

Sheffield Streets

Amy Allison

1. Sheffield Streets

The flat was cold
so I would walk around
I felt so old
but how I loved the town!
I walked so far
up and down those hills
I saw the moors
I saw the mills

I felt alone
but oh, it was so sweet
when I would walk
down Sheffield streets

The wind would blow
it really chilled your bones
a take-away
a pint of Stones
the steel gray sky
buses whizzing by
cathedral bells
the brewery smells

I felt alone
but oh, it was so sweet
when I would walk
down Sheffield streets

Glossop Road
Spital Hill
Castle Gate
the Crucible
Chapel Walk
Division Street
the Wicker and
the old Leadmill

I found a pub
and curled up like a cat
I wrote a song
on a beer mat

Nether Edge
Sharrow Vale
Oakdale Road
and Abbeydale
Hunter's Bar
Eccleshall
Barker's Pool
the Cutlers' Hall

I felt alone
but oh it was so sweet
when I would walk
down Sheffield streets

2. Calla Lily

Calla lily, it's okay to cry
everything must die
but everything will come again in spring

Calla lily, please don't hang your head
bide your time instead
soon your little spark will catch a fire
so calla lily rest but please don't tire

Who knows heaven?
who knows hell?
what does it matter when the earth is where we dwell?

Calla lily, there's one thing that's true
everything that's here depends on you
so hunker down and somehow you'll get through
and in the springtime you'll be born anew

3. The Needle Skips

I wish that I could hear this song forever
but I only listen now and then
it's only sweet as long as it's playing
and then the needle skips and it's the end

The grooves on my record are worn down
but every bump and scratch is heaven-sent
it's funny how we lived so many moments
in the minutes of a song that came and went

Oh I wish that I could hear this song forever
but I know it's no use to pretend
it's only sweet as long as it's playing
and then the needle skips and it's the end

And now the song is over and I'm sorry
but the old refrain will always stay
inside my mind entwined with all the memories
of the love we knew and threw away

I wish that I could hear this song forever
but like they say you can't go home again
it's only sweet as long as it's playing
and then the needle skips and it's the end

4. Anywhere You Are

When I think of you
any thought will do
anywhere you are is where I am

I close my eyes and then
I'm in your arms again
anywhere you are is where I am

Since you went away
I get through the day
knowing you're somewhere
breathing the same air
and when the sun beats down on you
I can feel it too
anywhere you are is where I am

It's crazy but it's true
the things your thoughts can do
anywhere you are is where I am

Why does the mind contrive
to keep what's dead alive?
anywhere you are is where I am

Now the sun has set
I have no regrets
all I feel is love
for the moon above
as it's beaming down at you
I can see it too
anywhere you are is where I am

And though you're out of sight
I'll be with you tonight
I'll dream of where you lie
underneath the sky

Stars may tumble down
worlds may spin around
anywhere you are is where I am

5. Monsters of the Id by Mose Allison

Monsters of the id
no longer staying hid
and terrors of the night
are out in broad daylight
no need to knock on wood
don't stop to say a prayer
it won't do any good
they're multiplyin in the air

Demons of the deep
are going without sleep
and phantoms of the dark
have their own place to park
no need to lock the doors
they're sprouting through the cracks
they're making room for more
they're deputizing maniacs

Prehistoric ghouls are making their own rules
and resurrected huns are passing out the guns
no need to cause a fuss
don't go and make a scene
they know what's best for us
they're fighting fire with gasoline

Creatures from the swamp
rewrite their own mein kampf
neanderthals amok
just trying to make a buck
goblins and their hags
are out there waving flags
oh when will we be rid
of monsters of the id

6. Why Must It Be?

I thought I was so above it all
guess that's why I had so far to fall
down into the pit of love's despair
what's all this about walking on air?

I'm in love, I'm so deluded
I can't think straight, my mind's polluted
why him, why me, why must it be?

Sappy songs I thought were so banal
suddenly have got me in their thrall
I'm even getting pleasure from the pain
is it just me or are we all insane?

I'm in love, I'm so deluded
I can't think straight, my mind's polluted
why him, why me, why must it be?

I was so content to be alone
now I need the ring from a telephone

I'm in love, I'm so deluded
I can't think straight, my mind's polluted
why him, why me, why must it be?

7. Everybody Ought to Know

We tried to keep our romance a secret
but around here that's a hard thing to do
when our two best friends can't keep their mouths shut
they're telling everybody all about me and you

She knows I love you and he knows you love me
and everybody ought to know by now

When we first met they knew it was love
they could tell by the look in our eyes
and when we finally confirmed it
they pretended to be oh so surprised

She knows I love you and he knows you love me
and everybody ought to know by now

Yes, everybody knows
we can see it in their smiles
they just can't wait til we walk down the aisle

So let's make the wedding plans
there's no reason to put it off now
cause you know I love you and I know you love me
and everybody ought to know by now

8. I Wrote a Song About You

I wrote a song about you and it all came true
you did me wrong, now you're gone and I'm blue
I didn't know you'd really find somebody new
I wrote a song about you and it all came true

I didn't know that you would go and leave me lonely
after all I was just making believe
I didn't know the words I wrote would come to haunt me
and be a self-fulfilling prophesy

I wrote a song about you and it all came true
you did me wrong, now you're gone and I'm blue
I didn't know you'd really break my heart in two
I wrote a song about you and it all came true

I thought of all the ways you could hurt me
never dreaming they would all soon come to pass
I chalked it up to my imagination
and figured it was fiction but alas

I wrote a song about you and it all came true
you did me wrong, now you're gone and I'm so blue
I guess I must have bit off more than I could chew
when I wrote a song about you and it all came true

9. Dream World

Sometimes I feel like the loneliest girl in the world
bluer than blue and sadder than any sad girl
where has the love gone that made me believe life was sweet?
and where do you go when you just want to go back to sleep?

Dream world, dream world, where all the lonely hearts meet
mean world, mean world, people asleep in the street

Nighttime is coming and soon with it merciful sleep
love that is lost in the day into dreams soon will creep
life is a dream so they say and they may well be right
sometimes I feel like this whole world is blacker than night

Dream world, dream world, where hapless dreamers retreat
mean world, mean world, people asleep in the street

I've got a clean bed and plenty of good food to eat
I've got a family and friends and hot water and heat
how dare I despair of my loneliness, I have no right
sweet dreams to all who are out on the mean streets tonight!

10. Hate at First Sight

You know the way home
I don't have to tell you
Daddy says you better be gone when he gets back
he'd have a heart attack
if he saw me kissing you like that

The whole town's talking
they say you better start walking and they mean fast
they say our love can't last
and they shake their heads when we walk past

They see things black and white
but that just makes it hate at first sight
they're telling me to say goodbye
but I'm just telling you good night

They are all such stupid fools
and they will never bend their rules
they don't understand a love that's true
and they don't know I'd give my life for you

We'll meet in the usual place
I don't have to tell you
and baby, when I see your face, I'll feel joy
we're just a girl and a boy
we're just a girl and a boy

They see things black and white
but that just makes it hate at first sight
they're telling me to say goodbye
but I'm just telling you good night

You know the way home, I don't have to tell you

11. Come, sweet evening

Come, sweet evening
bring on sweet, sweet night
hurry sundown, let there be twilight
another day is dawning
but not before the night
has done its part
to steal your heart

Come, sweet evening
bring on sweet, sweet night
cast your shadow
over all that's bright
I can't wait to see it
the dying of the light
when darkness falls
my heart recalls

See the moon
she's ready for her part
just behind the sunset
she's waiting for the dark
so she can shine
and make you mine
the grand design

I can't wait to see it
the dying of the light
the skies imbue
a deeper blue
the stars appear
and we are here

12. Mardi Gras Moon

It's carnival time and I should feel divine
but I don't have the strength to rise and shine
I hear the festive music and the glee
I wish there was a place down there for me

Just last year I danced all night and drank my fill
now here I am reaching for my sleeping pills
another waking moment I can't stand
so wake me when it's over if you can

Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras why did you come this year?
all I've got left are some memories and cheap souvenirs
we danced and he kissed me under the Mardi Gras moon
he sang words of love but now he's changed his tune

I hear the distant music of the bands
I'm losing all the feeling in my hands
pretty soon I'll see him in my dreams
at our last Mardi Gras in New Orleans

This year the parade will pass me by
but in my dreams there'll be no need to cry
no one will be lonely, sad or blue
and every lover's wish will come true

Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras why did you come this year?
all I've got left are some memories and cheap souvenirs
we danced and he kissed me under the Mardi Gras moon
he sang words of love but now he's changed his tune

Lyrics for CD "Sheffield Streets", all songs by Amy Allison, Shoggirl Songs, BMI,
administered by Bug Music, except #5, Monsters of the Id, by Mose Allison,
Audre Mae Music BMI