

## Chili Lemon Peanuts

Sun Kil Moon

Scenic drive from Auburn to Diamond Springs  
American River sparkles under the bridge on this fine day of spring  
To the Sutter's Fort where they discovered gold to the right rolling vineyards  
and apple orchards  
I just passed the bridge and the sign for the town Cool  
No, but that sign was the last for the Tim Mooney ever took  
Before he left the world back in Nevada City  
It was the summer where we cried for his wife and his daughter Dixie  
Second day of April home still decorated Christmas-y  
The front lawn's been cut and the backyard has a fallen tree  
Tomorrow my yard guy's gonna get back there and cut it to pieces  
I'm on the front porch staring at this old dusty bible and I'm writing lyrics  
And on the floors, an old Perloid accordion made by Honer  
Three gas lamps, two antique, and the other faux  
And I'm out here and it feels good  
(In this moment) in this moment  
Writing words on my big, black Victorian wrap-around porch

Next we gotta be leaving maybe slightly but not so sadly gonna see Manny Pacquiao  
fight against Timothy Bradley  
Where I predict Manny will lose by decision, suffering him to the fourth, five  
brains bashed in, his hangarounds keep winning  
Then I'm going down to New Orleans for Gulf Coast oysters  
That's right, baby, I'm living my dream  
For the first moment I ever picked up guitar I knew my life would go down a  
different road than the kid next door

I hear the birds outside tweet, tweet, tweeting  
And the cars along the highway off in the distance  
I hear an owl up in the tree hoot, hoot, hoot, hooting  
I hear a Spanish radio in the basement talk, talk, talking

I smell the sardine can from the meal I've just eaten  
Gonna put this pen down, stare off into the sky, dreaming with my heart is the  
world's biggest smile  
For the hell of it I'm gonna read a random passage from the Bible  
It's been in this house since the first I owned it  
It was laying open, swear I'd never touch it but my housekeeper picked it up  
and closed it  
So here we go, gonna read just a bit of it  
Then look off into the pines and let my mind drift

Chapter 9, St. Luke

Christ sends forth his apostles, feeds five thousand with five loaves, is transfigured  
and casts out a devil.  
Then calling together the twelve apostles, he gave them power and authority  
over all devils, and to cure diseases.  
And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he  
said to them:  
Take nothing for your journey; neither staff, nor scrip, nor bread, nor money;  
neither have two coats.  
And whatsoever house you shall enter into, abide there, and depart not from  
thence.  
And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off even  
the dust of your feet, for a testimony against them  
And going out, they went about through the towns, preaching the gospel, and

healing everywhere

So there I was, I read a part of the book of Jesus  
Now I'm eating sunflower seeds and chili lemon peanuts  
Sipped on a bottle of Glacéau smartwater  
And fell asleep until from upstairs my girl woke me up when she hollered

12:45 AM

SNL, Gwen Stefani, and the short actor guy actor, what's his name?  
We are the beautiful dead and the beautiful night  
I love my girl and my home and this miracle of life

1:04 AM, Vdara Hotel

Room 14015, April 9, 2016

Our day started today with many kisses  
You were on your way out the door to Southern California 'til the fourteenth  
And I was on my way to Las Vegas, then to New Orleans  
When you said bye and closed my apartment door behind you  
A heavy feeling fell upon me, it hit me in a very real way  
That we'll live the rest of our lives together  
And that gives me so much happiness and comfort  
But it also hit me harder than ever before that one day we'll say goodbye fo  
r a final time  
Every day we get closer and closer to death  
I have no illusions of an afterlife  
And have no idea how much longer I have on this planet  
Or what my quality of life will be in five, ten, fifteen years  
Where will our final goodbye be? What condition will I be in?  
And how will your health be? Are we even sure we'll be in the same place whe  
n one of us has to go?  
I don't like goodbyes  
I've had enough last goodbyes with people to know that it's the most painful  
emotion in the world  
I don't want to live for eternity, life is filled with too much sorrow  
My mind keeps flashing to a woman I saw recently  
Of her and her son asleep in the car on the Tenderloin on a very hot day  
They were in a tollway zone and looked to be completely passed out  
She had a big map open on her lap  
But I knocked on the door and though she couldn't speak to me she was okay  
My biggest hope in life is that you are beside me when I die  
I've lived many lifetimes in forty-nine years  
But the best time of my life is of my days and years spent with you  
I'm getting older and my stomach is bloated and feels off  
I burp too much, I'm that middle-  
aged guy with a gut that I never thought I'd be  
And here I am in Las Vegas  
Family men with bellies bigger than mine are walking around with Guns N' Ros  
es t-shirts  
My elevator was shared with people who've arrived from the Philippines to se  
e the Pacquiao fight  
How many more times will I fly to Las Vegas?  
I saw Pacquiao when he was rising  
In San Francisco in 2000 at Bill Graham  
Now he's thirty-seven and this might be his last fight  
My money is on Bradley to win by a decision  
That's why I'm here, to see what may be Manny's last fight, if in fact he do  
es win  
I'm getting older and Las Vegas is as wild as ever  
But I'm tired and I hear the hum of a small refrigerator  
My mind and my eyes are fading  
Vdara Hotel, 1:03 PM, April 9th  
Meeting Tony in the lobby at 2:00 PM for lunch  
Just turned on CNN

"Paris terror fugitive is hitman in Brussels bombing"

I woke up at about 9:00 AM

Terrible nightmare that Caroline and I were being followed by this creepy lizard-y-looking plastic surgery guy I saw on the plane yesterday

He was following us to a hotel

But I was diplomatic, turned around, and told him we'd meet him on the balcony of some bar nearby

When we arrived and talked to him, he started throwing insults at me

And I knocked his drink out of his hand and into the street

He stayed there unfazed

Then I grabbed him by his neck, lifting him, pushing him almost, but not quite, over the balcony

I told him to go fuck himself and to stay the fuck out of our lives

He finally shut his stupid mouth

And as we left, Caroline told me that I was good with dealing with creeps

That was the end of the dream

April 10, seat 2E, United Airlines, Las Vegas to New Orleans

The fight didn't go as I thought

To me, the math added up to Bradley winning by a decision, if it went the distance

But Bradley was knocked down twice and lost

Bradley had a few moments and I jumped up out of my seat, threw my fists in the air, and got pumped up with excitement

But Manny was faster and countered him

Manny was the best fighter that night

We were in seat 19B, right where the fighters entered and exited

I felt bad for Bradley when he passed

His trainer Teddy Atlas looked deflated, yet stoic at the same time as he exited

Manny's mother and his wife were all smiles when they exited

I sat in my chair for a long time after the fight, hemming and hawing about the defeat

I owe money on my lost bet

The fight hadn't gone as I predicted

And that's life