

# Jason Hawk Harris – Love & the Dark

## Credits

Produced, recorded, and mixed by Andy Freeman  
Mastered by Collin Jordan at The Boiler Room in Chicago, IL  
Album design/illustration by M Greiner  
Photography by Daley Hake

All songs written by Jason Hawk Harris; Lakeyatom Publishing Co. (ASCAP)

Jason Hawk Harris – lead vocals, guitars (all tracks)  
Philip Glenn – piano, violin (all tracks)  
Kevin Brown – drums, percussion (all tracks)  
Jonathan Ahrens – bass (1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)  
Mark Lavengood – lap steel, dobro (1, 6, 9)  
Natalie Nicoles – vocals, harmonium (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9)  
Rachel Baiman (courtesy fo Free Dirt records) – vocals (5, 7, 8)  
Dominic Martinez – bass (2, 4)  
Jeremy Long – pedal steel (2, 4)  
Joel Martin – pedal steel (5, 7, 8)  
Brad Lindsay – guitar (2, 4, 8)  
Andy Freeman – bass (3)

## Lyrics

### 1. The Smoke and the Stars

I don't like how they stare.  
I don't like them at all—  
My yellow-eyed daughters,  
My cold-blooded sons  
Or the forks in their tongues.

Tell me how was I supposed to know  
That they'd latch onto me and never let go?  
I never fight. I don't know why...  
It's been such a long time.

But I hear you calling my name. I know you're driving my way.  
Bring me the light (a man needs to see)  
And baby please, get these things off of me.

Standing with all I got left  
When I see that door open  
And watch you walk in.  
They shrivel and hiss  
At the grace in your step.  
That was something to see.

Then they all turn into fireballs,  
Roll to the corners, and burn up the walls.  
Now it's just us—with the smoke and the stars—  
Holding hands in the dark.

I said here you are my love. Maybe I was just waiting for you  
To get through the grapevine, tear down that door,  
And let me live in those green eyes of yours.

## **2. Cussing at the Light**

Well I think it's about time I had a drink  
From the gin I keep wrapped up under the sink  
I'm probably gonna have more than a few  
Cuz when I'm feeling down that's what I do.

It's what I do when the daylight beats me down  
It's what I do everytime I see you walking around

I've been cussing at the light, I can't wait until it's night  
When I can medicate this beat down heart of mine.

I've never had a hangover I liked  
Don't matter if it's vodka or red wine  
And who knows if I shall ever be released  
But if I drink enough at least I'll sleep.

I'll dream of you and you comin back around  
I'll dream of you, wake up mad and try to pass the fuck back out

Baby, tell me. Was it really for the best?  
When I'm blacked out at some party trying to fill the hole you left?

One day I'll be fine, I'll forget you in good time  
For now I'll medicate this beat down heart of mine  
And keep cussing out the light, counting the hours until it's night

When I can medicate this beat down heart of mine.

### 3. Confused

Someone told me once that I should get myself together  
There's no need to rush the old "I Do"  
And how foolish they would feel  
Speaking in such platitudes  
If they had to do so standing next to you

Honey, I don't have it down  
But ain't that kind of nice  
No one likes to be around a know-it-all  
Certainty, Uncertainty  
Learning Greek between our sheets  
Evolution, Holy Ghosts, and entropy

I'm confused, I'm confused  
Yeah, it's true  
What's that got to do with me and you?  
Why can't I be in love and be confused?

Honey, I can walk that line  
That alabaster spine  
Fragile, pearly white, and crystalline  
See, I've got fire in my bones  
I've got no fear of the unknown  
I've got no time to bother keeping up with Jones

I'm confused, I'm confused  
Yeah, it's true  
What's that got to do with me and you?  
Why can't I be in love?  
Why can't I be in love?  
Why can't I be in love and be confused?

Someone told me once that I should make a little money  
Before I rush to put a ring on you  
Like a bank account could teach me  
What grief and God ain't taught me  
An IRA just gives me more to lose

And they say the more you learn

Well, the more that you just don't know  
So tell what the hell are we doing here?  
I've got a little faith and a little doubt  
But that don't mean we can't make out  
With the cosmic music of the unknown in our ears

I'm confused, I'm confused  
Yeah, it's true  
What's that got to do with me and you?  
I'm confused, I'm confused  
Yeah, it's true  
What's that got to do with me and you?  
Why can't I be in love?  
Why can't I be in love?  
Why can't I be in love and be confused?

#### **4. Giving In**

Liquor store cashier knows my name  
Calls it out to ask me if I'm doing okay.  
Throw a twenty at him, he can keep the change  
But I gotta get this Bulleit from the bottle to my brain  
If I had a needle I would put it in my veins.

I gotta wife, works so damn hard.  
She makes the money while I spend it in the dark  
She cries at home while I cry in the car,  
And I try not to wake her when I get home from the bar  
We sleep so close but she feels so far.

Babe I don't wanna do it again  
But I can't stop myself from giving in.  
I wish that where I am was where I've been.

Babe it ain't easy, it's a hell of a fight  
To argue with a demon almost every single night  
Silver tongue got me thinkin' he's alright  
So I get real drink while he checks the time  
On double vodkas with a little lime.

Babe I don't wanna do it again  
But I can't stop myself from giving in.  
I wish that where I am was where I've been.

You and I starting not to work at all  
So today I'm trying to stay away from alcohol  
I'm sweatin' and it feels like my heads on wrong  
Hands are gettin' shaky it's my own damn fault.  
If you wanna leave, well that's my own damn fault.

When you go, I'll remember your eyes  
And how they sparkle like rain in a sunny sky.  
But just when I think your little heart is set  
I can feel your hand on my shaking chest  
Open up my eyes and your cheeks are wet  
And You're asking God above for a little rest  
Baby, once upon a time I wasn't such a mess.

## **5. Phantom Limb**

I got this shirt. Smells like the viewing:  
Formaldehyde, tobacco and tulips.  
I've washed it ten times and it won't come out.  
No matter how long it's been, I can't forget  
I smell it right now, and it won't come out.

It's coming in waves, it's numb in between  
When I'm not crying I can't feel a thing.  
And the air gets so thin, I breathe what I can.  
Then blow out the smoke, that laughs as it floats  
And waves like a flag. I wish you'd come back.

I feel your fingers comb through my hair  
Open my eyes and there's no one there.  
Then I feel the weight of a phantom limb.  
I call out to you, but you don't say shit  
And I'm crying again. Mother, you're dead.

## **6. I'm Afraid**

When I was young I prayed that he would let me be  
Mother hung his picture on my wall, and prayed I would believe  
She'd kiss my sweaty forehead, then turn out all the lights  
No monster ever scared me like the face of Jesus Christ.  
I listened to the promises, and I came to know the Lord.  
I got pain and I got suffering, but I don't know what for.  
When I talk to Jesus, I'm gonna ask him to his face  
Why'd you make this shit so hard? Lord, it feels like I've been played.

Oh that grace  
Oh that sound  
Oh that hound  
That hunts me down  
Tracking down your prey  
While I dream of endless days  
I'm afraid. Lord, I'm afraid.

Nothing much has changed in twenty something years  
When I hear that awful howling I cover both my ears.  
I've learned to pay attention so I can feel him getting close  
But you can't be too careful when it comes to holy ghosts  
One day I was walkin when a funny thing occurred  
Saw myself across the street talkin' to a Mockingbird.  
I started walking over but I should've looked both ways  
They had to peel my body off an old blue Chevrolet.

Well, I woke up in a daze and I thought I was alone  
Then, I looked to my right and saw an angel from the Lord  
And he was eatin' something when he smiled right at me  
Picked me up like I weighed nothing and I could not say a thing.  
No bone of mine was broken and my eyes could plainly see  
I stood on both my legs and wondered how this all could be  
He said do you have your answer? I said yes, I think I do.  
He said get down to that river, boy, St. Michael's moving through.

## **7. Blessed Interruption**

When they lower her down (in a clockwise motion, now)  
It can't be too slow and it can't be too fast.  
Please thank them for being so strong.  
A note on the plot: (my father had a thought)  
If they buy two (he asked me to ask you)  
Could they be on that hill by the range?

I need a blessed interruption.

Who's gonna speak while I scream? Who'll give the eulogy?  
There's so much to do and there's pictures of you  
And the hair on my neck is on end.  
There's flowers to pick out.  
Gotta make sure the church has good sound  
Will there be a wake for the family's sake?

Will we all sing Amazing Grace?

I need a blessed interruption.

Girl there you are laying there waiting for me  
To see what it was I've been missing  
Good woman, let me in to those eyes  
Good woman, let me tell you my mind  
Good woman, give me some of that fire.

That's when I knew (dying in the light of our limbs)  
Lithe and ill-clothed, champagne laugh in hushed tones  
You'll never leave me here all on my own.

You are my blessed interruption.

## **8. Red Room Blues**

Your hand's up my sleeve  
I'm shaking at the touch of acrylic and glaze  
Pull out a nightmare  
Give them to the kids like they're milky ways.  
Sell them to their parents in a silky paste.

I may not do what you want me to  
When auctioneers are calling out the nightly news  
They put me in the corner 'cause I'm legal to use.

Can't do this without you  
Abuse me baby, use me baby, tell your truth  
Seeing's believing, baby. Seeing's believing.  
Bathe me in acidity and hang me up, oh,  
Hang me like Antigone til I wake up.

I got them red room blues  
I am raised from the dead I got a lot to do  
Gimme my crown, dummy.

I'm here, and I'm gonna make the people bow  
Watch the godless and the goodies tear each other down  
I can hear the chomping jowels, (bitch, I love that sound)  
Yeah I'm here and I'm gonna burn the whole thing down.  
They won't see me laughin with their cameras out  
They won't see you cryin' with their cameras out.

## 9. Grandfather

Grandfather, my mind is a blur.  
It's like I've been here a while, or I've just now arrived.  
The water here's nice and the wind is so fine.  
Have I been here a while, or did I just arrive?

Grandfather, you have not said a word.  
That is so unlike you.  
But it's clear from your smile you know something so good  
Something I don't know but something I should  
Grandfather, why haven't you said a word?

Grandfather, your hair has grown back  
And you've got a beard  
Your wrinkles are gone and your eyes are like iron  
I'm watching you smile as I figure this out  
This beautiful place we always talked about

Grandfather, I think my mother's here too  
Is her suffering through?  
I am shaking just thinking of seeing her new,  
Freed from that dark room that's held her since youth  
Grandfather tell me my mother's here too.

Listen close, can you hear that grandson?  
Death is undone.  
Here the food keeps you full and it never goes bad  
People don't talk about what they don't have  
Or mow people down with tour busses in France  
Or shoot people up when they're just trying to dance

Dear grandson, grab your heart and prepare.  
Your mother's just over there.  
She is singing this song as she braids her black hair  
Free from death and destruction, decay and despair,  
She's peaceful and lovely and breathing new air.