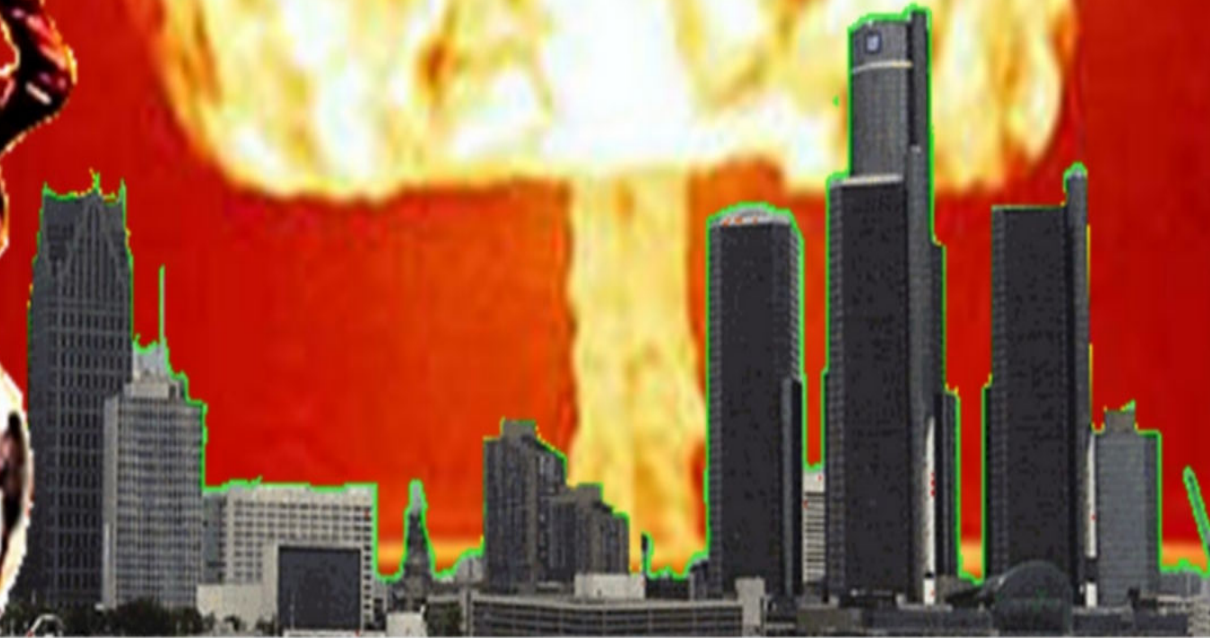


Mark Meisel

# Farewell Old Familiar



**LYRIC BOOK**

## **The Mutant Curse**

**(Subtitled : The Lone Remnant of a Secret Collaboration  
between George Gershwin & Jerry Garcia)**

America breathe easy, we've got the bomb  
And we can drop it on anyone  
We'll always be the winners, and if we're not who'll know  
We must protect our interests, and if that means  
Stripping the surface off the earth, making it cue-ball clean  
At least we never gave an inch, to the other guy  
So if you have the money to build yourself a shelter  
You could survive the worst  
But when the radiation seeps into your body  
You'll learn about the mutant curse, it hurts  
America is with it, it's so much fun  
Nuclear weapons stockpiled, countless megatons  
Why wait for Armageddon baby, we can start it now

### **Interlude**

And if you have the money to build yourself a shelter  
You might survive the worst  
And when the radiation creeps into your body  
You'll learn about the mutant curse, you first  
America is with it, yes it's so much fun  
Nuclear weapon stockpiles, countless megatons  
Why wait for Armageddon baby, we can start it  
Why wait for Armageddon sugar, we can start it  
Why wait for Armageddon honey, we can start it now

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## Goodbye Aphrodite

another Sunday and she steers her chariot into the driveway  
another driveway on her mind  
another challenge spinning fables and excuses for her absence  
another day to be unkind  
the air of scandal all around can't believe that he can't tell  
a million details to remember and they're all untrue  
a practiced kiss to pass the test and cross the finish line

hey - hey - there goes aphrodite  
hey - ooh - there goes jezebel  
hey - yeah - there goes the queen bathsheba  
hey - ooh - another wishing well

truth and fiction have a way of merging into one full picture  
of a life out of control  
a patron with the means to offer all the trappings she can swindle  
a luscious body to be sold  
a day of sweat and steam and lies all on his credit card  
the shower cleanses it may mask but it can't purify  
the dirt goes deep into her soul where nothing penetrates

hey - hey - there goes aphrodite  
hey - ooh - there goes jezebel  
hey - yeah - there goes the queen bathsheba  
hey - ooh - another wishing well

a heart laid open for the crushing blow when truth is known  
his savage scorn gives way to calm in some peculiar way  
a broken halo and a suitcase and that wicked smile

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# Gonna Be Me

I think there's two souls inside me baby, one is, meek the other's bold  
And I'll agree with Mr. Daltrey now, hope I die before I get old

So if my style, may seem eccentric, that's a personal point of view  
(my style) (it's a personal thing, ain't nothing to you)  
If I view the world like heaven sent it, why should that bother you?  
(my world) (why should that bother you)

I'm gonna be me

If patience is some kind of virtue honey, well I guess I'm down to only six  
Ain't got time for wasted love or money, or interpersonal dirty tricks

So if these words seem to confuse you, I'll try to be perfectly clear  
(my words) (no need to confuse, keep it simple and clear)  
When the waiter asks, who'll take the check now, I'll whisper right over here  
(it's fine) (right on over here)

I'm gonna be me

I don't know the right combination, the right thing to do  
So I hope you like what you see, it's not just for you – I'm gonna be me

So if my manner serves to confound you, that's really quite a shame  
(my ways) (not more of the same, I'm harder to tame)  
Cause if my purpose was just to astound you, that'd make our love a game  
(so sad) (and things won't be the same)

I'm gonna be me

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## Farewell Old Familiar

I recall, when summer seemed to last a million years  
A million years ago  
We were small and the world was so much larger than today  
With everywhere left to go

Just a teen, and a dream, that doors would open wide  
I saw them open wide for me  
To limousines, and beauty queens  
All the good things raining down, down, down on me

Now and then, I drive through my old neighborhood and smile  
Like I've seen a long lost friend  
Way back then, I couldn't wait to spread my wings and fly  
never to return again

Can I replay, just one day and give the rest away  
I'd gladly give it all away  
Who could have seen what it means  
The weight just coming down, down, down on me

Farewell, old familiar  
Summers can't be as long  
Have to face what is right in my face  
I'll take what's left before it's gone

Glory days, a purple haze, so much has changed  
And they say that a change can do some good)  
Another phase and I'm amazed  
At all the good things pouring down, down, down, on me

Farewell, old familiar  
Summers can't be as long  
Have to face what is right in my face  
I'll take what's left before it's gone

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# Swept Away

The streets are now rivers and there's no hope in sight  
Millions of moments are sealed vacuum tight  
We used up our mojo and we tried to seal the gates  
We couldn't get away  
We were careless when we let the demon in  
So now there's hell to pay

And we're swept away

Shadows and echoes are all that remain  
Of carpet, and floor tile, simulated wood grain  
We took our chances, but with jokers in the deck  
It's hard to know how it will play  
We had strong voodoo, but it couldn't cash this check  
Now Satchmo's ghost has gone astray

Cause it's swept away

We didn't know, we didn't know, we didn't know how it would grow  
It didn't show, how could we know, but now she's gone and yes  
we know

She's swept away

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# When the Right One Comes Along

If I was the King of England  
And all I saw belonged to me  
I'd give it all away if the right one came along

If I believed in magic  
And I could conjure up a Venus  
With a wave I'd send her away if the right one came along

There's a shortage of it in this world  
Even beauty can be overruled  
Understanding is a greater school to me

In all the world around me  
Walk the ghosts of hurried choices  
But I'll mark time till the right one comes along

I've seen a slice of Heaven  
And I'd really like to share it  
And I will when the right one comes along

There's a shortage of it in this world  
Even kings and queens can be fools  
Humility is a precious jewel to me

There's a shortage of it in this world  
Even beauty can be overruled  
Understanding is a greater school to me

And in my crystal vision  
She stands before me breathing  
But for now I'm only dreaming till the right one comes along

In this cold and solitary world  
You pay for diamonds and you get faux pearls  
But I'm not buying costume jewelry

When the right one comes along

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# Billie Rae

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
With the ocean in her eyes

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
Doesn't mean to hypnotize

Billie Rae's got a hold on me  
But I don't mind, cause I feel free  
Billie Rae's got this tiger by the tail

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
Brings a smile to my face

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
With her smooth and subtle grace

Billie Rae's got some special thing  
That makes me whole, it makes me sing  
Billie Rae's got this wizard in her spell

I don't know how she does to me, what she does to me  
But I like it  
I'm being pulled by her tractor beam, at lightning speed  
Why fight it.....Billie Rae

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
She's my shelter from the storm

Billie Rae, Billie Rae  
Angel soft and blanket warm

Billie Rae's got everything that I could want  
That I could dream  
Billie Rae's turned this frog into a prince



# Working In The USA

We moved up here to change direction  
Thought we'd found our way  
Learned a lot but now we question  
This struggle every day  
We built the town that built the cars  
It's vacant now cause they're built on Mars  
Where robots weld and ignore the scars  
And beancounters chomp on fat cigars

Working in the USA  
Digging deeper everyday  
They're giving all our hope away  
But we get discount tires

There used to be things that we could count on  
Like a pension and SSI  
A few too many drinks from the fountain  
And the well is running dry  
We break our backs till we're SOL  
We salivate when they ring the bell  
While talking heads tell us that all is well  
Feels just like Rome did right before it fell

Working in the USA  
Digging deeper everyday  
They're giving all our hope away  
But we get discount tires

Trade with all, the dollar falls, robbing peter to pay paul.  
Mortgage debt, not sunk yet, health cares broke tax cigarettes,  
Built with ease, in factories, tell me where the jobs went please,  
Shrinking pay, great resume', wonder how things got this way

The working poor, a growing number  
While the eagle is deep in slumber  
And the media makes us dumber  
This is the end of endless summer

There's this dude who lives in a mansion  
He could turn this thing right around  
He's occupied with a burning passion  
To smash things into the ground  
Where will this lead to - I can't say my friend  
No one knows what the stars portend  
Guess we'll all be speaking Mandarin  
Try not to break when your forced to bend

Working in the USA  
They're taking all our dreams away  
It's getting deeper everyday  
Just call our help desk in Mandalay  
Working in the USA  
Trying in the USA  
Crying in the USA  
There's nothing left to say

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# Turn Right Around

I don't mean to be lyrical, but the words just find their way  
Another lonely verbal miracle, when I knew just what to say  
Where have you been, transparent friend, who'll make amends for what you  
did  
Can't see you now, but still somehow, the air is foul from what you hid

Turn right around  
And face your accuser  
You've let us down  
In this you are the loser

I'm laughing hysterically, as you reconstruct your world  
You've been infected systemically, so like a top you swirl and twirl  
And in this dream, you were the steam, that drove the team to termination

Turn right around  
And face your accuser  
You've let us down  
In this you are the loser

# Shelter In a Boxcar

The tracks run by a river  
These rails go on for miles and miles  
It's raining, I start to shiver  
And this hunger seems so in style  
Work these days is hard to come by  
And a home's a dream I had as a child

I'll find shelter, in a boxcar  
Keep the rain and the cold off of me

Thank God I'm still moving, to a haven just across the border  
Thank God I'm still breathing, in the vacuum of a new world order  
Thank God I'm still smiling, find a friend wherever there is cooking  
Thank God I'm still feeling, find my soul whenever I'm not looking

Right now I'm looking for a shelter, in a boxcar

Keep the Lord and this bottle next to me  
I'll find shelter, in a boxcar  
Keep the pain and despair next to me

Thank God I'm still moving, to a haven just across the border  
Thank God I'm still breathing, in the vacuum of a new world order  
Thank God I'm still smiling, find a friend wherever there is cooking  
Thank God I'm still feeling, find my soul whenever I'm not looking

I'm not looking

I'll find shelter in a boxcar  
Any shelter's a home to me

# Ain't No Reason

Late night talk shows, tired of cable news  
QVC and MTV, just give me the blues  
HBO1 vs. HBO2  
Finding the remote is at least something to do

And there ain't no reason  
No there ain't no reason  
Yes there ain't no reason to watch  
Left coast, right wing, I think it's all the same

And if you'd read your Shakespeare, You'd ask "what's in a name"  
Fox has Bill O'Reilly, CNN has Aaron Brown  
But both will sell you Big Mac's, with coke to wash it down

And there ain't no reason  
No there ain't no reason  
Yes there ain't no reason to ...

Change that dial, for a better smile, Crest will whiten, brighten teeth  
Yes our drive-thru's fast, but hey, where's the beef

And there ain't no reason  
No there ain't no reason  
Yes there ain't no reason to watch

Earthquakes and Hurricanes can trump a terror war  
UBL hides in a cave, but gets a Nielsen score  
Kofi's a thief, Dr. Phil knows how you feel  
I just saw Tariq Aziz win Let's Make a Deal

And there ain't no reason .....

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# Heaven Right Now

All on my own  
Lots of souls around - all around  
I have my surprise  
And it's coming down, won't hear a sound  
I'm spreading love - the love that comes from pain  
It's my time and your time  
words from above - say to share this firey rain  
my crime pays for your crime

I believe, with this deed  
I'm buying heaven right now  
Yes, that's what I believe  
I believe, this sets me free  
I'm feeling heaven right now  
Can't believe you don't believe

This was our home  
Your stars landed on our shore, unholy war  
We knew way back then  
Until we smash the stars this would never end  
All my life has been preparing for this moment  
It's my time and your time  
There is no prayer to say that can spare you from this omen  
my crime pays for your crime

I believe if I succeed  
I'm pleasing heaven right now  
Yes that's what I believe  
I believe hypocrisy  
I'm seeing heaven right now

And making sure that you believe  
I see a slideshow  
running through my mind  
I guess there's nothing that's been  
left behind in a world unkind  
I'm giving second sight to the blind  
With my head held high

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# Rushing Home to Shorewood

I leave the lights off, turn the news on way down low  
While you're still dreaming, of all the places we should go  
I slam a coffee, check that the trash is at the curb  
Joke to myself that our address should be do not disturb

I'll be rushing home to Shorewood  
To everything that I leave behind  
Can't think of nothing that is more good, I'm satisfied

Do what I have to, do it well and do it proud  
But it's still have to, I'd rather be home for crying out loud  
You're making breakfast, it goes so well with evening news  
Then we'll play eight-ball, And I won't mind it when I lose

I'll be rushing home to Shorewood  
To everything that I leave behind  
Can't think of nothing that is more good, I'm satisfied

The world is so frantic, so much going on, I wish it would all go away  
Things are so tranquil, the world's kept at bay, I wish I could always stay

Pull in the driveway, check the mail and step inside  
If I have it my way, your hair is down, there's something  
We all watch Idol, you disagree with Simon Cowell  
Then I'll do something guaranteed to make you blush, then laugh, then howl

I'll be rushing home to Shorewood  
To everything that I leave behind  
Can't think of nothing that is more good, I'm satisfied

# Have a Good Time

Slam down the keyboard, scowl at the clock  
It's all imagined pressure, so before you go into shock - you better

Stand up , and have a good time  
The winds gonna blow, and the bad's gonna go, and then the sun is gonna shine

Today's big dilemma, the thing that's owning you  
Will be a joke tomorrow, so here's what you're gonna do - you're gonna

Stand up, and have a good time  
The day is gonna come when you finally realize there's no reason or rhyme

So you're thinking about your future, but what about right now?

5 is the deadline, and it's 4:59  
A million details missing, that have all just come to mind  
Your friends are waiting impatiently, it happens every time  
It's the show of they year, and they have an honest fear  
That you're gonna toe the line - you better

Stand up, and have a good time  
The winds gonna blow, and the bad's gonna go, and then the sun is gonna shine  
Stand up, and take a look around  
One new wall is always going up, while another's coming down

You're thinking about that deadline, but what about that show?

Think

Stand up and have a good time  
The winds gonna blow, and the bad's gonna go, and then the sun is gonna shine  
Stand up, and take a look around  
One new wall is always going up, while another's coming down

You don't believe it's easy, to dropout and take your day  
Well this thought might make you queasy, they don't need you no anyway  
So say you will, say you will, c'mon say you will, say you will

Stand up .....

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# Hangin' Out With Paw Paw

hangin' out with Paw Paw, eating chicken legs and biscuits  
soppin' honey and it's straight from the hive  
he ain't drivin' like no grandpa, slamming coffee and chain smokin'  
he's doin' 90 in a 65

'cause the poker game's at nine, got some numbers on the line  
the over for the Bears is 44  
He went for milk two hours ago, while his dinner's getting cold  
guess he got lost on his way home from the store

hangin' out with Paw Paw, getting car parts and prescriptions  
Maw Maw's list is long as your arm  
every stop's a visit, Paw Paw's never met a stranger  
cause they always warm up to his southern charm

the show on channel nine, has him dialing up our line  
to tell us that we won't believe our eyes  
the magician takes the stage, David Blaine's liquid cage  
you can see that Paw Paw's clearly mystified

we'll campout in the RV soon, we'll be howling at the moon  
around a fire started up with gasoline  
with cornbread in our milk, Paw Paw's voice is smooth as silk  
tellin' tales guaranteed to burst your spleen

hanging out with Paw Paw, walkin' through the woods and talkin'  
on the prowl for that sneaky red-tailed squirrel  
he's told me what he thinks I need, to get through life successfully  
how to live right in this old wicked world

so I guess I'm thanking Paw Paw, and yes I'm thanking Maw Maw  
for showing me the way things have to be  
and while I'm thanking Maw Maw, I think I ought to mention  
no one cooks a pork chop quite so tenderly

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