

***Where the Spirit Rests***  
**Album lyrics by Chris Eckman**  
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**1) Early Snow**

The snow came early  
And stayed long  
Deep into the spring

So much shock  
Too little awe  
Thought I'd seen everything

Didn't count on the bitterness  
Hit me unforeseen  
Didn't count on the revisionist  
History written sloppily

Silent takeovers  
Pindrop nights  
Beware  
Be dammed  
Be true to your bones

Here's where the mountains  
Crash into the sea  
Here's where the poison wrestles with wine  
Let's run, let's stay  
Just let me know where you are

They called it the big shakedown  
They called it the curse of this town  
I called it whatever first  
Came to my head

They called it the price of admission  
Said "simmer down son"  
But I didn't listen  
I called it whatever first  
Came to my head

These times are tough on love  
Tough on sex and swagger  
And tongues of silence

Rise and reach  
Gather and teach  
There's a lesson hidden

**5) Northern Lights**

A field of fireflies  
remembered  
From my youth

That's the truth and nothing but  
There are things we all gave up  
But not their essence

I know it's hard to see ahead  
But that fog is in your head  
And so is the shaking

Outside it's windswept and unkempt  
Got seastacks to our left  
Legends in the making

Northern lights  
Brought to life  
Only a fool would let them go

Northern skies  
Come alive  
How much do we really need to know?

Damned if we do,  
Damned if we don't  
These nights go phosphorescent

Luminous and ruinous  
We can count our ways back home  
On just one hand

And in the harbor town  
There's a breezeway bar  
Where we can hunker down

April is the cruelest month  
The bastard child  
Of this frozen ground

Northern lights  
Brought to life  
Only a fool would let them go

Somewhere deep  
And dark  
Inside this

They called it the big shakedown  
They called it the curse of this town  
I called it whatever first  
Came to my head

They called it the price of admission  
Said "simmer down."  
But I didn't listen  
I called it whatever first  
Came to my head

Let on, let go  
Let them ships sail  
Let on, let go  
Sometimes it's better to fail

Let on, Let go  
Beware, be damned  
Let on, let go  
Be true to your bones

Good time for takin' stock  
Still fields to sow  
Please let me know  
Let me know where you've gone

## 2) This Curving Track

It gets me home this curving track  
It gets me home this curving track  
Look towards the distance, but it don't look back  
It gets me home this curving track

Gonna til my soul, till it fears no more  
Walk up the steep steps to the 13th floor  
It gets me home this curving track

Gonna take my chances in a better light  
Will take my chances in a better light  
Gonna run the gamut and subvert the night  
Will take my chances in a better light

That old rented ghost house  
Set back from the street  
Two blocks from a river  
We could hear but not see

Northern skies  
Come alive  
How much do we really need to know?

And the boat leaves twice a week  
Expectant and repentant  
And unhinged

What the passage costs,  
We know not  
Just coins to rub  
We're stuck here / thick or thin

And X, it marks the spot  
Where we forgot  
Our manners and our whims

Don't go gentle / into that night  
Wild resistance is  
The only thing that wins

Northern lights  
Brought to life  
Only a fool would let them go

Northern skies  
Come alive  
What do we really need to know?

A good friend said / it's time to quit on love  
I might be grim  
But hey, I'm not / the reaper

Kept me afloat these months  
Not sure this is what you want  
But in my heart,  
you are / a keeper (low)

And when we go, we'll go big  
Dig as deep as we can dig  
Good. Better. Best (down)

This island has no class  
So Let's just kick its ass  
And ride them  
Trade. Winds. Back.

Northern lights  
Brought to life  
Only a fool would let them go

Gonna take my chances in a better light

Got so tired of being tired  
Suppose they call that weathered  
Red mountains in the low clouds  
Hanging there, untethered

You brought the fire and I played with it  
You brought the fire and I played with it  
Cupped my hands, just to keep it lit  
Pulled my hands away, but I'll never forget

Relinquished hope against best advice  
A pinball wizard who got back his sight  
You brought the fire and I played with it

Got so tired of being tired  
High and lonesome is a bitch  
Deep carved valleys push their weight  
Lost birds above the cliffs

Gonna wander here, Gonna wander there  
Play half-baked songs, at the county fair  
In a frozen land, where I could not care  
Gonna wander here, Gonna wander there

I couldn't placate those sounds in the dark  
But I never turned over the whole apple cart

Move along blackwater  
Move along  
Move along blackwater  
Move along

It gets me home this curving track  
It gets me home this curving track

### 3) Cabin Fever

Two rights  
Can easily make a wrong  
Heard that in some old folk song  
One as old as the hills

Some nights  
Can be fucked up and long  
Just like that Sinatra song  
About the wee small hours

Northern skies  
Come alive  
What do we really need to know

### 6) Where the Spirit Rests

Delusions have their grandeur  
And poisons have their charm  
But I never knew such solace  
As when I fell in / to your arms

Now the smoke is drifting / towards the city  
And a dark orange haze / obscures the sky  
And my finger rubs the polaroid  
From the day you became  
My courthouse bride

This is where the spirit rests  
This is where it hides  
This is where it contradicts  
The half truths  
And the lies

We parked under some cottonwoods  
A whirl of grasshoppers and wind  
Some nights I wish we'd stopped right there  
When we still knew  
How to pick it up / again

A lakeshore road / is bathed in twilight  
Glints of promise  
Springs to come  
This is where the spirit rests  
Till tomorrow / Till tomorrow proves me wrong

This is where the spirit rests  
This is where it hides  
This is where it contradicts  
The half truths  
And the lies

It's true you were / my ballast  
When we / eclipsed the madness  
Lying there undressed  
You checked out first  
And then I left

Take this heart  
Shake these bones

Gone in a flash  
Gone and not coming back  
Gone to seed, gone to waste  
Gone  
Gone to the dogs

Goin' from strength to strength  
Gone up in smoke  
Kept our heads to the grindstone  
Pretendin' nothin' was broke

Cabin fever  
Said I'd leave here  
But I'm already gone  
Already gone

Cabin fever  
Tried so many times  
Wakin' up in the dark  
To be leavin' by dawn

Gone baby gone  
Not coming back tomorrow  
To return the suitcase I borrowed  
All amped up on duty free

Going in for the kill  
Tired of filing reports  
Going up country,  
Find me some trees  
Some bronze autumn warmth

Dawn will come soon enough  
Go with my lips sealed  
That was always our deal  
The truth tightly locked

Cabin fever  
Said I'd leave here  
But I'm already gone  
Already gone

Cabin fever  
Tried so many times  
Wakin' up in the dark  
To be leavin' by dawn  
Wakin' up in the dark  
To be leavin' by dawn

Take this heart

Take this heart  
Shake these bones  
Take this heart

We have given sway  
To the one thing we can't tame  
Take this heart  
Take this heart

Here's that rhythm again  
Here's the risks we take  
Here's the limits we press  
Out where the spirit rests

This year it's been one / for the books  
The best catch phrases / have been annulled  
Out beyond / those towns we left  
That is where / the spirit rests  
That's where the spirit rests

## 7) CTFD

Some muscles, they should tighten  
While others, should go slack  
Like the stuntmen that we are  
We know the rules of fallin' flat

Best not to confuse  
The personal and political  
Best not to confuse  
Deep felt and hysterical

Unravelling and returning  
Conviction and escape (down)  
The summer keeps on burnin'  
Testin' how much we can take

You said "you've got to fight for this.  
Sure there's magic, but it takes work."  
Not sleights of hand (down)  
Or countin' cards.  
Still learnin' what that's worth

Only you can read my mind  
Only you can give it back  
Only you can jump the stairs

Only you can let it loose

#### 4) Drinking in America

Stocking up on wherewithal  
Trying not to forget  
Double down on it  
Double down

Drones flyin' above  
Abandoned streets  
The falconer's lost his grip  
Slouching on  
Double down

And no matter how I try  
I can't look you in the eye  
Somethin' got stranded

Yeah no matter how I try  
Swervin' on a crooked line  
Can't get my head round it

Drinkin' in America  
Getting' wasted in America  
Drunk as a skunk  
Drinkin' in America  
Down for the count  
This time  
Don't bother to  
wake me up

Hypocrisy's a killer virus  
There'll be no one left  
To mourn us  
But who's countin'?

Coffin makers  
Take their coffee break  
Resting their hands for a work  
That begs for silence

And the shells are fallin' close  
Way too fucking close  
Too close for comfort

Never seen such weather  
The fog stretches forever  
But I'm still gonna find you

Drinkin' in America  
Getting' wasted in America  
Drunk as a skunk

Only you can shame this town  
Whisper baby  
In my ear  
"calm the fuck down"

I see tomorrow different now  
Both savage and demure  
August comets glistening (down)  
Though still a bit unsure

Walked along the river  
We stopped 7 times to kiss  
Hard to know just what that is  
Guess we're learnin'  
What-we've-missed

Only you can read my mind  
Only you can give it back  
Only you can jump the stairs

Only you can let it loose  
Only you can shame this town  
Whisper baby  
In my ear  
"calm the fuck down"

Drinkin' in America  
Down for the count  
This time  
Don't bother to wake me up

Got a coal miner's cough  
And a head of heat  
It's rippin' to shreds  
What was never,  
ever complete

It was a long time comin'  
A long drive home  
A measure of our weakness  
The purest liquor  
That I've ever known

And now I'm itchin' for a fight  
And I have been the whole night  
The Eagle has landed

Somethin' tellin'  
Somethin' strange  
Runnin' through these fields of grain  
And I'm startin' not to feel so well

Drinkin' in America  
Getting' wasted in America  
Drunk as a skunk  
Drinkin' in America  
Down for the count  
This time  
Don't bother to wake me up

And no matter how I try  
I can't look you in the eye  
Somethin' got stranded

Yeah no matter how I try  
Swervin' on a crooked line  
Can't get my head round it

Drinkin' in America  
Drinkin' in America  
Drinkin' in America