



chris singleton. lyrics

the lyrics of 'Twisted City' and the London inspirations behind the songs

This document contains all the lyrics from Chris Singleton's 'Twisted City' album plus background to the songs and their London inspirations and themes.

About Chris Singleton

Chris Singleton is an acclaimed singer-songwriter from Dublin. His album 'Twisted City' was recently released in the UK and Ireland to excellent reviews and extensive airplay on BBC, RTE, Kerrang, Music Choice and more. Conceived as a tube journey through London, every song represents a stop on the line and is about a particular place, person or experience. The record is at once an ode to London and a reaction to its challenges and complexities, as seen through the eyes of an Irish musician trying to 'make it' in a new city.

Taking a leaf out of Radiohead's book, Chris is now making the album available as a free download; however, he's gone one step further by creating an entire tour of London based on the songs, which you can download (again, for free) at www.singletonmusic.com/twistedcitytour/. Armed with an iPod/MP3 player, the free album and tour guide PDF, a listener can have a unique musical experience in the city.

Above photo is by Gavin Cassidy

worry number one

cannon street

Train driver announces 'This train is ready to depart, please stand clear of the closing doors.'

You're running out of patience, running out of time
There's nothing like a dirty dream to occupy your mind
Don't you worry, we've got people who will keep you in line

All I want is somebody to say it's gonna be alright,
It's gonna be okay

Friday night in the city
All the money men talk on their phones
I never seen you so pretty
I never seen you so cold

Don't you worry, we've got people who will take you home

All I want is somebody to say it's gonna be alright,
It's gonna be okay
All I want is somebody to say it's gonna be alright,
It's gonna be okay

Inspiration

"This song is about a night out in Cannon Street with some friends, after a day spent having meetings with various music industry people. Not quite sure how we ended up in Cannon Street – it was quite random – but I was unwinding with a few drinks and observing the behaviour of the city guys at the bar and how certain girls would act around money – badly, was my overall conclusion. I guess this is a song about my own uncertainty for the future, set against a backdrop of the drunkenness, power and money of others.

That's the philosophical slant anyway. I must add that the city guys were enjoying themselves thoroughly and the girls were very cute."



gimme something

london bridge

Listener hears tube train grinding to a halt and the doors flying open.

You're such fun, you've got dirt on everyone
Look what you've done, don't you act all innocent
I wanna be everything you want to see
Hard as I try, I've got nothing left to hide
Put me into overdrive

I saw you today, don't care what you say
Gimme something

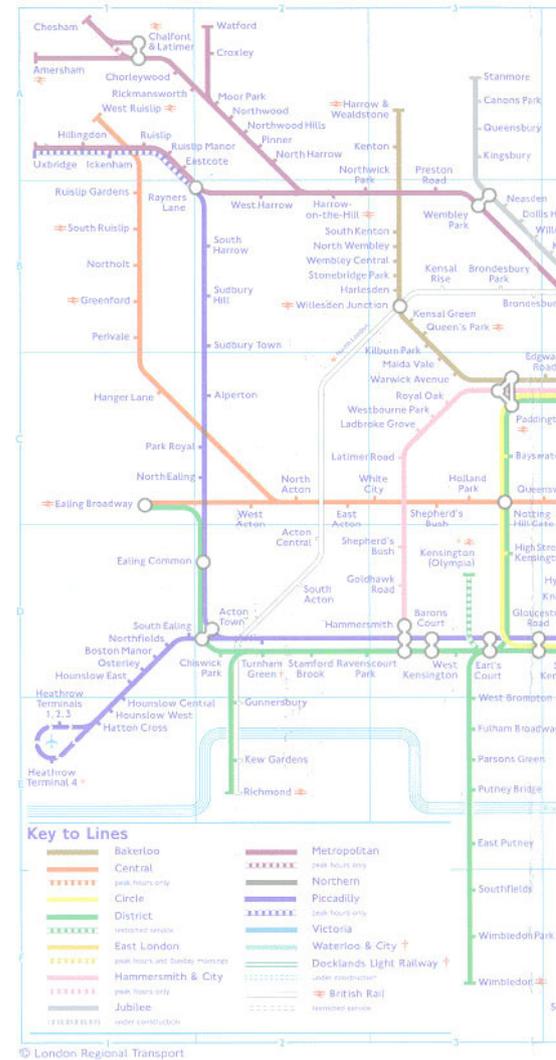
Yeah and I try to keep all of this inside
I've got inside information
I've got you sussed: you're just like the rest of us
Hard as you try, you've got nothing left to hide
Put me into overdrive

I saw you today, don't care what you says
Gimme something

Inspiration

"This is a song about waiting for things to happen. And I've spent a lot of time at London Bridge waiting for things to happen (well, trains to arrive). Usually when I'm waiting for a train my mind starts wandering off places and I start thinking about life, how to save the world without coming across like Bono etc.

Obviously being a musician – and most are completely self-obsessed – I think about my career a lot. This song is largely about the quest for success in a difficult industry: the verses are about all the name dropping that goes on in the music business ("You're such fun/you've got dirt on everyone") and the waiting. I get angry in the choruses and demand some action to go with the talk."



get up bank

Oh I keep walking into doors. I keep hearing stuff I heard before
You keep telling me that it's alright. But I could burn a bridge or two tonight

I don't really want to know; all these feelings come and go
Get up you joke, you know there's no hope - give a little love to me

Oh you could turn me inside out. You could tell me what I'm on about
Slow down, tomorrow's on its way. But nothing much is happening today

I don't really want to know; all these feelings come and go
Get up you joke, you know there's no hope - give a little love to me

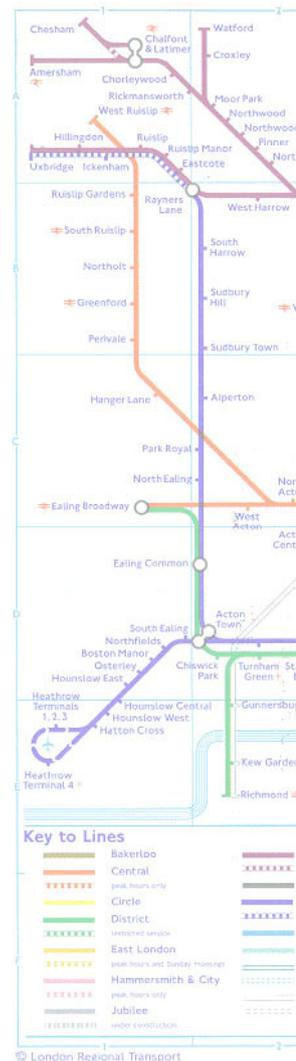
Was it all those years ago, you came along and stole the show?
Get up you joke, you know there's no hope - give a little love to me

I don't really want to know; all these feelings come and go
Get up you joke, you know there's no hope - give a little love to me

Inspiration

"This song is about bumping into people and things – very easy to do on the Underground. It's a song about being confused by relationships and the lack of consistency in feelings for people. I was imagining rush hour on the tube when I wrote it – trying to find a line, tripping over people, being confused. The less appealing side of the tube I guess, but when you're new to London rush hour is still quite exciting, if baffling.

I could say the same about most relationships I've had."



tonight

highbury and islington

Tonight tonight, every memory came home
Tonight tonight, you can't leave the past alone

I'm still standing at your door
Calling round for what you don't feel anymore
Tonight is what your for



Tonight tonight, you keep crying out for something
Tonight tonight, you keep breaking down for nothing

I'm still standing at your door
Calling round for what you don't feel anymore
Tonight is what your for

I don't need to see you, I know just what you'd say
Try to put that feeling away

I'm still standing at your door
Calling round for what you don't feel anymore
Tonight is what your for

Inspiration

"This is my 'unrequited love' song and I had Highbury and Islington in mind when I wrote it, when I was walking through Highbury fields a few years ago on a beautiful summer's day.

There's a line in it about standing at a door, and they've got some terrific Georgian doors in Highbury and Islington. One day I hope to be able to afford one."

stop following angel

You make your way into the night
With everything you keep inside
You wrote a song for yesterday
That you can't sing, and you won't play
Everything is coming home, you're putting on another show
But you still wake up all alone on someone else's answer phone, oh

Stop following the sun, come and get some
Stop thinking all about the wrong direction
'Cos when you find your way you'll say you knew it all along

And when the conversation ends, you wanna start it up again
I've got nothing left to spend on fixing up the things you've mended
Sunlight through your window pane, you've been woken up again
By someone who can't explain, everything he thinks you mean oh

Stop following the sun, come and get some
Stop thinking all about the wrong direction
'Cos when you find your way you'll say you knew it all along

Inspiration

"When you're trying to 'make it' in London, you spend a lot of time getting put through to answer phones. This song is partly about that (hence the voicemail recordings you hear on it at the end) but it's also about taking a break from looking for success and just enjoying a bit of good clean sunshine. It was written a couple of years ago when I'd just started going out with my (then new) girlfriend. We spent a lot of time hanging out near Angel getting drunk in the sun. I thought at the time that she sounded quite posh, so the song originally started with the line "I love the way you talk to me/Just like those girls on the BBC" but that lyric didn't make it into the final version."



pieces kings cross

You lose yourself on every street
You're following everyone
You don't know where you've gone
You just kept moving on

I'm picking up the pieces of everything
I'm looking out for you
I'm doing all I can to see you through

I want to be all that you want me to
But you're everyone's reason
And I'm everyone's fool
What are we coming to?

I'm picking up the pieces of everything
I'm looking out for you
I'm doing all I can to see you through

Inspiration

“This song is about getting lost, which is very easy to do in London. You can physically get lost, emotionally get lost, or quite simply be told to get lost. Every musician who looks for success in London gets a few knocks – and this song is partly about that, and partly about trying to put a relationship back together. As with a lot of my songs, it deals with a mixture of professional and personal stuff. And Kings Cross is the backdrop for this – it can be a nightmare to navigate, as can the music industry, and relationships.”



the only one

Piccadilly

Snippets of conversation on a tube escalator are heard at the start of the song.

Look at them go, escalating slowly
Get out of my way
I've got things to sell today
Baby

You're on your own, and sinking like a stone
But don't you think that you're the only, only one

And when you fall, I'm the one you're hurting
You've said it all, but you know the words aren't working
Baby

You're on your own, and sinking like a stone
But don't you think that you're the only, only one

Inspiration

“One thing that strikes me as fascinating on the tube – although I’m not exactly sure why, it makes very good sense – is the way people adhere so strictly to the ‘stand on the right’ protocol on escalators. This song starts with an occurrence of somebody not doing that and getting berated by a businessman in a hurry as a result. To be perfectly honest, I’m not sure what the rest of the song is about; it’s one of those ones where the words just came to me and I didn’t really have to think that much about them. All I know is that it vaguely takes place on an escalator in Piccadilly Circus, if that’s the right way of putting it.”



wherever

edgware road

You've been down, you've been paranoid
You've been looking for people you need to avoid
You wanted to stay as you walked out the door
You couldn't be certain so you had to be sure

And when I look into your eyes, something takes me by surprise
Wherever I look at you, you're changing my point of view

You knew when to cry and you knew when to laugh
I got stuck in a lift with a girl and her past
You knew all the moves and you knew all the shapes
You speed through your life with your foot on the breaks

And when I look into your eyes, something takes me by surprise
Wherever I look at you, you're changing my point of view

Inspiration

"This song is about being sure of something, only to find that it suddenly changes quickly beyond recognition. I'm largely talking about girls here, but the same can be said of the Circle Line: you can head off in one direction and end up exactly where you started out. Or to be honest, not get anywhere at all..."

I wrote this song during a time that I seemed to be passing through a Circle Line station - Edgware Road - a lot, and because you sometimes have to wait quite a while for Circle Line trains, I got thinking about various situations which seemed to involve changing my mind and direction. The song came out of that."



you carry on heathrow

Song starts off with the sound of a jet plane flying over London.

You've been falling down for ever, you write a song to make you clever
You better watch yourself round here
The world is yours, it's for the taking
It makes up for what you're breaking, and when I look at you, it's clear

So, you carry on, looking for a feeling when it's gone
Someone to lean upon, but you're running out of reasons to belong

You're waking up to the sound of mirrors; you're chasing up another hero
You better watch yourself round here
I want you more than I could tell you, but I've got nothing here to sell you
And when I look at you it's clear

So, you carry on, looking for a feeling when it's gone
Someone to lean upon, but you're running out of reasons to belong

Take a look at what you got, before you throw away the lot
It's too much for you to see, and you've forgotten what to feel

So, you carry on, looking for a feeling when it's gone
Someone to lean upon, but you're running out of reasons to belong

Inspiration

"I wouldn't quite go as far to say that this song is about appendicitis on the Underground, but it was written shortly after I came out of hospital after having my appendix removed. I was travelling from my aunt's house in North London to Heathrow on the tube when I started feeling sharp pains in my stomach. In spite of the worst pain I've ever encountered, I forced myself to keep going and keep changing lines so that I didn't miss my flight back to Dublin (a nurse I subsequently spoke to informed me that I was quite stupid to get on the plane, as my appendix could have burst and death wouldn't have been entirely out of the question. Not the most rock and roll way to go, although I suppose it does involve jet planes).

This song was the first thing I wrote sans my appendix, and although it's more to do with continuing on with a relationship than continuing on towards Heathrow's Terminal One, some of the lyrics about 'falling down' (which I did a couple of times on my trip to the airport) and 'carrying on' do remind me of the experience."

twisted city

waterloo

Song starts off with sound of trains passing a station.

Everybody loves a winner, everybody loves a smile
Everybody loves you when you're on the other side
It's alright

Come on and take it, here it is; I've got nothing left in me, I've got nothing left to give
Come on and take it, have a piece; I'm not sure what I'm selling
But I'm sure it's going cheap

And I try to get by in your twisted city
If I go, I'm taking you down with me

Everybody loves a loser; everybody loves it when you lose
Everybody loves you when you've nothing much to prove
Look at you.

Come on and take it, here it is; I've got nothing left in me, I've got nothing left to give
Come on and take it, have a piece; I'm not sure what I'm selling
But I'm sure it's going cheap

And I try to get by in your twisted city
If I go, I'm taking you down with me

Get on with it, get on with it, get on with it, get on with it...



Inspiration

"As with several of the other songs on 'Twisted City', the album's title track is about getting by in London, both in a professional and personal sense. I had Waterloo in mind when I wrote this, as it's massive and it can be completely overwhelming; just like London was when I came here first. You really have to battle your way onto trains in Waterloo, and you really have to battle your way into the music industry. The lyrics are about the qualities people look for in a 'star' and the reality of what artists either are or have to offer."

people clapham junction

Oh I could travel far with all the people who you are
Show me the way to who you are today

Oh, and I try to find my way, through all the things you say
Oh, can I change your mind today? It's all too much to take

It doesn't matter what I say, doesn't matter what I do
You're not yourself, you're just someone who looks like you

Oh, and I try to find my way
Through all the things you say
Oh, can I change your mind today
It's all too much to take

You and I know, it's easier to let it go, so let it go.

Oh, and I try to find my way, through all the things you say
Oh, can I change your mind today? It's all too much to take



Inspiration

“Because it’s the last song on an album about London, I had an image of leaving the city on a train in my head when I wrote it. And Clapham Junction came to mind; when I’m heading out of London for the south (a trip I often make, as I have family in Poole), this is the station that to me always signals the end of London and the beginning of something else. But even this ‘end marker’ is on a massive, complex scale, as the ‘Britain’s busiest railway station’ sign is proud to announce. The person this song is about is also very complicated.

I guess this song is about navigating something difficult, not quite working it out, and ultimately letting it go. This can be said about a lot of people’s experience of London, and it can certainly be said of many relationships.”

