

Dan Wallace – *Neon and Gold*

1. Fell

i fell into a sleep
it was so deep, it was so deep
it took me on a trip
so far away, so far away
i spiraled like a snake
winding through town
winding through town
i left without a trace
without a trail, without a sound
far away away, far away away
i fell upon a face
tattooed in bronze
tattooed in bronze
it had an air of grace
knee-deep in sin, knee-deep in sin
i left it in the ground
couldn't keep up, couldn't keep up
with treasures on my back
weighing me down, holding me back
far away away, far away away
i ran into a man
he was alone, he was alone
he met me long ago
on my way out, on my way out
to nowhere left to go
covered in sand, covered in sand
with hands invisible
he reached inside, put me inside
far away away, far away away

2. Ladies, Gentlemen

ladies, gentlemen
i'm so happy you could attend
noone's challenging you to understand
all we ask is you sit still and listen
though there's no rule against
pretending to care
someone, someone you know
he's on fire from head to toe
noone's challenging him to be a man
all they ask is he do the best he can
nobody over here even gives a damn
someone, someone you know
she's grown tired, bitter and cold
noone's challenging her to run a scam
all they ask is she find herself a man
she thinks they're full of it
prefers life alone

3. Too Soon

heaven is a place on earth
give it to the dirty people
count their blessings as a curse
i've been counting mine
since my first rebirth
someone's got to give it a name
so we can call it out when we're in the dark
everything's got something to tell
have to learn to read the language
every word i ever said
has fifty meanings i can choose from later
someone's got to give it a name
so we can call it out when we're in the dark
there's a face, there is a photograph
dig it up, go deep into the past
when you find there is an alibi
we will be in touch...don't mourn too soon
it's surprising what is there
it's surprising what is not there
everything i ever had
evolved from some sort of illicit bargain
someone's got to give it a name
so we can call it out when we're in the dark
there's a face, there is a photograph
dig it up, go deep into the past
when you find there is an alibi
with a little luck, we will be in touch...
don't mourn too soon

4. Jacques

when they speak
they'll speak of you running around
you're always open to anything
wandering around nowhere to go
closing your eyes till
there's something to see
what about them
could they make you happy?
they need somebody
someone like you and so do you
what about me, could i make you happy?
i need somebody, someone like me
and so do they
when they drink, they'll drink to you
praising the way you've always shown them
how to be free, they wonder why
you're so alone, closing your lips
till there's something to breathe
what about us, could we make you happy?
we need somebody
someone like you and so do you
what about you, will you make you happy?
you'll need somebody
someone like her, and so will she
all we can do now is wait
wait for you to come down here
where we are where we are we are here
when they dream, they'll dream of you
holding their hands
nobody's better at that than you are
clutching their skin so close to the bone
closing their lives till there's
something to be
what about me could i make you happy?
i need somebody, someone like me
and so do you
what about you, will you make you happy?
you'll need somebody
someone like her and so will they
don't be afraid

5. Vante Left Them Human

god only knows what you have done
to become who and what you are
today is a new day, where will you go?
will you leave us here to wonder
who you are and what you know?
all you know is all this just for show?
god only knows what you have seen
to become who and what you seem
today is a new day, where will you go?
won't you stay here teach us
how to forget everything we know?
all we know, even if it's just for show
is it life, is it time
is it everything combined?
god only knows what we'll become
now that your time
here's done and gone
today is a new day, seen it before
when our skin is still skin
and our time's running thin
yes we've seen it all happen before
all before, before you and all your lords
is it light, is it night is it
all these things combined?
god only knows what we will do
now that your time
here's done and through
today is a new day, seen it before
still our skin is still skin
and our time's running thin
yes we've seen it all happen before
all before, before you and all your lore

6. Pindrop

keep up the good fight, your chin high
soon you will win the prize
i know you, you're all right you're just fine
the big appetite, the reason for the ride
the first of your kind
hold on, keep it up, it's not done
till you say you've had enough, not yet
'cause you're everyone's type
the reason for the night, the end of all time
the biggest reason why
still you have to ponder and wonder
how things would have been for you
if you had been born of thunder
not just a little pin drop
don't drop, wake up
pounce like the panther whose time is up
remember that 9 times out of 10
you will not win
9 times out of 10
you'll have to give in
one shot, that's all it takes
for you to make the kill
one shot, here it comes no not quite yet
we'll just have to keep on dreaming
still you must hold your head high
waiting till the time is ripe to strike
and still i, i think you're fine, you're all right
the key clipped to the kite
the reason for the flight
the biggest little tike
still you sit there pondering, wondering
how things might have been for you
if you had been born of thunder
not just a tiny pin drop
still you must hold your head high
waiting for the holy light to shine on you
because 9 times out of 10
you will not win
10 times out of 10
you'll want to give in
the reason for the wine
the pearl in the rhine
the hello not goodbye
the bravest of the knights

7. The Lizard and the Cat

i see you looking back
from behind the lizard and the cat
from between the shadows and the cracks
i know it's hard to be you always
i know you're not the you i see today
i hope you'll be someone
who i can know sometime
above you there's a man
flying so low you could touch his hair
flying happily without a care
he sees you looking at another face
he knows you're not the you he sees today
he hopes you'll be someone
who he can know sometime
you will be anything or anyone you want to
and you will be any way
and any flavor you want to
to be...i need you every day
i see you looking back
from behind the posers and the hacks
from between the crevices and cracks
i know it's hard to be you always
i know you're not the you i see today
i hope you'll be someone
who i can know sometime
you will be anything or anyone you want to
you will be any way and any kind of color
you will...i need you every day now

8. Maybe

maybe it's the time for something different
hope we're not too late
we will keep on trying
till there's nothing left to live for
nothing left to save
keep on pushing at the door
until you break the hinges
don't you hesitate - we'll all escape
we will escape the fitting rooms
riding away on silk balloons
some things may never change
but i'm on my way
maybe it's the time for something better
hey, we can deal with that
we've got every boy and girl
and every lonely sinner
ready to attack
keep on banging at the door
until it turns to splinters
then bust right through the cracks
- don't turn back
we will escape the living rooms
riding away on magic brooms
some things may never change
but i'm not to blame
maybe you're the crazy one they sing of
hey, i can deal with that
keep on doing to me what you're doing
keep me blooming, weed my habitat
don't you listen to a word they tell you
keep on groovin'
you're worth far more than that:
the best they've had

9. Before We Sleep

There is a feeling i get
when you're near me
like mud being changed into wine
we'll have a party for you and my body
you'll drink for the rest of your life
we are supposed to believe in each other
before we shrink
can't get much smaller than this
there is a symptom
of which you're a victim
i sense when your defense is down
so i'll learn to be your disease's procedure
to cure and to keep you around
we are supposed to believe in each other
before we sink into another ice age
open a window, look out at the people
below, they don't know we exist
so let's close our eyes
till our minds become blind to the world
we will live in a kiss
we are supposed to believe in each other
before we sink into another ice age
we are supposed to believe in each other
before we sleep
can't get much smaller today

10. Sonatina

11. Homage

she's a hostage to his laughter
he's the needle at her hip
they both know what's coming after
they know it's nasty but it fits
give them everything they ask for
on their sticky honey trip
if you give them what they're after
i know they'll give us all a hit
there's no shame now, there's a reason
she's the reason for his laughter
he's the pleasure in her grip
they both know it spells disaster
they know it's deadly, but it clicks
there's no shame now, there's a reason
they've got the sweetest smile
you'd ever hope to see
they've got the sweetest kiss
that lips could ever need
they've got the sweetest breath
you'd ever hope to breathe
they've got the sweetest lives
that anyone could lead
everybody leaves
before they learn to stay
everybody cheats
before they learn to pay
everybody lives a little bit too late
everybody tries, everybody tries
she's the heathen in his rafters
he's the razor at her wrist
they both know what they are after
they know it's buried and it's rich
here we are now, this is an homage
an invitation, we are the ones
that you saw there in the dark

12. Swollen

darlin', swollen dreams
stretch the ceiling
ball of music in tan skin
and gold miners dancing
look out they're coming through
with their glass-scratching fish-hooks'
cold rusty gleam
if they pop this cockloft top off us
drifting in, sifting out, clogging
unclogging quiver, quivering
pick one, we're going up
through a hole in the ceiling
so dust off your wings
let's fly to the summer wind
that made them all give in
to all their hopeless whims
we'll start again
if they try and drag us back down there
with their spear-guns and fish-claws
and chrome-plated pictures, picturing
look out they're watching you
with their sin-chasing eyeballs
bobbing about

13. Back of My Mind

stay one more night in the back of my mind
can't quite forget you stuck there in my throat
thrown out just one time too many in one day
12 just to get there, 50 more to stay
play us a song but a real one not your own
we will sing along, whatcha' say?
you won't play it our way?
no more reversing of sundown and dawn
just one more look...i'll be gone
grown ups still play all their old games
in the rain
cylinders humming, black crust smoke remains
play us a song but a real one not your own
we will sing along, watcha' say?
you won't play it?...go away
i won't play along, i won't sing that song
you can't say i'm wrong to escape
from that old tired dry cliché

14. Le Néant

what do i see
past the landscape of bones and debris?
past the rampage of lost legacies?
oh baby i see you touching me
oh baby i see heaven and earth
swallowed up like the early bird worm
universes colliding head first
oh baby i see us taking turns, till one day
when there's no one left to line up
nothing to touch
nothing to hide or to dig up
who will find us flickering lights
lost in the cracks of space and time?
what will i be
once this world turns to dust and debris
but a soft flash, a lone memory?
oh baby will you remember me?
oh baby i'll be neon and gold
bottled up in a vacuum tight hole
spit out light years beyond what we know
oh baby will i have you to hold?
till one day
when there's no one left to find us
nothing to crush
nothing to fight or to climb up
what designer will sublimate what is left
of our love and rotten brains?
what will it be?
nonsense worlds for an eternity?
dried up dew drops
with botched histories?
oh baby where did you become me?
oh baby there's still heaven and earth
twisted up like a school-boy's self worth
like the tongue of a baby's fist words
oh tell me what have we learned
'cause lately i see nothing
through the hot tide convulsing and blind
reaching and rushing right through me
spinning supine suspended in time
watching the sand and stars combining