

**How Do We Know**  
Eli Conley

Every morning you wake up  
You make the toast and brew the tea  
You pet the cat and keep her quiet  
So she will not wake me

**How do we know when it's time to seal the deal?**  
**How do we know when it's time to take all the things we feel and make it real?**  
**How do we know? Oh...**

At night we go out on the roof  
And watch the stars as they appear  
And I'll admit I've looked for proof  
That love can still work out, I've had to let go doubt and fear

**How do we know when it's time to seal the deal?**  
**How do we know when it's time to take all the things we feel and make it real?**  
**How do we know? Oh...**

Four years ago you drew some diamonds  
Geometric, pen and ink, you gave them to me  
And then this spring you made a ring, a little silver thing  
And we told ourselves it meant nothing, oh no

In truth, I've never cared for marriage  
But I hoped we'd settle down  
I'll take the roses and the carriage  
But not the paperwork, we don't need no clerk downtown

**I think I know that it's time to seal the deal**  
**I think I know that it's time to take all the things I feel and kneel**  
**I think I know, Oh...**

**Lucky Star**  
Eli Conley

We were walking on a hillside, we had just met in the bar  
When you pointed at Orion and said that one would be ours  
And I gazed at you in wonder as you pulled me to your car  
So I made a wish upon our lucky star

When I woke up that next morning you had left a note for me  
In the middle of your pillow, where your head was supposed to be  
It said "Billy, oh I love you, but I'm married, I ain't free  
So remember me beneath our lucky star"

Now every night I go back to that goddamn bar  
Now every night people laugh cause no one there knows who you are  
So I go back up on that hill and ask the stars

I am out in east Kentucky chopping trees as thick as men  
On a ridge that's eighty miles from Abingdon where we first met  
I am building us a cabin just in case we meet again  
Cause I made that wish upon our lucky star  
Do you ever wish upon our lucky star?

## **All That Ends**

Eli Conley

Maybe we'll die of cancer  
Or we'll die of old age  
Maybe we'll go like a wrecking ball  
We'll drop dead in a rage  
Maybe we'll hold each other  
till the sweet and solemn end  
Maybe we'll just give in

I don't know 'bout you, but I would love to see 85  
I hope I can still drive but it's all right if I can't  
I don't know what you see  
when you look at me that way  
Are you looking at today or at tomorrow?  
There's always tomorrow

Maybe we'll die of alcohol  
Or World War III  
Maybe the revolution'll come  
But they'll put poison in our tea  
The only thing I know for sure  
Is when we go it's not for good  
Look for me out in the woods

I don't know bout you, but I would love to see 75  
Go out for a drive along the ocean  
There's always the ocean

Maybe the ozone'll open up  
and we'll all go to our graves  
Maybe we'll end this mess we're in  
I believe we can still be saved  
I'm not afraid of death anymore  
Like I was when I was three  
Cause all that ends with death is me

I don't know 'bout you, but I would love to see 65  
I hope I have the drive to keep singing these songs  
I don't know what you see  
when you look at me that way  
Are you looking at today or at tomorrow?  
There's always tomorrow  
Until we fade

## **What I'm Worth**

Eli Conley

I bus the tables at Sam's Pizza Place  
Sometimes your kids ask when they see my face  
Are you a girl, are you a boy?  
I wish that I could say "Why yes I am"  
"Matter of fact, I am a happy man"  
But I don't know what my boss would say if he found out

Don't think you've met another man like me  
Maybe you've seen a couple on TV  
We all have to fight  
For you to take us seriously

**I've got a name, it's not the one they gave at birth  
I've got a name, don't try to tell me what I'm worth**

Stay in my room sometimes on Saturdays  
And lie alone behind the lowered shades  
Just read my novels, smoke cigarettes and stare out into space  
I got a little dream I'll chase someday  
Drive out to Houston, someplace far away  
And nobody there will know who I used to be

**I've got a name, it's not the one they gave at birth  
I've got a name, don't try to tell me what I'm worth**

Each day I wake up and I'm still right here  
Using the same damn license to buy beer  
Cause it's nine hundred dollars to change your name in Doylestown  
But I am the man that I was meant to be  
I think it's time that you caught up to me  
I won't change myself because you dislike what you see

**I've got a name, it's not the one they gave at birth  
I've got a name, don't try to tell me what I'm worth  
I've got a name, it's not the one they gave at birth  
I've got a name, don't try to tell me what I'm worth**

**Broke Song**  
Eli Conley

Maybe you get to a certain age and you get nice furniture  
(What age is that?)  
I haven't got there yet, but I'll let you know  
My things are used or they're particle board  
From a place I'm loathe to name  
And I'm damn ready for something steady  
Wish money would call my name

**It ain't no joke being broke all the time**  
**There's no romance or hope**  
**In the unemployment line**  
**I've got five bucks the bank and**  
**In my pocket just a dime**  
**Hallelujah, what's it to ya?**  
**Back to the grind**

Baby we've got a lotta love but our love won't pay the rent  
Our story's old as mud and fresh as dew  
It wasn't us who made this bed  
It was bankers, it was suits  
But here we lay and we've got bills to pay And the straps broke off our boots

**It ain't no joke being broke all the time**  
**There's no romance or hope**  
**In the unemployment line**  
**I've got five bucks in the bank and**  
**In my pocket just a dime**  
**Hallelujah, what's it to ya?**  
**Lord I think it's by design**  
**Hallelujah, what's it to ya?**

You know that I once dreamed it would be easy  
That I'd grow up and the money it would flow  
I wish that I'd get used to having little  
But it ain't so

I watch the birds as they fly along with no need for bank accounts  
I know that humans too could do without that mess  
Just think if we all raised the kids, grew the food and built our homes And there  
weren't no bosses  
No more gains and losses  
We would all feel less alone

**It ain't no joke being broke all the time  
There's no romance or hope  
In the unemployment line  
I've got five bucks in the bank and  
In my pocket just a dime  
Hallelujah, what's it to ya?  
Lord I think it's by design  
Hallelujah, what's it to ya?  
Back to the grind**

**Give It Up**  
Eli Conley

Leave a note, make the call, walk on over, don't stall  
Say it's over, that's all, give it up  
Dear you said it your yourself, he is hurting your health  
All of us want to help, give it up

When you leave you'll be lonely  
But that is the only  
Way out of this mess that you're in  
You're not bad, you're not good  
You have chopped all the wood  
But your fire will not be rebuilt

When it's done, you must leave,  
Try your best not to weep  
Till you're home in a heap, give it up

When you leave you'll be lonely  
But that is the only  
Way out of this mess that you're in  
You're not bad, you're not good  
You have chopped all the wood  
But your fire will not be rebuilt

Take a break, take a pill, take a bath if you will  
There are times when you must give it up

**Strong and Tender**  
Eli Conley

Sometimes people say things about you  
That are so damn far from true  
There will be those who'll believe them  
But those folks lose out on you

**And it's so hard to remember  
Yes it's so hard to follow through  
You must love yourself strong and tender  
Let the people that you love hold tight to you**

I take a walk by the cathedral  
My belly's empty as my mind  
I hardly think of him at all now  
Except when people are unkind

**And it's so hard to remember  
Yes it's so hard to follow through  
You must love yourself strong and tender  
Let the people that you love hold tight to you  
Let the people that you love hold tight...**

I know I hurt him and I'm sorry  
But goddamn, he cut me to the bone  
He tells his friends a different story  
Than when we were alone

The cannon sounds on the horizon  
The cannonball falls where I lay  
He's left no space for me to walk on  
No way that I can have my say

**And it's so hard to remember  
Yes it's so hard to follow through  
You must love yourself strong and tender  
Let the people that you love hold tight to you  
Let the people that you love hold tight to you**

**Get In My Own Way**  
Eli Conley

I wrote it down — From 10 to noon  
I'd sit at home and I'd write a tune  
At 10 am I was checking e-mail  
At 12 noon I was still derailed

**So many ways that I get in my own way  
So many ways that I get in my own way  
So many ways that I get in my own way  
So many ways that I get in my own way**

At 1 o'clock I waited on a call  
At 2 pm I'd heard nothing at all  
At 3 o'clock my friend finally phoned  
Cause he was in the Mountain Time Zone

**Chorus**

At 4 pm I needed a late lunch  
At 4:30 well I got hunch  
At 5 pm my baby would come home  
And I can't write when I'm not alone  
No I can't write when I'm not alone  
I just can't write when I'm not alone  
No I can't write when I'm not alone

**Chorus**

Well now it's midnight and my love's asleep  
It's seven hours till the cell phone goes beep  
beep, beep beep beep beep, beep beep  
Crawl in the closet with the coats and shoes  
Get an idea (*stop*)  
But I start to snooze

**Chorus (2x)**



**Strong**  
Eli Conley

I dressed myself in black today  
Without thinking why  
Too many people who I love  
Are watching people they love die  
And every step they take  
It feels so wrong wrong wrong  
They're almost gone

**Everybody get together and we're strong**  
**Everybody get together and we're strong**  
**Everybody get together**  
**We will always do it better**  
**When we're moving all together**  
**Pushing on**  
**Everybody we are strong**

Every day in this America  
Another Black life is wiped out  
At the hands of a policeman  
Who thinks he knows without a doubt  
That every breath they took  
Well it was wrong, wrong, wrong  
And now they're gone

**Chorus**

Oh the dead, make no noises  
Yes, the dead they make no sound  
But the living left behind them  
Rend and thrash the air around  
For all the cries we make  
Oh death is long long long  
And they're still gone

**Chorus**

**The End**  
Eli Conley

I know you're angry, I know you're sad  
I know I've never lost my dad  
I hope it's a long time before I got through what you're going through  
The year you started seventh grade  
He made you watch the pride parade  
He said no boy of his would prance, you never did let yourself dance

**But you tried to stand beside him while he faced it**  
**There was nothing you could change or fix or plan**  
**In the end you held his hand**

He wrote his memoir that last year  
And all the nurses came to hear  
He didn't mention you at all, you left to stand out in the hall

**But you tried to stand beside him while he faced it**  
**There was nothing you could change or fix or plan**  
**In the end you held his hand**

He never liked you much  
I wouldn't blame you if you'd left him there without your touch

So feel the wind upon your face  
And know you're in the only place  
That it is possible to be, you've gotta let your body grieve

**Cause you tried to stand beside him while he faced it**  
**There was nothing you could change or fix or plan**  
**In the end you held his hand**