



## 1 RIGHT AROUND NOW

Right around now I'm in a deep slump and I don't how, but right around now I'm going to get out. Right around now my father is calling for his savior. Right around now there are some strangers I'd rather be with. Right around now I'm wondering where my men are. I'm wondering where my boys went. Where are you my boys? Where are you? Right around now I'm building up to the death of an old me, and feeling the birth of a new me. Right around now Middle East meets Middle West. Right around now my brother is considering his options and not enjoying any of them, but I can hardly help him if I can't help myself. Right around now right around now. Where are you my brother? Where are you? And where have all my boys gone, and do they know that I'm considering my options? Where are you my lover?

#### 2 MY INSECT SAVIORS

Pray for rain in teary eyes, and pockets full of termites that eat away at the construction of our worn and worried lives. Play that game that still relies on men we proudly should despise. While those who love us most are pushed farther back in line, but not too far from always on my mind.

# **3 GREY EYES**

If I don't know what is all around by now, there are obvious things wrong with me, and clearly some ways I still can't compete. And I have been torn limb from limb by more not yous than I'd care to admit. Shamed as less than a man amongst men. So if you come to greet me, if you come to see me, and stay well through the morning, and find you've come to need me, and miss those obvious things, and grey eyes turn to green, and blue eyes sigh a much needed cry of relief.

# 4 WITH TEETH SHARP AS OLD FRIENDS

In truth, there were times when my last nerve got tested, and it sometimes brought tyrants or intentional distance. But if sleeping beasts stay silent, and let us walk slowly by them then your family gets bigger and my family gets bigger. If time has bittered us, or we found new love to lean on, then your ego got bigger and my ego gets bigger. Until sleeping beasts go roaming, casting shadows tall as buildings. As dark as they are frightening, as angry as unforgiving. With teeth sharp as old friends so I try to avoid them, and your family gets smaller and my family gets smaller.

## 5 A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR EVERY CHILD

Grace was written on your face, and I'm alive with disdain. Ma, don't I make you proud? Baby sister, I'm sorry.

# 6 PLEASE

Please don't show me what I still can't have, and I won't be mad, or ask you to take it back

#### 7 YOU ARE NOT MY BROTHER

Praise to all of us for outlasting the lush and the loveless. If there's no safety in numbers, or sanctuary somewhere, on the cusp of all we hold dear, or just the sum of our fears...(and) as rust builds upon rust, and dust settles on dust. When all the glorious rebellions falter and fumble at best, and stutter and stall like the rest, and fall short with all they can offer us, and build upon rust upon rust.

### 8 SO LONG GONE

So gone my honey babe. No regrets and no mistakes, and so afraid.

# 9 ALUMINUM

In pains of glass and aluminum, on sleeping bags in swimming suits we speak in tongues. With our backs against the wall and my logic come undone, young blood will ush in rivers to the places our fingers run. And in time 1 or 9 of my friends will come, and race to relay of tales unsung by the heat of the summer sun. If when the shaking begins we both accept the state we're in, for a moment I'll feel alright with you my friend. Now propped up on some sculpted porcelain, I shiver and you bite your bottom lip. You're somebody's daughter I know I won't bother to find out who that somebody is.

## 10 ODE TO A FORMER LOVER

There's something wrong with all of you. There's something wrong with me. It's only pride and simple minds, and keep this plague you breed. There's no power in your violence, no strength within your steam. I'll see you in the pit, my friend, where boys go to be men. Now your age shows when you go to shows, and school don't start back in the spring. Monday brings work to be done, and the weekend don't mean that you're leaving. Well there's something wrong with all of you. There's something wrong with where we are, and where we're not going. And I'll never figure them out. No.

# 11 SO YOU'VE FOUND (WITH FRIENDS DULL AS OLD TEETH)

So you've found a way to destroy the great nothingness, if nothing but a quick fix. The kind that sneaks up behind you, and lays down beside you. And knows you won't rename it like them, and knows you won't deny them their friends, and knows you won't rely on their next of kin. If we can stay gentle and always unspoken.

Drums for tracks 7, 8, 9 were recorded in July, 2009 by Andy Nelson at Bricktop Recording in Chicago, Illinois. All other recordings by E. Aaron Ross July - December, 2009 at various locations.

Drums played by Dan Bordage on tracks 7, 8, 9. Backup vocals by Sarah Ross on tracks 2, 3, 4. Some lyrics courtesy of John Hoffman on track 10. All other music by E. Aaron Ross.

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