

FAWM

2021

Let's Panic

Modern Art

Blaming the Weather

The Horse is Gone

Three Kids in a Trenchcoat

Arrow

Get Off My Lawn

Bad Dog

I Find Myself

The WDPHTSSM Blues

Let's Panic

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The sky is falling
Says Chicken Little
I'm here to tell you
I think she's right
Got my inhaler
My vat of Xanax
Perhaps enough to
Survive the night
Don't tell me to calm down

The aging pundits
Are gravely nodding
They've seen the future
it's pretty grim
The climate's warming
The mobs are forming
They're going to tear us
Limb from limb
Don't tell me to calm down

Murder hornets
And the Hong Kong flu
A meteor might crush you where you stood
What's the worst that could happen
What's the worst that could happen
What's the worst that could happen
It probably won't happen but it could

Don't feed me peanuts
Cuz I'm allergic
At least I think so
I never checked
I've got this rash
Perhaps it's cancer
I'll die in agony
I expect
Don't tell me to calm down

Murder hornets
And the Hong Kong flu
A meteor might crush you where you stood
Don't tell me not to worry
Don't tell me not to worry

Don't tell me not to worry
I know you think I shouldn't worry but I should

When I lock up all my windows
And the phone just rings forever
It's not because I'm shy
If you read the morning paper
And you don't hide beneath the table
You're a better man than I

Murder hornets
And the Hong Kong flu
A meteor might crush you where you stood
If there are gators in the gutter
And we're out of peanut butter
And the water's turning bloody
And the frogs are getting mddy
And the gnats are gaily feeding
And the predators stampeding
And the livestock all are dying
And your skin is gently frying
And you're sensibly assuming
That the other plagues are looming
A ssilver of perspective would be good
What's the worst that could happen
What's the worst that could happen
What's the worst that could happen
It probably won't happen but it could

Modern Art

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There are some who say
That I lack imagination
But every day I think of all sorts of things that
can't possibly exist
Like UFOs and unicorns and talking cows and
flying cars
If you show me a flying car
I think I'll know what it is

But there's this room
In our local art museum
Not the one with the portraits of the dead white
men
Or the one with the furniture
Or the one with the old clay pots
It's got this, this thing
And it's black and white and it's short and it's tall
And it's got colors whose names I can't recall
And it looks like it might be alive
And I think it might be angry

And I don't know what it is
Oh Lord, I don't know what it is
And I don't know how to feel
And I don't know what to think
I've been standing here staring at it for far too
long
Can you give me a hint
Can I phone a friend
I'm gonna fail the quiz, Lord
Cuz I don't know what it is

That guy over there
He's talking to his date
And he's gesturing and explaining in a patient
voice
And she's looking mighty impressed
And she think's he's pretty smart
And she takes his hand

But he don't know what it is
Oh Lord, he don't know what it is
And he don't know how to feel

And he don't know what to think
He's been standing here staring at it for far too
long
Can't give him a hint
Can't prop him up
He's gonna fail the quiz, Lord
Cuz he don't know what it is

Here's Jefferson and Washington, looking
presidential
And Sargent painted people who were mighty
influential
But in this room of wonders I face a crisis
existential
I don't know what it is, Lord, oh, I don't know
what it is

Here's a fire extinguisher
I think I know what it is
Unless it's part of the art
In which case I'm pretty sure I don't know what it
is
And I'm following guides
Fielding questions from all sides
And I'm showing it to you
And you haven't said a word
And I'm holding my breath
Cuz I won't feel quite as stupid

If you don't know what it is
Please tell me you don't know what it is
And you don't know how to feel
And you don't know what to think
We've standing here staring at it for far too long
We tilted our heads kind of sideways, but it didn't
help
Nothing seems to help
We're gonna fail the quiz, Lord
Cuz we don't know what it is

It says here on the artist's statement that it
represents the human condition
Nah, that ain't right

Blaming the Weather

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I was driving out to see you
But I hit a patch of balmy weather
And I had to turn back
I'll try again tomorrow
If it isn't quite so clement
And my mood's not so black
I finally get it now

I was standing on your sidewalk
But it was three feet deep in sunlight
All the way to your door
I'd forgotten my galoshes
And the warmth soaked through my stockings
Won't make that mistake anymore

(cho) I finally get it now
Our ship is tempest-tossed
And it's safe, safe as the Titanic can be
I finally get it now
We're in a hurricane
It's just all eye
As far as the eye can see
I've been blaming the weather
When the weather ain't the matter
With you and me

The sunlight falls in sheets
I've been standing in this shelter
Nursing the thought of your kiss
I know I meant to see you
But I wouldn't send a dog out
In weather like this

(cho)

Watching out your window as you look for my
car
I know I'm worried about the storm clouds that
you just can't see
I'll always keep you in my heart no matter where
you are
But I wouldn't dare continue with this low
visibility

The clouds are barely more than about a mile
ahead of me

(cho) I finally get it now
Our ship is tempest-tossed
And it's safe, safe as the Titanic can be
I finally get it now
We're in a hurricane
It's just all eye
As far as the eye can see
I finally get it now
I finally get it now
I'm blaming the weather
Blaming the weather

The Horse is Gone

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We're tracking an evolving situation
Cause for broad alarm
We're calling for a full investigation
At the Broadmoor farm
There's a door which had been shoddily
constructed
On a barn from which a horse had been deducted

The particulars invite some speculation
About the when and how
If the barn protects a zero population
Why lock it now?
It's a question they'll be asking all the time
It's the coverup that gets you not the crime

Don't know why she left
Why they locked the doors
My theory's just as good as yours
Disbelief suspending
When Barn Door Gate is trending

We've got advocates for equine liberation
Claiming species rights
She's endured these countless years of
subjugation
And thoughtless slights
They assert that it's the horse that they are
quoting
They say she demands the privilege of voting

We're also tracking pockets of resistance
From the tinfoil set
They're sure the horse would have to have
assistance
They just don't know who yet
They suspect the FBI and CIA
Cuz a horse can't just get up and walk away

It's the figure on
The grassy knoll
The journey down the rabbit hole
We seem to be descending
While Barn Door Gate is trending

She's the hottest horse we've ever seen
Pursued by People Magazine
Seduced by glamour's siren call
And the appetites that risk it all

The horse will not respond to allegations
Of hay abuse
She denies committing traffic violations
When she got loose
It's the lies you tell to try to save your skin
It's the infamy that gets you, not the sin

It's the price of fame
It's a fickle town
It's a scandal she just can't live down
There can be no other ending
When Barn Door Gate is trending

Three Kids in a Trenchcoat

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Because I am an actual adult
This isn't bubblegum I'm chewing
Because I am an actual adult
I know exactly what I'm doing

Why would I try
To pull the wool over your eye?
It would have an undesirable result
The effect would be pernicious
And you'd be terribly suspicious
If I were not an actual adult

Because I am an actual adult
I don't have to eat my peas and broccoli
I don't have to clean my room
And I don't have to brush my teeth
And I'll never get another cavity

Why would I try
To pull the wool over your eye?
It would have an undesirable result
The effect would be pernicious
And you'd be terribly suspicious
If I were not an actual adult

Because I am an actual adult
I know I can't catch cooties when I'm kissin'
I know you can't get pregnant from a toilet seat
But there are still a couple details that I'm missin'
If I were not an actual adult
I'd be outside on the jungle gym
Or watching a cartoon
Instead of in my office cursing Microsoft
On this summer afternoon
If I were not an actual adult
Where would I have learned all this profanity?
If I were not an actual adult
I wouldn't have to do it for my sanity

Why would I try

To pull the wool over your eye?
It would have an undesirable result
The schaudenfraude would be delicious
And you'd be terribly suspicious
If I were not an actual adult

I'm an actual adult
Doing actual adulting
Like firefighting, binge drinking
Political consulting
Game show hosting, coffee roasting
Public shaming, lion taming
Doomsday prepping, grocery shlepping
Superhero, pirate king
Who am I fooling
I'm not qualified for anything

Why would I try
To pull the wool over your eye?
It would have an undesirable result
The schaudenfraude would be delicious
And you'd be terribly suspicious
If I were not an actual adult (3x)

Arrow

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It's love, they tell me
A terminal case
You can say your goodbyes
No one's ever been cured
Just accepting your fate
It's the easiest thing
There's a hell of a punch
In that one little word
But if this is the end
It's an odd sort of peace
There's a puzzling reward
In my sudden demise
It's the edge in your gaze
The barb on your tongue
The spring in your step
The look in your eyes

You wound me, darling, you carve me apart
Demolished my armor with surgical skill
Left me no choice but to die on this hill
I can't get this arrow out of my heart

There's a memory that eats
At the edge of my mind
Of a glance that I held
Just a moment too long
A wrinkle in time
A trap for my heart
A force too insistent
A power too strong
And I suddenly saw
All the dangers that lurked
In the waters that churned
Neath the darkening skies
The reef of your gaze
The shoals of your song
The wreck of your touch
The storm in your eyes

You wound me, darling, you carve me apart
Left me no choice but to die on this hill
I'm a tough man to love and a tough man to kill
But I can't get this arrow out of my heart

Now the hour grows late
And the shadows intrude
And my gloomy prognosis
Is lead in the air
It's the weight of regret
For the role that I played
For the choices I've made
In this fatal affair
Though I've seen other faces
For passing the time
It's always been you
In that flimsy disguise
It's the part of your lips
The blush of your cheeks
The bite of your wit
The look in your eyes

You wound me, darling, you carve me apart
I'm a tough man to love and a tough man to kill
But I'm lying in state and I'll lie here until
I maneuver this arrow out of my heart

Get Off My Lawn

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Kids today
With their alphabets and sailing ships
They're always writing everything down
Instead of making a sketch
Why do they sail away
When Assyria is right next door
We might not have it all at home
But it's not much of a stretch

(cho)
Get off my lawn
I don't want Meadow 2.0
Don't want your mutant dandelions near my
bungalow
Back when my world was young
I probably would have welcomed you
But those days are gone
Get off my lawn

Kids today
With their domestic coal and vowel shifts
That Shakespeare guy's just making stuff up
"Bedroom" isn't a word
And the disgraceful way
They lace their jerkins when they're theater-
bound
Queen Elizabeth could learn some things
From good old Richard the Third

(cho)
We walked uphill both ways
In the Mesozoic
Learned to respect our elders
Learned how to be stoic
And the tiny mammals
They knew the score
And we'd still be here
Stupid meteor

Kids today
With their brain implants and eyeball cams
Snorting bacteria from Saturn's moons

Or Alpha Centauri
They wreck their DNA
With their antlers and their rabbit ears
You're gonna poke out an eye
It's a predictable story

(cho)

Bad Dog

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Fido's been looking for trouble
His pack has got time on its hands
He's the alpha too cool
For obedience school
Too mean to respond to commands
He's a bad dog, the baddest in town

Fifi's been working the angles
Fido can't get her alone
The occasional mutt
Comes sniffing her butt
But they don't have a big enough bone
She's a bad dog, the baddest in town

And the hydrants are humming
With rumors to trade
And the sidewalks are steaming
And tempers are frayed
It just takes an ember
Don't need no grenade

Max has his eye on a fortune
He ain't goin' back to the pound
He's got a shot at that bitch
If he could only get rich
But the K9s are sniffing around
He's a bad dog, the baddest in town

A shipment at midnight from Brooklyn
Max sees that it won't get too far
And he knows what to do
On that dark avenue
When he finally catches the car

And the moonlight is roasting
It's 110 in the shade
And Max has his jackpot
And Fifi hasn't been spayed
It just takes an ember
Don't need no grenade

But the pack's on the prowl
Got their nose to the street

And the mutts are all saying
That Fifi's in heat
And Fido's got fangs
And he don't like deceit

Max has been hiding from trouble
But his tail's gonna give him away
And the sun's beating down
And Fido owns this whole town
He's a bad dog
And he's gonna have a bad day
Bad dog
Bad dog

I Find Myself

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I joined the Navy to find myself but I wasn't there
Just anchors aweigh and gunboat gray
And the ocean air
I sailed around the world
Went ashore in every port
A couple times I almost drowned but I was
nowhere to be found

I went to Walden to find myself but I wasn't there
Just freezing cold and leaf mold and the occasional
bear
I got stung by bees
Tripped and fell on the rotting trees
But I couldn't tell you if I made a sound cuz I was
not around

I looked in the closet, looked in the pantry,
looked in the kitchen drawers
Under the sofa, under the table, crawling round
on all fours
I hope I don't regret
All the time I took
When I find myself
In the last place I look

I joined a commune to find myself but I wasn't
there
Just patchouli smells and finger bells and rasta hair
I smoked a lotta weed
I took an acid trip
I had plenty of questions when I was high but
there was no reply

I looked in the closet, looked in the pantry,
looked in the kitchen drawers
Under the sofa, under the table, crawling round
on all fours
I hope I don't regret
All the time I took
When I find myself
In the last place I look

I tried Australia, tried Tibet

I asked random strangers that I just met
Yoga, reiki, Buddhist chants
Encounter groups where they don't wear pants
Vows of silence, speaking in tongues
Primal screams at the top of my lungs
Tarot, Wicca, voodoo, prayer
But I can't seem to find me anywhere

I looked in the closet, looked in the pantry,
looked in the kitchen drawers
Under the sofa, under the table, crawling round
on all fours
I hope I don't regret
All the time I took
When I find myself
In the last place I look

The WDPHTSSM

Blues

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Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
It's a mystery I've pondered, a question I've had
Why do people have to suck so bad

My neighbor says "It's my ball now"
When the children throw it in his yard
I know his nose is out of joint, and he's making a
point
But just throw it back, it's not that hard

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
It's a mystery I've pondered, a question I've had
Why do people have to suck so bad

I knew a man who loved the Lord
But for the rest of us he didn't much care
He'll get time off from his savior for good
behavior
But it's still a little warm down there

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
It's a mystery I've pondered, a question I've had
Why do people have to suck so bad

My senator is a man of the people
For the people who keep his pockets lined
He pledged the faithful execution of the
Constitution
But it don't mean what he has in mind

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
It's a mystery I've pondered, a question I've had
Why do people have to suck so bad

Mr. Moneybags won't lend you a dollar
And he whines about his income tax

He's got plenty of stuff, but it just ain't enough
Another billion and maybe he can relax

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
It's a mystery I've pondered, since I was a lad
Why do people have to suck so bad

So if you have too many items in the checkout
line
And when they catch you, you yell at the cashier
Other people, it's true, might suck way more than
you
But it's not a competition I hear

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
I notice it so often that it feels like a fad
Why do people have to suck so bad

Why do people have to suck so much
Why do people have to suck so bad
I'm a little disappointed, but mostly I'm mad
Why do people have to suck so bad