

I Come From by Ordinary Elephant

Eggshell white
Paint in your hair
Dirt beneath your nails
Years on the back of your hands

Some things can wash clean
And some, will stick around

Blades of St. Augustine
Scattered across the driveway
It still feels like Sunday
When I hear a cajun band

*Every chamber of my heart, bears the mark
Of what I come from
Sometimes our world falls apart
But I guess that's what it takes
To find the part that cannot break*

Wooden table on a concrete slab
The fish were red and the crabs were blue
Every five gallon bucket
Carries a piece of you

Some things can wash clean
And some, will stick around

Split beer and a deck of cards
An old bed sheet for a tablecloth
Some of those days are lost
But most I still come across

*Every chamber of my heart, bears the mark
Of what I come from
Sometimes our world falls apart
But I guess that's what it takes
To find the part that cannot break*

I come from hard work
I come from never giving up
I come from you

I built cities from sidewalk chalk
Sailed the world in a cardboard boat
I hope I always dream that big

I put the whole damn kitchen
In every pot of cold mud soup
I hope I always put everything I got into
what I do

Some things can wash clean
And some, will stick around

*Every chamber of my heart, bears the mark
Of what I come from
Sometimes our world falls apart
But I guess that's what it takes
To find the part that cannot break*

We cannot break

Shadow by Ordinary Elephant

There's a pizza crust in the parking lot
And a black bird with a new batch of friends
The engine's off, my seatbelt's still on
Gathering up the energy to go in

There's a shopping cart, in the 4 o'clock sun
Telling the light where to land
Fingers back and forth between the steering
wheel and the seat
I wish that cart could talk to my hands

*I know where to go, I don't know how
I am just a shadow trying to get off the
ground*

Grocery store greeter, bright yellow vest so
you can see her
Waiting to be hospitable
I do my best to reciprocate and fake a frugal
smile
I'm not sure who's more uncomfortable

The produce is impossible, can't make
decisions on a good day
What am I supposed to do now
All these artificial people, in this artificial
light
Hell I don't feel like myself anyhow

*I know where to go, I don't know how
I am just a shadow trying to get off the
ground*

I see myself, in the freezer door glass
I see myself in what's behind it
Suspended on a shelf, waiting to expire
Or be brought back to life

There's a tap on my shoulder, a concerned
voice in my ear
"Is there something I can help you find?"
I guess I look confused, or a little bit lost
Or maybe it's just how I look in this light

*I know where to go, I don't know how
I am just a shadow trying to get off the
ground*

*I know where to go, I don't know how
I am just a shadow trying to get off the
ground*

Another Day by Ordinary Elephant

I fell asleep with the TV on
Hand around the telephone
Thinking about you

Came close, but I got scared
Didn't think you should have to bear
Witness
To something, something like this

Another day, another dollar spent
On shit made to make me forget
Because I can't stop

They say it's do or die man
But I forget what I am
Fighting
For, who am I fighting for

Cause looking in the mirror
I am barely reminded
Of somebody I used to know
You say you got what I need
To keep me from crossing
This line I toe

So I will try to keep the medicine down
But it's hard when I'm alone in this house
And I'm not sure I wanna stick around

I could change if I wanted to
But what I want's got nothing to do
With what I need

What I need is a wildfire
As loud and bright as a gospel choir
To burn me
Down, back to something good

Cause looking in the mirror
I am barely reminded
Of somebody I used to know
You say you got what I need
To keep me from crossing
This line I toe

So I will try to keep the medicine down
But it's hard when I'm alone in this house
And I'm not sure I wanna stick around

You know all my promises
They just end up as good intentions
Because what I say can never seem
To hold my attention

So I'm trying to keep the medicine down
But I'm desperate here in this house
I'm trying to want to stick around
For you

Rust Right Through by Ordinary Elephant

There's an old yellow house sitting on my
dash
In a picture I took, sunlight for a flash
The whole family out front
Cause that's what you do

Sitting on concrete steps I grew up climbing
I take em two at a time now
But I still reach for the rail
Cause that's what you do

*There's a comfort in keeping and keeping to
a path
Doing what I know and knowing what I have
The safety of a rail gives my hands
something to do
But one day this rail is gonna rust right
through
One day it's gonna rust right through*

There are places to go and milestones to
meet
Each one that I reach says something about
me
It's what they want to hear
Cause that's what I do

I've kept my head down, kept my mouth
shut
Anything to keep me from screwing up
Holding on to their version of me
Cause that's what I do

*There's a comfort in keeping and keeping to
a path
Doing what I know and knowing what I have
The safety of a rail gives my hands
something to do
But one day this rail is gonna rust right
through
One day it's gonna rust right through*

Middle of this highway, same old drive
In what might be, the middle of my life
I'm where I am supposed to be
That's what they say

When I doubt that what I have to say could
ever count for much
Giving in to what I really need feels like
giving up
But I'm done giving up on myself
Holding on to what they say

*There's a comfort in keeping and keeping to
a path
Doing what I know and knowing what I have
The safety of a rail gives my hands
something to do
But one day this rail is gonna rust right
through
One day it's gonna rust right through*

Best of You by Ordinary Elephant

Over in the corner
Like an old barstool
He held me up
Right when I needed him to

He said "Listen up my friend
Let me tell you what I know
You can wish you were someone else
Then you gotta let it go

Cause that's a good way
To get a bad start
I don't care what straw you drew
You gotta let it make the best of you

We ain't playing a game
We ain't running a race
It's a way of life, boy
You just gotta find your place

I used to be like you
Would sit here in the dark
Watch 'em in the spotlight
And pick myself apart

But that's a good way
To get a bad start
I don't care what straw you drew
You gotta let it make the best of you

You don't need
To bring down the house
If you can bring 'em inside
When they bring down the lights"

Then the room went dark
I could barely see his face
Picked up his old Martin box
Ready for the stage

He said "Let me ask you this
Whatcha gonna do?
Will you pick yourself up
Or find a crack to fall through?

Cause that's a good way
To get a bad start
I don't care what straw you drew
You gotta let it make the best of you

You don't need a good way
To get a bad start
I don't care what straw you drew
You gotta let it make the best of you"

Harriet by Ordinary Elephant

In the days when horses rode
And man made the wind
The north became our leader
When the west turned its back on the sun
again
We moved like whittled water
Sped by narrowed stone
In the days when horses rode

Our feet squeezed their barrel chests
Their feet barrelled through the dirt
No line between man and beast
And we were one with the earth
Down narrow mountain passes
You'd never made it through alone
In the days when horses rode

*Oh my sweet Harriet
She turned like a rhyme
That you hear and can't forget
Faster than your last drink goes dry
Fast enough to save your life*

Unbroken spirits carried home
Broken men & broken bones
Hooves and heroes gathered
In the middle of the main road
Breaking the news we'd know for weeks
To women and children with tear-stained
cheeks
In the days when horses rode

*Oh my sweet Harriet
She turned like a rhyme
That you hear and can't forget
Faster than your last drink goes dry
Fast enough to save your life*

Me and my mare went back to work
Tending the farm and the pasture
Till she walked alone past the boundary line
I knew not to follow after
there were things that were hard to believe
And things that you had to
In the days when horses rode

*Oh my sweet Harriet
She turned like a rhyme
That you hear and can't forget
Faster than your last drink goes dry
Fast enough to save your life*

Honest by Ordinary Elephant

You said "Is someone gonna come to my school?
Will I have to hide underneath my desk?"
You shouldn't have this kind of weight
To get off your tiny chest

*I don't have all the answers
Even though you've come to think I do
And if I am being honest
I just don't want to lie to you*

TV screen is screaming
In colored pictures telling a story in black
and white
You say "Why would they do that to him?
He isn't even putting up a fight."

*I don't have all the answers
Even though you've come to think I do
And if I am being honest
I just don't want to lie to you*

Do I hide you from the headlines
Do I hide you from our past
Do I show you often enough
That you have every right to ask

You're all tucked in, and I'm reaching for the
light
You say "I don't want to sleep by myself
What if you can't hear me and I need you to
save me?"
I look at you and wonder who will save us
from ourselves

*I don't have all the answers
Even though you've come to think I do
And if I am being honest
I just don't want to lie to you
I just don't want to lie to you*

I'm Alright by Ordinary Elephant

I'm alright
My bones have served their time
I'm alright
It's you who's on my mind

Kettle whistle has the harmony
You're singing the melody
"Keeps you ever gentle on my mind"

You pour the water, pull it together
I know it's getting harder
To see me where I am

I'm alright
My bones have served their time
I'm alright
It's you who's on my mind

Clock ticking on the kitchen wall
Faucet dripping like a wake up call
To every second falling away

You talk us down, turn up the music
But I worry about you getting used to it
The radio can only go so loud

I'm alright
My bones have served their time
I'm alright
It's you who's on my mind

Doorbell ringing, third time today
I hear you whisper "it's OK
She could use some company"

I see both your faces face the truth
Of who you love becoming who you lose
I think you could use some company too

I'm alright
My bones have served their time
I'm alright
It's you who's on my mind
It's you who's on my mind

Scars We Keep by Ordinary Elephant

Excuses are easy
When everything's on the line
These Montana magpies
With their black and their white

Feathers sitting
Side by side
Bring an unknown offering
Of something we should try

Was he a monster or a martyr
It depends on who you ask
But once it's done
You can't take it back

*How can I keep my mind open
If my eyes are closed
It's hard to hide the hate
When there is no love to show
How can I nail a man up
For the color of his skin
Knock him down, make him pay
For my father's sin
I am starting to see
We are all the color of the scars we keep*

"I'll show you when you're older"
My father always said
But he never did
Get old enough for that

Every sunday afternoon
Denim shirt, cowboy hat
Out in the sun
Throwing shadows and an axe

There's a tool for every job
And a job for every man
Be careful
What you put in your hands

*How can I keep my mind open
If my eyes are closed*

*It's hard to hide the hate
When there is no love to show
How can I nail a man up
For the color of his skin
Knock him down, make him pay
For my father's sin
I am starting to see
We are all the color of the scars we keep*

These times are hard
And it's harder to heal
When where you were born
Decides what you fear

It's time to be a brother
Not my father's son
I was born to be a bigot
But that don't mean that I am one

I put my boots on just the same
And when the day is done
I pray
For you, my son

*How can I keep my mind open
If my eyes are closed
It's hard to hide the hate
When there is no love to show
How can I nail a man up
For the color of his skin
Knock him down, make him pay
For my father's sin
I am starting to see
We are all the color of the scars we keep*

Jenny and James by Ordinary Elephant

Jenny was a good woman
James was a gentleman
They pushed hard against the pushback
They loved liked porcelain

It was a work of art
That got stronger under fire
Got judged for being what it was
It was worth the fight

Don't forget what you come from
Don't forget what you come from

Jenny showed up at sixteen
James was born right down the street
To a name that told him
Who he should be

There were things you didn't do
And people you didn't talk to
But Jenny and James
They didn't care who knew

Don't forget what you come from
Don't forget what you come from

Jenny kept a diary
James just kept it in
Everybody's got their own way
Of dealing with where they've been

They left before you got here
But she left her words to read
And I'll give you her name to remind you
Of who you can be

Don't forget what you come from
Don't forget what you come from