

They celebrated, got all a little bent
The agent didn't know she was the drummer's girl
There was a little accident
with a knife between the ribs
He lived just long enough to say, "He's innocent"
It's like he's flying
in a circle he can never leave

So strike up the band and let's all trip again
Let the song hit home, let the feeling never end
Let the sound take you away
'cause for the band there's no escaping
their contractual obligation to the dead

Ladies and gents, here they are, The Wanderers!
and they tear it up just the same old way
The shape up in the balcony
might it be clapping?
Yeah, some think, but no one knows
and they keep playing
playing done to the bone

Alex in Wonderland

Alex the bell-hop is a pocket debonaire
He eats the cakes his momma bakes
and keeps her in his care
So acceptably, impeccably coiffured on the stair
He scurries through the cellar door
like he's late for something down there

He's lived twice his age across the fantasy page
he learned to read there in the dark
In an alcove where the water seeps in
and the hanging wires spark
It's not the way that he wants to live
It's just the way he comes alive
It seems so real sometimes
But only sometimes

He went looking for the holy grail
and took the bags to 319
Delivered a message to the Getaway Lounge
and helped a hobbit with his ring
Rode the worms on a desert world
but he was never known to shirk
and he never told no one
where he went when he left work

In an alcove where the water seeps in
and the hanging wires spark
He told his boss about it long ago
but they never did fix it up
So it became his dirty Shangri-La
where he went to feel alive
It all seemed so real sometimes
but only sometimes

All the guests loved Alex
and they help him out with a loan
Shiela gave him some Heinlein
and Night recommended Poe
So he finished his graveyard shift
and went down to his hole
and fell asleep readin' about a man
named "Fortunado"

He dreams of ogres cursin'
and workin' in his boss's thrall
Tyin' off the wires
and buildin' up a wall
And the sounds from the basement now
are just a new part to the show
another name for the Sunset's End:
"The Hotel Amontillado"

He lives past his age on the fantasy page
after all his completed tasks
In an alcove where the water seeps in
there is time enough at last
It's not the way that he wants to live
but he somehow stays alive
It just seems so real this time
It seems so real this time

Meat the Beetles

They told him what the chef fed to the diplomat
What the businessman was carving in his skin
The name the quieter girl gave to her companion
Hallelujah, hallelujah
They're coming in

They screamed when Night checked in at registration
They scurried to the walls and crawled with in
They hurried to their master at his station
"Don't worry, don't worry"
Come gather safely in"

I was just a young man seeking wisdom
Trying to transcend this earthly life
Though I didn't know the questions, still I listened
But the answers never seemed to come out right
Morale was low and inspiration needed
I turned my gaze to shadows from the light
and in the dark the beetles keep their secrets
Patently I waited, They soon arrived

They told him of the voice down in the basement
What the band thought they saw up in the balcony
About the miser's wife performing her own facelifts
"I am here, I must hear
Come back to me"

They twitter to the hammer and the anvil
They gossip on the softness of his tongue
They stare into the wide, dilated pupil
"There's more yet to tell you,
We've only just begun"

I wa just a young man seeking knowledge
Straining for the purpose of my birth
Following my own eclectic college
Meditating on the universe
My soul was worn, no more was I perceiving
Then the darkness muttered, stirred, and came to life
An epiphany so fine my mind was bleeding
The beetles scurried over and came inside

They told him that the Sunset's End was setting
The clockwork man was working overtime
"Don't worry, children, soon we'll be ascending
to the attic, the eaves
and on into the night"

Shiela Takes a Lover

The carnal kids are sinking
into sheets that won't get straight
But they still explode like bats from the attic, yeah
And when she screams the echoes
just blow out into space
And the spice once strong
gets blander with every taste

Shiela takes a lover
She just takes another
and she'll walk the razor's edge
until it cuts too close to home

That lonely boy, the first one
to stoke the fire awake
who turned so dark when she turned him away
The mystery she followed
just gets more opaque
when every touch is another push away

Shiela takes a lover
she just takes another
and she'll walk the razor's edge
until it cuts too close to home

Every time the need dogs on deeper into her
So the disappointment hurts a little worse
She wants to ask, "Why me?"
but Shiela knows it's not her curse
That no one gets the fate that they deserve

Shiela takes a lover
She just takes another
and she'll shoot the exit signs
until it hits too close to home