

A Marginal Concept

While this isn't a really concept album there are certainly a couple of literature related themes that run through it.

A Poet's Talespin has lyrics adapted from a couple of terrific poems by Amanda Joy. The first, *Three Part Tale Spin*, is story of a dream where a poem unfolds, and the second, *I Write*, tells about how the poet can examine the world around them and create a world that may bear very little resemblance to it.

Skating on Europa was inspired by a garbled phone message left on my answering machine that reminded me a passage in in Arthur C. Clark's novel 2010 where an explorer discovers life on Europa and moments later watches any chance to return home destroyed. All he can do is desperately try to send a transmission home documenting what he has seen using the weak transmitter in his suit. Best chapter in the book - too bad it wasn't in the movie. The voicemail made me think of that lonely transmission so I recorded it and used it in the song.

Know Again is one literal translation of *Anagnorisis*, which in Greek Tragedy is a key moment of recognition for the protagonist. I don't remember exactly why I was thinking about this when I finished writing *Know Again* and was searching for something to call it but a couple of the melodies really fit the concept.

The closing piece, a sort of pseudo-tone poem called *Counted the Stars* is named for a phrase in a Anne Sexton poem that early on in the writing process I intended to adapt as lyrics for what eventually became *A Poet's Talespin*. According to the internets Anne was quite a fan of the radio listening all the time while writing and referencing the radio in a few of her more famous works, hence the old tube radio sound fx.

So quite by coincidence all these tunes have fairly strong ties to literature, and it seemed to me that the title and artwork should reflect this. *Get the Hell off my Lawn* didn't fit the concept very well, so I included an organic gardening manual on the back cover with the other books to make it all come together.

The title of the collection *Notes in the Margin* is a reflection of the fact that much of the process of making this record was really a struggle of rewrites, rerecording, remixing, and general refinement. And after all that there are still dozens of things I probably could have tweaked just a little more.

There are *always* more Notes in the Margin...

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