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***Nowhere Generation* Album Lyrics**

Music written and performed by Rise Against (Do It To Win Music/ASCAP)

All Lyrics by Tim McIlrath

**1) THE NUMBERS**

We’re biding time as we wait for the signal

Sharpening blades while we wait out the storm

These cold nights are almost unbearable

But purpose keeps us warm

Pledge allegiance while crossing our fingers

A bark with no bite, no teeth just a roar

You’re not a thorn in our side; you’re a splinter

We are ready but we’re bored

Just holding our place in line

And everything moves too slow now

Breaking away in time

They have the power

We have the numbers now

It’s all just a constant illusion

Of control

They break us like horses

How long will we drag their plow?

What will continue to be

Is what we allow…

And still we worship at altars so empty

Consumption of something we don’t need at all

Holes we can’t fill

A never-ending song;

“Again, from the top now…”

Textbook cases we all fit the profile

Mass surveillance we opened the door

Prey on the fears, the blurred lines of right and wrong

Sped up ’til we can’t slow down

And at this velocity

One wrong move and we go down

Brace for the reckoning

They have the power

We have the numbers

It’s all just a constant illusion

Of control

They break us like horses

How long will we drag their plow?

What will continue to be

Is what we allow…

Heavy are the chains

We fasten to ourselves

Gathering the thorns

To shape into a crown

Is this saddle comfortable?

Do these reigns feel tight enough?

Will you gallop when you’re kicked?

Or throw the rider off

Are you the willing and the able

Or are you spoken for?

Destined to serve what you abhor

Until it all gives out

Listen

Fuck what you call normal

And this pressure to conform

(Break free)

It’s your trail to blaze

Or your bridge to burn

They have the power

We have the numbers now

It’s all just a constant illusion

Of control

They break us like horses

How long will we drag their plow?

What will continue to be

Is what we allow…

**2) SUDDEN URGE**

We are names and we are faces

Not listed in the pages

You’re searching line by line

The voices in the wire

The glass under your tires

The panic in your eyes

And when we start to lose control

And when we start to lose our minds

That’s when I close my eyes and feel

A sudden urge

To watch this whole town burn

Light up the whole damn sky

Like the Fourth of July

The Fourth of July

I am as a patient as a volcano

A butterfly in a landmine field

I am the dandelion making guns go silent

Sticking out of every barrel cold as steel

In this fight you started

I’m a moving target

And I’m sick of running

But the pain keeps coming

Like a sudden urge

To watch this whole town burn

Light up the whole damn sky

Like the Fourth of July

The Fourth of July

Searching for something worth saving from this fire

Try to envision the glass half-full

Give me a reason to smother these flames out

Before they begin to grow

I can't stop the sky from falling

all I hear are voices calling

Asking “have you come to heal us?”

Touch my shaking hand you’ll feel a

Sudden urge

To watch this whole town burn

Light up the whole damn sky

Like the Fourth of July

The Fourth of July

From branch to root

We are black inside

Scorching the earth like it’s the Fourth of July

If everything you knew

Was a goddamn lie

Would you up and explode

Like it’s the Fourth of July?

**3) NOWHERE GENERATION**

We are the Nowhere Generation

We are the kids that no one wants

We are a credible threat

To the rules you set

A cause to be alarmed

We are not the names that we’ve been given

We speak a language you don’t know

We are the Nowhere Generation

The Nowhere Generation

One day

All the walls will come down

All the doors will open

All the roads will lead home

But right now

We are spiraling down

And the longer we wait

The further we go

Are we slipping through the cracks now

No place left on your map now to call home?

We are the Nowhere Generation

The kids that no one wants

We are a credible threat

To the rules you set

A cause to be alarmed

We are not the names that we’ve been given

We speak a language you don’t know

We are the Nowhere Generation

The Nowhere Generation

“For your sweat, you’ll be rewarded”

They told us every day

“There’s a land of milk & honey and

it’s not that far away”

But the finish line kept moving

And the promises wore thin

The smoke on the horizon

Was the burning promised land

This place used to be somewhere but they

Sold it out from under us

Our voices all ignored

We are the Nowhere Generation

The kids that no one wants

We are a credible threat

To the rules you set

A cause to be alarmed

We are not the names that we’ve been given

We speak a language you don’t know

We are the Nowhere Generation

The Nowhere Generation

And yet we climb these burning ladders

Still, we raise for them the hammers

Swinging low

“What exactly are we after?”

They will ask

And we will answer

We are the Nowhere Generation

The kids that no one wants

We are a credible threat

To the rules you set

A cause to be alarmed

We are not the names that we’ve been given

We speak a language you don’t know

We are the Nowhere Generation

The Nowhere Generation

We are the Nowhere Generation.

**4) TALKING TO OURSELVES**

We’re waiting for something to happen

But nothing is snapping us out of this trance

Our eyelids are heavy and soon we’re all ready

To obey every single command

I feel lost

No map in front of me

I don’t know which way is up

Wishing we could just hit pause

Just enough to breathe

(Why can’t I shake you awake from this dream?)

I never wanted to disturb the peace

But it feels like no one’s listening

Are we talking to ourselves

Are we just talking to ourselves?

So good at speaking out of turn

And talking back, I have some nerve

If I said this all to your face

Forgive me

Sometimes I forget my place

So what’s it going to be

Will you dig in or give up

Lean in or just get lost?

Drift away from here

This demands your attention

Hear me when I say

I never wanted to disturb the peace

But it feels like no one’s listening

Are we talking to ourselves

Are we just talking to ourselves?

What are we trying to say

Tell me what it would take to pry open their eyes

I would wade in the water I’ll stand in the fire

I am not afraid

I would break down the door if you give me the sign

For the chance to be yours I would lay down my life

I am not afraid

I swear I never wanted to disturb the peace

But it feels like no one’s listening

Are we talking to ourselves?

Are we just talking to ourselves?

**5) BROKEN DREAMS, INC**

I have seen what you call progress

Every warning sign ignored

There’s a muffled voice of reason

But we can’t make out the words

Though the balance we struck was delicate

There was a sense of right and wrong

We tried to stem this flow with a tourniquet

But now the patient’s dead and gone

When we owe more than we’re worth

And they’re changing the locks on the doors

We raised glasses high to the bottom line

On a street engulfed in flames

But on goes the show…

When the city streets are barricaded

A chaos we ourselves created

When there’s nothing left, tell me where will you go?

When the factories are automated

Broken dreams incorporated

Gather your things, but there’s nowhere to go

We are children of lesser gods

Better angels, darker days

But we’re holding on to this cause

Like palm trees in a hurricane

We chase every second

In clothes that we slept in

But they still got away

When the city streets are barricaded

A chaos we ourselves created

When there’s nothing left, tell me where will you go?

When the factories are automated

Broken dreams incorporated

Gather your things

But there’s nowhere to go?

Nowhere to go

Was this place ever our home?

Were these lines ever our own?

Are we just reading from the pages

Just putting on a show?

Are you along just for the ride?

Keep all hands and feet inside

Will you steer us all to safety

So at least they know you tried?

Broken dreams

Broken dreams, inc

No longer asking

We are taking

Tomorrow will be

What we make it

**6) MONARCH**

I feel the same

No different than before

There was a time when what you thought of me once mattered

I put weight behind your words

Then something snapped

Deep down inside me

Tectonic shifts aligning

Soft image into focus

Snapped finger break hypnosis

Light through the crack and then

Everything went black

I am not the person you remember from before

The one you patronized and stepped on

The one you hurt

I have pulled the arrows now my skin has become stone

No longer am I prisoner

To your empty fucking words

I carried every single word you said

They stacked up high they weighed me down

But underneath it all, I didn't notice

I was growing strong somehow

Lean backward through an open window

Nothing left can save me now

I hear the cry of the approaching sirens

Right as I countdown

Then something snapped

A lightbulb moment

Like sighting land from the ocean

Pure water in the desert

A thirst that can't measured

The first breath of a child

Released into the wild

I am not the person you remember from before

The one you patronized and stepped on

The one you hurt

I have pulled the arrows now my skin has become stone

No longer am I prisoner

To your empty fucking words

Your pain is an open secret

It spills with every breath

This game that you played is over now

Gone are the days I was helpless and afraid

Gone are the walls that kept me in

I’m not the person you remember from before

Do you remember?

**7) FORFEIT**

I’ll meet you in the shadows that come at night

I’ll listen to your cries through the door

If you won’t let me in I’ll just wait outside

Until you’re ready I will just be ignored

I’ll find you when you hide in the darkest cave

I’ll be there when you emerge

I will shield your eyes from the blinding light

Is there a prayer to lift this curse

Because you’re in trouble

You’re in deep

When you can’t wake up

But you can’t sleep

When it starts to slip away

And the world forgets your name

I will not give up

I will not give up on you

Come fire and flood

When the earth shakes I won’t move

No matter what

No matter what you say or do

I will not give up

I will not give up on you

I will wait for you at the forest edge

And feel each season change

I don’t care what anybody else says

They can leave but I will stay

I'll save you a seat when the tables set

Hold your place until you return

I will light a candle by your photograph

If and when you say the word

I’ll come running

Down these streets

As fast as my feet will take me

As the crowds all go away

When the world forgets your name

I will hide the pain that I push through

Put a brave face on for you

Choke back tears all meant for you

I will not give up

I will not give up on you

Come fire and flood

When the earth shakes I won’t move

No matter what

No matter what you say or do

I will not give up

I will not give up on you

**8) SOUNDS LIKE**

If everything that we love

Will burn down

Then should we love no one and nothing?

If all that we build

Falls down

Then I will dig the deepest hole

Dig down, down

All the things we don’t say might mean something

Somewhere to someone

Because nothing here is ever good enough

So we close our eyes and wait for something better

Not knowing what we’re even waiting for

With our hands cupped to the sky

We wait forever

Sacrificing light we’re given

Never knowing what

We’re living for

Can I have your attention, please

I’ve played the game, you see,

To make all these ends meet

But it’s not enough

The fabric we all share

All starts to rip and tear

We’re sending thoughts and prayers

But they’re not enough

Words without action-equal nothing

They’ll say where we’re gone

We’ve heard your excuses all before

And this is what they sound like:

So we close our eyes and wait for something better

Not knowing what we’re even waiting for

With our hands cupped to the sky

We wait forever

Sacrificing light we’re given

Never knowing what

We’re living for

We’re living for

And this is what it sounds like:

So don’t close your eyes, don’t wait for something better

Know exactly what it is you’re waiting for

Put your empty hands away, don’t wait forever

Don’t sacrifice the light you’re given

Know exactly what it is you’re waiting for

**9) SOONER OR LATER**

We burned the boats to ashes

After beaching on the shore

Looked back across the ocean

And said we’re never going home

Our shadows killed the flowers

Our footsteps spoiled the land

It seems we’re always in the way

No matter where choose to stand

Can we just wait until this is over

If we know that our precious time is running out?

Sooner or later

Comes a time when we will reap what we have sown

Sooner or later

We all have to go home

Sooner or later there’s a time

To face the music, face the sound

Sooner or later we all have to go

Home

From the gods we all seek favor

With every sacrificial lamb

But the bodies all pile higher

And the blood just stains our hands

And soon we’ll feel the panic

In our breath and in our veins

When you know there’s no tomorrow

And you’ve realized too late

Still, we wait

While our precious time is running out

Sooner or later

Comes a time when we will reap what we have sown

Sooner or later

We all have to go home

Sooner or later there’s a time

To face the music, face the sound

Sooner or later we all have to go

Home

Are we just passengers so sick of waiting

For this final destination?

Where we all will end up, I would die to know

Die to know that place

Sooner or later

Comes a time when we will reap what we have sown

Sooner or later

We all have to go home

Sooner or later comes a time

When we’ll have nowhere left to run

Sooner or later we all have to go

Home

**10) MIDDLE OF A DREAM**

I still chase your ghost

I still walk the streets and feel your hand inside my own

Why do we have to run away to feel at home?

We spend lifetimes waiting

So what’s another day

When hope is the only way we tolerate the pain?

I woke up

In the middle of a dream

Chasing someone or something

A hidden face I never see

where were you when

I woke up?

To a world without your voice

To sing me back to sleep

Don’t let it go

Are you letting go?

I steady myself at the altar

And spell your name inside my mind

We’re all someone else

When the sun sets

Every time we close our eyes

There’s a world less complicated

Somehow we’ve buried it alive

It flows like a river in the dead of winter

Deep underneath the ice

I woke up

In the middle of a dream

Chasing someone or something

A hidden face I never see

where were you when

I woke up?

To a world without your voice

To sing me back to sleep

Don’t let it go

Are you letting go?

Two worlds that I am caught between

Which one is real?

Which one is just pretend?

Because you’re a door

I cannot close

A static voice that comes and goes

A fatal crash and I can't look away

I woke up

In the middle of a dream

Chasing someone or something

A hidden face I never see

Where were you when

I woke up

To a world without your voice

To sing me back to sleep

Don’t let it go

Are you letting go?

Still, I am wandering

In search of anything

That brings you back to me

That brings you back to me

Circling the sun two thousand times

I will follow you into it’s light

This time it's personal

Even if the air’s too thin to breathe

I will be solace that you seek

I've never let a damn thing get to me

But this time it’s personal

**11) RULES OF PLAY**

Sister, I have come to clear my name

Or at least try to

Is there something to free me from this pain

Oh what did I do now

Following so many rules

Making so many mistakes

It keeps getting away from me

Because this life is a game I don't know how to play

So many lies and disguises I can’t tell what’s fake

But I can tell by the same sad look on your face

You and me

We are the same

Like stepping into traffic with a hand over my eyes

Feeling helpless to the tide

I try to run but its the same thing every time

We fight this war from different sides

But we never knew the rules

Bend follow or to break

Lost in this place

Because this life is a game I don't know how to play

So many lies and disguises I can’t tell what’s fake

But I can tell by the same sad look on your face

You and me

We are the same

Under my breath

I've said your name

A thousand times

I'd save your life

If you’d save mine

I feel your pain

Do you feel mine?

Because this life is a game I don't know how to play

Because this life is a game I don't know how to play

So many lies and disguises I can’t tell what’s fake

But I can tell by the same sad look on your face

You and me

We are the same

This life is a game that I don't know how to play