

## Alli Rogers

# "The Things We Can And Cannot Keep"

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Up the drive, 'round a corner  
Stand atop of the front porch staring  
At the swing that used to hold  
Your end of the day thoughts  
There's the old cherry trees and the neighbor who  
knows  
Every grandchild's name  
Even sewed them some clothes for Christmas  
You remember that Christmas  
What can we carry, what will stay with us  
What will shine like gold when the story's told  
Some things will tarry, some will return to dust  
There are things we can and things we cannot keep  
I was young and he was in high school  
In the band he played all the marches  
Circle girls, boys and their solos  
Dancing our hearts like an auction  
We're for sale and we're cheap and we'll sing you a  
jingle  
Oh "heart" seems to be the wrong word for a soul  
It's crazy how we try to find solace  
Innocence like a bottle spun  
Sacred stones in careless hands  
Building up our cityscape  
We write our names on a plot of land  
Where will we go, who will we be  
And what, if anything, can we carry?

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