Needlepoint
walking up that valley

Rules of a mad man
I offered you the moon
Web of worry
So far away

Where the ocean meets the sky
Carry me away
Another day
Walking up that valley

Words and music by Bjørn Klakegg
Arranged* by Bjørn Klakegg and Nikolai Hængsle
Produced by Nikolai Hængsle

Bjørn Klakegg: lead vocals, guitars, violin, flute, cello
David Wallumrød: hammond organ, clavinet, fenderrhodes, harpsichord, upright piano
prophet 5, arp odyssey, arp solus, minimoog
Nikolai Hængsle: electric bass, backing vocals, guitars on Rules of a mad man and So far away
Olaf Olsen: drums
Special guests: Erik Nylander - percussion, The "carry me away choir":
Camilla Brun, Maria Vatne, Indra Lorentzen, David, Nikolai and Bjørn

Recorded at Sugar Road studios, April - June 2020
Engineered by Roar Nilsen & Nikolai Hængsle
Mixed by Mathias Glavå at Kurigsten Studio, July 2020
Mastering by Greg Calbi at Sterling Sound, August 2020
Artwork and lettering by Rune Klakegg
Graphic Design by Sindre Klakegg Bruflot

*additional arrangement on I offered you the moon by David Wallumrød.

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Rules of a Mad Man

A pawn came whizzing from the sky
Onto the chessboard from up high
Joined the war with the white
Always ready for a fight

Struck like a rook when he wanted to
Then snatched the sword from the knight
Disguised as the humblest of bishops
He went both back and forth
To the sides, left and right

The chessmen on the other side
They were watching terrified
All the rules they knew were gone
and all their pawns were knocked out,
one by one

Struck like a rook when he wanted to
Then snatched the sword from the knight
Disguised as the humblest of bishops
He turned peace into fright

Can you believe it? So many people
follow the rules of the mad man
Can you believe it? So many people

Soon the chessboard was a mess
The game just didn't look like chess
The queen was stabbed by a fork
By an evil pawn from New York

Struck like a rook when he wanted to
Then snatched the sword from the knight
Disguised as the humblest of bishops
He turned peace into fright

I offered you the moon

I watch your face on the pillow
It's freed from all worries
Your breath so quiet and so calm
Gone are your sorrows and your fear
Your hair's like trails for your thoughts
But your thoughts are not out walking,
I'm watching you, my dear
An ocean was lost just because....
you couldn't cry
A sky was lost since you never
opened up your eyes
A whole world was put on hold
'cause your mind wouldn't let your
inner thoughts fly
Which words whisper the spring
to make winter retreat?

I offered you the moon, said,
do what you want with it
I told you it's yours for a night
Make the dark side the front,
turn on the light
I told you to go for a walk
Find a place to sit and watch
the wondrous sight
Jupiter shines among the stars
while she spins a veil around her head
and far away, you can see the earth
hanging by a thread
Just like a ship that's caught in a gale
Waiting for the rescue on the open sea
But if you turn around you will see the
dawn filling all the holes in the moon
and you can swim in the craters all around
Lay down and let the sun wipe away
the droplets from your skin, until
you're warm and dry

I swam around in your tears when
you finally cried
The room turned dreamy and blue
when you opened up your eyes
Your thoughts turned my world
upside down
Your smile was so bright
that I almost had to hide

Web of Worry

There's a web of worry hanging in the air
A heartfelt concern that embraces everyone
in the room
So fragile you must tiptoe and bow your head
in prayer

The talk at the tables were humble to the gloom
In the darkest corner of a little bar
Some people are gathered, sitting so close
An anxious circle of heads
Speaking low, with voices like threads
tying them together

Then he arrives like a schooner in full sail
Whips up the surface of the calm
with the power of a gale

Now there's an empty corner in our little bar
His lack of awareness unravelled their bonds
Broken was the circle of heads
Just because his urge was so strong
To talk about the weather

So far away

As if we're watching movies. Just like a
scene from bygone times. That used to
make us shudder.
Sufferings in black and white,
flickering in front of our eyes
Never again, we were saying. But still it's
going on. In colors of frozen skin.
:. All they need is our hands to hold :.

My anger slowly grows. But there's a fence
'round my concern. I should have been outraged
When I see the cold blue feet of children
stumbling barefoot in the snow
Should serve as a cry for compassion,
to us so far away, we can pretend we do not see
All they need is our hands to hold.
Like we would protect our own from the cold
But greed shadows our signs of care.
Such sufferings got no room in our sphere

Where the ocean meets the Sky

I saw roses growing up from dried ones hanging down
I saw birds in every corner flying happily around
I saw the moon and the sun, both on the rise
I saw heaven unfold in your wide open eyes

I heard bottles hit the sidewalk like moans of remorse
I heard voices getting louder and people slamming doors
I heard screams of despair, and I heard you cry
I heard hell unfold and pass by

You pulled the cord of my doorbell eagerly
When you wanted to come in
Please, give it a go, you pleaded from the floor
You smiled when I said, you're not meant for me
Still I hear the chiming at my door

Dressed in white linen you surrendered to the sea
Soothed by water, like a dolphin who's set free
You had no questions left. Not a single why
You surrendered to the sea
where the ocean meets the sky

Carry Me Away

Trying to relax. Just breathe in and then
breathe out
The unrest takes a little break until again
my mind starts turning
Just like a mill wheel hit by a flood,
a stream of thoughts stir up my blood
Trying to run quickly, trying to walk slow
I couldn't shake it off me... it wouldn't let me go
My questions fill me up, messing with the
knowledge that I find
The lack of calming answers stuns me,
from my muscles to my mind
If I ran from here all the way to the moon,
maybe my soul in the end would attune
Lying down on the grass
Letting ants carry me away
Looking up at the sky I'm slowly slipping
out of all the gray

Lying down on the lawn.
Letting ants carry me away
Looking up at the sky I'm slowly slipping
out of all the gray

Couldn't shake it off me. It wouldn't let me go

Do I have to be a prisoner forever in a jail
of thoughts

Shut out from everything I love
Won't I ever find my way to the valley
Where I used to feel so fine and free of
worries and pain
Lying down on the grass.
Letting ants carry me away
Looking up at the sky.
I'm slowly slipping out of all the gray

Another Day

You slowly turned and walked away.
I said we'll meet another day
Your light lit smiles on everyone
That you passed on your way until
at last you were gone

I was too late to hold your hand
Was too distant to understand
And I was sure you'd carry on

So many questions at your door.
With no goals anymore
Lost with a key in my hand.
That fit the shadow of a house
Where a scent of past's all there's left
to embrace

All I wanted you to tell.
And things that I would tell as well
All those answers lost in space

Still when I drive my car it feels like
it's your hand that holds the steering wheel
I loved it when we headed west
each holiday
Your mirrored eyes that smiled at me
when we drove away

Walking up that Valley

Walking up that valley
I felt that all the stones and flowers
that I passed belonged to me
The creek along the path told me I'm free
I felt brighter than stars, brighter than the sun,
bright as a waterfall

The scent of a thousand flowers
Filled my soul with such a pleasure it almost
felt like flying
The breeze, a caress from mother earth
An eagle up high, white clouds in the sky,
turned my heart into a butterfly

Shivering from a sudden unrest
Even though I felt happy as a child
I guess life turned around a bit too fast
The echoes from the city resounded in my psyche
Disturbed the grace that nature offered me

The cotton grass was dancing like a corps de ballet
There were dragonflies whizzing happily around
And a lot of busy bugs down on the ground
There were spiderwebs shining in the sun
But eventually the moon was the one
who made me calm

And I fell asleep in this beautiful realm

When I awoke just a moment later
The moon had made a giant leap
from east to west
And I realised that moment was the night
Below me fish were playing some feet
from where I was laying
And I stood up and caught a trout by dawn

And my thoughts began to wander
in the fields of my sin
And things I had rejected I let in
And some issues that worried me
vanished in the air

Simply because of being here
And I suddenly saw clearly that the one
I loved was you
Sent a kiss towards the sky to an eagle
passing by

Walking down that valley....

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