
The Unrestricted

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*Joseph has just joined the military to help and serve his country, but there is an ulterior power at work. Joseph's father, Joseph Sr., has hatched a plan, one which will tear at the life and mind of our young subject. Joseph's mother and beloved fall in with this as well. This is his trek . . . This is a story being told through song.....this is a journey through hell and insanity..... I am the voyager destined to tell the saga of Joseph . . . I am your pilot to navigate and narrate. . . This is **The Unrestricted** . . .*

It is Joseph's last night at home with his family, and his best friend has joined him to sing and play music as they always have. The sight tortures Joseph's mother, as she will soon be sending her only son overseas. The day comes and it is just as hard as she imagined.

The Goodbye

(Cast away your son Mother)

Play it again, Dear Brother, Play it
Let our voices ring clear, Create such a chord
Sing from your heart, Sing from your soul
Let it flow, Even though
The thought sparks a tear
Unbeknownst to a friendship
A mother sits alone in her room

You're my boy, Dear son, My boy
My life up 'till now consisted of you
You leave me today. What if you
Never make it home, A death in the family?
Smear makeup speaks volumes to an audience
A mother back alone to her room

So drift to sleep my Mother, Darling
I go through this now for you and for Dad
So drift to sleep my mother, Darling
To become a man, I journey to this land
To earn your respect and your love

Be sure to write my brother, Write away
Be sure to sing my brother, Sing away
Write me a lullaby to play when you return

So drift to sleep my Mother, Darling
I go through this now for you and for Dad
So drift to sleep my mother, Darling
To become a man, I journey to this land
To earn your respect and your love

Joseph's mother comes home from the ceremony where she had left her son and goes to her husband for comfort. Joseph Sr. tells her of a plan he has hatched and how to make it work. All that Joseph makes shall be theirs, and they will keep him in harm's way as long as possible to earn what they feel they deserve for raising him.

Darling, Mother

(Joseph, Take the wheel)

“Darling” he says to me
“Joseph, My boy has gone missing
A tear breaks the brim on the windows of blue and of grey
“Don't you worry Darling”
He says once again, Repeating this blasphemy
“He's gone away, to fight another day”

“Come to me Darling, and pray”

His soul will be lost to the damned
His body earns what we can spend
This word of caution on deaf ears
A life he builds won't find shelter here

“Could we capture this thought?
Will he depart before we are caught?”

As Joseph gets closer to his destination, an Arab city, he falls asleep with his head on the window, only to be woken by his commanding officer in a fit of panic.

A Propeller's Lullaby

(Wake Up Son)

Awake through the night
As the face bounces on the window pane
Eyes are wide
Deconstructing thoughts in his brain

“BOY! Get your ass up! Get down to your knees!
Help with the gear, We're landing, you see!”

Suit up
We fly by night to fight tonight
Strap it down
Protect yourself, Protect your men,
Your manhood has begun

His memory flashes

Second nature is a joke in times like these
His mind runs blank, Draws fire in disbelief

On a routine patrol of the city, Joseph becomes separated from the group. He is sure that death is near

for he feels as though someone is following closely behind.

Lost and Alone

(Follow the sunset, Dear boy)

I'm now, Out here alone
Terror grips the undertones
Can someone save me?
Separated
Lost in another world
Searching for shelter
Someone lurks
Seems like they're shadowing
Somewhere behind me
Cradle my gun
I just stand and wait
They're coming out, Coming at me
Decide right now, Where I belong
Sit out, Turn towards the sunset
Like a photograph
Follow it 'till I find help
I thought I'd die here alone
At the hands of those
Who wish for nothing more
Oh Dear Lord, I want to stay alive. . .
Through this
Let me live another day
For my girl and my family
Oh Dear lord
I want to stay alive. . .

After finding his way back to his company's encampment, he sits down to write a letter to his betrothed. She is his shining light and his one true love. Surely she will understand what he feels. He is dreaming of death and hate and it shakes his very foundation. He misses her so.

Beside Me

Lately it seems
I can't find the reason behind these dreams
Tempting me
Underestimating glory in the way she sings
Even if the tide should fade
I'll return just to see your face
And now I can't breathe without you
Now I can't see without you beside me
Holding me up when I am weak
Beside me, You bring out the best in me

Relish in these melodies
For it won't be long 'till I concede

Constantly
I'm haunted by the context of these dreams
Conversations running rampant over me
Redefining me

You seem to be the only one who can make me
Re-examine myself, My beliefs
Cross the barrier between the seas
That separate our tragedy

Even if the tide should fade
I'll return just to see your face

And now I can't breathe without you
Now I can't see without you beside me
Holding me up when I am weak
Beside me, You bring out the best in me

Relish these melodies
For it won't be long 'till I concede

As time goes by, more and more of Joseph's money is being taken. Joseph is still blind to this as he is having trouble of his own. His commanders have turned to blood lust and have gone into the now partially occupied city to reap revenge for their losses. Joseph comes across a family and his superior officers say one word: Execute.

Eyes Wide

(An internal Catastrophe)

A shadow creeps tonight
In the hazel grey moonlight
A vision of white
Before a flash blinds my eyes

Just a family lay before
Just an innocent little one
Shaking uncontrollably
Holding tight their son
Stopped, Silent, A declaration of faith
Can they survive
Will they rely
On this heart, It's grown too cold

Eyes wide
Leap across your face
Filling empty space
Will it be enough?
Eyes wide
A childhood displaces

By the violence of this place
Will it be enough?

Orders received through the intercom
Target deceased my job complete

. A Murderer

After following the order and executing the family, Joseph breaks. The guilt is overpowering. All he wanted to do was earn a life for his future wife and respect from his family. His head swirls as the enemy sees the atrocities of the army and advances. Joseph just sits down, head in hands, and takes a look at himself.

A Crisis of Conscience Pt. 1

(The Doubt Inside)

With this blood on hand I tread
The sands of time and space it seems
Just to witness it again
Ugly humanity
I've seen far too much to plan
A life ahead
All these battles have now bled
Into monstrosity

What have I become?
A murderer?
...yes.....A murderer

I've seen far too much to plan
A life ahead
I'm just killing on command
For a president
I've loved far too little
And I've cared not enough
Until now
No more following
I've given up

What have I become?
A murderer?
...yes.....A murderer

I can hear them shouting
They're coming for this monster
Fire away son, Fire away

Joseph begins to recede into himself and the pressure, guilt, stress all build on him like weights, tearing down his soul. He has been sending and receiving letters back and forth to home. His father continues to tell him about the oath that he needs to recite whenever he feels like he can't make it.

The Letter Home

(Hello, Darling Mother, Hello)

Ink slowly covers the paper
In a mask that it shields from the light
I miss you once again, remembering what you said
A tapestry of words you wielded
My life consisted of you
Did you tell them of all that I've said
Of the places I've been, Of the things that I did
Tell her I love her, Tell her I care
And I see her at night in my prayers
I'm waiting for her

If it wouldn't matter
I'd come home to my love and my kin
But he gave me an oath to recite when I'm alone
I'll fight 'till they need me no more
Then I'll come home

But she said she'd write a lifetime
For the chance I might be dead
I'd come back for her, She draws me in

Ignoring the sound of the gun battle before us
I write this tonight for my family to witness
I'll be awake for awhile
The light will not fade for awhile

But she said she'd write a lifetime
For the chance I might be dead
I'd come back for her, She draws me in

I'll write again soon
Please tell her I'll be back again soon
And mom, dad . . .
I love you

As the notes get more and more desperate from Joseph, the money becomes more and more tempting. The more danger he is in, the more the government pays him. This is what his father and mother are working toward. Worried that Sarah, his love, will tell him what is going on, Joseph's parents welcome her to their home to talk with her and offer her a piece of the prize. She thinks and then accepts, for she has found someone to comfort her while he is gone. A little money would sit nicely with her new lover. Joseph's parents unfold the plan to her.

The Plot Unfolds

(Welcome, Sarah, Welcome)

We'll hide all of these things
These secrets we hide inside
What Joseph doesn't know
Won't hurt him, Won't know we lied
But watch out my dear

For these wounds severe
There's nothing left to do but wait
We'll see him home in a crate

What he can't hear
Earns us the key
His money, Ours to keep
Gullibility
His downfall

Now tell good Sarah news
The plan we've hatched, She'll get her cut
Just keep him over there
Split three ways just isn't fair
He needs to gain some more
To make it worth our while
A son's life lost
But money reconciles

What he can't hear
Earns us the key
His money, Ours to keep
Gullibility
His downfall

As Joseph receives letter after letter from home telling him of how proud they are of him and how courageous he must continue to be, his burden becomes even greater. He signs on for another three months of hell to serve his country. While checking the perimeter one night, he comes across a young boy of about six holding a large gun much larger than his own fragile frame. Joseph is stopped in his tracks, not sure what to do.

A Crisis of Conscience Pt.2

Headfirst into the darkness
Onward through the abyss
I search for sheltered comfort
No stock in times like this

There is no life in eyes
Blue and cold, It's what you beg for
There is no time for lies
Ending this is what you pray for

Shrouded in secrecy
Amidst the men I know
Black faces, hearts the same it seems
My doubt begins to grow

There is no life in eyes
Blue and cold, It's what you beg for
There is no time for lies
Ending this is what you pray for
A child's tear breaks jumps the eye

Touches me, It's what he prayed for
Clutching his hands for life
Mercy is what he begged for

Innocence means nothing when it comes to this
Common sense and gullibility contend
Ignorance means something when it comes to this
Ignorance is killing for a president

After his killing of the small child and as his missions become darker, Joseph begins to break under the pressure. He is hallucinating, not able to handle the gravity of the situation. His superiors are starting to notice this as well. One day, Joseph goes to his commanding officer and tells him of what he is feeling.

The Descent

(Madness sets In)

I've branded myself
With this image of beast
Ironic it is
For I'm slave to machine
Just drifting away
In this sandy haze . . .

Puddles of crimson pool around me
I'm blinded to them, I am a machine
A soul crusher
Devourer
So they tell me
"Accidents" breed casualties
A cost of this war
But don't question me
I follow the machine

Light flashes
I move, So agile in the sun
"This is for fighting, This is for fun"
Alone . . .
No one here to comfort me
All I need do is follow the bodies
Back home to my betrothed
Back home where we are still numb
Pull me out captain, I'm coming undone

I've Come Undone

Joseph's superiors grow worried over his increasingly erratic and strange behavior and eventually have him taken before a doctor to be evaluated. He is labeled mentally unstable for battle and is put on a plane ride home to his family and his love. He is ecstatic to get there and start the life he has been building over the last eight months.

The Flight Home

(On My Way, Darling)

Son

It seems they've brought you here
This evening
A victim of our own lost cause
The war
Defeating it was never an option
You're the worst I've seen so far
You'll be sent home, Your name now large
"Honorable Discharge"

Board the plane, head for home
Board this freedom flight
A family awaits you back there
Sincerely, The chief of staff
Wishes you the best of favor
Board this freedom flight, tonight
You'll be home soon

I wait for motion
I'm curious, I see nothing moving
A lot empty, there's no one there
Family and girl kept in the dark
A surprise for me to share
Can I go to her now?
My future wife
Welcomed into her arms on this night
I'll be better off real soon
She'll be better off when I come home

This drive breeds anticipation
But what is this I see?
A car blocks my entry
It's hard for me to breathe
I know this vehicle . . .

Joseph recognizes the car outside as his commanding officer's. He hoped that they wouldn't ruin the surprise, but Joseph doesn't care at this point. As he enters the house, he sees a sight: Sarah in bed with the officer. She jumps up and tries to explain, but Joseph is having none of it. He asks how long and she tells him over seven months; just after Joseph had left. He flies into a fit of rage and starts screaming at her.

You've Crippled Me

Longing for acceptance is heresy
At least in your mind
Your finger fights the trigger which coincides
With emptiness found inside
Anger is the one deciding factor
To negate all you'll be
Caught a glimpse of Linda Blair
The character portrayed is inside of me

And if I caught you at a bad time
Allow me to proceed
With all the jealousy
The jealousy I've found in me
And even though I know
You will never see the same as me
I hope these words have crippled you
The way you've crippled me

Now the clouds have faded
And it's useless trying to forget me
The open wounds have healed and
My eyes have shed enough, now I can see
Take a look inside yourself
The truth is in there waiting to haunt you
Every step you take you'll remember this face
And there's nothing you can do

And if I caught you at a bad time
Allow me to proceed
With all the jealousy
The jealousy I've found in me
And even though I know
You will never see the same as me
I hope these words have crippled you
The way you've crippled me

Joseph struggles and pulls his army issue long knife from his sheath on the back of his belt. Sarah sees this and drops to her knees, begging for forgiveness. The officer in the bed steps out and tries to stop Joseph but is too slow; the knife cuts through his throat like butter as Joseph comes down on him in an arc of power.

Sarah pleads and begins to tell the plan of which his parents had hatched. Joseph listens intently, never thinking for a moment of mercy but only needing to hear the end before he can finish what he has started.

Confession Pt. 1

(The Truth behind Truths)

Hold it right there
There's a loss of blood and motion
If you could just wait
I could explain and I might be forgiven
They told me of this
A plan, I wished to play part in
All of this you've built
They've stolen and utterly squandered it

But you . . . You were my baby?
You know you were my baby

I've got a clue
What is it an officer should do?
General says stop

But I answer no more to the top
Naked lies here
Shaking, As death grips his mind
I trusted you all, I have no need for your kind

But you . . . You were my baby?
You know you were my baby

Crimson and slick now
Take this ring
It slides so easy
I bought this thing
Before I left...
Now there's no turning back
Press on young soldier
There's work to be done

With the ring he bought on her cold and crimson hand, Joseph sets out for home with one thing on his mind. Just like over there, he thinks to himself: just another order from the top. I've built a life which they have taken. Everyone is accountable. One word: Execute.

Unrestricted

Why didn't I read through the lines?
I could've found a way to forgive all the lies,
Now the cross that I bear can withstand no more wear
And the trials of those seem to break through my head,
All the struggles and shouting are heightened by my doubting,
And now . . .

Grace the walls with this substance that brings just a thimble full of good intention,
"Welcome back" you said, You never loved me quite as much as when I was away,
Disgrace you labeled me
The feeling I'm the only one left,
Relates to the fact that the unit was left,
And now family and friends take from me like I'm dead,
And the ones who are close seem to take the most,
I feel used, I feel drained, I feel doubt, I feel shame

Grace the walls with this substance that brings just a thimble full of good intention,
"Welcome back" you said, You never loved me quite as much as when I was away,
Disgrace you labeled me,
And now while I dwell in my doubt,
I am torn at the seams by this family,
You never loved me . . . You never loved me

As Joseph continues to stab the now dead bodies of his family, still screaming "You never loved me," the police show up and take him down. The walls have a fresh coat of scarlet and the family will steal no more. Joseph gets his guaranteed speedy trial in which he is condemned. Now two weeks later, the time has come.

The Confession Pt.2

(Ready yourself for Judgement)

Son

Do you have much to say?

Not really father

Am I getting in the way?

I feel for you boy, I do

But what is a father to do?

Nothing please

Just sit with me

Tell me what I've done

I'm lucid enough

The chains are undone

I'm sorry

Penance would be welcomed

I grant you that wish

Hold on my son

There's not much left of this

Then you're done

Now there's nothing left to do

Godspeed my son, Peace be with you

Joseph steps out of his cell, the long hallway ahead, and the light beckons. Nothing a needle won't heal.

The Final Walk

(The Last Goodbye)

Search me now for this

A soul which has left

I walk this final mile

I breathe my final breaths

Remembering...

Roses in the summer

Your face so pristine

I miss you...

And I'm sorry

Eyes growing dim now

The prick that sends me home

My family behind me

In front of me, Alone

Remembering...

A guitar chord

And a song soared

I miss you...

And I'm sorry

Chains clink

The dead man has walked

My mind draws a blank

My eyes fill with haze

Can't remember...

So cold

And I'm scared

I'll miss you

And I'm sorry...

A man in white

Icy fingers check my throat

Not yet

I never got to tell her I'm