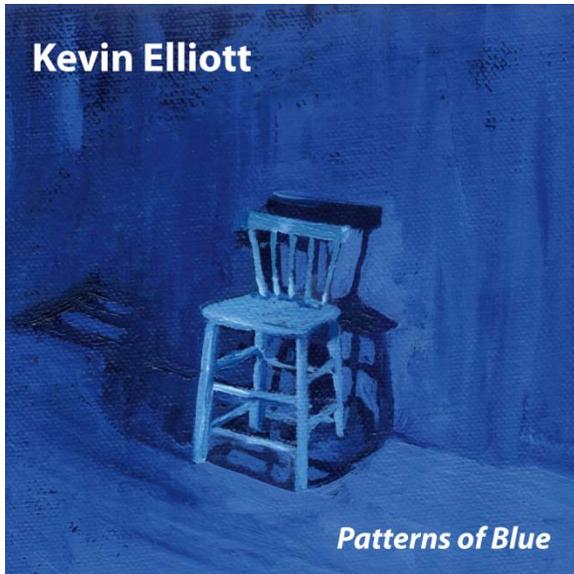


## Kevin Elliott



### Patterns of Blue

It's a quarter to midnight, no moonlight above  
It's quiet for a Friday, it's a tough time to love  
My thoughts are all tangled & hard to keep down  
Speculation & regrets in the shadows of a stranger's hometown  
Where patterns of blue outline memories of you

Somewhere in this world where believers exist  
Forgotten by these cities, obscured by the mist  
Lives a crafty old-timer with his secrets & spells  
Who could choose me a potion from the jimmy-crack collection  
he sells  
To provide me the knack to buy yesterdays back

I'd return to days before I had learned how to fail  
When I knew disillusion could never prevail  
Before I traded my innocence for the patterns of blue  
That hang from this evening & outline these memories of you  
I'm so lonely, I guess I'll pretend this is true

I've lived those days over so often it seems  
I've covered my vision with a layer of dreams  
I know I'm still hanging on 'cause I still feel the pain  
Speculation & regrets in the shadows of a place in my brain  
Where patterns of blue outline memories of you, have you  
thought of me too?  
Have you thought of me too?

### Will You Come Home Again

Will you come home again?  
There's only me in this song  
Everything's empty & everything's wrong  
When will I see you? Will you come home again?

I tried to leave it all behind  
But that train left the station too soon  
Now there's nowhere to hide inside of this room  
When will I see you? Will you come home again?

I wish I could cancel these days  
And give away all of these words  
It's the loneliest melody you've ever heard  
But you never hear me, you're nowhere near me

And morning won't leave me alone  
It keeps playing tricks on my eyes  
I always give in & believe all the lies, like "tomorrow's a new day"  
Will you come home again?

My brain is an unlocked door  
And my thoughts are a jangle of keys  
Still they climb out of windows, they fall out of trees  
They break all their bones again, will you come home again?

There's an imaginary you  
And more worlds than just one or two  
When you're only a thought & that's all that I've got  
You never come home to me, you're always unknown to me

Now will you come home again?  
There's only me in this song  
Everything's empty & everything's wrong  
When will I see you? Will you come home again?  
Will you come home again?

### Ain't the King of Diamonds

Once upon a winter's eve, the sun was settin' golden  
Dealt the queen of hearts just when I was foldin'  
She ruled the dance floor at the drunkards ball  
I cut my losses & just leaned against the wall

That was her & that was me, everything else was a mystery  
She didn't know the tricks I'd done...but she knew I was the one  
Kind of like the king of diamonds...I ain't the king of diamonds

We each had our own designs, I guess that's wrong...we didn't  
know that we would end up in this song  
We knew the odds were bad, but we showed our hands  
We played 'em & laid 'em down, it wasn't what we'd planned

And sometimes we still can't see the aces for the eights, all those  
ways we compensate  
Other times we bare our souls like the whistle of a train, shufflin'  
through the wind & rain

Are those losin' cards? Or the ones to keep? Well, that ain't a  
bluff, read 'em & weep  
And I am still in love, ain't that enough?  
I ain't the king of diamonds...ain't the king of diamonds

She's still the queen of hearts from that drunkards ball  
And I'm still leanin' up against the wall  
The sun's still golden in the sky above  
So I will embrace this song & sing to her of my love  
Kind of like the king of diamonds...I ain't the king of diamonds

### Rain on the River

I shed my clothes & dive on in, embrace my lover, bathing in sin  
You know I always take the bitter with the best  
Rain on the river & starlight on my lover's breast

The river flows through both heaven & hell, snakes through my  
garden & knows me well  
The rain is gentle, but the river is wild  
Baptismal waters, emerging pure like a child

All these stories of the rain & the river choir  
A burst of song, a lover's touch & the world's on fire  
I may hide, but the river carries me along

Song, rain, fire, blood & a love's gone wrong, the world's gone wrong

Cold, wet & naked, I climb upon land, race through the thunder, face the matters at hand  
A world at war makes a mighty mean storm  
I dive on in, just to keep my hands bloody & warm

All these stories of the rain & the river choir  
A burst of song, a lover's touch & the world's on fire  
I may hide, but the river carries me along  
Song, rain, fire, blood & a love's gone wrong, the world's gone wrong

The river flows through both heaven & hell, snakes through my garden & knows me well  
You know I always take the bitter with the best  
Rain on the river & starlight on my lover's breast, my lover's breast, my lover's breast

### **Been Runnin' Too Long**

Time is up now, I been runnin' too long  
This feelin' is way too strong, why's it always gotta be so sad?  
Hate to say it, hardest trouble I ever had

Been too long now, you worry me, you're somewhere out on a mission  
Wishin' you were here in bed, 'stead of racin' 'round inside my head  
Hate to say it, hard trouble, like I said

And I love you, I can't get through, when you're out on the street in your walkin' shoe  
A waste of time & that's the crime, ought to be a law, could be droppin' a dime  
'Stead of meetin' up now, we're beaten up now, what a pisser, right in the kisser

Time is up now, I been runnin' too long  
Now what'd I do wrong? Why's it always gotta hurt so bad?  
Hate to say it, hardest lovin' I ever had

And I love you, least I think I do, you hear what I'm sayin'? You think so too?  
You might as well, what the hell? Tell me you love me, you never can tell  
You're out of my bed & I'm out of my head, we're sittin' purty, down & dirty

And I love you, je t'aime beaucoup, sayin' s'il vous plait, like you like me to  
But you gotta confess, more or less, makin' love is mainly makin' a mess  
We're just makin' do & fakin' it too, we're outclassed, half-assed

Time is up now, bed bugs bite  
Time to call it a night, why's it always gotta be a fight?  
Rather mend it, defend it, don't wanna end it, but I might ...

Cause I been runnin' too long, mmm-mmm-hmmm, babe, I been runnin' too long  
I been runnin' too long

### **Shout Out to the Angels**

How about a shout out to the angels in my life?  
Angels of high-tops & a pocket knife  
Angels of back roads & being the boss

Angels of snow angels, stained glass windows & loss

Angel of cracking my knuckles, angel of buttons & buckles  
Angel of everything I've known all along  
Ghost of the woodshed & my constant angel of song:

Beseeching me to raise a joyful din & come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in  
Teaching me to dance upon that pin & come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in

Angels of record stores & dirty words, angels disguised as mockingbirds  
Angels I cut 'cause the song was too long  
And speak of the devil, it's my steadfast angel of song:

Urging me to raise a joyful din & come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in  
Converging, we all twirl upon that pin, we come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in, come on in

How about a shout out to the angels in my life?

### **Sloptown Road (Instrumental)**

#### **A Tenderloin Lullaby**

Hearing her voices, they're outside the door  
Short stints in county or up on fifth floor  
Methadone, strip clubs, a counterfeit bill  
An old script that no one will fill  
A rainy day cyanide pill

Bumming a cigarette, turning a trick  
Never feels high, just tries not to feel sick  
Trading her food stamps & changing hotels  
Riding out the longer dry spells  
Other stuff she never tells

It's a Tenderloin lullaby, mad dogs will growl  
Garbage trucks rattle & sirens still howl  
Bones may be brittle, blood scarlet, but thin  
It's all about teeth, about skin  
Now hush, hear the heartbeat within

She'll show you what haunts her, but only a glimpse  
And nobody wants her, not preachers, not pimps  
Far beyond broken & far beyond scarred  
And punctured with such disregard  
It's no longer easy or hard

It's a Tenderloin lullaby, mad dogs will growl  
Garbage trucks rattle & sirens still howl  
Bones may be brittle, blood scarlet, but thin  
It's all about teeth, about skin  
Now hush, hear the heartbeat

Within her, a part that used to be, part that talks to me  
The part that writes the book, with eyes that look within her  
The beauty & the pain, the fabric & the stain  
The cloth from which it's cut, before that door is shut  
Lullaby for clinging the night away,  
lullaby for singing to a lighter day  
Hiding in the alleyway, nodding to a lullaby

A lullaby for letting go of the shock, the shame, the old shell game

Do you still remember her name? Snowflakes are all just the same  
Hush now, they're all just the same  
Hush now, they're all the same

### **Turnpike (Instrumental)**

#### **I'm an Old Panhandler**

Man, oh man, new mornin', same ol' plan  
The corner's jumpin' like a kangaroo  
I'm an old panhandler, I'm talkin' to you

'Cause I love my customers, even though they call me names  
Bleedin' deacons & grand old dames  
They drop it in my big pocket  
I really love my customers

Got feelin's too, hard dealin' with you-know-who  
They may give me a dirty look  
But I read 'em like an open book

And I love my customers, they circle like gypsy moths  
Or hang around like three-toed sloths  
And they drop it in my big pocket  
I really love my customers

But they don't love me, they make fun of me  
Kids berate me, the police hate me  
All day long I dance that bummer dance  
All day long I dance that bummer dance  
All day long I dance that bummer dance

One day at a time, no reason, ain't no rhyme  
The corner's hoppin', thanks for stoppin'  
Thanks for givin', hey it's a livin'

I sure love my customers, you may holler like a wet baboon  
You'll get over it pretty soon  
Just drop it in my big pocket  
I really love my customers  
I love my customers

#### **Hey Jaybird**

Hey jaybird, now don't be feelin' blue  
I wrote a little love song & I'm singin' it for you  
Just listen what I say, don't you ever fly away

Now just look at you, you're crazy, mean & naked  
You're a jaybird, I think we're gonna make it  
You're as crazy as your name, & I love you just the same

I see it in your mean eyes, I know you love me best  
It's written in the way your heart pounds softly in your naked breast

You may be crazy, you're naked & you're mean  
You're a jaybird, the best I've ever seen  
And I love you more each day, don't you ever fly away

I see it in your mean eyes, I know you love me best  
It's written in the way your heart pounds softly in your naked breast

You may be crazy, you're naked & you're mean  
You're a jaybird, the best I've ever seen  
And I love you more each day, don't you ever fly away

Cause I love you more each day, don't you ever fly away

#### **The Kingpin**

Now that the kingpin's come & gone, lookin' down the road,  
which way was wrong?  
All the stories he told, served your supper cold, trampled all your marigolds  
He'll never confess he ever made that mess, trackin' his mud,  
guess he couldn't care less  
But he smiled as he said, God bless  
So, Lord help us along, now that the kingpin's come & gone,  
come & gone

Now that the kingpin's passed on through, lookin' down the road,  
whatcha gonna do?  
Knew it from the start, upset your apple cart, oh, your broken heart!  
Wiped his boots on your Sunday suit, didn't give a damn what you constitute  
Lost your loot, watch out, he'll execute  
Only now he's through, it's time for the switcheroo, switcheroo

Light a cigar, lighten your load, warm up the car, & shovel the road  
Strum your guitar, dance until dawn, then stay right where you are  
'Cause the kingpin's come & gone, come & gone

Now that the kingpin's come & gone, looking down the road,  
which way was wrong?  
Which way was wrong? We was wrong...

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