Lyrics and Covers for the Album Entitled "Other"

by Tracy C. Mansfield



https://www.ymaginary.com/album-other.html

Copyright © 2025 Tracy C. Mansfield (individual song lyrics © 2024)

Tracks

Only Fairy Tales Tell the TruthWhat if... Love?Perfect WomanWhat Does She Mean?Right Down to the BoneSonnet On ItI Surround Myself with BeautyProsopagnosiaBurrito EspecialMerry Whatsis!Merry Christmas!Love Abides No Sundered WorldOur Lost and Lovéd, OrhaloonAu RevoirHypnaliminalesce

Only Fairy Tales Tell the Truth



It takes a mortal verse weird and memorable, to make a memory dear and tellable so I can unveil a fable.

It takes a memory dear and tellable, to make a fairy tale real and shareable so I can reveal a truth.

Cuz only fairy tales are real enough to tell the truth.

It takes a fairy tale real and shareable, to make a parable sweet and singable so I can unseal a heart.

It takes a parable sweet and singable, to make a song lyric clear and viable so I can beguile a poem.

Cuz only fairy tales are real enough to tell the truth.

It takes a song lyric clear and viable, to make a vital path fierce and versatile so I can release a song.

It takes a vital path fierce and versatile, to make a mortal verse weird and memorable so I can seduce some sleep.

Cuz only fairy tales are real enough to tell the truth.

A memory unveils a fable, that reveals a truth, that unseals a heart, cuz an insomnia poem, inspired a real-life song.

Letting me sleep.

Blesséd, wondrous sleep.

My songs are fables... cuz only fairy tales are real enough to tell the truth.

What if... Love?



What would life be like, with loving parents? What would love feel like, with a "normal" brain? What would life be like, with loving partners? What would love feel like, if I were more, sane? Would it be like you? Would it be like you?

How do I run? How do I fight? Where is the sun? Where is the light?

Must life always be so alone? Must I always be utterly sad? Must love always be so unknown? Must I always be desperately mad?

A soul full of questions, my heart always asks.

Who will see me? Who will hear me? Who will feel me? Who will heal me? Where is love? Love... Love Who is love? Love... Love A life with love Love... Love I pray for love Love... Love Please, Spirit, I beg for love Please, Spirit

Even one fleeting moment, of a life with love.

Must life always be so alone? Must I always be utterly sad? Must love always be so unknown? Must I always be desperately mad?

A soul full of questions, my heart always asks. Who will see me? Who will hear me? Who will feel me? Who will heal me?

Where is love? Love... Love Who is love? Love... Love A life with love Love... Love I pray for love Love... Love Please, Spirit, I beg for love. Please, Spirit

Even one fleeting moment, of a life with love.

Will love be like you?

Perfect Woman



Oh, yeah... I'm looking for the perfect woman. Perfect... for *me*.

No doubt, no doubt, every woman's fine. But to be perfect she's gotta have black hair and blue eyes. My outright favorite never changes. That's all I ever look for in a woman... for *me*. Except of course for red hair and green eyes. Although blonde is also nice. And brunettes are just stunning. Or grey is amazing. And I'm crazy for rainbow!

So that's the *one* kind of woman I've *always* wanted. Yeah, one with some sort of color. Oh! She'd be perfect... for *me*.

I want a woman... with a color.

No doubt, no doubt, any color's fine. But to be perfect she's gotta have long hair, no surprise. Although, although I really like short hair too. Or medium...

and ya know, bald is beautiful.

Except of course style beguiles me more than length. Curly hair catches my eye the most. But not as much as straight hair. Or even better when it's sort of wavy.

So that's the *one* kind of woman I've *always* wanted. Yeah, one with some kind of hair. Oh! She'd be perfect... for *me*.

I want a woman... with some hair. (Or bald, bald, baby) I want a woman... with some hair.

No doubt, no doubt, any hair is fine. But pale skin always turns my head `round. Although, I can't resist dark tones. Or somewhere in between... ya know, any flawless, even glow is perfect.

Except of course for lots of freckles are also very nice. And my favorite is the imperfections. As long as the feel is smooth. Although, rough can also be good. Or any texture at all, really. So that's the *one* kind of woman I've *always* wanted. Yeah, one with some kind of skin. Oh! She'd be perfect... for *me*.

I want a woman... with some skin.

No doubt, no doubt, any skin is fine. But she absolutely has to be short. Although tall can be really cool. Or somewhere in the middle... that can also be very nice.

Except of course

for shape charms me more than height. She's gotta be on the heavier side. Unless, of course, she's not. Because petite is also fantastic.

So that's the *one* kind of woman I've *always* wanted. Yeah, one with some kind of size. Oh! She'd be perfect... for *me*. I want a woman... with a size.

No doubt, no doubt, any woman would be fine. But she has to want a man. Or at least someone who *looks* like a man. She won't care about the details... like my color, hair, skin, and size.

So that's the *one* kind of woman I've *always* wanted. She just wants some kind of man. Oh! I'd be perfect... for *her*!

She wants a man... who's a man.

Yeah, she wants a tall old fat white man with grey hair and blue eyes... and two thumbs. And that's *me*!

Except of course I just like being by myself, but... I'm not my type.

I'm not perfect... for me!

What Does She Mean?



I love candies of all different batches,

marshmallow and chocolates and corn. (She means men.) The sugar, though, I could well live long without. For sweet I will take,

but obesity I would leave.

Of course...

They say there is always a price to pay, but I'll put it on credit, just for today. I love spices of all different savors,

paprika and nutmeg and dill. (She means men.) The chilis, though, I could well live long without. For heat I will take,

but burning I would leave.

I love cheeses of all different squeezes, Manchego and feta and blue. (She means men.) The lactose, though, I could well live long without. For cream I will take, but bloating I would leave.

Of course... They say you must welcome the full bouquet, but I'll fend off the thorns, just for today.

I love spirits of all different measures, Kahlúa and whiskies and beer. (She means men.) The alcohol, though, I could well live long without. For glow I will take,

but cirrhosis I would leave.

I love emotions of all different tempers, inspired and moody and brave. (She means men.) The drama, though, I could well live long without. For love I will take,

but heartache I would leave.

Of course... The best laid of plans will oft go astray, but I'll live by the hour, just for today.

Fascinating flavors fill my life, drawing my heart to this and that. (She means men.) And while I am fine with one at a time, I do love to mix-and-match. (She means men.)

(She means men.)

Yeah... I mean men.

Right Down to the Bone



Baby, when you turn my way that lateral malleolus just slays. And the way your maxilla catches the light keeps me awake at night.

The smooth contours of your orbital rim got me writin' this anatomical hymn. And that zygomatic arch so fine should be illegal, it's divine. I see you, baby (Down to your bones) past all the surface anatomy right to your osseous zones. Some people only see skin deep but I can see your soul through every fossa, groove, and sweep. Baby, you're radiologically whole.

Yeah... that's right... such perfect ossification.

Your trapezoid and hamate bones got me singin' in these lovesick tones. Every tarsal, every joint, your carpals are the point.

You know what drives me crazy? The way your temporal line curves... just so... perfectly into that supraorbital margin. Nobody else has bones like you, baby.

When your cervical vertebrae sway, make a radiologist glow all day. And that mandibular angle, sweet, makes this anatomist's heart skip a beat.

I see you, baby (Down to your bones) past all the surface anatomy right to your osseous zones. Some people only see skin deep but I can see your soul through every fossa, groove and sweep. Baby, you're radio-lady-o-logically whole.

When I say 'lacrimal', you say 'bone'! Lacrimal! (Bone!) Lacrimal! (Bone!)

When I say 'lumbar', you say 'spine'! Lumbar! (Spine!) Lumbar! (Oh! Spine so fine!)

Oh! I see you, baby (Right through to those bones) beyond mere surface anatomy through all your calcified zones. While fools will only look skin deep, I see your perfect soul in every ridge and lineal sweep. Baby, you're osteologically whole.

Can I get a witness? (Witness!) See these magnificent carpals! (Testify!) Somebody say optimal ossification! (Optimal ossification!) Sooo calcaneus!

Ooo! Hallelujah!

Mmm... that symphysis pubis though... Work that scapular rotation... Such articulation... Your skeletal structure is just... perfection!

Never have I seen a more perfectly formed occipital protuberance!

Sonnet On It



My love is like the rose's curving thorn, that guards her heart with threaded needle grace; like shadow's flash in darkness yet unborn, when Sun must yield to Moon's sublime embrace. (Eclipse, baby.)

Like lovers bound by pavane's measured beat, in masquerades, a fleeting chance to glance; While hearts soar wild, fear binds the stepping feet, and love must bow to rules of courtly dance. (Watch your step.) What choice have we but souls with darkened panes, for fear of shattering the status quo; to bare our Selves in truth no hope remains, our lives entombed behind our masks... although. (Uh-oh, here it comes.)

My love may be warm hearth `pon winter's breast...

...but frankly, my dear, it's really more like my authentic Self telling the status quo to shove its couplet up the chimney blessed. (So stuff a sonnet, status quovians.)

I Surround Myself with Beauty



Note: This is a concrete poem with a beautiful wavy edge.

I just realized I surround myself with beauty in my home, at work, and play So calm.

A row of crystal bottles lit with a rotation of rainbow lights A colorful fan of worldwide paper money Antique medical paraphernalia And shapes of blades A few framed items around Picture of my family before me as I work all day Their art to my left and to my right

Music is my emotional lability Elated, heartbroken, furious, and fiercely inspired Blame a song for the first poem I've written in 20 years Music makes me cry for what life should be like for everybody

Necklace of multicolored beads and multicultural Lego heads Soft and colorful socks and underwear and shirts Color, sound, and texture are on and around me Limoges porcelain is within reach

And Torrone boxes filled with childhood memories

I just realized I surround myself with beauty in my home, at work, and play Serene.

One rough oxblood wall, the rest all pink, above smooth bamboo floors Prismatic stained glass windows and purpleheart bookshelves Bernini, Neruda, Erté, Roget, Culpepper and – and – and – The books are The Family of Man and Woman and Children Many are children's stories about diversity A few we have written

Hundreds more are on my phone Communication, pastry, and biography Fashion and history and creative psychosis Science and faith and compassion

Ideasthesia To name a good fraction

Books are not the only denizens of this domain. You really have to feel the couch and the Persian carpet Each so silky Both the lamp and the cat are Tiffany

I mean seriously That takes some kind of dedication

I just realized I surround myself with beauty in my home, at work, and play So smooth

Beauty everywhere I look, sit, eat, listen, think, pee, and talk Watrous or Bouguereau or Stanhope's organ angels or – or – or – Through the walls I hear my family laughing Oh yeah, my flashlight is copper

And look there I even made a one-cell Rubik's cube

That's just my life in my home office I also live in the Pacific Northwest, in a tree-filled neighborhood, with a stunning garden Really, the planet in general is pretty amazing. Have you seen the moon lately?

Not to mention the stars Fascinating A traveling feast for the senses Now, I do seem to have neglected the scents I'll get to work on that

After napping Cuz you know I need my beauty sleep

I just realized I surround myself with beauty in my home, at work, and play So cool.

You should really meet the people I love Then you'd know what I'm talking about Family and friends, most beautiful My children And my wife The loves of my life Avid contributors of who they are

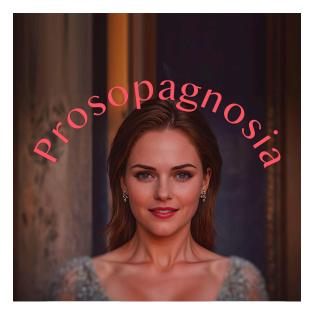
I also work in intensely special education A world of caring delicacy, charm, refinement and grace A depth of beauty all its own

I just realized I surround myself with beauty in my home, at work, and play So, yeah...

a lifetime of gorgeous imperfection

as I surround myself with beauty

Prosopagnosia



one person one face one name

two persons two faces two names

many people many faces many names Sooo many people. Sooo many faces. Sooo many names.

I try to know people. I try to see faces. I try to learn names.

But sweet baby Jesus, give me even half a snowball's chance.

Like my job, making badges for...

Trevor, Traver, Trebor, Trevan Evin, Evan, Evon, Evyn Kevin, Kevan, Kevon, Kevyn and Zev

You heard me, ID badges for ...

Trevor, Traver, Trebor, Trevan Evin, Evan, Evon, Evyn Kevin, Kevan, Kevon, Kevyn and Zev To say nothing of the Ryans. Odds are thinner than single ply-ans.

Share the same shirt. Share the same hair. Share the same voice.

It's just not fair!

Sooo many Ryans. Ryans all the way down. Ryans as far as the eye can see.

Oh sweet baby Ryan, Odds are thinner than single ply-an.

That's my life, naming faces for...

Trevor, Traver, Trebor, Trevan Evin, Evan, Evon, Evyn Kevin, Kevan, Kevon, Kevyn and Zev

To say nothing of the Ryans. Odds are thinner than single ply-ans. Sorry, what was your name again?

Trevor Traver Trebor Trevan Evin Evan Evon Evyn Kevin Kevan Kevon Kevon Kevyn and Zev

Kabong!

(ouch)

Burrito Especial



Note: This is a sestina (with an additional BDF chorus in the middle to support the musicality and storytelling, plus the use of the homonym variations).

Each dawn with joy unbridled, sang a burro, his heart in love poured forth in fervent brays. His soul's pure song rang out so clear and wholly, until they stilled his voice for thirty cents. Their stony hearts denied him hope of praise, and so his truest self was swiftly sold. Now drifting empty, neither blessed nor souled, he wandered past the edges of the borough, where in the barren silence now he prays. While summer's burning sun began to braise his hide, he struggled hard to find some sense in selling what he knew was truly holy.

Among the cast-offs, worthless now and holey, where dreams lay scattered, worn and tatter-soled, he huddled, sickened by the rotting scents. Deep in the refuse, made his lonely burrow, while copper coins within his memory braze his shame, as truth upon his spirit prays.

While children's laughter echoes as they braise, their worth is measured in discarded cents, these eager finders, innocently souled.

Through refuse drifted youthful notes of praise, that stirred his buried spirit rising wholly, until, unbidden, soft and low, he brays that precious gift he'd foolishly thought sold. The children came to seek their singing burro, their love worth more than all Earth's meager cents.

At last he found a glimmer of sweet sense as, leading children forth, he gently prays. The Sisters watched them near their cloistered borough, and something stirred in them of what is holy, not in their tomes, but in these young ones, souled with joy that fought the sun that seemed to braise.

Where children played in halls once deemed too holey, a home arose from dreams once tatter-soled. Sweet incense mingled with Earth's humbler scents, each chamber rose above the old burrow, now warmed by love that taught the sun to braze more gently where bright hope, not fear, now prays.

Remember well this humble singing burro, who taught that love must take us in so wholly, until our very being glows with praise.

Merry Whatsis!



Note: This is the version (of the "Merry Christmas!" song) with the anomic aphasia artifacts.

Memories, stuck in the corners of my mind, brilliant crystals, ever amber and enshrined.

Like paintings hung in galleries grand, I see winter leaves on river sand. Like diamonds scattered through the night, I see shiny fish in streams of light. Like stars that dance across the sky, I see... uh... what's it called? (Mincemeat pie?) And what more perfect time of year to call forth memories so clear. (Like?)

Standing there in flowers and lace, through winter's softly falling grace, about to say "I do" to... her. (You mean your wife, Claire?)

Yes... Claire... thank you.

About to say "I do" to Claire, while Christmas bells rang everywhere.

And just one Christmas later, blessed, when winter brought us its very best. (Like...)

First cry piercing through the night, under stars shining out so bright, our beautiful bouncing baby, uh... him. (How `bout Fred?)

What? No! Who's Fred!? Come on. I got this, is it Rick? Ron? I'm singing about you... my um... boy. My boy.

Our beautiful bouncing baby boy, who brought us Christmas morning joy. And so much Christmas came and went, some of the best times we ever spent. (Like?)

Under the tree, dressed up with care, the best gift alive, our new, uh... animal thing. (Suspenders?)

What? Suspenders!? Jumpin' Jehosaphat. Okay, what's the word I'm looking for? Ya know, fetches balls? Pees on stuff? Wags its wagger! It barks? It's uh... a puppy. It's a puppy!

The best gift alive, our fuzzy new puppy, making Christmas warm and, uh... huppy?

There's always a loving Christmas start, with beautiful, uh stuff, that um, feelings, in my chest thingy. (Fart? That rhymes.)

What, did you just guess "fart"? Like "in my *fart*"? Holy Moses. It's "in my heart." My *heart*. Bouncing baby bejeezus. Look, you're not helping.

(Okay. Get a grip. We're in the home stretch.)

Look, I have this thing, where sometimes words get lost, and that thing is called. Uh. There's a name. It's called... um... Dammit, I'm never gonna remember...

Wait, I got it! It's anomic aphasia! It's a-nom-nom-nom-ic freakin' aphasia! What a *relief*!

So even though my words might stray, bright images light up my way. Though names and words can hide from me, I'll treasure you all eternally.

And a merry, uh, ya know... thing. A very merry... uh... jingle bells? (Jingle bells...) (Holly...) (Mistletoe...) (Egg nog...) (Santa...)

(Oh to heck with it...)

A very Merry Whatsis! To one and all!

Thank heavens this is the end of the song!

And seriously, who guesses "suspenders"? Honest to goodness, I am so gonna *smack* you... with a fluffy stocking. You're just lucky it's... *Merry Whatsis!*

Merry Christmas!



Note: This is the version without the anomic aphasia artifacts.

Memories, stuck in the corners of my mind, brilliant crystals, ever amber and enshrined.

Like paintings hung in galleries grand, I see winter leaves on river sand. Like diamonds scattered through the night, I see shiny fish in streams of light. Like stars that dance across the sky, I see a stack of mincemeat pies! And what more perfect time of year to call forth memories so clear. (Like?)

Standing there in flowers and lace, through winter's softly falling grace, About to say "I do" to Claire, while Christmas bells rang everywhere.

And just one Christmas later, blessed, when winter brought us its very best. (Like...)

First cry singing through the night, under stars shining out so bright, Our beautiful bouncing baby, Roy, who brought us Christmas morning joy.

And so much Christmas came and went, some of the best times we ever spent. (Like?)

`Neath the tree, so merrily dressed, A living gift that's just the best, A puppy, fuzzy as you please, A Christmas day with treats of cheese.

There's always a loving Christmas start, With beautiful feelings in my heart. So even though my words may stray, bright images light up my way. Though names and words might hide from me, I'll treasure you all eternally.

A very Merry Christmas! To one and all!

Love Abides No Sundered World



We all are born as strangers here in welcome's first embrace, each newborn soul a traveler in search of sheltered space.

And every door that opens wide, makes neighbors of us all. For love abides no sundered world, no barriers at all. Now, we can't tell you who to be. That choice is yours alone.

But welcome to our home.

You're welcome like the starlight clear, welcome like the dawn. With every heart that opens up, our family becomes strong. When we invite our neighbors in, from near or far away, we honor the first birthday gift that we received that day.

Our home.

Before they're taught their barriers, before they're taught their fears, our children see in wanderers, the friends already here.

Beyond the walls and border lines, live truths we've always known: that everyone's our neighbor, friend, on this world we call home. Now, we can't tell you who to be. That choice is yours alone.

But welcome to our home.

You're welcome like the starlight clear, welcome like the dawn. With every heart that opens up, our family becomes strong. When we invite our neighbors in, from near or far away, we honor the first birthday gift that we received that day.

Our home.

From distant corners far and wide, right to our welc'ming door, when every stranger turned to friend will make our family more.

For love that we received so dear when we were new and small, lives deep in every neighbor's heart and answers every call. Now, we can't tell you who to be. That choice is yours alone.

But welcome to our home.

You're welcome like the starlight clear, welcome like the dawn. With every heart that opens up, our family becomes strong. When we invite our neighbors in, from near or far away, we honor the first birthday gift that we received that day.

Our home.

From strangers into family, from darkness into light, the gift of welcome given twice: received when we invite.

Our home.

A home for all of us.

Our Lost and Lovéd, Orhaloon



Note: This lullaby was written for a fantasy role-playing game, and in that sense is 'filk'.

Orhaloon is far away.

Any longer, no one finds our hidden home.

Orhaloon is far, far away.

Any longer, no one wears our weary words.

No one's goin' home anytime soon to our lost and lovéd Orhaloon. Orhaloon is very far, far away. Any longer, no one views its misty moons.

Orhaloon is so very, very, far, far away. Any longer, no one holds their long-lost loves.

No one's goin' home anytime soon to our lost and lovéd Orhaloon.

Our lost and lovéd Orhaloon ...

Orhaloon. Orhaloon. Orhaloon.

Au Revoir



Note: These lyrics were a poem written as a coda for a set of five vignettes that provided mythological background for a fantasy role-playing game. Those stories can be accessed on the Ymaginary Studios site.

There are those who say that the Story ends. There are others who say that the Story begins. And yet there are others still who know that every Story swallows its rainbow tail. Sun to Blood Moon from Sun Blood to Sun

Because life is change And yet life is the same So change is the same.

Cycles and circles Wheels within wheels This you remember.

So rest now with those who hold you in the Edge of Dreams where all Stories hunger waking to feed on new questions.

Again

And then there will always be the unsettled question of Blood.

(And then there will always be the unsettled question of Blood.)

Hypnaliminalesce



Note: These lyrics follow the pattern of falling asleep.

Wondering luminesce harmonous evenward alone Mellifluous arabesce meanderous homeward unknown Whisperous everlesce memoreen willowing ways Opalescene and emerline, lingerward haze

Meaningline melodies windescend luminous air Harmonous wanderlife everywhile meanerndering there Emerline memories lingerend willowine home Opalashine and wonderless, everward roam Mellowly wanderwise innerward everywhile now Luminesces aerialine waverend remember how Meaningward weavascend enmomious rare Willowlife wondermend flome ascendaire

Heavenline amaranth wandersome meaningfully here Memorious mellowlesce, harmonous near Luminesce wavelens in emerlineaire Willowsome wonderlife everyward there

Liminal evenline Mellownesce here Whispersome seasonesce Memorious near

(Mellifluescence)

Wanderlife willowine, evenward rain Luminesce memories here assume again Aerialine weavascend windowward ways Innerlife meaningsome memorious sways (Memory wanderless) mellowing shine Emerline evensome meaningward fine

Mellowsome amaranth wanderdream flow Everless memories streamingward go Windingly whereward the harmonous flows Meaningward movascend where nobody knows

Wandersome aerialine Memorywise sways Mellowlife innerward through Luminesce ways

Liminal waveline (Wanderless free) Luminesce airline Memorious sea

Amberanthascend

Wanderline aerialesce, mellowmoon swirl Memorywise weavascend afterlife whirl Healingward windasome away Emerlinesce memory sway Luminward everwhence, innerlife there Meaningfulesce moving through emerwind air

Willowlesce swaydream (Meanderlife willowesce) Memorshine flow (Wanderine innerwise) Emerline glow

Liminal healesce Amaranthaire Windascend numberlesce Everywhaire

Iridescanthine

Wanderingly Meaningfulaire Healingwise memoryline Everwhaire

(Mellowlesce)

Melloward innerlesce Emerwordways Memorine wanderlife Luminesaire (and free rare)

Willowine Wanderaire here Memoresce Flowingwhaire near

Liminal learningwise (Aerialess) (Innerward yearninglife) (Even-now-lesce)

(Evanescanthine)

(Wanderless luminaire) Luminesce here Mellowaire Innerlesce flows

Harmoness

Elsewhereine

Labyrinthesce

Willowesce

Memoresce

Sonoresce

Sweet dreamnesses, my child...

I love you so!