



Reactors

1. Head Above Water
2. Permanent Blue
3. Rainy Day
4. Shadow
5. Stranger To Myself
6. It Doesn't Bother Me
7. Never Said
8. 123 Let's Go
9. Walking Wounded
10. Kids In The Rain

These songs were recorded sometime in the 90's but most were written much earlier. We only rediscovered the recordings recently and were amazed to hear the old Reactors songs sounding so good. From time to time people have asked us for the Reactors album that never was... so here it is at last, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we did putting it together and reliving the old times!

All titles written, played and produced by Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
John Applegarth played drums on tracks 1,2,3,8 & 9
B&W photos by Robin Bond, colour photos by Herbie Knott.
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1. Head Above Water

Salt water stinging my eye
Now the tide is running so high
But my love is keeping me dry
And I keep my head above water

Drowning man clutching at straws
Treading water miles from the shores
But my love is giving me cause
To keep my head above water

I keep my head
Above water
I keep my head held high
Above water

Watching out for ships in the dark
I keep away from the high water mark
But my love saves me from the shark
And I keep my head above water

I keep my head
Above water
I keep my head held high
Above water

Well now the coastguard's given up on me
Just another man lost at sea
But my love takes good care of me
And I keep my head above water

I keep my head
Above water
I keep my head held high
Above water

2. Permanent Blue

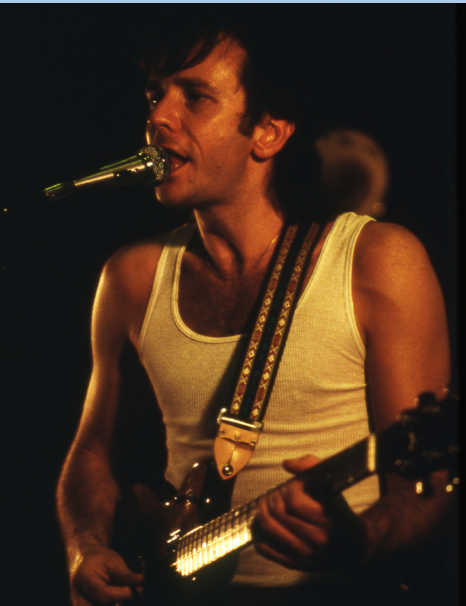
Well I used to think ink was rarely bought
Like salt and pepper and sets of dice
Now my diary is full of permanent blue
The manufacturer's made back his price
Cos all that I do is permanent blue

Well the bottles are empty, the ink and the beer
The brewer and the printer's done well today
Maybe that's why you left, they paid you a fee
On contractual basis for leaving me
Cos all that I do is permanent blue

The world is full of broken hearts
Breaking and mending
The world is full of broken hearts
And unhappy endings
Permanent blue, permanent blue
Is all that I do

Well I fell for the scheme of an American
dream
I gave my heart to a young boy in Rome
No matter the place, no matter the face
There's only one thing that I can call my own
You see you're building me up
You're pulling me down
You're making me laugh
And then you're making me frown
There's a smile on my face, a tear in my eye
You say hello but then you say bye bye

Cos all that I do is permanent blue



3. Rainy Day

I save my money for nothing
I keep my heart for no one
I put it by for the real high
As I do another dry run

I save my love for a rainy day
I save my love for a rainy day
I save my life just to fade away
I save my love...for a rainy day

I wait for tides to be turning
I wait for wind to be changing
I wait for planetary favour
To free the love that I'm caging

I save my love for a rainy day...

Oh should I wait until the sun don't shine
Till the blues is mine
And I just can't lose control
Until I'm on my knees
Until hell will freeze...

And I can't find a way
And I can't find the track
And I can't get to you
And I can't get it back

And if there's one in a million
Will my feelings be unspoken
Will there only be umbrella
As I see the heavens open

4. Shadow

When I was small
I would walk on the wall
And your arms would protect me
Should I ever fall
Soon I was longing
To reach for the sky
But your arms did prevent me
From learning to fly.

So don't get me wrong
I still cry for you,
Don't get me wrong

I would've died for you,
But since you've been gone
I'm coming out from under your shadow
Since you've been gone
I'm coming out from under your shadow.

Now I'm grown
With a child of my own
And I long to protect her
From things I have known.
But as soon as she's longing
To reach for the sky
Well I will give her my love
And I'll leave her to fly.

So don't get me wrong..

So I'm gonna be the one who shines tonight
So put away the stars if they're too bright
Cos I'm coming out from under your shadow
I'm coming out from under your shadow.

I still cry for you
I would've died for you

5. Stranger To Myself

Well I wake up in the ashtray
Like a worn out comedian
Like a faded chameleon
Trying to hide before the sunset
So I offer supplication
In a bombed out cathedral
Oh deliver me from evil
Well I can find no consolation

But if you could see me now
You'd have a different tale to tell

But if you could see me now
You'd not say you know me
And so I dust myself off slowly
Trying to find my sense of humour
Oh but later or sooner
I'm going to have to find some resolution
So I ask the burning question
Oh can I find the real solution
Oh but circumlocution
Gives me words that always fail me

But if you could see me now...

You'd not say you know me well
You couldn't say you know me well
You couldn't say you know me well
Cos I'm a stranger to myself

Rain rain go away
Don't want to put up my umbrella
Don't want to trust the fortune teller
Don't wanna know if God is with me
Well I wish I could escape the problem
Like a real life Houdini
Rub my kettle for a genie
Gonna fly me to Nirvana
But if you could see me now...

You wouldn't say you know me well
Cos I'm a stranger to myself

6. It Doesn't Bother Me At All

Maybe I'm the lucky one
I fell in love but I didn't want perfection
Maybe you're the unlucky one
Because nothing that you do
Will ever alter that affection



Well you can take my heart
Tear my world apart
It doesn't bother me at all
And you can read my mind
Put me back in line
It doesn't bother me at all

Don't think I'm the lonely one
I know a guy who would welcome a reaction
Darlin' you're the only one
Nothing that you do will ever alter that attraction
Well you can take my heart...

I thought I made it clear in my letter
A little reading between the lines
Would leave no doubt
I wouldn't have to spell it out

It doesn't bother me at all...

Well you can take my heart
Tear my world apart
It doesn't bother me at all
And you can read my mind
Put me back in line
It doesn't bother me at all

No matter what you do
No matter what you say
It doesn't bother me at all

7. Never Said

Didn't know I should have told you
I could blame it on a lover
Who left me speechless
I thought I only had to hold you
And you'd know the way I really feel

I never said I love you
No one said I had to
Never said that I do
I never said I cared

Should have read in my demeanour
There was so much in my heart
You can't have looked too closely
I maybe should have made it clearer
I should have opened up my heart to you
I never said...

Never told you I could be so true
Never said I'm in love with you
Never said it no
I never said it... oh no

And I know I will regret it
I should have held up signs TEN FEET TALL!
I only wish that I had said it
And had left you in no doubt at all
Never said...

Never said I cared
Never said I cared
I should have said it

8. 123 Let's Go

Take your time and you'll wind up with
The same old story
The name of the game is no one's giving
To a hand held out
It's not what you do, it's who you know
So come on baby and 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!
Well let's be taking some chances baby

All the gutters in the neighbourhood
Are overflowing
Everyone's moaning, everyone's dreaming
Of yesterday
You're no better off with the devil you know
So don't give a damn baby, 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!
Well let's be taking some chances baby

Waiting for this, waiting for that
D'you wait until the world
Has you on your knees
Don't give up baby, 123 let's go!

Save your words for the brushing up
Of future tenses
There's a world that is waiting there
For you and me
So take your fears and lay them low
And get yourself ready baby, 123 let's go!

Taking our chances, 123 let's go!
Ooh let's be taking some chances baby

9. Walking Wounded

What you did was all in the game
Of living, of loving, of self preservation
Now I don't believe a word they say
Or see eye to eye without reservation

I'm just walking wounded
Every step of the way

I felt so lucky, but I was just
A fool in love, it taught me a lesson
Now if you ask me do I love you
It's a trick, it's a lie, a loaded question

I'm just walking wounded
Every step of the way

I was walking with my head in the clouds
Walking with the sun in my eye
And I was singing
"Oh what a beautiful morning"

But night came down
It left me wounded but walking

I don't want to suspect your motives
You're not the kind for lying or scheming
But I can't trust my feeling for you
Without looking for double meanings

I'm just walking wounded
Every step of the way

10. Kids In The Rain

It's a matter, a matter of time
Before your world comes down and leaves
you crying

There's no reason, no reason on earth
Why you should ever give up trying
It's just a matter of simply having fun
Like kids in the rain

Come on, there's a will and a way
To get the most out of the situation
There's a price, a price that you pay
When you stick around in hesitation
It's just a matter of losing some self-control
Like kids in the rain

You'll never know just what it's all about
Don't ever say "I told you so"
Nothing'd ever be misunderstood
If everything'd stay
Right as rain

It's just a matter of simply having fun
Like kids in the rain



If you're wondering about the slightly amateur looking font for our name on the cover, it is a faithful copy of our slightly amateur looking backcloth, painted with care in the front room, long before anyone was providing any backcloth service on the internet.

The Reactors had many drummers, but when drum machines became affordable we discovered we could program the drums ourselves and make a hell of a racket with just the two of us. As a duo, we entered a Melody Maker battle of the bands contest in the eighties and we won... a drum kit! So drummers eventually got reinstated with our last one being John Applegarth who played beautifully on this recording, which vividly recalls a time and a place for us. If you were there we hope this brings back some good memories for you too. - D&B