

MIA RIDDLE

TUMBLE AND DRAG

ALL MUSIC AND LYRICS © 2008
M MANDIBLE MUSIC, ASCAP

HURRICANE

THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS
ABOUT ME YOU DON'T WANT TO
KNOW, BUT I'M GONNA TELL
YOU ANYWAYS CAUSE YOU'RE
ALREADY FIXIN' TO GO
THERE'S A LONG AND WINDING
ROAD BEHIND ME, AND ONE UP
AHEAD, BUT I RECKON YOU
MUST HAVE SEEN EM' BOTH
SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY GONE
AND LEFT THIS BED

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY
NIGHT AROUND ABOUT TWO
MONTHS AGO, I SAW A MAN I
NEVER SEEN BEFORE ON UP
THE ROAD
HE HAD EYES THAT BURNED
LIKE CANDLES AND A TOUCH
JUST LIKE A GLOVE - WELL I
RECKON THAT'S THE MOMENT
THAT I COULD'VE FELL IN LOVE

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR
RUNNING SCARED, LIKE THE
HURRICANE IS AT YOUR DOOR
YOU'LL STAND SHAKING ON
YOUR ROOFTOP WHILE THE
WATER'S RISING THROUGH THE
FLOOR

THERE WAS A MINUTE, MAYBE
TWO WHEN WE WERE CLOSE
ENOUGH TO TASTE
AND I'D RATHER TAKE A
HURRICANE THAN LET ALL THAT
GO TO WASTE
THERE'S A MILLION THINGS WE
TELL OURSELVES THAT WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO DO
BUT I SWEAR I'VE NEVER MET
ANOTHER MAN COMES CLOSE TO
YOU

CITY SONG

IF YOU'D ONLY HOLD ME DOWN,
ALL THIS MYSTERY WE'VE
FOUND WOULD VANISH IN THE
FEELING OF THE FLESH
BUT IT'S YOUR VANISHING ACT,
DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE COMING
BACK, AND THE WOUND OF THE
IMPOSSIBILITY IS EVER FRESH

THERE'S SNOW ON THE GROUND
THE WHITE SKY, AND THE
SOUND OF THE CITY CALLING
YOU TO LEAVE EVERYTHING YOU
THOUGHT YOU KNEW

PLEASE BEWARE OF WHAT YOU
DO. WHEN IT STARTS TO CALL

TO YOU, I MYSELF FOLLOWED
THOSE SIRENS LONG AGO
I WAS BLINDED AND
SUCCUMBED TO THIS
UNFORGOTTEN LOVE, AND
BEFORE I KNEW IT, STRANDED
ALL ALONE

SO I PICKED APART YOUR SEAMS
BLEW AWAY YOUR SMOKY
SCREENS
I AM CRUSHED LIKE A PAPER
CUP BY THE IMPOSSIBILITY

OPEN WIDE

PAPERWEIGHTS AND BROKEN
DISHES, ORANGE PEELS, THE
WINDOW'S OPEN WIDE TO LET
THE BIRDS IN
THEY ARE CIRCLING AROUND,
AROUND MY HEAD
AND THERE'S NO SLEEPING
THROUGH THE FEATHERS
OPEN WIDE, THE WINDOW'S
ALWAYS OPEN WIDE ROUND
HERE

TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES,
CAUSE THE STEAM WILL MAKE
IT HARD TO SEE, AND THERE'S
NOTHING TO LOOK AT EXCEPT
THE WALLS THE BIRDS AND ME;
AND IF YOU DO THE MATH, IT
STILL COMES OUT BEHIND THE
BED, OR UNDER IT, I THINK I
DROPPED SOMETHING.

BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR
ENDEAVORS I'M SURE YOU'LL
BE QUITE COMFORTABLE IN
JERSEY CITY OR WHEREVER
THE HELL YOU'RE GOING.

IT'S TOXIC, THE EVENTUALITY
OF STIRRING UP THE OPEN
SPACES TILL THE DUST
COMPLETELY BLOCKS THE SUN;
AND WE DON'T SLEEP BUT
DREAM IN DUSTY MONOCHROME
ABOUT THAT SPACE, THE OPEN
WIDE OUTSIDE THE OPEN WIDE
WINDOW.

ADVENTURES

TEARING THE WINGS OFF
MOTHS AND FLIES
LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW, I

WATCH THE POOL FILL UP WITH
SAND
TAKE A DRINK AND TRY TO
STAND
PULL THE CURTAINS SHUT AND
PEEK
OUT THE WINDOW TO THE
STREET

TAKE ME, ADVENTURES, I'M
READY TO GO
I'VE GOT MY BODY BAG; I'M
TWENTY BELOW
WATCH THE FLOORBOARDS
CAVING IN
AND THE ROOFTOP'S GETTING
THIN
AND THE WINDOWS ALL SHUT
TIGHT
BUT THE WALLS LET IN THE
LIGHT

TAKE A BREATH, IT'S EASY
I WON'T MOVE, TILL YOU MOVE
ME. I'M A STONE, AND SINKING
TAKE A BREATH, IT'S EASY

IT'S AN OLD DISEASE
A COMMON MALADY
IT PROPELS YOUR LITTLE RAFT
FLOATS YOUR SINKING CRAFT

SUITCASE

THE HOUSE IS A MESS
BUT I'VE EMPTIED THE FRAMES
TAKE THESE FIRST STEPS
TOWARDS RETURNING A GAZE

MY GOODNESS YOU'RE TALL
AND MY HEART IS SO BRUISED
I TAKE IT SO LIGHT CAUSE
THERE'S NOTHING TO LOSE

OH DEAR, YOU JUST BLEW IN
MISSED THE PART WHERE THE
STORY BEGINS
I CAN TELL YOU, IF YOU WANT
TO KNOW

WE DEAL IN EXTREMES
CAUSE THE RIDE MOVES REAL
FAST
SHOWING THREADBARE AND
SEAMS
SO IT'S SURE NOT TO LAST

YOU'RE SWEET, WITH SUITCASE
IN HAND
WROTE IT ALL DOWN SO I MIGHT
UNDERSTAND
I CAN TELL YOU, IF YOU WANT
TO KNOW

ECHO

CARVED IN THE TABLETOP I
SAW THE HISTORY OF THIS
PLACE; FORK AND SPOON,
SPILLS OFF OF THOUSANDS OF
PLATES

DO YOU FEEL THIS TOO?
ALL THESE ANCIENT SHOES
WEAR DOWN THE STAIRS ON
THE WAY TO YOUR ROOM
I HAD A LOT TO DRINK I GUESS

PASSED OUT IN MY PROM DRESS
WITH ALL THE LIGHTS ON, THE
PHONE OFF OF THE HOOK
AND DIDN'T WAKE UNTIL I FELT
AN ICY CHILL, AND THOUGH I
NEVER GOT A GOOD LOOK....

AND ON THE CEILING THERE
HANGS A YELLOWING LIGHT
ITS SHIMMER IS GONE BUT THE
VERY SAME LAMP LIT YOUR
NIGHTS

I WISH AND WONDER, I'M
SINKING UNDER, YOU'RE ALL
THERE TO TELL ME THE RIGHT
WAY TO GO
EVERY FOOSTEP, EVERY
HEARTBEAT, EVERY WORD THAT
YOU SAY WILL ECHO

THE WINDOWS ARE WAVY
GLASS, AND IN THIS SAME SPOT
I KNOW YOU WATCHED THE
STREET MOVING PAST, YOU
HUNG OUT THE SAME WINDOW

(THE GREAT STATE OF) **TEXAS**

SPENT MY LIFE ALL A'RAMBLIN'
FROM THE BEACHES OF
CALIFORNIA
TO THE CITIES OF MOTHER
ENGLAND
COULDN'T FIND NOWHERE TO
STAY

BUT THE LOVE MY HEART WAS
SEARCHIN'
WAS CLOSER STILL TO HOME
HE'D BEEN HIDING OUT IN
TEXAS
AND NOW I'LL NEVER BE ALONE

THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS
HAD NOTHING THAT I REALLY
NEED
BUT THIS SWEET NATIVE SON,
THIS TALL DARK HANDSOME
ONE, IS ENOUGH, LORD, TO
MAKE ME BELIEVE

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET
THE SOUND
IT ECHOES IN THE STREET
MY TRUE LOVE HAILS FROM
TEXAS
THERE'S NO PLACE THAT I'D
RATHER BE

LEFT MY DARLIN' BACK IN
AUSTIN
STANDING LONESOME IN THE
LIGHTS
NOW I'M ON A PLANE TO
BROOKLYN
WITH A HEART FULL OF
HEAVENLY NIGHTS

GRANDCHILDREN

I WATCHED MY GRANDCHILDREN
TURN IN TO GRANDPARENTS;
THEY LOOK AS TIRED AS THE
MOON
I TRIED TO TELL THEM BUT,
THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN AND SO
NOW THEY'RE FILLING UP THE
ROOM

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO KNOW
WHAT TO DO; YOU SHOOT AN
ARROW AND HOPE IT GETS
THROUGH.

I SOLD IT ALL, EVERY
TYPEWRITER, ROLLERSKATE,
CHAFING DISH AND YOUR VIOLIN
AND BOUGHT THAT TRAILER,
THE ONE THAT YOU SEE HERE,
AND SINCE THAT DAY I'VE BEEN
TRAVELING.

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO KNOW
WHAT TO DO,
YOU SAY YOU WANT THE TRUTH,
BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU DO.

AND WHEN YOU SEE ME, DON'T
FORGET TO SMILE.

THESE THINGS ARE TALL AS
THE SYCAMORE TREES AND
WHEN THEY LOSE THEIR
LEAVES THEN THEY POISON UP
THE GROUND
THE MYTH WILL DIE WITH ME, I
HOPE IT DIES WITH ME, YOU'RE
BETTER CARRYING ON ALONE.

SNEAK

"GO TO BED
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE
AWAKE WHEN IT'S THIS LATE"
YOU'D SNEAK OUT ANYWAY
ALONG THE FLOORBOARDS,
CAREFUL SO THEY DON'T CREAK
HEAD AGAINST THE DOOR, TO
HEAR THEM SPEAK

WHEN THE QUIET OVERTOOK
THE NOISE
DOWN THE HALL, THE STAIRS,
THE SQUARES OF STREETLIGHT
PAINT THE FLOOR, THEN OUT
THE DOOR

THE FROST AIR BITES YOUR
LIPS. IT'S SIXTY PACES TO THE
STREET, THEN SEVENTY
TO THE TREE WHERE YOU MEET

WHEN YOU CAN'T STAND THE
COLD BE BRAVE, PAST THE
GRAVEYARD, TIPTOE THEN HOME
THEY'LL NEVER KNOW

BIRD OF PARADISE

WELL I MISSED THOSE
FORMATIVE YEARS, THE BOOKS
AND FAMILIAR PLACES,
SPEECHES AND SONGS IN YOUR
EARS, YOUR MOTHER'S AND
FATHER'S FACES

THEY CARRIED YOU IN TO THE
HOUSE, YOU HID IN THE
SMALLEST CUPBOARDS. NO ONE
COULD MAKE YOU COME OUT
YOU SHRUNK TILL COMPLETELY
COVERED

ALL THIS NIGHT STILL STALKS
YOUR MIND. BIRD OF PREY/BIRD
OF PARADISE, CAN YOU DECIDE?

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDED YOU
SO, YOUR YOUTH AND YOUR
MANY TALENTS. THE KIDS IN
THE YARD KNEW SOME MORE.
YOU NEVER COULD KEEP YOUR
BALANCE

BUT YOU LIKE A GOOD MYSTERY
IT MAKES IT SO INTERESTING
AND ALL THOSE INDELICATE
THINGS- WHO COULD STAND UP
TO THESE?

BOTH WAYS

TO BE TONGUE-TIED, AND
BRIGHT-EYED, AND BLUE-SKIED
DON'T HAPPEN TO ME., NO,
DON'T HAPPEN TO ME THESE
DAYS. WHY CAN'T WE HAVE IT
BOTH WAYS?

SERVED ON A PLATTER WITH A
BIG, SHARP KNIFE; OR KEPT
REFRIGERATED FOR A LONG
SHELF LIFE; I DON'T WANT
EITHER WAY. NO I DON'T WANT
EITHER WAY, WHY CAN'T WE
HAVE IT BOTH WAYS?

IT'S EITHER THE OCEAN OR IT'S
CLEAR BLUE LAKES. THE
TUMBLE AND DRAG AND
SEASICK BELLY ACHES. BUT
WHO'D TRADE THE ROUGH FOR
THE SMOOTH? WITH NO HOPE
OF A TUMBLE OR A DRAG?

I'VE HAD TEN THOUSAND
CHANCES TO CHANGE THIS
THING, MELT THE ICE AROUND
ME IN TO MUDDY SPRING, I
KNOW IT'S TOO LATE, OH, I
KNOW IT'S TOO LATE. WE'LL
NEVER HAVE IT BOTH WAYS.