

# BAD & BETTER ANGELS

lyrics and liners

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THE BIRTHING OF THIS PROJECT HELD  
MOMENTS OF EXCRUCIATING PAIN,  
AND OF INDESCRIBABLE BEAUTY.  
THAT'S WHAT BAD AND BETTER ANGELS IS.  
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS.  
THIS RECORD IS DECIDEDLY RAW,  
AND LIKE LIFE, OFFERS TRIUMPH, DISPAIR,  
LIGHT, DARKNESS, HOPE, SADNESS, HUMOR,  
FAITH AND LOVE.

WHAT IF WE DECIDE  
TO EMBRACE OUR WHOLE SELVES?  
THE DARK AND THE LIGHT?  
THE BAD AND THE BETTER?  
THE WORST AND THE BEST?  
WHAT IF WE DECIDE  
TO DANCE IN THE DICHOTOMY?  
WHAT IF WE DETERMINE  
THERE AREN'T GOOD OR BAD EXPERIENCES,  
BUT SIMPLY EXPERIENCES?  
ONES THAT INSPIRE, INFORM, CHALLENGE,  
CHANGE, HUMBLE, AND ENLIGHTEN?  
WHAT IF WE POUR  
ENERGY INTO STANDING FOR WHAT MATTERS  
INSTEAD OF AGAINST WHAT OFFENDS?  
WHAT IF WE SPEND  
WHAT ENERGY WE HAVE LEFT  
TO JUST LOVE EACH OTHER?  
JUST. LOVE.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

DIONNE, FOR BRINGING PASSION TO THIS  
PROJECT AND BEAUTY TO THESE SONGS.  
FOR HELPING ME TELL THESE STORIES.

CHUCK, FOR CONTINUING TO FIND WAYS  
TO CONTRIBUTE AS THIS MUSIC EVOLVES.  
FOR BRINGING A SENSITIVITY FOR WHAT IS IN  
SERVICE TO A SONG AND PLAYING  
JUST THE RIGHT PART.

REV, FOR BUYING IN TO MY VISION FOR THIS  
PROJECT TO MAKE IT BIGGER BY MAKING  
IT SMALLER, AND THEN TAKING IT TO  
THE NEXT LEVEL BY HELPING US  
WRING OUT EVERY POSSIBILITY.

JOHN, FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND  
ENCOURAGEMENT, AND FOR LENDING  
YOUR TALENT AND COOL VIBE.

LISA & BARB, FOR BELIEVING IN  
THIS BOOK OF SONGS AND THE MESSAGES  
HELD WITHIN. AND FOR HELPING US  
SHARE THEM WITH THE WORLD.

THE DEAREST OF FRIENDS  
WHO CONTINUE TO STAND BESIDE ME  
THROUGH THE BAD AND THE BETTER.  
I COUNT YOU AS TREASURE.

## PRODUCTION

**Cari Ray** lead vocals,  
acoustic & resonator guitar, playing card

**Dionne Ward** backing vocals, drums & hand  
percussion

All songs written by  
**Cari Ray**

**Chuck Wills** electric guitar

**Rev. Peyton** electric guitar

**John Bowyer** mandolin

Produced by  
**Reverend Peyton**

Mastered by  
**Paul Mahern**

Tracked and mixed at Primary Sounds Studios  
by **Jake Belser**

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## SISTAH HEY

I saw you in town today  
you caught my eye  
and then you looked away  
guess you didn't have nothin  
nice to say  
at least you didn't say  
nothin at all

then on tuesday night  
you go downtown  
for devotions with  
the recently found  
when they were lost  
you never came around  
did you really  
answer the call

**sistah hey brothah hey  
best be mindin what you say  
while you are watchin  
what you do  
you know the good lord  
is watchin too**

you pray on sunday  
for the lost  
in the front pew  
with your ankles crossed  
but for the homeless  
you got no coin toss  
you can't even spare a few

then the tv preacher  
with the shiny grin  
is askin you  
to send your money in  
you write a big check  
while you shout amen  
cause he's a prayin  
just for you

## CHORUS

hey there sistah  
better than you  
you gonna have some  
explainin to do  
when your time in this  
old world is through  
and you stand before  
you-know-who

## I NEED YOU

well i need to start on supper  
as soon as i get home  
i need to call my mama  
back on the telephone  
and you know that damned  
old dog ran off again

i need to see my sister  
how long has it been  
a stack of bills need payin  
when i can get to them  
i need a second job  
and a way to clone myself  
i've a neverending list  
of things i need to do  
but just one thing i need to know i'll see it  
through

**i need you  
to pick me up when i fall down  
to take me to the moon  
and never leave the ground  
i need you  
to love me just the way i am  
to be my voice of reason  
and my biggest fan  
i need just one thing  
to know i'll see it through  
i need you**

some days i'm th poster girl  
for throwin in the towel  
when everything i need to do  
needs doin now  
and i can't begin to know  
where i should start

and at my weakest moment  
you take me by the hand  
and even though you don't say much  
i know you understand  
that sometimes it's almost  
too much to take

## CHORUS

just when i am sure  
that there's no way  
you keep me on  
this winnin' streak  
for one more day

## WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR

when i met you in the springtime  
i knew by summer i'd fall  
and by the time the snow was flyin  
i had given you my all  
for many seasons  
we were happy  
as two crows about to caw  
then you started stayin out late  
and never comin home at all

**so i been climbin the walls  
i been walkin the floor  
i been bangin on the window  
i been a hangin on the door  
you said you had to leave because  
you didn't love me any more  
broke my tender little heart  
what did you do that for**

i never felt this way before dear  
i'll never feel it again  
but it's hard to tell you losin  
when it seems you're bound to win  
you acted so much like you loved me  
i would've given you the part  
but the curtain all but fell dear  
before the show could even start

## CHORUS

was it wanderlust or passion  
that turned your head around  
to leave me standin in the kitchen  
a slammin door the only sound  
i have never been so lonesome  
my heart is callin out to you  
and now that you have had  
some time dear  
i hope you're longin for me too

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## BAD & BETTER ANGELS

he said sister won't you tell me  
why am I alone  
i got no little children  
no woman warm at home  
she said brother look around  
how do you spect  
to find no wife  
when you're holdin  
down a barstool  
nearly seven nights

**each of us has angels  
flyin all around  
bright shiny ones from heaven  
and dark ones from the ground  
and if you're bein christian  
or if you're bein mean  
it's the bad and better angels  
that carry you between**

she said i have often wondered  
why the rain must fall  
on the saint and on the sinnah  
good lord gonna soak us all  
i said sister look around  
how do you plan on stayin dry  
when you're diggin  
in your neighbor's  
instead of your own eye

### CHORUS

now hasten little children  
and listen what i say  
let's all save the judgin  
for the judgin day  
lest you look around  
on the decidin of your fate  
to find that you are standin  
on the wrong side  
of that gate

## HOUSE KEYS

i ran across his ring today  
shoved way back in a drawer  
remembered what he's said to me  
about what rings are for  
they're for keepin things together  
that used to be apart  
less and more important things  
like house keys and like hearts

what you know at seventeen  
would barely fill a jar  
and it's hard to mean forever  
when you can't quite see that far  
they bought a little house  
it wasn't much but was a start  
of a lifetime they'd spend sharin things  
like house keys and like hearts

on the day he went to heaven  
i was standin by his bed  
and when i asked him how they'd stayed  
in love  
for all those years he said  
there really is no secret  
there really is no art  
you just find the joy in sharin things  
like house keys and like hearts

**somehow for sixty years  
and nineteen days  
when they woke up in the dark  
they'd find their way**

I ran across his ring today  
shoved way back in a drawer  
turned it over in my hand  
thought about what rings are for  
they're for keepin things together  
that used to be apart  
less and more important things  
like house keys and like hearts

sometimes the only way  
to make it through the hardest parts  
is holdin on to little things  
like house keys and like hearts.

## KILLIN YOU

i got rocks in both my shoes  
from kickin up the dust with you  
i saw you feelin dirty too  
i watched you look for somethin new

**i don't mind who you're seein  
hell, you've got the right to choose  
but i won't abide you leavin  
you know i've got my rights too  
and this might be hurtin me  
but it's killin you**

you knew i'd chase you if you ran  
so you said catch me if you can  
now there's blood on both my hands  
it was my deed but not my plan

### CHORUS

you tried to run  
in the middle of the night  
reached for my gun  
flipped on the light  
said if this ends, it ends my way  
did what i did to make you stay

now there's mud on both my boots  
and there's some on my shovel too  
i made use of my hatchet new  
and buried it along with you

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## BOUND TO

i was bound  
to change the world  
and you were bound  
to change my mind  
i was good and bound for leavin  
you were bound to stay behind  
but the damndest thing bout leavin  
is learnin to let go  
when your heart's just tryin  
to break loose  
from everything you know

**now i'm bound  
like a gambler to the game  
like a dry old piece of ground's  
just bound to soak the rain  
and i ain't quite gettin through  
ain't quite gettin over you  
but i'm bound to  
you know i'm bound to**

they say i'm bound  
for bigger things  
and its bound  
to be real soon  
you're bound  
to hear me on your radio  
cause i'm bound  
straight for the moon  
but some nights when i'm playin  
could swear you were in the crowd  
takes all the prayers i'm prayin  
not to say your name out loud

## CHORUS

so this is how it feels to be a winner  
with a lonely losin streak  
sippin champagne in that penthouse  
while my heart's out on the street

## MIDWESTERN HELL

i woke up this mornin  
beside myself again  
made a single cup of coffee  
let out the dog let him back in  
and i walked right past that picture  
cause i had no time for tears  
and drove in to the job i've worked  
for twenty seven years

**i raise my voice to the wind  
like a midwestern sail  
sweet jesus are you listenin  
sometimes i can't tell  
but i sure could use some help  
for my soul to prevail  
sweet jesus won't you save me  
from this midwestern hell**

you don't know of dyin  
til you try to live a life  
with no sunrise in the mornin  
and no stars to fill the night  
and you don't know of losin  
fill a single twist of fate  
takes your angel back to heaven  
and leaves you here to wait

## CHORUS

if you could spare the time  
for a single ray of light  
if i could be so bold  
a little peace tonight

## THERE YOU ARE

she said i need  
to get away from my old man  
he's the glue that has me  
stuck here where i am  
it wasn't me but him  
who made this bed  
he's no good for me  
just like my daddy said

**wherever you go  
there you are  
you can travel that road  
but you won't get far  
hop on a train  
take a bus or a car  
get where you're goin to  
there you are**

he said this  
job i'm workin is a joke  
i'm givin all i got  
and i'm still broke  
i see all my neighbors  
barely gettin by  
but you know i'll still be behind  
the day i die

## CHORUS

you know sometimes  
no matter how i try  
life walks by and  
pokes me in the eye  
then i look around  
to find someone to blame  
to see i'm standin all alone  
ain't that a shame

## CHORUS

sometimes i think  
the best thing for my health  
is a restrainin order filed  
against myself

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## FEELIN FINE

i'm finally back and i'll say  
well that was one hellish ride  
the weather is clearin up  
and sometimes  
you just need to go outside  
this day has taken its sweet time  
and it's good to be feelin fine

### **i've been down**

**where i fear the most  
wrestlin an unholy ghost  
now i'm safe in the arms  
of the one i love the most**

i said a few things did a thing  
or two you just shouldn't do  
got lost on the way to the truth  
and still don't have a clue  
just how i crossed that center line  
but it's good to be feelin fine

## CHORUS

sometimes we know  
not what we do  
sometimes we hurt  
we know not who

## A LITTLE HIGHER

daniel with the lion  
had no need to be afraid  
for he know the good lord  
gonna reach down to his aid  
king called out to daniel  
why that lion don't eat you  
he said i climbed a little higher  
found a better view

samson lost his strength to  
ole deiliah's tender hand  
then he cried to the good lord  
help me make one final stand  
one shove from mighty samson  
many evil men were few  
you see he climbed a little higher  
found a better view

**you gotta climb a little higher  
just press on and through the night  
you gotta climb a little higher  
when it's hard to see the light  
you just turn your eyes to heaven  
like the saints of old would do  
and you can climb a little higher  
find a better view**

pharaoh had a dream that  
made no sense to any man  
then joseph come to tell him  
hunger comin to your land  
but no one here will perish  
if you do as i say do  
you see i climbed a little higher  
found a better view

mary loved the savior  
she was ever by his side  
she walked out to the tomb to  
find no savior was inside  
when they saw that he had risen  
they asked her how she knew  
she said i climbed a little higher  
found a better view

## CHORUS

you just follow saints before you  
and you'll know just what to do  
and then you'll climb a little higher  
find a better view