

# Joni Mitchell, *Blue* (1971)

## Lyrics<sup>1</sup>

### 1. All I Want

I am on a lonely road and I am traveling  
 Traveling, traveling, traveling  
 Looking for something, what can it be  
 Oh I hate you some, I hate you some, I love  
     you some  
 Oh I love you when I forget about me

I want to be strong I want to laugh along  
 I want to belong to the living  
 Alive, alive, I want to get up and jive  
 I want to wreck my stockings in some juke  
     box dive  
 Do you want - do you want - do you want to  
     dance with me baby  
 Do you want to take a chance  
 On maybe finding some sweet romance with  
     me baby  
 Well, come on

All I really really want our love to do  
 Is to bring out the best in me and in you too  
 All I really really want our love to do  
 Is to bring out the best in me and in you  
 I want to talk to you, I want to shampoo you  
 I want to renew you again and again  
 Applause, applause - Life is our cause  
 When I think of your kisses my mind see-saws  
 Do you see - do you see - do you see how you  
     hurt me baby  
 So I hurt you too  
 Then we both get so blue

I am on a lonely road and I am traveling  
 Looking for the key to set me free  
 Oh the jealousy, the greed is the unraveling  
 It's the unraveling

And it undoes all the joy that could be  
 I want to have fun, I want to shine like the sun  
 I want to be the one that you want to see  
 I want to knit you a sweater  
 Want to write you a love letter  
 I want to make you feel better  
 I want to make you feel free  
 I want to make you feel free

### 2. My Old Man

My old man  
 He's a singer in the park  
 He's a walker in the rain  
 He's a dancer in the dark  
 We don't need no piece of paper  
 From the city hall  
 Keeping us tied and true  
 My old man  
 Keeping away my blues

He's my sunshine in the morning  
 He's my fireworks at the end of the day  
 He's the warmest chord I ever heard  
 Play that warm chord, play and stay baby  
 We don't need no piece of paper  
 From the city hall  
 Keeping us tied and true  
 My old man  
 Keeping away my blues

But when he's gone  
 Me and them lonesome blues collide  
 The bed's too big  
 The frying pan's too wide

Then he comes home  
 And he takes me in his loving arms

<sup>1</sup> "Blue," *Joni Mitchell*, accessed December 16, 2017. <http://jonimitchell.com/music/album.cfm?id=5>.

And he tells me all his troubles  
 And he tells me all my charms  
 We don't need no piece of paper  
 From the city hall  
 Keeping us tied and true  
 No, my old man  
 Keeping away my blues

But when he's gone  
 Me and them lonesome blues collide  
 The bed's too big  
 The frying pan's too wide

My old man  
 He's a singer in the park  
 He's a walker in the rain  
 He's a dancer in the dark  
 We don't need no piece of paper  
 From the city hall  
 Keeping us tied and true  
 No, my old man  
 Keeping away my lonesome blues

### 3. Little Green

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Born with the moon in Cancer  
 Choose her a name she will answer to  
 Call her green and the winters cannot fade  
 her  
 Call her green for the children who've made  
 her  
 Little green, be a gypsy dancer

He went to California  
 Hearing that everything's warmer there  
 So you write him a letter and say "Her eyes  
 are blue"  
 He sends you a poem and she's lost to you  
 Little green he's a non-conformer

Just a little green  
 Like the color when the spring is born  
 There'll be crocuses to bring to school  
 tomorrow

Just a little green  
 Like the nights when the Northern lights  
 perform  
 There'll be icicles and birthday clothes  
 And sometimes there'll be sorrow  
  
 Child with a child pretending  
 Weary of lies you are sending home  
 So you sign all the papers in the family name  
 You're sad and you're sorry but you're not  
 ashamed  
 Little green have a happy ending

Just a little green  
 Like the color when the spring is born  
 There'll be crocuses to bring to school  
 tomorrow  
 Just a little green  
 Like the nights when the Northern lights  
 perform  
 There'll be icicles and birthday clothes  
 And sometimes there'll be sorrow

### 4. Carey

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The wind is in from Africa  
 Last night I couldn't sleep  
 Oh, you know it sure is hard to leave here  
 Carey  
 But it's really not my home  
 My fingernails are filthy, I got beach tar on my  
 feet  
 And I miss my clean white linen and my fancy  
 French cologne

Oh Carey get out your cane  
 And I'll put on some silver  
 Oh you're a mean old Daddy  
 But I like you fine

Come on down to the Mermaid Café and I will  
 Buy you a bottle of wine  
 And we'll laugh and toast to nothing and  
 smash our empty glasses down

Let's have a round for these freaks and these  
soldiers

A round for these friends of mine  
Let's have another round for the bright red  
devil

Who keeps me in this tourist town

Come on Carey get out your cane  
I'll put on some silver  
Oh you're a mean old Daddy  
But I like you

Maybe I'll go to Amsterdam  
Maybe I'll go to Rome  
And rent me a grand piano  
And put some flowers 'round my room  
But let's not talk about fare-thee-wells now  
The night is a starry dome  
And they're playin' that scratchy rock and roll  
Beneath the Matala Moon

Come on Carey get out your cane  
I'll put on some silver  
We'll go to the Mermaid Café  
Have fun tonight

The wind is in from Africa  
Last night I couldn't sleep  
Oh you know it sure is hard to leave here  
But it's really not my home

Maybe it's been too long a time  
Since I was scramblin' down in the street  
Now they got me used to that clean white  
linen  
And that fancy French cologne

Oh Carey get out your cane  
I'll put on my finest silver  
We'll go to the Mermaid Café  
Have fun tonight  
I said, Oh, you're a mean old Daddy but I like  
you  
But you're out of sight

## 5. Blue

Blue songs are like tattoos  
You know I've been to sea before  
Crown and anchor me  
Or let me sail away  
Hey Blue, here is a song for you  
Ink on a pin  
Underneath the skin  
An empty space to fill in  
Well there're so many sinking now  
You've got to keep thinking  
You can make it thru these waves  
Acid, booze, and ass  
Needles, guns, and grass  
Lots of laughs lots of laughs  
Everybody's saying that hell's the hippest way  
to go  
Well I don't think so  
But I'm gonna take a look around it though  
Blue I love you

Blue here is a shell for you  
Inside you'll hear a sigh  
A foggy lullaby  
There is your song from me

## 6. California

Sitting in a park in Paris France  
Reading the news and it sure looks bad  
They won't give peace a chance  
That was just a dream some of us had  
Still a lot of lands to see  
But I wouldn't want to stay here  
It's too old and cold and settled in its ways  
here  
Oh but California

California I'm coming home  
I'm going to see the folks I dig  
I'll even kiss a Sunset pig  
California I'm coming home

I met a redneck on a Grecian isle  
 Who did the goat dance very well  
 He gave me back my smile  
 But he kept my camera to sell  
 Oh the rogue the red red rogue  
 He cooked good omelettes and stews  
 And I might have stayed on with him there  
 But my heart cried out for you California

Oh California I'm coming home  
 Oh make me feel good rock 'n' roll band  
 I'm your biggest fan  
 California I'm coming home

Oh it gets so lonely  
 When you're walking  
 And the streets are full of strangers  
 All the news of home you read  
 Just gives you the blues  
 Just gives you the blues  
 So I bought me a ticket  
 I caught a plane to Spain  
 Went to a party down a red dirt road  
 There were lots of pretty people there  
 Reading Rolling Stone reading Vogue  
 They said "How long can you hang around?"  
 I said a week maybe two  
 Just until my skin turns brown  
 Then I'm going home to California

California I'm coming home  
 Oh will you take me as I am  
 Strung out on another man  
 California I'm coming home

Oh it gets so lonely  
 When you're walking  
 And the streets are full of strangers  
 All the news of home you read  
 More about the war  
 And the bloody changes  
 Oh will you take me as I am?  
 Will you take me as I am?  
 Will you?

## 7. This Flight Tonight

Look out the left, the captain said  
 The lights down there that's where we'll land  
 I saw a falling star burn up  
 Above the Las Vegas sands  
 It wasn't the one that you gave to me  
 That night down south between the trailers  
 Not the early one  
 That you can wish upon  
 Not the northern one  
 That guides in the sailors

Oh starlight, star bright  
 You've got the lovin' that I like all right  
 Turn this crazy bird around  
 I shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

You got the touch so gentle and sweet  
 But you've got that look so critical  
 Now I can't talk to you baby  
 I get so weak  
 Sometimes I think love is just mythical  
 Up there's a heaven  
 Down there's a town  
 Blackness everywhere and little lights shine  
 Oh blackness blackness dragging me down  
 Come on light the candle in this poor heart of  
 mine

Oh starlight, star bright  
 You've got the lovin' that I like all right  
 Turn this crazy bird around  
 I shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

I'm drinking sweet champagne  
 Got the headphones up high  
 Can't numb you out  
 Can't drum you out of my mind  
 They're playing Goodbye baby, Baby Goodbye  
 Ooh ooh love is blind  
 Up go the flaps down go the wheels  
 I hope you got your heat turned on baby  
 I hope they finally fixed your automobile

I hope it's better when we meet again baby  
 Starlight, star bright  
 You got the lovin' that I like all right  
 Turn this crazy bird around  
 I shouldn't have got on this flight tonight

## 8. River

It's coming on Christmas  
 They're cutting down trees  
 They're putting up reindeer  
 And singing songs of joy and peace  
 Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

But it don't snow here  
 It stays pretty green  
 I'm going to make a lot of money  
 Then I'm going to quit this crazy scene  
 Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I wish I had a river so long  
 I would teach my feet to fly  
 I wish I had a river I could skate away on  
 I made my baby cry

He tried hard to help me  
 You know, he put me at ease  
 And he loved me so naughty  
 Made me weak in the knees  
 Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I'm so hard to handle  
 I'm selfish and I'm sad  
 Now I've gone and lost the best baby  
 That I ever had  
 I wish I had a river I could skate away on

Oh, I wish I had a river so long  
 I would teach my feet to fly  
 I wish I had a river  
 I could skate away on  
 I made my baby say goodbye

It's coming on Christmas  
 They're cutting down trees  
 They're putting up reindeer  
 And singing songs of joy and peace  
 I wish I had a river I could skate away on

## 9. A Case of You

Just before our love got lost you said  
 "I am as constant as a northern star"  
 And I said "Constantly in the darkness  
 Where's that at?  
 If you want me I'll be in the bar"

On the back of a cartoon coaster  
 In the blue TV screen light  
 I drew a map of Canada  
 Oh Canada  
 With your face sketched on it twice  
 Oh you're in my blood like holy wine  
 You taste so bitter and so sweet

Oh I could drink a case of you darling  
 Still I'd be on my feet  
 oh I would still be on my feet

Oh I am a lonely painter  
 I live in a box of paints  
 I'm frightened by the devil  
 And I'm drawn to those ones that ain't afraid

I remember that time you told me you said  
 "Love is touching souls"  
 Surely you touched mine  
 'Cause part of you pours out of me  
 In these lines from time to time  
 Oh, you're in my blood like holy wine  
 You taste so bitter and so sweet

Oh I could drink a case of you darling  
 And I would still be on my feet  
 I would still be on my feet

I met a woman

She had a mouth like yours  
 She knew your life  
 She knew your devils and your deeds  
 And she said  
 "Go to him, stay with him if you can  
 But be prepared to bleed"

Oh but you are in my blood  
 You're my holy wine  
 You're so bitter, bitter and so sweet

Oh, I could drink a case of you darling  
 Still I'd be on my feet  
 I would still be on my feet

### 10. The Last Time I Saw Richard

The last time I saw Richard was Detroit in '68  
 And he told me all romantics meet the same  
     fate someday  
 Cynical and drunk and boring someone in  
     some dark café  
 You laugh he said you think you're immune  
 Go look at your eyes they're full of moon  
 You like roses and kisses and pretty men to  
     tell you  
 All those pretty lies pretty lies  
 When you gonna realize they're only pretty  
     lies  
 Only pretty lies just pretty lies

He put a quarter in the Wurlitzer and he  
     pushed  
 Three buttons and the thing began to whirr  
 And a bar maid came by in fishnet stockings  
     and a bow tie  
 And she said "Drink up now it's getting' on  
     time to close"  
 "Richard, you haven't really changed" I said  
 It's just that now you're romanticizing some  
     pain that's in your head  
 You got tombs in your eyes but the songs you  
     punched are dreaming

Listen, they sing of love so sweet, love so  
     sweet  
 When you gonna get yourself back on your  
     feet?  
 Oh and love can be so sweet Love so sweet

Richard got married to a figure skater  
 And he bought her a dishwasher and a coffee  
     percolator  
 And he drinks at home now most nights with  
     the TV on  
 And all the house lights left up bright  
 I'm gonna blow this damn candle out  
 I don't want nobody comin' over to my table  
 I got nothing to talk to anybody about  
 All good dreamers pass this way some day  
 Hidin' behind bottles in dark cafes dark cafes  
 Only a dark cocoon before I get my gorgeous  
     wings and fly away  
 Only a phase these dark café days