

## Ani DiFranco

# "Serpentine - Album: Evolve"

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pavlov hits me with more bad news  
every time i answer the phone  
so i play and i sing and i just let it ring  
all day when i'm at home  
a defacto choice of macro  
or microcosmic melancholy  
but, baby, any way you slice it  
i'm thinkin i could just as soon use  
the time alone

yes, the goons have gone global  
and the CEOs are shredding files  
and the democrins and the republicrats  
are flashing their toothy smiles  
and uncle tom is posing for a photo op  
with the oval office clan  
and uncle sam is rigging cockfights  
in the promised land  
and that knife you stuck in my back is still there  
it pinches a little when i sigh and moan  
and these days i'm thinkin i could just as soon use  
the time alone

cuz all the wrong people have the power  
of suggestion  
and the freedom of the press is meaningless  
if nobody asks a question  
i mean, causation by definition  
is such a complex compilation of factors  
that to even try to say why  
is to oversimplify  
but that's a far cry, isn't it dear?  
from acting like you're the only one there  
unrepentantly self-centered and unfair  
enter all suckers scrambling for the scoop  
exit mr. eye contact  
who took his flirt and flew the coop  
but whatever  
no matter  
no fishin trips  
no fishin  
cuz mamma's officially out of commission

and did i mention  
in there  
somewhere  
did i mention  
somewhere  
in there  
that i traded babe ruth?  
yes, i traded the only player that was bigger than the  
game  
and i can't even tell you why  
cuz you'd think i'm insane  
and that's the truth

and the music industry mafia is pimping girl power  
sniping off their sharpshooter singles from their  
styrofoam towers  
and hip hop is tied up in the back room  
with a logo stuffed in its mouth  
cuz the master's tools will never dismantle the master's  
house  
but then  
i'm getting away from myself  
as i get closer and closer to home  
and these days i'm thinkin  
i could just as soon use  
the time alone

an i must admit  
today my inner pessimist  
seems to have got the best of me  
we start out sugared up on kool-aid and manifest  
destiny  
and we memorize all the president's names  
like little trained monkeys  
and then we're spit into the world  
so many spinny-eyed t.v. junkies  
incapable of unravelling the military industrial mystery  
preemptively pacified with history book history  
an i've been around the world now  
and i can see this about america  
the mind control is steep here, man  
the myopia is deep here

and behold  
those that try to expose the reality  
who really try to realize democracy  
are shot with rubber bullets and gassed off the streets  
while the global power brokers are kept clean and  
discreet  
behind a wall  
behind a moat

and that is all  
that's all she wrote

an my heart beats an sss o o o sss  
cuz folks just couldn't care care care less less less  
as long as every day is superbowl sunday  
and larger than life women in lingerie  
are pouting at us from every bus stop  
shelovesme shelovesmenot shelovesme  
shelovesmenot...

and "big government should not stand between a man  
and his money"  
cuz "what's good for business is good for the country"

our children still take that lie like communion  
the same old line the confederacy used on the union

conjugate liberty  
into libertarian  
and medicate it  
associate it  
with deregulation  
privatization  
we won't even know we're slaves  
on a corporate plantation  
somebody say hallelujah!  
somebody say damnation!  
cuz the profit system follows the path of least  
resistance  
and the path of least resistance is what makes the river  
crooked  
makes it serpentine  
capitalism is the devil's wet dream  
so just give me my judy garland drugs  
and let me get back to work  
cuz the empire state building  
is the tallest building in new york  
and i always got the feeling  
you just liked to hear it fall

off your tongue

but i remember my name

in your mouth  
and i don't think i was done  
hearing it close to my ear  
on a whisper's way to a moan  
but pavlov hits me with more bad news every time i  
answer the phone

so i play and i sing and i just let it ring all day when i'm  
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