



## Mekons – Deserted

### Credits

Recorded at the Gatos Trail studio compound which is situated just outside the Joshua Tree National Park in California by Baron Von Trumfio with Yuccaman Dan at the controls.

Mixing and mastering by Mekons and the Baron at Chateau Trumfio high on a hilltop in the holy city of Silverlake.

Overdubs captured by Mike Hagler back east at Kingsize Sound Labs, Chicago and across the great ocean at Little Sparta Productions in London by Alan D Boyd.

Hand-crafted edits and tweaking duties performed by Lu Edmonds in Crowley's Pub, Corofin, County Clare.

All these desert songs were written by Mekons and are published by Low Noise (USA) BMI. Photos by Mekons and album layout by big sexpot Markus Greiner.

### **Band members from left to right:**

**Vocals and guitar: Jon Langford a.k.a. Joshua T Landfrog** (Chicago, Wales): founder member 1977, originally the drummer, Jon sings, plays guitar, performs with Three Johns, Waco Brothers, Four Lost Souls, Pine Valley Cosmonauts, Men of Gwent, Skull Orchard, and paints

**Vocals: Sally Timms a.k.a. Sahara Timms** (Chicago, Yorkshire): first sang with Mekons in 1982, enjoys a parallel solo career and has performed with The Dirty Three, Magnetic Fields, Marc Almond, Pete Shelley, Freakons. Moxie Tung, The Shehees, Skull Orchard

**Violin: Susie Honeyman a.k.a. Florence of Arabia** (Bethnal Green, Scotland): joined Mekons in 1983 as a violinist. Susie's other projects include Echo City, Little Sparta, Fire Engines, The Higsons, Rip Rig and Panic, Vivian Stanshall and an art gallery in London called the Grey Gallery

**Vocals and keyboards: Rico Bell a.k.a. Yucca Bell** (Aptos CA, Wales/Liverpool): accordionist and singer since 1985, an acclaimed oil painter who has made a series of solo albums with his band the Snake Handlers and worked with Martin Barre of Jethro Tull & the March Violets

**Vocals and guitar: Tom Greenhalgh a.k.a. Tom E Kalaharihalgh** (Devon, England): Founding member, vocalist, and guitarist since the Mekons formed in Leeds 1977, Tom is a multi-media artist and has also been a member of Edward II and the Red Hot Polkas and King Tommy's Velvet Runway

**Bass, synths, and wailing: Dave Trumfio a.k.a. The Baron Waste** (Chicago/LA USA): Began working with Mekons as a sound engineer in 1994 and has played guitar, keyboards & most recently bass in the band. Other projects include Pulsars & a new Dark Wave combo Viktor Fiction

**Saz and cümbüş: Lu Edmonds a.k.a. Tak Lu Makan** (Citizen of the World): a Mekon since 1985 first as a bassist but now on stringed instruments including the saz, cumbus and oud. Formerly a member of the Damned, 3 Musthaphas 3, Billy Bragg and the Blokes currently a member of PIL and Les Triaboliques

**Drums and Vocals: Steve Goulding a.k.a. Steve Gobi** (Brooklyn, UK): joined Mekons in 1985 on drum kit, other projects include Graham Parker & the Rumour, Gang of Four, Waco Brothers, The Cure, Elvis Costello, The Associates, David Bowie, Roxy Music, Nick Lowe, Wreckless Eric, Fond Farewells

# Lyrics

## Lawrence of California

Lawrence of California  
Get out of the van and disappear  
Hello teeth flash yellow  
Over your shoulder as the dusty walls move in  
And nothing is near  
Get out of the van and disappear  
Every seed is a weapon here  
And soon I'll be the king

I will be the king

Take the bottom of the sea  
Turn 95 degrees  
Shady groves and ancient tip toe  
Stubborn silence grows  
Flat on your back in the dark  
Red Thorns burst through fossil bark  
The clutch and cling  
But soon I will be King

I will be the King  
I will be the King  
Lawrence of California

Barbs and burrs to clutch and cling  
And soon I'll be the king  
Spreading over everything  
A million at a time  
Draw the line and see  
How much good that will do for me  
How much good  
Soon I'll be the king

I will be the King  
I will be the King  
Lawrence of California  
I will be the King  
I will be the King  
Lawrence of California

**Harar 1883**

I wrap my scarf round my head  
Tight against the desert dread  
Wind blown hard across the sand  
Bullet marks that scar my hand  
Back home they think I've disappeared  
Yes, that's true that I deserted  
That dutch army in the east  
I was not troubled in the least  
To give up writing up poetry  
I traded coffee in abyssinal  
I was the only european  
Haile Selassie fathers friend  
In the desert my wild heart  
Was stilled, my tent was dark  
Sheltering from the beating sun  
My supply of antique guns  
Eyes resting on the horizon  
Line of camels approaching  
Wrap my scarf around my head  
Tight against the desert dread  
I wrapped my scar tight around my head  
Against the desert dread  
Wrapped my scarf around my head  
Wrapped my scarf around my head  
Against the desert dread  
I was the only european  
Haile Selassie fathers friend

### **Into The Sun**

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
Vessel shattered on a day  
When sound and silence crumble away  
Oh paradise bird spirals down  
Pluck feathers for a shroud  
Black as midnight minus one  
Build a pyramid in the sun

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
Vessel shattered on a day  
When sound and silence crumble away

So soft between your toes

This pleasing cobalt dome  
Creep and shift on the never never  
Into the edges of forever

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
Vessel shattered on a day  
When sound and silence crumble away  
I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
Vessel shattered on that day  
Sound and silence crumble away

Put on some armour  
This Galaxy explodes  
Pick up the pointed stick  
The Galaxy explodes  
There's a world inside each grain of sand  
Clogs the gears and fills the water tanks  
I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away

Put on those night vision goggles  
A galaxy explodes  
I know which way to go, we know the Galaxy explodes  
Looking inward inside  
Blocking out the sun  
Whistle down the wind  
Rattling eardrums  
Smoke on the shadows  
Tunnel through time  
The old snake charmer is on the line  
Run it up the flag poll  
A Galaxy Explodes  
Shoot another flare, another scare  
The Galaxy Explodes  
The Galaxy Explodes

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
Vessel shattered  
This is the moment when we cease to move  
Remain aloof we have nothing to prove

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
A vessel shattered on this day  
When sound and silence crumble away

I am the pipe that others play  
Sound and silence crumble away  
A vessel shattered on this day  
Sound and silence crumble away

### **How Many Stars**

Captain, Captain, tell me true  
Does my sweet william ride with you  
Oh, no fair maid he don't ride here  
He's lost out in the dark my dear  
She drove her car back into town  
It seemed to all she'd broke her heart  
She called for a chair to sit her down  
Pen and ink she wrote it down

How many stars are out tonight?  
How many stars? How many stars?  
How many stars are out tonight?  
How many stars? How many stars?

Father, father dig my grave  
For I am pickled, I am done  
Upon my hand a velvet glove  
To show them all I died for love

How many stars are out tonight  
How many Stars? How many Stars  
How many stars are out tonight?  
How many stars? How many stars?

How many stars are out tonight  
How many Stars? How many Stars  
How many stars are out tonight?  
How many stars? How many stars?  
How many stars are out tonight  
How many Stars? How many Stars

### **In the Desert**

In the desert  
Artillery takes its time  
Pounds and recoils  
Shell after shell  
Sunk in the sand  
A shattered statues lies  
Nothing survives in the desert  
Nothing survives  
stamped out these lifeless things  
Mockery Smashed on the pedestal  
No words appear  
No words appear  
"Nothing besides remains round the decay  
Of colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away"  
My name is Blank a creature of Bush and Blair  
Darkness and despair darkness and despair

### **Cloud Puncher**

Cloud puncher  
Sky stealer  
Earth falling  
Early warning

Deep mountain  
Tall highway  
Gasoline Rainbow  
Beats working  
Beats dying  
Slow rising  
Where you hiding?  
Where you hiding?

And a skinny fella comes out of nowhere  
The only moment on this horizon  
Give us something to fix our eyes on  
Something nagging almost blinding  
Give us something to fix our eyes on

Weird recollections  
Life flashing before you  
Stumble off again

Into the mirage of the sunset  
Into the mirage of the sunset  
Into the mirage of the sunset

Drinking dancing sex high living  
They don't seem so sinful now  
We dwindle in the atom age  
Into the mirage at the folded page

Into the mirage of the sunset  
Into the mirage of the sunset  
Into the mirage of the sunset  
Into the mirage of the sunset

Guilt remorse and loneliness  
All are part of dying  
This is as good  
This is as good as its gonna get  
Between the mirage and the sunset  
Between the mirage and the sunset  
Between the mirage and the sunset

No taboos nothing to lose  
Modern dramas electric storms  
A trunk in the attic a moment of panic  
The daily routine faces freeze  
Hearts of gold hearts of gold  
I never thought it would end  
I never thought it would end  
All my friends  
Where the fuck did they go?

In my tent I sit and tremble  
While outside the dust storms rage  
I thought I had found an oasis  
But it was just a muddy sinking hole

### **Weimar Vending Machine**

Stranger in a strange land  
Strange to have no better plan  
Iggy pops up in Berlin  
At a weimar vending machine

Press s.a.n.d for sandwich  
Out pops a pre-packed bag of sand  
Ten thousand grains in a kleine packet  
He can hide it in his hand

As god in the act of creation  
Flings out a galaxy of stars  
As they slip through his fingers  
Show him the way to the next whiskey bar

Street lights bleaching out the sky  
Burn up all the space he needs  
Street lights bleaching out the sky  
Never thought much about boredom  
Wasn't something that bothered me  
The hunt for work the search for grace  
This oppressive variety

Street lights bleaching out the sky  
Burn up all the space he needs  
Street lights bleaching out the sky  
No box no suitcase to hide it  
Need twenty acres to set it free  
No ceremony in detroit  
Change its name to entropy

Sisters and brothers I regret to inform  
The veil is torn the priest has gone  
But the moon is hidden  
The God red eye of a shit brown dog  
Lying all wounded alone in the vastness  
The priest is gone, the priest is gone  
I stumbled and fell and scrambled around  
Terrible struggles twix and flimsy gauze  
Excuses twinges and heartaches  
Await outside the sun bakes I wait  
But the Priest is gone, But the Priest is gone  
A survival manual a blind man  
Feeling the face of a darling child  
Ah! He is gone back to beyond  
Mankind snivels, footprints stretch  
Across tattered meadows bloom  
round in circles of sex  
a snakes eye blinks staggers and dims

A bubbling cauldron of sad lonely beans  
A dirty vest  
The priest is gone now

### **Andromeda**

Lying in this cot  
Andromeda above this cot  
On the ground  
Creatures creep about  
The dirt don't care  
In the dirt on the ground  
The sky above us  
No lights from the city get this far  
Andromeda above this cot  
This cot on the ground  
Andromeda floating away  
Like a departing dream  
Abandoned by human parents  
Raised by coyotes  
Nine days of chanting and singing  
Cannot bring him back

### **After The Rain**

Diamond weapon boned dirty dry  
Tongue teeth hook round eye  
Hunkered down in this barren hole  
Bristling exoskeleton antenna  
Come back later come back later  
You should see us after the rain

Armor plated seeds and spores  
Armor plated desperation  
Horns and ammo sut and claw  
Bleached white across desert floor  
Come back In seven years come back later  
Come back later come back later  
You should see us after the rain

Tracks in winter storms of spring  
When flood and mud roll in  
Sleep and wake to germinate  
Bursting out of the ground  
Come back in seven years come back later  
A moment of a thousand years

Come back later come back later  
Come back  
You should see us after the rain