

I don't come here anymore

Surveying row upon row of telegraph poles
through a rain-filled mist in cold December.

This used to be a field.

(We played 5-a-side football and Block 123.)

Over there, that was waste ground.

(We climbed trees, and skated when the ponds froze over...)

And I see each generation merge into the next,

my father surveying sadly his now-housing-estate childhood haunts,

blurring into myself in the Harrogate mist...

In the frozen Sunday afternoon sun we walk to Knaresborough.

(I used to drive back alone along this road in the early hours
after taking you home.

You were here a few days ago, but you're gone again now.

I'm sorry I missed you...

I used to go to school there.

I came back once or twice years later and gazed in wonder.

(He lived down that way somewhere;

I'm not sure where, it was always dark...)

Down by the river.

The station with its viaduct and crossing.

(Tears-brimming goodbyes kissed through a train window.

I wonder where you are now...)

I hide from ex-classmates in the market,

not wanting to talk, to reminisce.

I have my reasons.

I grew up in this town...

I idled away years in that bar.

Always waiting to move onto something better, biding my time.

I moved and I don't come here anymore.

I first had sex in this room.

On the floor, around about there.

It was a Friday.

I grew up that year.

(Each corner hides a dozen memories, waiting to pounce.)

Standing in a record shop in Leeds, he says hello.

I didn't expect to see him.

But he doesn't scare me now; I'm strong with you by my side.

But then I always was strong with someone by my side...

Leeds station - I was here not so long ago.

With its shops and its spacy cold.

It was evening then.

This city - I never could find anything here.

I can't explain it to myself even.

Cold rain dribbles down my neck,

and we huddle under a black umbrella,

from one windswept emptiness streetlamp to the next.

Coloured lights false-shape the trees shimmering in the wind.

I don't come here anymore.

I'm not used to this cold anymore.

RECORDS

- *SARAH 1 - THE SEA URCHINS: Pristine Christine EP
- *SARAH 2 - THE ORCHIDS: I've Got A Habit EP
- *SARAH 3 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: Anorak City CF
- *SARAH 4 - FANZINE
- *SARAH 5 - 14 ICED BEARS: Come Get Me EP
- *SARAH 6 - THE POPPYHEADS: Cremation Town EP
- *SARAH 7 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: "I'm In Love With A Girl Who Doesn't Know I Exist EP
- *SARAH 8 - THE SEA URCHINS: Solace
- *SARAH 9 - THE GOLDEN DAWN: My Secret World EP
- *SARAH 10 - THE SPRINGFIELDS: Sunflower EP
- SARAH 11 - THE ORCHIDS: Underneath The Window, Underneath The Sink EP
- SARAH 12 - THE FIELD MICE: Emma's House EP
- *SARAH 13 - CHRISTINE'S CAT: Your Love Is... CF
- *SARAH 14 - FANZINES: Cold/Lemonade
- SARAH 15 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: You Deserve More Than A Maybe EP
- SARAH 16 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: What's Happened? EP
- SARAH 17 - THE GOLDEN DAWN: George Hamilton's Dead EP
- SARAH 18 - THE FIELD MICE: Sensitive
- SARAH 19 - BRIGHTER: Around The World In Eighty Days EP
- SARAH 20 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: All Of A Tremble EP
- SARAH 21 - THE WAKE: Crush The Flowers
- SARAH 22 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: You Should All Be Murdered EP
- SARAH 23 - THE ORCHIDS: What Will We Do Next? EP
- SARAH 24 - THE FIELD MICE: The Autumn Store Part 1
- SARAH 25 - THE FIELD MICE: The Autumn Store Part 2 EP
- SARAH 26 - GENTLE DESPITE: Darkest Blue EP
- SARAH 27 - BRIGHTER: Noah's Ark EP
- SARAH 28 - ACTION PAINTING: These Things Happen
- SARAH 29 - THE ORCHIDS: Something For The Longing EP
- SARAH 30 - HEAVENLY: I Fell In Love Last Night
- SARAH 31 - ETERNAL: Breathe EP
- *SARAH 32 - MINI TENPENNY FANZINE: Sunstroke
- SARAH 33 - THE SEA URCHINS: A Morning Odyssey
- SARAH 34 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Antoinette
- SARAH 35 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: Rio
- SARAH 36 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: If I Could Shine
- SARAH 37 - EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Nothing Ever Happens EP
- SARAH 38 - THE FIELD MICE: So Said Kay 10" EP (5 songs)
- SARAH 39 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: Tell Me How It Feels
- SARAH 40 - THE SPRINGFIELDS: Wonder
- SARAH 41 - HEAVENLY: Our Love Is Heavenly
- SARAH 42 - THE ORCHIDS: Penetration 12" EP (5 songs)
- SARAH 43 - TRAMWAY: Maritime City EP
- SARAH 44 - THE FIELD MICE: September's Not So Far Away
- +SARAH 45 - GENTLE DESPITE: Torment To Me EP
- +SARAH 46 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Say Yes To Everything
- +SARAH 47 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: untitled
- SARAH 401 - THE ORCHIDS: Lyceum 10" Mini-LP
- SARAH 402 - THE FIELD MICE: Snowball 10" Mini-LP
- SARAH 403 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Bacharach 10" Mini-LP
- SARAH 404 - BRIGHTER: Laurel 10" Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE
- SARAH 601 - THE FIELD MICE: Skywriting Mini-LP
- SARAH 602 - THE WAKE: Make It Loud Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE
- SARAH 603 - HEAVENLY: Heavenly Vs. Satan Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE
- SARAH 604 - TALULAH GOSH: Radio 1 Sessions Mini-LP
- +SARAH 605 - THE ORCHIDS: untitled LP/CD/CASSETTE
- SARAH 587 - SHADOW FACTORY: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHs 1-12)
- SARAH 376 - TEMPLE CLOUD: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHs 15-28)
- +SARAH 501 - GLASS ARCADE: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHs 29-40)
- SARAH 545 - AIR BALLOON ROAD: 23 song compilation CD (SARAHs 1-28)

T-SHIRTS

- SARAH 701 - FIELD MICE (green leaf)
- SARAH 702 - HEAVENLY (purple or orange butterflies)
- SARAH 703 - THE ORCHIDS (red/black swirly thing with twiddles)
- SARAH 704 - ST.CHRISTOPHER (blue Antoinette shapes)
- SARAH 705 - SARAH RECORDS (cherry-red cherries)

"On hearing Heavenly's excellent 'Shallot' on John Peel (having long-despaired at the raw deal most smaller members of the union family get from Manchester-obsessed contemporary pop), I purchased their equally excellent 7" and was shocked to read of a 12" SINGLE by The Orchids. So much for your proud manifesto! Listen: we should meet - I have a few ideas. I suggest the top deck of the Avonmouth bus - necessarily discrete, alas, but not completely lacking charm or dim sexual charge. Maybe we can go for a quiet drink after? You name the time, the seat, smoking at the rear etc." J.Major, Westminster.

"It's easy," he said, "just reduce your total output. Half the output, half the loss! Cease manufacture altogether and you'll never lose another penny or embarrass yourself in front of the kids again! Look at me, most successful small businessman in the area, and all on my own terms!"

And later, nudging open the door of the Naked Sailor and slipping back out into the dark, I laughed: "Remember you complained your copy of SARAH 38 started in mid-song? Everyone else just said 'how dare you make us pay £3.20 for a 10" when for the same songs on two 7"s we could pay £3.80? And 8 songs is an LP, not a 'mini-LP', you ask Ride - so make us pay £8.49 for it, not £3.75, OK?"

"I'm not convinced by all these Rides & MBVs," mused Mr.M tangentially, taking my arm in his, "or their ilk. Pretentious self-indulgent hippy-tosh, I often call it. Using record-company money to sit around in studios thinking gosh & wow & I wonder what this knob here does; at least with a band like say, THE INSPIRALS, it's obvious - he plays keyboards and does occasional backing vocals. He's also more my age. While you remain somehow..."

"... quite irretrievably young and vital, I know. And sometimes I explode. D'you remember when things were shiny and used to burn and rush around wildly?"

"I do. You know, when I was young, all I ever wanted to be was a popular synth duo. Not some high-ranking government official..." "Prime Minister." "Possibly. We all come to our senses. 12" EPs, eh? It'll be hot meals and putting the gas-fire on next." He reached out and caught a snowflake on his gently wagging finger. "They're really rather pretty, aren't they?" he said.

SARAHs 40-50 are 7" wherever possible. Proceeds go to the British Music Industry. Thank you. You're very sweet. We'll put you on our postcard list.

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7"	£1.80	£2.10	£3.00	
COMPILATION LP	£4.00	£5.00	£7.50	
MINI-LP[VINYL]	£3.75	£4.75	£7.25	ALL
MINI-LP[CASSETTE]	£4.00	£5.00	£7.50	PRICES
MINI-LP[CD]	£6.50	£7.50	£9.50	INCLUDE
10" EP/12" EP	£3.20	£4.20	£6.70	POSTAGE
COMPILATION CD	£9.00	£10.00	£12.00	
T-SHIRT	£6.00	£7.00	£9.50	

[SARAHs 1-47 are all 7" except where stated]

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