

LIKE A GIRL

I was beaten up every day
For holding my hands like a girl
I was punched in the school hallway
For carrying my books like a girl
And if I ran they'd chase me, trip me, laughing
Cause I ran like a girl

I was beaten up every day
For getting good grades like a girl
I was kicked down the steel staircase
For speaking in class like a girl
To cover up the bruises
I'd put make-up on my face like a girl
And no one did anything
And no one said anything

And every morning I'd put on my fresh-pressed clothes
I'd make my lunch and I would walk to school knowing
I'd be beaten up every day
For holding my hand like a girl
I'd be kicked down the steel staircase
For speaking in class like a girl
My father never knew he'd be ashamed he'd say
I fight like a girl.

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THE BOY IN THE LAST PEW

Man shall not lie with man
It's an abomination
They shall receive due penalty
For their perversion
Preacher said it's wrong
It's wrong
The Lord rained on Sodom and Ghommorah
Brimstone and fire
Neither effeminate nor homosexual shall inherit
The Kingdom of God
And I don't deserve to live anymore
And I don't deserve to live

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ALONE

Alone
I'll live with my secret alone
They'll be no 'Honey I'm home'

Alone
I'll live in some city, alone
Some small high-rise apartment
Strewn on the coffee table are wilting flowers
And copies of After Dark magazine
I'll be seen as the pampering uncle
Carrying presents at Christmastime
Nieces and nephews will fall in line
Till I go back home

Alone
I'll walk the dark streets
I'll roam through the back rows of darkened theatres
The groans of naked women on the screen
I'll be seen as the cavalier bachelor
Traveling foot loose and fancy free
Actually spend my nights loitering
Bus stations, alleyways, Stairwells, corridors
Till I go back home
Abandoned buildings
Hotel washrooms
Till I go back home
Alone

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THIS IS ME

He wore a chartreuse Speedo
The sand stuck to my thighs
The air was filled with sea salt and urine
And Bain De Soleil

He waited for my glances
And stared into my eyes
Instinctively he motioned I followed
He fell to his knees

My legs were shaking
I couldn't stop them

All the world fell silent
Allowing for our sounds
I breathed him in and held him inside me
As if he were me

My heart was racing
I couldn't stop it

I ran through blinding sunlight
And down the scorching sand
I fell into the ocean to drown in
To cleanse myself
Baptize myself
I said to myself
'I hate myself
But this is me
This is who I am'

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MOM DAD I

Mom, Dad, I
Have something to say to you
First of all I'm sorry
For what I'm going to put you through
You'll be so ashamed
And you'll be so disappointed
And your church friends will make jokes
And they'll look at you like you've done something wrong
You've done nothing wrong

And your only son
Is not the perfect one you dreamed of
No, he's not the one

And I don't know why God make me this way

And I know you'll blame yourself
And you'll always say, If only I had seen
But you've always seen
All there is to see
It's only me

Mom Dad I
Have something to say to you

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HAPPY AGAIN

This is the coat
This is the coat I wore the night
My world was formed
You opened the door
Opened the door I walked inside
My world was formed
You collapsed, your muscles relaxed
Head pressed down against my head
Heavier, heavier
I you breathed
Heavier, heavier
I will not move
Will I ever be this happy again?

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MEET MR. RIGHT

In my pursuit of happiness I lived from one lie to the next
I made it easy for the rest while I suffered
While they were waiting for a wife
Their silence cut me like a knife
But I don't care now it's my life and it matters

I always did just what they wanted but not tonight
Meet Mr. Right Please try to be polite to him
Meet Mr. Right Don't make a scene tonight with him

He simmers everything he's heard
She has to whisper every word
They still believe I can be cured of this sickness

Their silent airs it suffocates
They think that God can set me straight
They gave me unconditional hate and I let them
The stage is set for my show-stopper so let's light the lights

Over my dead body, he would say
I can still feel it burning
Yeah, if he were in his grave he'd be turning
Thought I was down for the count but I'm up for the fight
Don't make a scene tonight that tongue you'll bite
Just shut it tight, time to wrong
some rights so
Smile bright and be polite to him

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FREE

They taunt me because I comfort you
They sneer at me because I smile at you
They laugh at me because I cry with you
They hate me because I love you

When will this be all in history?
When will we be free?

They mock me because I honor you
They lie to me because I'm true to you
They abandon me because I'm there for you
They hate me because I love you

When will this be all in history?
When will we be free?

They fight me because I fought for you
They harm me because I heal you
They kill me because I'd die for you
They hate me because I love you

When will this be all in history?
When will we be free?

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GRID

Yes I've heard all about that new disease
It's happening to gay men
San Francisco has ten
Twelve in New York City
Five are dead already

The short breaths the night sweats the purple spots
Those are freckles I've had them all my life
And my health is perfect
I sweat because I'm nervous
I think that they deserve this
It's their lifestyle
Bathhouse every night endless appetite lifestyle
All that tricking and sucking fisting and fucking

It's the ones who are out party every night at the Saint 'cause
Pretty boys can sin there
And they never let me in there
I'm not beautiful enough for that crowd well they can
Have their fun in that high loft
Soon there all are gonna die off
It'll go away its days are numbered it's a phase it's got to be
But to myself I swore I'd kill myself before it ever got to me
Gay-Related Immune Deficiency
It isn't only gay men
It's happening to Haitians
IV drug addicts
Hemophiliacs

The gay plague now it's called AIDS oh what a name
They destroyed their own immunity
The piercings in their cocks and
The hankies in their pockets
I know that I can stop it
With my lifestyle
Stretching and sunning lifting and running lifestyle

Daily regimen herbs and vitamins vegetarian
I'm not ending up lying in some hospital bed where
They refuse to treat you
Kick you out into the street you
Are rejected shut out then you are left for dead and
All you have to your name is
An inhaler and a cane

The government's behind this they are out to
Find us brand us with a stamp
The truth is covered up they're going to round us up
For concentration camps

America
is waiting for the day when gays admit defeat
What on God's earth can this be
Kaposi's Sarcoma
Pneumocystis Pneumonia
CMV Toxo
Cryptosporidium
And day by day wasting away

Maybe it's being pumped in our clubs through the ventilation
Room deodorizers
Or the hand sanitizers
Or it's Agent Orange or a batch of tainted poppers
Sold in the bars and discos
Or it's something in the Crisco

When it was Toxic Shock they pulled out all the stops
They didn't ride the fence
For Legionnaire's Disease to put the world at ease
They spared no expense

America
is waiting for the day when gays are obsolete
And the death toll is growing every day
As our brothers have bled
Not a single word said
'Till we're all dead

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DEATH TOLL

Ben had his friends overdose him injected pure heroin
Shannon asked that his ashes be spread on Fire Island
Ronald found God but he was just too exhausted and he lost Him again

Teddy was everybody's buddy he became completely withdrawn
Lindel's bed was moved to the window there he could watch every dawn
Roddy demanded his body be dumped out on the White House lawn

Noam had been kicked out of his home but he went back to where he belonged
Marty gave a fabulous party no one was allowed to mourn
Jamie was found dead on his paintings shot with every canvas torn

Michael dead
Michael dead was so weird
In his silver bunk-bed
Second row third column
And the sheets were so clean so damn white
He was a beautiful man
He was a beautiful man the day he diad

Sherron was a strong man but his very last words were 'I'm afraid'
Milo was wild his friends chided him he said he'd never get AIDS
Trevor had his love smother him with the pillow he macramed

Lou refused to go to the hospital he knew he would never leave
Oly slowly slipped into a world of make-believe
Marlon donned his bed with tinsel and garland he died on Christmas Eve

Jake baked a coconut cake for himself on his last birthday
Keeler found a physic healer said he could visualize it away
Kevin never lost his endless optimism not one day

Michael dead
Michael dead was so strange
So quiet so not there
It was Michael but it wasn't Michael
He was a beautiful man
He was a beautiful man the day he died

Bud just lost it smeared his feces and blood on the bathroom wall
Tex traveled down to Mexico for drugs that did nothing at all
Sid just withered away in his room he had no one to call

Pete stopped speaking completely his mouth was covered with thrush
Rex never stopped having sex he just made it anonymous
Steve said he just had to leave he died right on the Greyhound bus
Nate thought he could escape it by being monogamous
Nasir smashed all of his mirrors he said he was hideous
Ken alienated his friends he was so furious

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BETTER

I awoke and I'm not feeling better
I know what that means
Like all of my friends before me
I watched every stage I lived every scene
And I can't pretend anymore
Always had escaped somehow
But I know it's my turn now

I'm left with what might have been
And what I'll never see
I have nothing to show for my life
Why did this happen to me?

All my hope it sweat out of my body
Along with my dreams
And what was the point of my life
Why was I here? What did it mean
And I can't pretend anymore
And I know my time is now
How could this have been allowed?

I'm not feeling better
I know I know
I'm not getting better
I know I know

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ACT UP FIGHT BACK

Act up fight back
People with AIDS under attack what do we do? Act up fight back
They say cut back we say fight back
What do want? A cure for AIDS
When do we want it? Now!
We are angry we want action
Silence equals death
Health care is a right
Not just for the straight and white
Release the drugs now
History will recall
Reagan and Bush did nothing at all
We'll never be silent again
Act up!

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EQUAL

I make love to you
You make love to me
And there's nothing in this world that I'd rather be
We are parallel uniform hand in hand one to one
Equal

What I give to you
You give back to me
There's a reason we're here now it's meant to be
We are parallel uniform hand in hand one to one
Equal

And it feels so right
It must be right

Man to man woman to woman
This is nothing if not equilibrium
We are parallel uniform hand in hand one to one
Equal

And it feels so right
It must be right

We are able to live in a world without labels
Every voice would be heard and all people

Everywhere in the world would be
Equal

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TWO GREAT DADS

We'd make two great dads
Well one great dad and two great kids

We would stay up late with our flashlights
Under the covers
Speak in secret codes no one could
Ever decipher

Dad it's not a laundry basket it's a fort
Please can we stay up for just fifteen minutes more
Make farting sounds with our armpits
Giggle uncontrollably 'till we get in trouble
We always get in trouble

You'd yell at me to go to bed and laugh
'Cause you mean come to bed

We'd make two great dads
Well one great dad and two great kids

We'd make a haunted house drape the windows
Like it was nighttime
Make paths through the garage by hanging sheets
From the clothesline
Cobwebs from a spray can of aerosol
Spaghetti for intestines and peeled grapes for eyeballs
I'm the tallest kid on the whole block
So I'm the headless horseman Frankenstein and Igor
I'm always playing Igor

It's getting late you miss your other half
In bed I call you 'daddy' you just laugh
'Cause you know I mean it

We'd make two great dads
Well one great dad and two great kids

But remember

It's a fact of life that kids grow up and leave you
But this one never will
This one never will

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SIDE EFFECT

What a fitting side effect
To lose the feeling in your hands
Like we were stealing love

What a fitting side effect
To lose the fullness in your sharp profile
That guaranteed a steady stream of hangers on

What a fitting side effect
To lose the memory of how you finally came
To accept yourself

What a fitting side effect
To lose the feeling in your hands

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MY GENERATION

From our small towns and suburbias
We'd escape
From our own fears living nightmares
We'd awake
One by one
And we came to a place where we would belong
And we made up the rules as we went along

My generation
We fought for our loving
My generation
We built it from nothing

With our Centers and cafés
Our protests and parades
Our sports teams and cabarets
We found each other

We held on
When faced with our holocaust
And all was lost

And we scraped and we struggled to stay alive
Never knowing among us who would survive

My generation
We fought for our loving
My generation
We built if from nothing

With our rags and our ribbons
Our flags coalitions
Our leagues and newspapers
Our teams and fundraisers
Our banners and backrooms
Our churches and chatrooms
Our quilts and our choirs
Our punks and our riot grrrls
We found each other

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