

Ani DiFranco

"Puddle Dive Complete Album"

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Names And Dates And Times

i know so many white people

i mean, where do i start?

the trouble with white people

is you can't tell them apart

i'm so bad with names and dates and times

but i'm big on faces

that is, except for mine

i believe you when you tell me

we've met before

this time you've got my interest

this time you've got the floor

why don't you go and tell me something

i don't already know

give me something to remember you by

when you go

i eat too much

i laugh too long

maybe i'll like too much of you

when i'm gone

let's go over to the window

and sit in the neon light
let's go out walking
you know, it's garbage night
let's go down to the east river
and throw something in
something we can't live without
and then let's start again
the more you talk
the more i get
the sense of something
that hasn't happened yet
the more you talk
the more i want to know
the way i'll remember you
when i go
i eat too much
i laugh too long
maybe i'll like too much of you
when i'm gone
i am so many white people
i mean where do i start
they've got lots of personalities
i just can't tell them apart
and i never remember anything
except for those things

which i never forget you know

there's no in between

i'm big on your face

yeah it's big in my mind

you're like the rest of the human race

you're one of a kind

Anyday

i will lean into you

and you can be the wind

i will open up my mouth

and you can come rushing in

you can rush in so hard

and make it so i can't breathe

i breathe too much anyway

i can do that anyway

i just wish i knew who you were

i wish you'd make yourself known

probably you don't know i'm her

the woman you want to call home

i'll keep my ear to the wall

i'll keep my eye on the door

'cause i've heard all my own jokes

and they're just not funny anymore

i laugh too much anyway

i can do that anyway

have you ever been bent or pulled

have you ever been played like strings
if i could see you i could strum you
i could break you
make you sing
but i guess you can't really see the wind
it just comes in and fills the space
and everytime something moves
you think that you have seen its face
and i've always got my guitar to play
but i can do that anyday

Forth Of July

you gotta have the right tools
for every job
so i invite myself in
through a hole in the fence
i am tripping through the junkyard
scanning over the piles
the thin cats raise their skin in defense
i know he's watching me
i can see him through the cracks
his eyes are small and shy on my back
he says his name is jason
he lives in the last trailer on the right
and he'll be seven
on the fourth of july

only the people who live here
know the name of this place
my path through iowa would be
hard to trace
all the adults in this town
try not to frown
when i walk by
but jason smiled at me
he met my eye
he don't ask me
where i'm from
or why i came
here alone
we all go looking for paradise
then we go back home
we cut out the small talk
go right to the way things are
he showed me his squirrel skull
i told him i locked myself out of my car
so there goes the only friend
i have in iowa
his hand flapping behind him
waving good-bye
his name is jason
he lives in the last trailer on the right
and he'll be seven

on the fourth of july

Willing To Fight

the windows of my soul

are made of one way glass

don't bother looking into my eyes

if there's something you want to know,

just ask

i got a dead bolt stroll

where i'm going is clear

i won't wait for you to wonder

i'll just tell you why i'm here

'cause i know the biggest crime

is just to throw up your hands

say

this has nothing to do with me

i just want to live as comfortably as i can

you got to look outside your eyes

you got to think outside your brain

you got to walk outside you life

to where the neighborhood changes

tell me who is your boogieman

that's who i will be

you don't have to like me for who i am

but we'll see what you're made of

by what you make of me

i think that it's absurd
that you think i
am the derelict daughter
i fight fire with words
words are hotter than flames
words are wetter than water
i got friends all over this country
i got friends in other countries too
i got friends i haven't met yet
i got friends i never knew
i got lovers whose eyes
i've only seen at a glance
i got strangers for great grandchildren
i got strangers for ancestors
i was a long time coming
i'll be a long time gone
you've got your whole life to do something
and that's not very long
so why don't you give me a call
when you're willing to fight
for what you think is real
for what you think is right
Egos Like Hairdos
i saw on the poster
my name was printed
just a little bit smaller

i can tell you need to stand
just a little bit taller
no one ever talks about it
but no one can disguise
the cloud of competition
that's hanging behind their eyes
there's more bad blood
in this bar than there is beer
and it's subtle but it still sucks
and i want out of here
we got egos like hairdos
they're different every day
depending on how we slept the night before
depending on the demons that are at our door
they told me you wanted to play last
every profession has its system of castes
so they reverse the order we go on
and then you stand at the bar
and you talk through my songs
we've got egos like hairdos
they're different every day
depending on how we slept the night before
depending on the demons that are at our door
everybody loves the underdog
but no one wants to be him

the press will fatten you up
and then they'll dig their teeth in
it's cool to discover someone
it's hard to support them
everyone is playing life
like it's some stupid sport
we got egos like hairdos
they're different every day
depending on how we slept the night before
depending on the demons that are at our door
i got my kitchen stocked
i got my door unlocked
there're no demons here
and i don't really care
whose name is printed in bigger type
you know i live in a world full of hope
not a world full of hype
i ain't no saint
i help myself to what i need
but i help other people too
y'know i sleep soundly
Back Around
my lipstick
jumped ship
to a styrofoam cup
with the coffee gone

the conversation strong

all i got left to give

baby, is up

but sentiments like shadows grow

oh so long

guess i gotta go

don't get up

don't cry

it's really very simple

just kiss my cheek and say goodbye

i never really go anywhere anyway

i just pass through from time to time

bye bye baby

baby bye bye

maybe i'll see you

next time i'm in town

maybe when i'm through

falling off the face of the earth

i'll come back around

you know i love to come back around

ten hours of driving

will make your mind

kind of numb

but it's better than

ten dollars an hour

slamming a hammer on my thumb
and it's better than
five dollars an hour
selling people shit
i wouldn't buy myself
at least at the end of the day
i'm always somewhere else
bye bye baby
baby bye bye
maybe i'll see you
next time i'm in town
maybe when i'm through
falling off the face of the earth
i'll come back around
you know i love to come back around

Blood In The Boardroom

sitting in the boardroom
the i'm-so-bored room
listening to the suits
talk about their world
they can make straight lines
out of almost anything
except for the line
of my upper lip when it curls
dressed in my best greasy skin
and squinty eyes

i'm the only part of summer here
that made it inside
in the air-conditioned building
decorated with corporate flair
i wonder
can these boys smell me bleeding
though my underwear
there's men wearing the blood
of the women they love
there's white wearing the blood of the brown
but every woman learns to bleed from the womb
and we bleed to renew life
every time it's cut down
i got my vertebrae all stacked up
as high as they go
i but i still feel myself sliding
from the earth that i know
so i excuse myself and leave the room
say my period came early
but it's not a minute too soon
i go and find the only other woman on the floor
is the secretary sitting at the desk by the door
i ask her if she's got a tampon i could use
she says
oh honey, what a hassle for you

sure i do

you know i do

i say

it ain't no hassle, no, it ain't no mess

right now it's the only power

that i possess

these businessmen got the money

they got the instruments of death

but i can make life

i can make breath

sitting in the boardroom

the i'm-so-bored room

listening to the suits talk about their world

i didn't really have much to say

the whole time i was there

so i just left a big brown bloodstain

on their white chair

Born A Lion

i'm not hurting anyone

i'm just telling my truth

and if there

if there is something wrong

then maybe

there's something wrong with you

what's the big deal

get over it

relax

just 'cause i do up in your face

what other people do behind your back

why we all gotta look

gotta act the same

i say

if you're born a lion

don't bother trying to act tame

everything i do

i do for the first time

i got a big crush on you

and it's crushing my mind

can i follow you home

and listen to you think

leave my lip prints on your cups

leave my hairs in your sink

they think i'm out there

out there living on the fringe

well

this is my world

and i invited them in

they should try living

by my rules for a day

nobody would die

there'd be lots of stuff to say

i'm not hurting anyone

no i'm not hurting anyone

My I.Q.

when i was four years old

they tried to test my i.q.

they showed me a picture

of 3 oranges and a pear

they said,

which one is different?

it does not belong

they taught me different is wrong

but when i was 13 years old

i woke up one morning

thighs covered in blood

like a war

like a warning

that i live in a breakable takeable body

an ever increasingly valuable body

that a woman had come in the night to replace me

deface me

see,

my body is borrowed

yeah, i got it on loan

for the time in between my mom and some maggots

i don't need anyone to hold me

i can hold my own

i got highways for stretchmarks
see where i've grown
i sing sometimes
like my life is at stake
'cause you're only as loud
as the noises you make
i'm learning to laugh as hard
as i can listen
'cause silence
is violence
in women and poor people
if more people were screaming then i could relax
but a good brain ain't diddley
if you don't have the facts
we live in a breakable takeable world
an ever available possible world
and we can make music
like we can make do
genius is in a back beat
backseat to nothing if you're dancing
especially something stupid
like i.q.
for every lie i unlearn
i learn something new
i sing sometimes for the war that i fight

'cause every tool is a weapon -

if you hold it right.

Used To You

i'm still here because

i've got nothing else to do

you're an asshole

but i'm getting used to you

i like the fact that

you talk incessantly

i got a thing for assholes

who tell good stories

i think that drinking

is the only thing that you do right

you're gonna self-destruct

i think that's what i like

you like me so you try and make me

feel like shit

i think it's kind of funny yeah

i kind of enjoy it

if you're gonna do it, overdo it

that's how you know you're alive

go ahead, take yourself a coma nap

take a puddle dive

you said, this is my bedroom window

you said, this is my view

you said, lie down here with me

and see the things that i do
like you were trying to tell me something
about the way you live
like you would give me something
if you had something to give
and for all your talk
you don't say much that's real
i think i know more than you
about the way that you feel
i understand your anger
and your apathy
i think if i was you,
you're who i'd be
i'm still here
'cause i got nothing else to do
you're an asshole but
i'm getting used to you
i could love you, yeah
i've entertained the thought
but i could never like you
so i guess i'd better not
Pick Yer Nose
how come i can pick my ears
but not my nose
who made up that rule anyway

how can you say that's the way it is

that's just the way it goes

why don't you decide for yourself

what you can do

and what you can say

how come i can pick my friends

but not my enemies

what is it about me that offends

what is it about me

'cause you know i'm only five foot two

and i'm giggly wiggly

tell me again, what did i do

why are you scared of me

i fight with love

and i laugh with rage

you've gotta live light enough

to see the humor

and long enough to see some change

i think shy is boring

i think depressed is too

i think pretty is nice

but i'd rather see something new

all these plastic people

got their plastic surgery

but we got a big big beautiful

we got it for free

who you gonna be
if you can't be yourself
you can't get it from t.v.
you can't force it on
anybody else
you know they come to clear cut
they come to strip mine
they come for some of my big butt
my big brain
or just a little time
they wanna take me out to dinner
think i'm a bitch if i don't go
seems like the people who actually like me
won't allow me to say no
your idea of a conversation
is the third degree
but i don't really know you
and i don't really want to talk about me
'cause i'm not going to pretend
that i don't pick my nose
that's just the way it is, my friends
that's just the way it goes
this is who i am
what i do
and what i say

if you like it, let it be
if you don't, please do the same
i fight with love
i laugh with rage
you gotta live light enough to see the humor
and long enough to see some change
God's Country
state trooper thinks i drive too fast
pulled me over to tell me so
i say out here on the prairie
any speed is too slow
i miss brooklyn i miss my crew
let's start over
i missed my cue
guess i just forgot
who i was talking to
i should have recognized
that fierce look in his eyes
i've seen it in the mirror
so many times
he's going to put his two cents in
'cause he's got a gun
but i'm gonna put in three
'cause history owes me one
guess i came out here to see some
stuff for myself

i mean, why leave the telling
up to everybody else
this may be god's country
but it's my country too
move over mr. holiness
and let the little people through
thank you for serving and protecting
the likes of me
thank you for the ticket
now can i leave?
you know i have left everywhere
i have ever been
i don't really recommend it
though not like anyone asked me
maybe you and i
will meet again someday
i've been known to
come down this road
call it destiny
and then again
maybe not
i don't know

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