

Tom Adamson - Liner Notes

Lost in the Cosmos



Photo credit: Sam McNair, 2018. Location: Foster Falls, Grundy Co. Tennessee

April of 2012, I was at Duffy's Tavern in Valparaiso, Indiana with the members of a band called Toe Tags and some mutual friends. Their leader, Matt, said to me *"Let's do a show in two months and everyone on the bill will release a new album at the same time."* I like song writing challenges & in that season, I was writing songs out of my ears. But the band I had recently formed, the Texarkana Two, was starting to wind down. Answering Matt's challenge, I began to record some of these songs with Trathen and Monroe, but completed the rest by myself. A version of that album was released in time for said show: June 12 at Cornucopia Cafe in downtown Valpo. I have videos of the album release set somewhere.... While the album production was uneven, to say the least, I always believed in the ideas. Later, I told friends I'd re-record the album...at some point.

The title was a nod to American author Walker F. Percy. I had just read his early '80s work, *"Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self Help Book."* Living in Valpo during the 2010s, I was growing a lot: in spirituality and what it means to be truly human as found in the way of Christ. Some of that is here. I also had a fairly robust night-life for being a young dad with young kiddos. Not always compatible dynamics, but not entirely mutually exclusive either. A balancing act can be heard here.



Eight years later, January of 2020, I acquired a second hand 8-track recorder. To test it out, I felt compelled to experiment with the long delayed "Cosmos" material. Once started, I couldn't stop. In tracking the album, as I did in 2012, I used every guitar, keyboard, and stringed instrument I owned. I find that a fun little detail. Sonically, I leaned into a common palette, rather than the eclectic vision of the first try. I wanted to promote the new version in the spring of 2020, but the covid-19 shut downs turned the music world upside down. And by the time we all were making music again, I had somehow ADHD'd my way into other material, goals, and new bands.

But the tracks kept calling and now five years after the second delay, their day has come. And the time is right. - Tom, 2025

"Man is the only animal in the universe that insists on his own uniqueness."
Walker F. Percy in *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self Help Book* (1981)

This Old Feeling

*"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near by, he said to them, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your Mother!'"
John 19:26-27*

i've got this old feeling
i've got this old feeling

up on the hill
deep in my bones

i've got this old feeling
i've got this old feeling

a song and name
scream from my brain

i know you
i know ya, i know ya

i've got this old feeling
i've got this old feeling

hand in my soul
turning the key

elijah, you hear me?
john, that's your mother

now i'm away
do you hear what i say?

i know you
i know ya, i know ya

Music came from a jam with Steve Fig and Jason Monroe.

Special (Everyone Over Consumes)

"And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept no pleasure from my heart, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil. Then I considered all my hands had done and the toil I had expended doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after the wind." Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

look out now, you said everything was alright
stand up, sit down, walk out the fright
drop your hands give in to the plight
look out now, you said everything was alright

we're so weak, who needs might makes right?
all they need to do is to make something, right?
we're drowning, drowning, drowning with land in sight.
we're so weak, who needs might makes right?

nothing is special anymore,
everyone over consumes.
nothing is special anymore,
everyone over...

we ran a race but fell off to the side
street sweepers erased all the lines
ghost trains filling up in the night
we ran a race but fell off to the side

we're so noble, yet the land provides,
lost in a fog can't see the signs,
cut a drift no mooring line.
how many metaphors can i combine?

nothing is special anymore,
everyone over consumes.
nothing is special anymore.

[during outro: improv portion of "God With God, But Go" by Michael Roe]

Music co-written with John Drury. Refrain based on a comment by Todd Bushong.

Whatta You Want?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Luke 16:13

whatta you got that you don't want?
whatta you want that you don't got?
maybe i got, what you really want
maybe i want what you really got
whatta you want?

whatta i want, i wanna magic marker
connect your dots
all the freckly dots
From your elbow
To your skinny knee
like constellations out in outer space
but that's what i want;
whatta you want?

now you don't wanna be lost in the cosmos
you don't wanna be lost or forgotten
With the touch screens
And the credit cards
and all yer sweaters
but that's what *you* want

Now whatta / want?
whatta i want?

Music came from a 2010 jam with Steve Fig and Jason Monroe.

Streets of Chicago

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" James 4:13

refrain:

in the heart of Chicago, there are streets you can't get to
streets you can't get to and you don't know their name.
some are above you, others below you
you try to get on them but you try in vain

you're a long way from home, country boy
i know it don't seem that far in miles
you stare into the sky,
under train platform at night,
try to count the stars, but there's only twelve
-refrain-

now Red, they said, tended bar like no other
she was your sister, she was your mother, oh brother;
poured em strong and tall,
knocked you against the wall,
but you never learned knew her real name.

So go, go home country boy.
-refrain-

found a soft place to lay your head, country boy
thought you'd make some lemonade, country boy
but the mornings are so loud
you're a sore thumb in her crowd
They grind like the trains
That roar up above you
-refrain-

Hounds of Hell

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

"Drinking beer is easy, trashing a hotel room is easy. Being a Christian is really hard, that's actual rebellion." - Alice Cooper

well Amy says she's a vision of the
apocalypse
i don't know if I believe her
but it could be
she has hair like fire, eyes like ice
maybe i shouldn't receive her
you wonder,
was the poet right when he asked
"will it end in a bang or a whimper?"
Either way
i hope i don't lose heart

i don't know
i don't know if I believe her
when she says
when she says not to receive her

hounds of hell on my trail
hounds of heaven chase them away
hounds of hell on my trail
hounds of heaven chase away

under the influence of
Milwaukee's hippest
we lay our backs on the pavement
of the Lincolnway
faces parallel, no parts touching
eyes looking up at the gate of the world
somehow, we know, we feel changed
stand up
your mother looks on despairingly
a police man looks on despairingly
what do you do with such knowledge
except turn it into some kind of song
about the world ending
in fire or ice, woman, or is it both?

i don't know
i don't know if I believe her
when she says
when she says not to receive her

hounds of hell on my trail
hounds of heaven, chased them away
hounds of heaven on my trail
hounds of hell, chased away

Hillbilly Lullaby

“Nevertheless, we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13

you've got no shoes on
i'm out of shaving cream
gonna kiss you anyway
send you to the land of dreams

everything is fixed and fine
nothing breaks down all the time
can't you feel my blood run warm
I know a liturgy
And now
it's time to dream
it's time...to sleep and fade away

i know rained a lot
and you're just laid out on your cot
and the window's been cracked for years
and the that's the worst of my fears

go to sleep my little one
go to sleep my little one
go to sleep my little one
go to sleep my little one

47 Years

"Seek me and find me, you will find me when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13

47 years upon this earth
never strayed far from the land of my birth
drive all day in a truck made of rust
dust i am, i shall return to dust

47 years upon this earth
the work of my hands won't pay me what i'm worth
creaky old furniture, drafty old house
friend to the groundhog, deer, and mouse

where oh where oh where did it all go wrong?
why oh why oh why can't i find it?
where of where where oh where did it all go wrong?
why oh why oh why can't i find some innocence?

man of the world for 47 years
sounds of children fills my ears
hungry mouths and nothing will suffice
and i'd be damned but for the love of my wife

where oh where oh where did it all go wrong?
why oh why oh why

can't sleep at night this town's too toxic
dreaming every night about public office
but there's a price to be paid that you cannot afford
and respect of men is empty and absurd

so another log to the fire in the middle of the night
an ache in my head that doesn't feel right
maybe it comes from breathing too much smoke
but the darkness at the door, it aint no joke

why oh why oh why can't i find it?
where of where where oh where did it all go wrong?
why oh why oh why can't i find some innocence?

Green Glass Door

*"But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me."
Psalms 22:19*

sledge hammer falls through the sky
firewood falls to either side
boots with holes
frozen mud
sick smoke from
a garbage fire

oh oh oh...

happiness is a waste of time
when you know there are boundaries
hard frost
forest green
there's ice
on the pine trees

oh oh oh...

awakening ancient thoughts
awakening memories
awakening ancient thoughts
god's eye and a Mystery

oh oh oh...

love me love me like you used to once
give me all you cannot say
love me love me like you used to once
I wanna know, if you can stay...stay

Say My Name Three Times

Jesus answered, "Will you [Peter] really lay down your life for me? Truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." John 13:38

"He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?'" John 21:17

say my name three times
before the sunrise

i believe that you can
i believe that you will

warm your hands by the fire
say my name three times
say all there is to know
the rest will go

i believe that you can
i believe that you will

say my name three times
before sunrise

Enough

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 16:25

It's enough to have nothing
when nothing is enough
all the things you can't have
they can't have you
when they're not things
it's enough to have nothing
sometimes

it is good to be no one
when no one is being good
all the lives, you don't live
you won't live them
being you
it's ok to be no one
sometimes

and no one is a no one
open your eyes
and no one is a no one
open your heart

who will love you
who will love you
all the time?

he will love you
he will love you
all the time

i will love you
i will love you
sometimes

it's enough to have nothing sometimes

lost in the cosmos

1. THIS OLD FEELING
2. SPECIAL
3. WHATTA YOU WANT?
4. STREETS OF CHICAGO
5. HOUNDS OF HELL
6. HILLBILLY LULLABY
7. 47 YEARS
8. GREEN GLASS DOOR
9. SAY MY NAME 3 TIMES
10. ENOUGH

All songs and performances by Tom Adamson.; written in 2011-2012 in Valparaiso, Indiana with grateful help from the Texarkana Two. These tracks recorded in Angola, Indiana, January 2020 and subsequently remastered in September 2025.