

**songs from *stop, drop, and roll***

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**1. stop, drop, and roll**

because the spark falls  
the wires are crossing  
and the heat is thick  
your mind is tossing  
you're alone, awake  
a figure on the fray

because the smoke rolls  
a slow train coming  
and you can't recall  
when you left home and  
in the room the lines  
are blurring into gray

one small window swollen tight  
can't crack open to the night  
you feel the singe, the choking air  
no more wondering when or where  
you've got to stop, drop, and roll  
that's all

because the flame licks  
the paint is peeling  
and you can't escape  
the headlong feeling  
of the tick, the tock  
the chances slipping away

because you bang and bang  
and bang your fist  
against the wall and still  
the hard resistance  
and there's not a dent  
you can make today

one small window, can't jump down  
too far distant from solid ground  
you feel the singe, the choking air  
no more wondering when or where  
you've got to stop, drop, and roll  
that's all

because the spark falls  
the wires are crossing  
and the flame licks  
your mind is tossing  
and the tick, the tock  
the chances slipping away

because you give until  
there is no giving  
and you lose the life  
inside the living  
and there's not a shred  
of reason to delay

one small break and you roll on through  
choose the exit that chooses you  
you do the thing you do not dare  
find a pocket of clearing air  
just stop, drop, and roll  
that's all

**2. packing on**

got a long thin shadow on an empty road  
got the morning light and a heavy load  
can't say for certain just where i'm bound  
got to lose direction until i'm found

i'm packing all i know is true  
i'm doing all i got to do

got a long time coming and a long time gone  
i'm no king but i ain't no pawn  
got a heap of troubles i can't explain  
got to keep on walking through the wind and  
rain

i'm packing all i know is true  
i'm doing all i know to do

got a young girl growing and calling my name  
got a young boy leaping into every frame  
got a friend for jamming a song or two  
got a simple gift i want to share with you

this is all i know is true  
i'm giving all i got for you  
i'm packing on  
packing on  
packing on

### 3. take me in your arms (possibility)

unknown, unsaid  
untied, unfed  
unseen flicker on the sea

no stars, no storm  
this night still warm  
undone, bending on my knee

take me in your arms, possibility  
take me in  
take me as you see

one match, one stone  
no one alone  
no one is speaking silently

too late to sleep  
i'm in too deep  
hear my still, small plea

take me in your arms, possibility  
take me as i am  
falling short, longingly  
break another day  
blaze another tree  
take me in  
take me as you see

god only knows  
where i've been to by now  
god only knows  
if there is a plan  
only a seeker  
of the one true call  
stumbling on somehow

*repeat second chorus*

### 4. the day after yesterday

the day after yesterday  
i lost my luck  
sped right off  
in an old milk truck  
oh i heard it clinking away

the sky was yellow  
and the sun was black  
rise or set—  
i can't keep track sometimes  
it's been a very big day

the ladders climbed  
the quarters played  
the babies cried  
the blue jeans frayed  
crack in the rear view mirror

the final round  
of truth or dare  
the dorky sprout  
of facial hair  
are closer than they appear  
on the day after yesterday

the day after yesterday  
i lost my spot  
the line stretched on  
the day was shot  
looks like it's really here to stay

dropped my nickels  
and i spun the dial  
let it ring  
a good long while  
oh i will get an answer someday

in black and white  
suspended space  
the gap-tooth smile  
the breathless chase  
wheeling it into town

the ice comes down  
the branches gleam  
the slipping slope  
a child's dream  
never to touch the ground  
on the day after yesterday

the vinyl hour  
i take a spin  
the needle pops  
again again  
stuck in the memphis blues

forever young  
forever gray  
forever spun  
the same old way  
nobody can refuse  
the day after yesterday

the day after yesterday  
and still i find  
i fall ahead  
i spring behind  
sometimes I just take my time

## 5. what I never said

what i never said  
how you would reply  
trapped inside my head  
trailing in a sigh

where we never went  
what we would have found  
never to regret  
seeking higher ground

written in the sand  
just a step away  
follow to the end  
what i never say

trace another route  
on the great divide  
linger in the light  
of what we never tried

written in the sand  
all that we have missed  
offering a hand  
opening a fist

this is where we stand  
traveling so far  
letting go instead  
being as we are

## 6. sycamore tree

sycamore sycamore sycamore tree,  
sprouted from a tiny seed  
did someone plant you there for me  
sycamore sycamore tree?

on a soft and sunny afternoon  
my parents bring me home and soon  
they tie a bunch of blue balloons  
right around the sycamore tree

the grass tickles on my feet  
when i'm rocking in my bouncy seat  
the summer breezes smell so sweet  
blowing by the sycamore tree

i stand right up and fall back down  
and search for treasures on the ground  
like the fuzzy seeds lying all around  
underneath the sycamore tree

we roll a snowman up so big  
and on his head we make a wig  
with a pile of knobby little twigs  
fallen from the sycamore tree

sycamore sycamore sycamore tree  
sheltering a family  
did someone plant you there for me  
sycamore sycamore tree?

i can see the tree right from my bed  
all bony smooth where the bark has shed  
the leaves are as big as a daddy's head  
wise old sycamore tree

in our front yard i kick the ball  
but now that space is getting small  
some weeks i don't go out at all  
to run by the sycamore tree

i'm off to high school and one day  
to a leafy college far away  
but in my dreams i still play  
in the shade of the sycamore tree

i move to the city, and then in time  
my parents long for more sunshine  
i hate to see that "for sale" sign  
on the corner by the sycamore tree

sycamore sycamore sycamore tree,  
forever in my memory  
did someone plant you there for me  
sycamore sycamore tree?

i'm a husband now and a father too  
we drive for miles to catch a view  
of the shady place where i grew  
loving that sycamore tree

there's a red-haired girl with a  
lemonade stand  
i put three quarters in her hand  
so many footprints are on this land  
remembered by the sycamore tree

i sip the juice and the memories  
my little boy is on his knees  
stuffing pockets full of fuzzy seeds  
children of the sycamore tree

each seed is a promise that if you try  
if your roots dig deep  
and your trunk stands high  
your leaves will stretch and taste the sky  
growing like a sycamore tree