

## **WHO I AM: THE SONGS**

Below, Alice Peacock discusses the songs on her new album, Who I Am. Produced by Andrew Williams (Victoria Williams, Peter Case, Dog's Eye View), the disc is due [RELEASE DATE], 2005.

### **“Different From the Rest” (Alice Peacock)**

*I've often wondered how I'd feel/ To finally let you go  
I said I'll cross that bridge/ When I come to it*

Sometimes you can't quite let go of someone and you don't know why. When you find out somebody you've been very close to is getting married, you may wish him well, but you may also be conflicted about it. Even if you don't want to marry this person yourself, you can't help thinking, “Yeah, but why doesn't he want to marry *me*?” I think everyone you've ever loved is part of you. (This song wasn't about someone specific but an amalgamation of past loves.) You're going on with your separate lives, yet you shared something very intimate and special.

### **“Baby Come Back” (Alice Peacock)**

*I was wrong and I know it/ So much pain in your eyes  
And I've no way of knowing/ If you're leaving this time*

This is about somebody who has hurt someone deeply and is saying, “I know what I did was wrong – how do I make it up to you?” Musically, the Memphis sound was a touchstone for me.

### **“Here I Go Again” (Alice Peacock/Andrew Williams)**

*Sometimes I throw caution to the wind/ Guess I'm drawn into the drama  
And I try to tell myself that I should stop but it/ Looks like I don't wanna*

We play out certain dramas in our lives until we finally learn the lesson we need to learn. I tried to express my understanding of the compulsion that makes it so hard to let go, that ultimately hurts you and the people in your life. When you've got a self-destructive bent, you know what you're doing is wrong; you know it's addictive behavior, but on some very deep level, it feeds you. The trick is to realize it and say, “Okay, I'm now choosing some healthy options” – or at least write a song about it.

### **“Time” (Alice Peacock)**

*And all across the universe/ Everything expanding  
At once a blessing and a curse/ A beginning and an ending*

I was reading about quantum physics, how the universe is expanding and contracting. A friend had recently passed away, and the cycle of life – people being born, people dying – felt very personal. It made me wonder, what's really important in this life? And my answer was the love we have for each other, for our husbands and wives and family and friends. Life is bittersweet. It's not easy, but it can be glorious. I think you have to savor the things that give it meaning, no matter how small they may seem.

**“Taught Me Well” (Alice Peacock)**

*And I used to hold the anger in my stomach like a fist/But in time it was quite clear  
That only I was suffering here/ And having gratitude for you was the way out of this*

I was merging on the freeway in L.A. and I guess I cut some guy off because he started screaming at me. He was so angry – it was like he’d punched me. It left me feeling horrible. I saw [photographer] Henry Diltz that night and he said when people act that way, he finds it helpful to say to himself, “Thank you; thank you for being my teacher.” He said this person has taught you what you don’t want to be. If you can thank him for that, it takes away the sting so you can let go of the hurt. I thought that was so powerful. Learning that kind of lesson doesn’t have to come in a romantic relationship, but when I wrote this song, I couldn’t resist the line, “Because I finally really learned what was important in my life/ And I thank my lucky stars every day I’m not your wife.”

**“Anyone But Me” (Alice Peacock/Keith Follese)**

*You deserve someone/ Who can give it all to you  
The way that I can’t seem to do*

A friend had told me that he loved his wife but wasn’t *in* love with her anymore. He wanted her to be happy and felt she deserved better. You can love somebody very much but know at the same time that the relationship is not “it.”

**“Runaway Day” (Alice Peacock/Ted Bruner)**

*You’re here, with me/ There’s no where else I’d rather be  
This is the best day I’ve ever had*

When I was a kid, I had a paper route. I earned my own money so I could go down to the store and buy candy, but I also spent my money taking my little brother and sister on what we called runaway days. We’d get on our bikes and go to Wendy’s, which was the only fast-food place in our town, and I’d buy hamburgers for the three of us. This is kind of the grown-up version of that. It’s about going to the beach and letting your cares float away. Sometimes you just have to say, “Let’s have a runaway day.”

**“Love” (Alice Peacock/John Baxter)**

*Love will bend you/ Love will break you  
Then befriend you/ Then forsake you*

My co-writer and I were talking about how love can make you do crazy things. He came up with the chord progression for this song, and then I wrote the lyrics on a plane trip from L.A. to Chicago. The music lent itself to something dark. Love can spin you around; it can beat you up. A lot of behavior that really has nothing to do with love is associated with love.

**“Only a Memory” (Alice Peacock)**

*The shirts in the closet still smell of you  
I don’t know what I am supposed to do*

I lived in L.A. for a few months, which meant I had to be away from my husband. I had this awful thought: Here I am out in California – what if something happens to him and we never see each other again? My imagination just started working overtime. What if all that’s left of him is a memory? I had this glimpse into grief and loss. I can get really freaked out thinking about that. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and poke him just to make sure he’s still breathing.

**“I’m Still Here” (Alice Peacock)**

*Baby if your dreams have a hard time coming true  
You know just where I'll be – standing there by you  
I'll be at your side to help you face your fears  
No matter where you go, I'm still here*

This was written three days before we went into the studio. It's a truly uncomplicated song. The feel, the rhythm, is very easy. It reminds me of one of those great Carly Simon or Carole King songs. It's about being constant.

**“Sunflower” (Alice Peacock/John Baxter)**  
*Sunflower, wipe away your tears/ All your doubts and fears  
You were born to fly – so high*

John [Baxter] and I wrote this for the film “Because of Winn-Dixie,” which is about a little girl who finds a dog in the grocery store, and the dog changes her life. I see myself in her, so I decided to include this song on the record. I found a dog on my paper route and brought him home. I was the kind of child she was, who wasn't afraid of adults. I would go to people's houses and sit with the old man and watch TV because I knew he wanted company, or I'd go down to the bait shop and say, “What do we have today?” I was curious. I thought of that little girl as the sunflower about to bloom. I wrote the song for the movie but also for my childhood self.

**“Finding My Way” (Alice Peacock)**  
*Memories, the ties that bind/ The blood inside your veins and mine  
The secrets of a family/ You'll always be a part of me*

No matter how difficult – or annoying – your family can be, they are so much a part of you. Your family is where you come from emotionally as well as literally. This song says, “While I was finding my way back to you again, I found the way back to me.” We may be very different from our parents and our siblings, but it's important to recognize how we are the same and how that sustains us.

**“Who I Am” (Alice Peacock/Dennis Matkosky)**  
*I may stumble, I may fall/ But I know that through it all  
If to my own self I am true/ Than I'm sure to make it through*

This is very much a song to myself. I wrote it during a difficult time, when I was having doubts about the direction I was going in. I was at a point in my career where I didn't feel particularly understood or appreciated. I did some soul-searching and realized, “I know who I am. I don't need anyone's approval. I'm going to be okay.” Dennis [Matkosky], my co-writer, started the song and I finished it in 10 minutes. Since it's such a big song lyrically, we wanted to keep the arrangement simple and let the lyrics speak for themselves. When we sat down to record it as a band, we were all really inspired. Andrew and Curt sang with me on that one, and I think their vocals lift the song.

**“If You Could Only See Your Eyes” (Alice Peacock/John Greenebaum)**  
*And if I live for 10 forevers/ Here's a moment I'll remember  
Just watching you in this crowded room*

This is a love song I co-wrote with John Greenebaum. It is about our deep love for our respective spouses. Boy are we lucky.

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