

UNDER THE BIG TOP

Under the Big top/ 1

RING MASTER

Before the rush of night's erase
A single stem spans empty space
What melodies the soil has sung
The Circus blooms to waiting sun

Round and round the rainbow top
The Circus walls unfold
Round and round the rainbow top
The Circus tale is told

Inside a velvet lullaby
A voice to sooth the fading light
Inside a darkness shapes a cry
A voice to haunt you in the night

Inside creations crooked kiss
One hand is empty, one holds the wish
Hear! The Circus bell is rung
One dream to rest, one dream begun

Under the Big top/ 2

CLOWN

Under the Bigtop come lion by light
Fast in their footsteps I glide into sight
I've searched every face for so many years
Hoping you'd come try and find me one night

Jesse come back and see me some day
We'll let these circus lights take us away
Back to that place of just you and me
When everything was okay

Once I was a young boy
I climbed a lonely tree
I climbed back down and up again
So no one would see me

Once I fell into a hole
The kind without an end
You jumped in and whispered close
I think you need a friend

Once I held my hand out
Once you gave me yours
Once we sailed our tiny boat
To far and distant shores

You taught me how to sing
I taught you how to swim
We'd laugh until the moon would bring
It's soft glow to our skin

We told our secrets through the night
Our ocean ever deep
You dreamt me in the morning light
I dreamt you in my sleep

Jesse come back and see me someday
We'll let these circus lights take us away
Back to that place of just you and me
When everything was okay

Under the Big top/ 3

I woke one sunny morning
Ran to the water's edge
I waited for you all day long
Upon our secret ledge

I ran back to our secret ledge
When I woke the next day
This time I wept
Because I knew
That you had gone away

I heard someone had seen you
Up in some lonely tree
That some great sadness
In this world
Had taken you from me
Take this hand my only friend
Climb from that hole that has no end

Jesse come back and see me some day and
We'll let these circus lights take us away

Under the Big top/ 4

ACROBAT

Inside and upside down
Out to the country then back into town
Last Christmas two silver mittens
Next Christmas two golden kittens
That way forward this way back
This what we lost and that what we lack
A tossing tumbling tug of war
Of starting to end where we started before

Round and round this rainbow top
Why must the drip define the drop
Haunted by half open doors
We fall through cracks in crumbling floors
Wagons stuck in tall green grass
Who passed up first so fast their last

Yet somewhere caught up in between
Standing still upon the seam
A single moment lost in love
Whispers from a wire above

Come on up and stay
Let's just enjoy this day
For a while
For a little while

Steal away your papa's ladder
Don't look back what does it matter
So much to love this heart's on fire
Just close your eyes and walk this wire

Round and round this rainbow top
Let's get off this is our stop
Here broken hearts are fixed like clocks
And cobwebs sewn into kids socks
Mirrors put into small boxes
Buried deep by friendly foxes

Here the sun rose just for us
Oh what a thing to see
The kiss she lays upon our lips

Under the Big top/ 5

Will warm the seven seas
So steal away your papa's ladder
Don't look back what does it matter
So much to love this heart's on fire
Just close your eyes and walk this wire

A whisper from a wire above
To long a way to find such love?
Then pick your coat up from the floor
And step outside your own front door

Walk your sidewalks
Feel their heat
Now angels walk these dirty streets

Under the Big top/ 6

HAROLD, THE DOG FACED BOY

Once upon a time
Just not this one time
Step right up this way
It only costs a dime
This is Harold Hugameplease
This is the boy who swings in your trees

This is a key broke off in a lock
This is a ship swept into the rocks
This is Harold Hugamabock
This is the boy who sleeps in your clock

This is a story with no place to go
This is what's left when you leave your shadow
This is Harold Hugamabow
This is the boy who falls with the snow

This is a subway
This is a park
This is a runaway lost in the dark
This is Harold Hugamabart
This is the boy who mends broken hearts

This is a box
This is its sides
This is a place for Harold to hide
This is Harold Hugamabyes
This is the boy who sees with your eyes

Once upon a time
Was just one time too many
For Harold the Dog Faced Boy
If you see him today
Please don't turn away
This is Harold Hugamabay
This is the boy you were yesterday

Under the Big top/ 7

TICKET TAKER

There stands a crooked tree
That slowly misshapes me
Far from the streets of any town
Rising twisted from the ground

My days a strange and troubled dream
From which I could not wake
My nights I dreamt this crooked tree
Would guide me through this troubled sea

I came upon this tree one night
The moon was shining full
As I drew close I came to see
This was no tree at all

But an old and gentle man
Who held a ticket in his hand
He slowly raised this hand to me
And spoke of what would come to be

“This ticket is for you my child
A call to kinder things
To stir the silence of the heart
Is what tomorrow brings

And when you feel the spider’s breathe
Laid warm upon your skin
Let the echoes in the orchard
Softly settle in”

He slowly melted to the place
Where moon and shadow meet
And soon a thick embracing fog
Fell fast upon my feet

When it cleared I stood among
A grove of colored trees
And in them hung the strangest fruits
My eyes had ever seen

Under the Big top/ 8

Was then I felt the spider's breathe
Laid warm upon my skin
And into deep divided dreams
The dreams I dreamt fell in

When I awoke I woke to see
The spider spun its web round me
And in a hidden canopy
I hung among the rainbow trees

Then from a nameless moment
Where all things come to be
The creature's legs unfolded from
The cover of the leaves

It plucked its web like a lyres string
And all the fruits began to sing
For these weren't strange fruits in strange trees
But other children just like me

They scattered bout like fairy dust
And danced atop the trees
Then the spider turned its gaze
And softly sung to me

"Look around you will see
It's your world and anything can happen
For it's not just who you are
But who you wish to be

This the vastness of the trees
Now make this place what you believe
And I'll return for you someday
When it is your time to leave"

And so I lived among the trees
With other children just like me
Guided by some unseen hand
And woven through this tapestry

Under the Big top/ 9

Straight through me this world of wonder
Straight through me my heart fell under
The spell of some great love before unknown
The fairies tale just then become my own

Then came the day the spider's breathe
Fell warm upon my skin
With sorrow I soon realized
My time up here would end

We climbed atop the tallest tree
And gazed into infinity
At the whole world laid below
At streets and meadows I'd once known

Yet somehow they had changed to me
I looked upon them differently
Like spiraling from some newborn sun
One dream to rest, one dream begun
And like the ticket taker spoke
The silence of my heart awoke
But just as this thought had set in
The spider cast me to the wind

The mystery of the rainbow trees
Enveloped me into the breeze
And from my lips a wondrous song
Held in my heart my whole life long

Look around you will see
It's your world and anything can happen
For it's not just who you are
But who you wish to be