELL OF YOUR HUEVOS FRYIN
WELCOME TO TEXAS

WELCOME HOME - HOME - HOME ON THE RANGE
WHERE WE AINT AFRAID OF NUTHIN
'CEPT THE NOTION OF CHANGE
HOME HOME HOME OF THE SAVED
WHERE JESUS IS ALIVE AND WELL -
COME

TO TEXAS
YOU'RE ALREADY HERE
1500 A DAY
MOVING IN FROM L.A.
NOW YOU'RE MARKETING YOUR HOME BREW BEER
WELCOME TO TEXAS -
NOW -
GO BACK HOME -

HALFWAY TO HOUSTON

SHE WAS
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
BEFORE I
SAW HER NOTE
MAKE YOUR OWN DAMN COFFEE
THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
SHE LEFT BEFORE DAWN
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
AND THREE QUARTERS GONE

SHE WAS

HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
BEFORE SHE
TOOK MY CALL
SHE PICKED UP, SAID GOODBYE,
HUNG UP AND THAT WAS ALL
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
SHE WAS REALLY MAD
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
IT WAS LOOKING BAD

HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
THERE'S NOT A LOT TO SEE
JUST BILLBOARDS AND LIFTED FORDS
AND NOT A LOT OF ME

SHE WAS HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
BEFORE SHE LET ME SPEAK
THEN SHE DROVE BACK IN SILENCE
FOR WHAT FELT LIKE A WEEK
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
I COULD HEAR THE WHEELS
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON

SHE WAS HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
AND THEN SHE JUST KEPT GOING
GOOD LUCK, SHE SAID, THE LINE WENT DEAD
AND I WAS ON MY OWN
HALFWAY TO HOUSTON
AND I WAS HISTORY
AND EVER SINCE THAT MORNING

ITS JUST FOLGERS INSTANT FOR ME

CORPUS

WELL I DROVE DOWN FROM DALLAS WITH LOW
EXPECTATIONS
TO VISIT A FRIEND AND SOME DISTANT RELATIONS
I ARRIVED LATE AT NIGHT IN THE MOOD FOR
LIBATIONS
MADE A BEE LINE FOR THE ROOFTOP BAR

AND I ORDERED A SHINER AND I POURED IT OUT
SLOWLY
ALL THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY ALL TWINKLING
BELOW ME
I LOOKED OUT AT THE WATER ALL DARK, VAST AND
KNOWING
'NEATH THE PARTY LIGHT STRINGS OF THE STARS

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN CORPUS FROM THE OMNI
HOTEL
WITH THE BAY IN THE MOONLIGHT AS IT CATCHES
THE SWELLS
IF YOU HAVE, YOU MIGHT FALL FOR THIS CITY AS
WELL
AS I DID
GOD FORBID
BUT I DID
OOOOH
YES I DID
GOD FORBID
BUT I DID

IN THE MORNING THE SUN ROSE ABOVE MUSTANG
ISLAND
AND THE BREEZE BLEW THE SAND CROSS THE BAY HALF
A MILE AND
I LOOKED OUT MY WINDOW, AND I CAUGHT MYSELF
SMILING
AT THIS LOVELY SURPRISE OF A VIEW

AND THE GULF WORE A BALL GOWN, ALL SHIMMERING
AND SEAMLESS
ALL THE WIND TURBINES TURNING, LIKE SOME GREAT
BALLERINAS
AND MY FRIEND TRIED TO TELL ME THEY KEEP OUT THE
MOSQUITOS
BUT THAT WASN'T ENTIRELY TRUE

CHORUS

WITH THE BAY IN THE SUNLIGHT AS IT CATCHES THE
SWELLS -
WITH THE DAREDEVIL KITESURFERS RIDING THE
SWELLS -

SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED THROUGH

BACK WHEN WE WERE BOTH YOUNG
AND WHEN AUSTIN WAS AUSTIN
WENT TO HEAR YOU SING LIVE
AND EACH SONG I GOT LOST IN
WE STOOD OUTSIDE AT THE CACTUS CAFÉ
AS YOUR CROWD HEADED HOME
YOU SAID THE SHOWS WERE ALL GREAT
BUT THE ROAD WAS EXHAUSTING

I SAID WHERED YOU GO NEXT
YOU SAID UP TO WILDFLOWER
I SAID YEAH THAT'S TOMORROW
HOW BOUT THE NEXT HOUR
YOU LAUGHED AND SAID, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD
LINE
WELL, COME ON GIRL, LETS GO
BUT I STEPPED BACK, AFRAID OF MY OWN SUDDEN
POWER
AS THE MIDNIGHT BELLS RANG IN THE BIG CAMPUS
TOWER

I SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED THROUGH
WHEREVER THAT NIGHT MIGHT LEAD
SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED THROUGH
FOR SOMETHING MY HEART MIGHT NEED
THAT SOMETHING IN YOUR SMILE - AS SWEET AS IT
WAS WILD
AND WHEN I THINK OF YOU - I SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED
THROUGH

WITH THOSE BABY BLUE EYES WITH AND THAT
BUFFALO NECKLACE -
I WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN BEING GOOD AND BEING
RECKLESS
YOU SAID ITS ALRIGHT I KNOW HOW IT GOES
ILL CATCH YOU NEXT TIME AROUND
LOOK ME UP ANYTIME THAT YOURE PASSING
THROUGH TEXAS
ME, I'D STILL LIKE TO THINK THAT THAT MOMENT
CONNECTS US



Halfway to Houston

(CHORUS)

FOLLOWED THROUGH THEN AND THERE CAUSE WE
HAD A MOMENT WHERE
WE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN FRIENDS
AND WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE GONE
OH YOUR MUSIC WILL ALWAYS LIVE ON
AND SO WILL THAT NIGHT THAT STILL THRILLS ME
THE MOST
OF FEELING SO MUCH AND STANDING SO CLOSE
OH I SHOULD'VE FOLLOWED THROUGH

THAT SOMETHING IN YOUR EYES - THAT SOMETHING
NEVER DIES
AND WHEN I THINK OF YOU - OH I SHOULD'VE
FOLLOWED THROUGH

FOR THE LOVE OF MEN

DADDY TOLD YOU YOU WERE USELESS
DUMBER THAN A BARREL OF HAIR
SAID YOU'D NEVER COME TO NOTHING
AND YOU'D NEVER GO NOWHERE

OH BUT DADDY WATCHED THE OILERS
EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
SO YOU LEARNED TO THROW A SPIRAL
LIKE A ROCKET TO THE MOON

AND YOU STARTED AS A SOPHOMORE
YOU PLAYED EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
ME AND MOMMA WENT AND CHEERED YOU ON
DADDY CHEERED HIS BUD LIGHT - DADDY CHEERED ON
HIS BUD LIGHT

AND SOMETIMES YOU'D COME HOME TIRED
AND YOU'D SLEEP THE WHOLE NEXT DAY
AND SOMETIMES YOU HAD A FAR AWAY LOOK
THAT WOULDN'T GO AWAY

OH - FOR THE LOVE OF MEN

AND YOU WON THE THREE A TITLE
AND A SCHOLARSHIP TO RICE
WE SAW YOU ON THE JUMBOTRON
AND DADDY SAID, THAT'S NICE

THIRTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WATCHED YOU
AND THE ROARING CROWD GOT QUIET
AND THE CROWD IT GOT REAL QUIET
AND THE TRAINERS GATHERED 'ROUND

NOW YOU WORK FOR HARDIN COUNTY
BUT YOU'RE NOT REAL GOOD WITH NAMES
AND YOUR WIFE SHE SAYS ITS BETTER

IF YOU JUST DON'T WATCH THE GAMES

TINY TEXANS

TO MY TINY TEXANS
I WISH YOU LOVE
LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVE
TO MY TINY TEXANS
I WISH YOU LOVE
BIG AS THE SKIES ABOVE

I WISH YOU
PONY RIDES
AND WATERSLIDES
AND DIPS AT DAIRY QUEENS
I WISH YOU
COWBOY HATS
AND KITTY CATS
AND NO A R 15's

CHORUS

I WISH YOU
FUN AND SUN IN GALVESTON
AND OH THOSE MARFA LIGHTS
I WISH YOU
BARTON SPRINGS AND
ALL THESE THINGS
AND
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

WISH YOU THOSE BOOKS (BANNED BOOKS) THEY
TRY TO HIDE AWAY
WISH YOU THE USE OF HIM AND HER AND THEY
OR ANY PRONOUN THAT YOU LIKE

SISTERS

BACK TO BACK IN THE DESERT SAND
THAT'S HOW THEY SLEEP IN THE EVENING
TWO TWIN GIRLS, GREW UP HAND IN HAND
WITH THEIR LIVES INTERWEAVING

ONE LOOKS NORTH AND THE OTHER SOUTH
THEY SHARE THE BLOOD OF THE RIVER
ONE IS LIVELY BUT SHE IS POOR
TAKES WHAT THE RICH ONE CAN GIVE HER

THEY SHARE THE SAME CHURCH
THEY SING THE SAME SONGS
THEY COUNT THE SAME STARS
AND THEY WILL ALWAYS BELONG

SIDE BY SIDE IN THIS STORIED LAND
OF THE CROSS AND THE LASSO
SISTERS - SISTERS
JUAREZ, AND EL PASO

WITH THE SUN FROM THEIR FATHER'S SIDE
AND THE MOON AS THEIR MOTHER
BAD MEN USE THEM AND BREAK THEIR HEARTS
WHAT HURTS ONE, HURTS THE OTHER

CLOSE AS KIN, CLOSE AS SOULS CAN BE
STILL ALWAYS SOMETHING DIVIDES THEM
CRUEL AS FATE, AND AS HARD AS STEEL
IT CANNOT BREAK WHATS INSIDE THEM
.....

THEY SHARE THE SAME CHURCH
THEY SING THE SAME SONGS
THEY COUNT THE SAME STARS
AND THEY WILL ALWAYS BELONG

SIDE BY SIDE IN THIS STORIED LAND
OF THE CROSS AND THE LASSO
SISTERS, SISTERS
JUAREZ, AND EL PASO

OUTSIDE BILLY BOB'S

(THERES) ALWAYS ONE DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR
ALWAYS THAT ONE GIRL TAKES IT ALL TOO FAR
SHE SITS OUTSIDE BENEATH A LONELY LIGHT
SHE HOLDS HER HEAD CAUSE SHE DON'T FEEL
ALRIGHT

HER LOYAL BEST FRIEND AT HER SIDE
A FEW MORE HOURS SHE'LL STILL BE ON THIS RIDE
ALWAYS A SOFT SPOT IN MY HEART
FOR THAT ONE DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR

SHE'D TRIED TIL HALF AN HOUR AGO
TALKING TO GUYS SHE DIDN'T LIKE OR KNOW
TURNING IN CIRCLES TO FIT IN
UNTIL THE FACES ALL BEGAN TO SPIN

TOO MANY WHISKY LEMONADES
NOW SHE'S OUTSIDE AND RIDING OUT THE WAVES
I KNOW HOW LIFE CAN HIT YOU HARD - WHEN YOU'RE
THAT DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR

BECAUSE THAT DRUNK GIRL ONCE WAS ME
AT LEAST A TIME OR TWO OR MAYBE THREE
WANTING SO BADLY TO BELONG
SHE COULDN'T SEE YET HOW THE WHOLE SCENE FIT
HER WRONG

NOW SHE STANDS UP, SHE LIFTS HER HEAD
NEXT TIME AROUND, WON'T BE SO EASILY LED
I SEE THE LIGHT OF WISDOM SPARK - INSIDE THAT
DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR

AND AS THE CROWD STARTS SHUFFLING HOME - SHE
STARTS TO THINK ABOUT A LIFE THAT'S MORE HER
OWN

SHE AND HER FRIEND, THEY TALK AWHILE
THEY SHARE A LAUGH AND NOW SHE FINALLY
SMILES
I SEE A WOMAN, SURE AND SMART - INSIDE THAT
DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR

MIGHT BE THE GOLD DUST OF A STAR - INSIDE THAT
DRUNK GIRL AT THE BAR

JALAPENO CORNBREAD

SHE MAKES COFFEE FOR HER GIRLFRIEND
SHE MAKES PAINTINGS FOR HERSELF
SHE MAKES JALAPENO CORNBREAD
FOR EVERYBODY ELSE

AND SHE MAKES IT LIKE HER MOTHER
AND SHE MAKES IT OUT OF LOVE
AND SHE MAKES IT BECAUSE WE HER FRIENDS
JUST CANNOT GET ENOUGH - OF -

1 CUP CORNMEAL
2 CUPS GRATED CHEESE
BAKING POWDER, BUTTERMILK
SHE ALWAYS SAYS, IT'S EASY

ONE CAN CREAMED CORN
HALF A CUP OF FLOUR
SALT AND SODA, OIL AND EGGS
AND BAKE FOR HALF AN HOUR
AND
DON'T FORGET THE JALAPENOS

TAKE A WOMAN OUT OF TEXAS
CANT TAKE TEXAS OUT OF HER
AND SHE'LL TELL YOU THERE ARE STILL SOME
THINGS
SHOULD STAY THE WAY THEY WERE

CAUSE ITS HOT OUT OF THE SKILLET
AND IT WARMS YOU TO YOUR SOUL
AND IT COUNTERS ALL THE CHANGE IN LIFE
THAT YOU CAN NOT CONTROL

CHORUS

SHE MIGHT ADD A LITTLE ONION -
JUST TO SEE WHAT THAT MIGHT DO
BUT SHE NEVER WOULD ADD SUGAR -
CAUSE SHE'S TEXAN THROUGH AND THROUGH

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