



# Reactors

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These songs were recorded sometime in the 90's but most were written much earlier. We only rediscovered the recordings recently and were amazed to hear the old Reactors songs sounding so good. From time to time people have asked us for the Reactors album that never was... so here it is at last, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we did putting it together and reliving the old times!

All titles written, played and produced by Dave Ellis & Boo Howard  
John Applegarth played drums on tracks 1,2,3,8 & 9  
B&W photos by Robin Bond, colour photos by Herbie Knott.  
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## 1. Head Above Water

Salt water stinging my eye  
Now the tide is running so high  
But my love is keeping me dry  
And I keep my head above water

Drowning man clutching at straws  
Treading water miles from the shores  
But my love is giving me cause  
To keep my head above water

I keep my head  
Above water  
I keep my head held high  
Above water

Watching out for ships in the dark  
I keep away from the high water mark  
But my love saves me from the shark  
And I keep my head above water

I keep my head  
Above water  
I keep my head held high  
Above water

Well now the coastguard's given up on me  
Just another man lost at sea  
But my love takes good care of me  
And I keep my head above water

I keep my head  
Above water  
I keep my head held high  
Above water

## 2. Permanent Blue

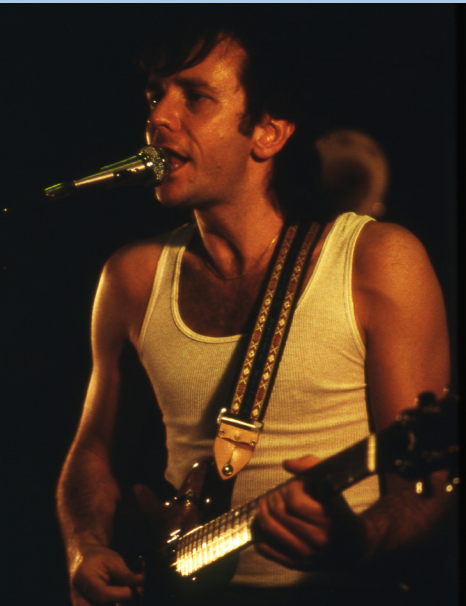
Well I used to think ink was rarely bought  
Like salt and pepper and sets of dice  
Now my diary is full of permanent blue  
The manufacturer's made back his price  
Cos all that I do is permanent blue

Well the bottles are empty, the ink and the beer  
The brewer and the printer's done well today  
Maybe that's why you left, they paid you a fee  
On contractual basis for leaving me  
Cos all that I do is permanent blue

The world is full of broken hearts  
Breaking and mending  
The world is full of broken hearts  
And unhappy endings  
Permanent blue, permanent blue  
Is all that I do

Well I fell for the scheme of an American  
dream  
I gave my heart to a young boy in Rome  
No matter the place, no matter the face  
There's only one thing that I can call my own  
You see you're building me up  
You're pulling me down  
You're making me laugh  
And then you're making me frown  
There's a smile on my face, a tear in my eye  
You say hello but then you say bye bye

Cos all that I do is permanent blue



### 3. Rainy Day

I save my money for nothing  
I keep my heart for no one  
I put it by for the real high  
As I do another dry run

I save my love for a rainy day  
I save my love for a rainy day  
I save my life just to fade away  
I save my love...for a rainy day

I wait for tides to be turning  
I wait for wind to be changing  
I wait for planetary favour  
To free the love that I'm caging

I save my love for a rainy day...

Oh should I wait until the sun don't shine  
Till the blues is mine  
And I just can't lose control  
Until I'm on my knees  
Until hell will freeze...

And I can't find a way  
And I can't find the track  
And I can't get to you  
And I can't get it back

And if there's one in a million  
Will my feelings be unspoken  
Will there only be umbrella  
As I see the heavens open

### 4. Shadow

When I was small  
I would walk on the wall  
And your arms would protect me  
Should I ever fall  
Soon I was longing  
To reach for the sky  
But your arms did prevent me  
From learning to fly.

So don't get me wrong  
I still cry for you,  
Don't get me wrong

I would've died for you,  
But since you've been gone  
I'm coming out from under your shadow  
Since you've been gone  
I'm coming out from under your shadow.

Now I'm grown  
With a child of my own  
And I long to protect her  
From things I have known.  
But as soon as she's longing  
To reach for the sky  
Well I will give her my love  
And I'll leave her to fly.

So don't get me wrong..

So I'm gonna be the one who shines tonight  
So put away the stars if they're too bright  
Cos I'm coming out from under your shadow  
I'm coming out from under your shadow.

I still cry for you  
I would've died for you

## 5. Stranger To Myself

Well I wake up in the ashtray  
Like a worn out comedian  
Like a faded chameleon  
Trying to hide before the sunset  
So I offer supplication  
In a bombed out cathedral  
Oh deliver me from evil  
Well I can find no consolation

But if you could see me now  
You'd have a different tale to tell

But if you could see me now  
You'd not say you know me  
And so I dust myself off slowly  
Trying to find my sense of humour  
Oh but later or sooner  
I'm going to have to find some resolution  
So I ask the burning question  
Oh can I find the real solution  
Oh but circumlocution  
Gives me words that always fail me

But if you could see me now...

You'd not say you know me well  
You couldn't say you know me well  
You couldn't say you know me well  
Cos I'm a stranger to myself

Rain rain go away  
Don't want to put up my umbrella  
Don't want to trust the fortune teller  
Don't wanna know if God is with me  
Well I wish I could escape the problem  
Like a real life Houdini  
Rub my kettle for a genie  
Gonna fly me to Nirvana  
But if you could see me now...

You wouldn't say you know me well  
Cos I'm a stranger to myself

## 6. It Doesn't Bother Me At All

Maybe I'm the lucky one  
I fell in love but I didn't want perfection  
Maybe you're the unlucky one  
Because nothing that you do  
Will ever alter that affection



Well you can take my heart  
Tear my world apart  
It doesn't bother me at all  
And you can read my mind  
Put me back in line  
It doesn't bother me at all

Don't think I'm the lonely one  
I know a guy who would welcome a reaction  
Darlin' you're the only one  
Nothing that you do will ever alter that attraction  
Well you can take my heart...

I thought I made it clear in my letter  
A little reading between the lines  
Would leave no doubt  
I wouldn't have to spell it out

It doesn't bother me at all...

Well you can take my heart  
Tear my world apart  
It doesn't bother me at all  
And you can read my mind  
Put me back in line  
It doesn't bother me at all

No matter what you do  
No matter what you say  
It doesn't bother me at all

## 7. Never Said

Didn't know I should have told you  
I could blame it on a lover  
Who left me speechless  
I thought I only had to hold you  
And you'd know the way I really feel

I never said I love you  
No one said I had to  
Never said that I do  
I never said I cared

Should have read in my demeanour  
There was so much in my heart  
You can't have looked too closely  
I maybe should have made it clearer  
I should have opened up my heart to you  
I never said...

Never told you I could be so true  
Never said I'm in love with you  
Never said it no  
I never said it... oh no

And I know I will regret it  
I should have held up signs TEN FEET TALL!  
I only wish that I had said it  
And had left you in no doubt at all  
Never said...

Never said I cared  
Never said I cared  
I should have said it

## 8. 123 Let's Go

Take your time and you'll wind up with  
The same old story  
The name of the game is no one's giving  
To a hand held out  
It's not what you do, it's who you know  
So come on baby and 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!  
Well let's be taking some chances baby

All the gutters in the neighbourhood  
Are overflowing  
Everyone's moaning, everyone's dreaming  
Of yesterday  
You're no better off with the devil you know  
So don't give a damn baby, 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!  
Well let's be taking some chances baby

Waiting for this, waiting for that  
D'you wait until the world  
Has you on your knees  
Don't give up baby, 123 let's go!

Save your words for the brushing up  
Of future tenses  
There's a world that is waiting there  
For you and me  
So take your fears and lay them low  
And get yourself ready baby, 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!  
Ooh let's be taking some chances baby

## 9. Walking Wounded

What you did was all in the game  
Of living, of loving, of self preservation  
Now I don't believe a word they say  
Or see eye to eye without reservation

I'm just walking wounded  
Every step of the way

I felt so lucky, but I was just  
A fool in love, it taught me a lesson  
Now if you ask me do I love you  
It's a trick, it's a lie, a loaded question

I'm just walking wounded  
Every step of the way

I was walking with my head in the clouds  
Walking with the sun in my eye  
And I was singing  
"Oh what a beautiful morning"

But night came down  
It left me wounded but walking

I don't want to suspect your motives  
You're not the kind for lying or scheming  
But I can't trust my feeling for you  
Without looking for double meanings

I'm just walking wounded  
Every step of the way

## 10. Kids In The Rain

It's a matter, a matter of time  
Before your world comes down and leaves  
you crying

There's no reason, no reason on earth  
Why you should ever give up trying  
It's just a matter of simply having fun  
Like kids in the rain

Come on, there's a will and a way  
To get the most out of the situation  
There's a price, a price that you pay  
When you stick around in hesitation  
It's just a matter of losing some self-control  
Like kids in the rain

You'll never know just what it's all about  
Don't ever say "I told you so"  
Nothing'd ever be misunderstood  
If everything'd stay  
Right as rain

It's just a matter of simply having fun  
Like kids in the rain



If you're wondering about the slightly amateur looking font for our name on the cover, it is a faithful copy of our slightly amateur looking backcloth, painted with care in the front room, long before anyone was providing any backcloth service on the internet.

The Reactors had many drummers, but when drum machines became affordable we discovered we could program the drums ourselves and make a hell of a racket with just the two of us. As a duo, we entered a Melody Maker battle of the bands contest in the eighties and we won... a drum kit! So drummers eventually got reinstated with our last one being John Applegarth who played beautifully on this recording, which vividly recalls a time and a place for us. If you were there we hope this brings back some good memories for you too. - D&B