

# OYSTERBAND

DIAMONDS ON THE WATER



## A CLOWN'S HEART

01 [JONES/TELFER/PROSSER]

a clown's heart and a mandolin  
crazy-hearted fools sing as one  
we'll tear these old walls down  
and we'll bring back, bring back the sun

I build a castle in the air  
battlement and winding stair  
legends and cloudy dreams are floating all around  
half magician, half the fool  
I never kept no golden rule  
like any man in need I took my shelter where I found it

some go read the stars above  
or hunt the unicorn of perfect love  
or hug their money when the nights are getting cold  
all I ever did was play  
I troubadoured my life away  
I'll tell you all about it when you're just a little older

time is tight I can't stay long  
the wind that shakes our life so strong  
six feet by two is my destination  
sometimes it feels as if  
the world is driving off a cliff  
our saving human grace is still imagination

clown's heart and a mandolin  
crazy-hearted fools sing as one  
we'll tear these old walls down  
and we'll bring back, bring back the sun

## A RIVER RUNS

02 [JONES/COOPER/PROSSER]

you are my mate, my long-lost friend  
you are my hope, my resonance  
you are the edge, my hidden blade  
you carry all the plans we made  
you are the path, my hidden trail  
you are the end, my holy grail  
you are my mood, my sudden rage  
you are my wit, my final page

there are no certainties  
we could fall, we could break apart  
you pick me up, you smile  
then the whole world starts

a river runs through you and me  
never reaches the ocean, never reaches the sea

there is no chance we cannot take  
no mistakes we will not make  
each time the whirlpool drags us down  
we come up laughing, spinning round  
we have nothing left to prove  
we have broken every rule  
and all the hurt that we feel  
just makes us stronger when we heal

a river runs through you and me  
never reaches the ocean, never reaches the sea

the river runs so clear, runs so fast it blinds us  
meanders to the sea, turns back and surrounds us  
lifts us up, takes us down, the eddies swirl and bind us  
you and me, you and me

a river runs through you and me  
never reaches the ocean, never reaches the sea

# SPIRIT OF DUST

03 [JONES]

there's a glimpse of light through the window-pane  
early sun through the pouring rain  
this ancient house is getting me down  
these brooding hills are gathering round

and I'll take you with me if you've got the trust  
just say you will, I cannot say you must  
for the angels left here long ago  
and the spirit of dust just says  
(aaah.....) now go

we'll meet on the shores of Tal-y-llyn  
shield our bodies from the careless wind  
we'll burn our boats for our first screen-kiss  
it'll be mid-morning before we're missed

and we'll say goodbye to the lights and cries  
now the laughter's gone from their tired eyes  
for the angels left here long ago  
and the spirit of dust just says  
(aaah.....)

and we'll say goodbye to the lights and cries  
to the narrow gaze of their tired eyes  
for love of fire and burning skies  
and I'll take you with me  
I'll take you with me  
I'll take you with me

together on a journey that knows no end  
a brand new start round every bend  
together on a journey that needs no chart  
just the open road and a hungry heart

and I'll take you with me if you've got the trust  
just say you will, I cannot say you must  
for the angels left here long ago  
and the spirit of dust just says  
(aaah.....) now go

# LAY YOUR DREAMS DOWN GENTLY

04 [PROSSER]

let's pour oil on stormy waters  
calm the winds once more  
don't want hurricanes or lightning  
just want to lie here on the shore  
so lay down a blanket  
that we might watch the sky  
lay your dreams down gently by me

when I reach out I will touch  
pebbles and cool sand  
broken shells, cotton jeans  
the fingers of your hand  
now tell me your story  
I want to understand  
lay your dreams down gently by me

won't you lay your dreams down gently  
lay your dreams by me  
lay your dreams down gently by me

listen to the calling gulls  
the murmur of the tide  
fortune spun the wheel for us  
and luck was on our side  
stare into the endless blue  
with eyes open so wide  
lay your dreams down gently by me

won't you lay your dreams down gently  
lay your dreams by me  
lay your dreams down gently by me



# DIAMONDS ON THE WATER

05 [TELFER/JONES]

when you're running on empty  
and the road has no end  
when you're caught at the border  
and no man is your friend  
when you reach out for comfort  
and there's nothing but despair  
there'll be diamonds on the water  
and music in the air  
there'll be diamonds on the water  
music in the air

when the fruits of your labour  
sink without a trace  
and the hope of the morning  
blows right back in your face  
when the pressure is killing  
and it's more than you can bear  
there'll be diamonds on the water  
and music in the air  
there'll be diamonds on the water  
music in the air

when you find no justice  
in a world of hurt  
for the poor and defenceless  
trampled in dirt  
there is fire on the mountain  
let the mighty beware  
there are diamonds on the water  
music in the air  
diamonds on the water  
music in the air

# THE WILDERNESS

06 [TELFER/JONES]

we set out in sunlight  
high day and holiday  
light hearts and the wrong shoes  
little bells to keep the bears away

up above the tree-line  
under a racing sun  
we stared up at the ice-wall  
down at the long miles we had come

there's a spring to cup your mouth to  
where the juniper lies low  
the water brings a message  
ice-cold and slow

can you tell me who you are  
can you tell me who you are  
now you're standing face to face with the wilderness?  
you're not the master here  
you're not the master here  
you're not the master here

ice reigns forever  
how high the glittering crown  
we shiver in the sunlight  
glad to think it's faster going down

so we wrap ourselves in stories  
good friends and beer  
tonight we feel like winners  
tonight we feel no fear

can you tell me who you are  
can you tell me who you are  
now you're standing face to face with the wilderness?  
you're not the master here  
you're not the master here  
you're not the master here

## PALACE OF MEMORY

07 [TELFER/PROSSER/JONES/COOPER]

old lovers walk through walls  
so soft their foot-falls  
in the hours after midnight they call on me

is this regret? they say  
this lonely shadow-puppet play  
you're lost in a maze and you can't get free

echoes in empty halls  
all round my bed  
the moon shines and the night-bird calls  
listen:

beneath the green grass the stone  
beneath the pretty flesh the bone  
in the palace of memory  
you lie, you lie alone

old lovers fade away  
into the break of day  
they melt in the light at my window-sill

a waking world outside  
I throw the windows open wide  
In the roar of the traffic I hear them still

wake up - I try and try...  
my ghosts never say goodbye  
listen:

beneath the green grass the stone  
beneath the pretty flesh the bone  
in the palace of memory  
you lie, you lie alone

get up get up  
don't let them see you cry  
get up get up  
don't let them wonder why  
get up get up  
don't let them see you cry  
get up get up

beneath the green grass the stone  
beneath the pretty flesh the bone  
in the palace of memory  
your life's a candle burning down  
take off that solitary crown  
in the palace of memory  
you lie, you lie alone

## ONCE I HAD A SWEETHEART

08 [TRAD. ARR. PROSSER]

once I had a sweetheart but now I have none  
once I had a sweetheart but now I have none  
she's gone and left me, gone and left me  
gone and she's left me in sorrow to mourn

last night in sweet slumber I dreamt I did see  
last night in sweet slumber I dreamt I did see  
my own darling jewel, my own darling jewel  
my own darling jewel there smiling at me

but when I awakened and found it not so  
when I awakened and found it not so  
my eyes like some fountains, my eyes like some fountains  
my eyes like some fountains with tears they did flow

I'll venture through England, through France and through Spain  
I'll venture through England, through France and through Spain  
my life I will venture, my life I will venture  
my life I will venture on the watery main

I'll set sails of silver and steer towards the sun  
I'll set sails of silver and steer towards the sun  
and my false love will weep, my false love will weep  
my false love will weep after I am gone

# NO ORDINARY GIRL

09 [JONES]

I first saw her in the month of February  
gliding through the market hall  
shallow steps and singing softly  
round her head a scarlet shawl

I next saw her on the road to Kington  
fixing cars with a steady gaze  
I drove on past uncertain how to  
make sense of her solitary ways

strange hands, strange beauty  
not a face for the modern world  
still searching, going nowhere  
no ordinary girl  
no ordinary girl

I saw her once again in August  
moved closer so I could speak  
held my breath and walked on past  
that long scar upon her cheek

I heard the talk in the pub that evening  
the ugly talk of a beauty rare  
the talk of men who went home lonely  
who dreamt of trying but wouldn't dare

I never heard or saw her after  
I never felt that steady gaze  
when I asked around no one had seen her  
and only the stories and rumours remain

strange hands, strange beauty  
not a face for the modern world  
still searching, going nowhere  
no ordinary girl  
no ordinary girl

# CALL YOU FRIEND

10 [PROSSER]

when I talk dumb and wield the knife  
lose the plot and rail at life  
you defuse the bomb and end the strife  
that's why I call you friend

you tell me home truths to my face  
run alongside me in the race  
staying with me pace for pace  
that's why I call you friend

we've been up and couldn't get down  
kicked the hell out of this town  
we let the world know we're around  
that's why I call you friend

so many times we've disagreed  
don't count the cost there's a greater need  
we sit and watch each other bleed  
that's why I call you friend

so for being there with that sure touch  
that cussedness that means so much

those injuries you help to mend  
that's why I call you friend

words are thrown and fists can fly  
I throw my hands up at the sky  
we've been the distance, you and I  
that's why I call you...

I hate it when we disagree  
times when there's no remedy  
it's always been just you and me

there's a common ground we both defend  
a promise we can always mend  
fighting till the stars descend  
that's why I call you friend

we've been up and couldn't get down  
kicked the hell out of this town  
we let the world know we're around  
that's why I call you friend



# STEAL AWAY

11 [JONES/TELFER/PROSSER]

let the dark be your friend  
climb the stairs and look around you  
nothing there, no one to harm you  
step by step your life begins  
let the dark be your friend

now your thoughts are your own  
new feelings deep inside you  
solitude's a star to guide you  
light your path to childhood's end  
and the dark never ends

steal away  
steal away  
let the dark never end

let the stars be your friend  
through this lonely time and season  
always there like rhyme and reason  
planets fade as day begins  
but the dark never ends

steal away  
steal away

when the sheets are tangled and you just can't sleep  
you pull back the curtains and the shadows creep  
open the window, let the moon shine in  
and it's cool as silver on the heat of your skin  
and the night-train rattles and a vixen barks  
miles away in the dark  
in the dark you know yourself alone  
you know yourself alone

steal away  
steal away  
steal away  
let the darkness be your friend

# LIKE A SWIMMER IN THE OCEAN

12 [TELFER/PROSSER/JONES]

like a swimmer in the ocean leaves his clothes upon the shore  
like a lover in commotion drops his shoes upon the floor  
like the ghost of Gary Cooper checks his guns in at the door  
I leave these songs with you

like a lonely kid at midnight makes a wish upon a star  
like a drunkard in a fistfight puts his glass down on the bar  
like an angel lets a feather fall exactly where you are  
I leave these songs with you

I leave these songs with you

**DIL DAVIES**      **ALAN PROSSER**      **IAN TELFER**  
**JOHN JONES**      **AL SCOTT**

WITH

**ADRIAN OXAAL** CELLO

**ROWAN GODEL** VOCAL

**LINDSEY OLIVER** DOUBLE BASS

**PETER DAVISON** BRASS ARRANGEMENTS AND TRUMPET

**EIRA OWEN** FRENCH HORN

**SARAH LEEVES** EUPHONIUM

**LEE PARTIS** VOCAL

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