

Sugaring Season

Beth Orton



Produced, engineered and mixed by Tucker Martine  
at Flora in Portland, OR

Assistant engineer: Andy Schichter

Marc Ribot's tracks engineered by Francis Lardeau

Additional vocals on Call Me the Breeze and Magpie  
recorded by Sean Read at Famous Times studio

Strings engineered by Dan Bora and Matthew  
McCorkle at Tainted Blue Studios, and by Scott Lehrer  
at Second Story Sound in NYC

Mastered by Greg Calbi at Sterling Sound, NYC

Sam Amidon appears courtesy of Nonesuch Records

# Magpie

Magpie, magpie

I'm sitting here watching the world go by

I wonder do you ever question why

Old crow, old crow

I'm sitting here wondering what you know

You've seen more of the day than I could dream

I do not know what to tell you

I do not know what to say to you

I do not know what would set you free

But it's a hard hard fight

a hard hard fight

And I'm turning this one in

I'm turning this one in

I won't turn back, I've seen the sun

I won't turn back, not for anyone

I've seen the sign and I know what is mine

What a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie looks like

What a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie looks like

Blue jay, blue jay

I don't think you mean quite what you say

I don't think you're the friend you claim to be

Old crow, old crow

Won't you tell me please tell me please what you know

You've seen more of the world than I could dream

I do not know what to tell you

I do not know what to say to you

I do not know what would set you free

But it's a hard hard fight

a hard hard fight

And I'm turning this one in

I'm turning this one in

I won't turn back, I've seen the sun

I won't turn back, not for anyone

I've seen the sign and I know I am free

What a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie looks like

What a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie, what a lie looks like

Silence me and I won't be here anymore

Silence me and I won't be here anymore

Silence me and I won't be here anymore

Silence me and I won't be here anymore

## Dawn Chorus

Dawn breeze brushed my cheek and I knew what I had to leave  
Dawn chorus came on glorious all wrapped up in your sheets  
Beneath the noise there was silence  
And what was left was ours to surprise us

And you could say that you could say that you could say that it was my knowing  
But I never knew, no I never knew, no I never knew where this would be going

All the stories people tell and all the tales I heard from myself  
It's best you know or else get told the soft flesh that beats 'neath your breast  
Beneath the noise there's only silence  
And all that's left comes on to surprise us  
And you could blame it you could blame it  
you could blame it on my knowing  
But I never knew, no I never knew,  
no I never knew where this would be going

I was lonely as the moon who longs for the sun to come by  
I'd wait and wait and wait and wait but never seem to share the same sky  
Beneath the noise there was always silence  
But what is left comes on to surprise us

And I could say that I could swear that I could swear that it was my knowing  
But I never knew, no I had no clue, no I never knew, where this would be going

# Candles

She'll blow them stars out just like candles  
She'll conduct the clouds to move at certain angles  
Won't let the struggle get you down, down, down  
Don't let them horses pull you over ground

You ain't never far from the morning light  
It will get to you if you just hold tight till the morning light

Though you've been cold right through to the bone, bone, bone  
It's always safe and warm back home

Sun don't shine but it is there, don't see the wind but it moves your hair  
Morning comes, what's done is done, you just found another way to cry  
Sun don't shine but it is there, don't see the wind but it moves your hair  
Morning comes, what's done is done, you just found another way to cry,  
to cry, to cry

I'll blow that moon out just like a candle  
I'll conduct the spheres to move at certain angles  
I heard if you forget yourself  
That's when you meet yourself

Won't let the struggle bring me down, down, down  
Won't let it force me underground

Sun don't shine but it is there, don't see the wind but it moves my hair  
Morning comes, what's done is done,  
I just found another way to cry, to cry, to cry

## Something More Beautiful

Catch your eye with a flame  
You know I'll be near  
You know I'll be near  
Take your time  
In the morning light  
There's nobody here  
There's nobody here

When you feel too much to ever let it show  
You turn it up, turn it down, turn it on, turn it round, and leave  
When you just don't concede  
With what you believe

You want to learn the trick to turn  
What's not so pretty  
Into something more beautiful  
It's the same place  
That I learned to turn

What could be sorrow  
Into some kind of mercy

When you feel too much to ever let it show  
You turn it up, turn it down, turn it off, turn around, and leave  
And then I just don't concede  
With what to believe

## Call Me the Breeze

Call me the sea  
Call me the stream  
Call me the sky  
Call me the leaves

Hear my call  
Hello, lo, lo, lo  
lo, lo, lo, lo

Call me the fire  
Call me the air  
Call me the grass  
The silence of the hare



Hear my call  
Hello, lo, lo, lo  
lo, lo, lo, lo

Call me the birds  
Call me the bark  
Call me the stone  
Call me the lark

(Call me the sun  
Call me the moon...)

Hear my call  
Hello, lo, lo, lo  
lo, lo, lo, lo

Call me the day  
Call me the night  
Call me the dark  
Call me the light

Hear my call  
Hello, lo, lo, lo  
lo, lo, lo, lo

Call me the wind  
Call me the breeze

Call me the north  
The south, the west, the east

(Call me the earth  
Call me the stars...)

Hear my call  
Hello, lo, lo, lo  
lo, lo, lo, lo

## Poison Tree

William Blake poem arranged  
with additional words by Beth Orton

I was angry with my friend  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end  
I was angry with my foe  
I told him not, my wrath did grow

And I watered it with fears  
Night and morning with my tears  
And I sunned it with smiles  
And with soft deceitful wiles

Chorus

And it grew both day and night  
Till it bore an apple bright  
And my foe beheld its shine  
And he knew that it was mine

Into my garden stole  
When the night had veiled the Pole

He has cast me in shade  
Night and morning have I prayed  
Even turned their blood in me  
Oh, those of little loyalty

I have watered it with fears  
Night and morning with my tears  
I have sunned it with smiles  
And with soft deceitful wiles  
With soft deceitful wiles

Chorus

And it grew both day and night  
Till it bore an apple bright  
And my foe beheld its shine  
And he knew that it was mine

Into my garden stole  
When the night had veiled the Pole  
I was angry with my friend  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end  
I was angry with my foe  
I told him not, my wrath did grow

Into my garden he stole  
When the night had veiled the Pole  
In the morning, glad I see  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree

## See Through Blue

Somebody told me look over and see  
Hold you in wonder and longing to be  
Somebody you just can't believe will care for you

In the hours when spiders mend their webs  
When ghosts ride up from the salty sprays  
I will enter your lines of grace and read to you,  
Read to you

This beautiful life that we build by hand  
From scraps and shards and broken strands  
I will meet you in empty space my see through blue,  
See through blue

Waking with you makes each day divine  
Well there ain't nothing better to do with my time  
I will enter your lines of grace and read to you,  
My see through blue  
My see through blue

## Last Leaves of Autumn

Oh the leaves how they shimmer  
Trees lift their skirts and they quiver  
Gently they lay down  
To the dirt and dust and ground

They lose their innocence to find it all over  
Ain't nothing missing, they're just high on a feeling  
All they need is believing, no reason will do

I'm hanging on like the last leaves of autumn  
But I'm coming through like the first shoots of spring

I'm standing outside of space of time  
And I'm healing  
Believing

I'm ready for a first time feeling  
Something I can believe in  
I'm ready for a first time feeling  
Awaken sleeping season

If ever that morning came again I'd take it  
If ever that morning came again I'd be there  
I have tried to live each day as a last  
I have found life is long and I've gone and got a past  
And it's best to stand in the shelter of my love  
I'm hanging on like the last leaves of autumn  
But one ray of sun and I bleed into one  
I would light up the sky in one burning mist of flame  
If I could light up the sky in one blinding mist of flame...

I'm ready for a first time feeling  
Something I could believe in  
I'm ready for a first time feeling  
Awaken sleeping season

## State of Grace

Put my stake into the ground  
Made my claim this time around  
And in the selfsame circumstance I'd do the same again  
Hold on out for the one I love, for the one I know I'm of  
I never would be swayed

It was here before we noticed it  
It'll be here when we're gone  
And if I push you away, well let me be the first to say  
That oh I've seen your light, it's in the harbour  
Come on pull me all the faster  
Back to the selfsame day

Beauty comes in slow release  
I awaken to you piece by piece  
I have no need for innocence or grief  
Put my hand into your hand  
And all the words I understand  
They fall away like endless days upon the shore  
They fall away like endless days upon the shore

We were here before we noticed it  
We'll be here if it's gone

And if I led you astray, well let me be the one to say  
That oh, I've seen your light out in the harbour  
Come on pull us all the faster  
Into the selfsame day

And I put my stake into the ground  
In a state of grace this time around  
And in the selfsame circumstance I do the same again  
I would do the same again  
I would do the same again

## Mystery

Come and sing a song  
Something that belongs here  
Come and calm your soul  
Mystery is born here

Alive, alive, alive, alive  
Alive, alive, alive, alive-o  
Alive-o

Come and rest your bones  
You look awful tired



Fall soft upon the thought  
Mystery is born

Alive, alive, alive, alive  
Alive, alive, alive, alive-o  
Alive-o

And a good day is nothing that we thought  
Finding out brings nothing that we sought  
Oh please don't stand a mood apart  
You don't need to break your heart

One day will teach us all a year will never know

Alive, alive, alive, alive  
Alive, alive, alive, alive-o  
Alive-o

Beth Orton: vocals and acoustic guitar  
Rob Burger: piano, harmonium, pump organ, Wurlitzer, accordion  
Brian Blade: drums and percussion  
Sebastian Steinberg: acoustic and electric bass

With:

Eyvind Kang: viola on Magpie and Mystery  
Ted Barnes: acoustic guitar on Poison Tree and  
Call Me the Breeze, banjo on See Through Blue  
Laura Veirs: backing vocals on Dawn Chorus,  
Magpie and State of Grace  
Sam Amidon: gibson archtop guitar on Dawn Chorus, State of Grace  
and Call Me the Breeze; Nashville strung guitar on Magpie; violin  
and backing vocals on Poison Tree, organ on Mystery,  
Marc Ribot: nylon string guitar on Candles; Electric guitar on  
Something More Beautiful and Magpie  
Nate Query: bass on on See Through Blue and additional bass on Magpie  
Carl Broemel: electric guitar on Magpie  
Tucker Martine: percussion on State of Grace  
Rob Moose: String arrangement on Candles and State of Grace  
Oliver Kraus and Beki Doe: String arrangement on Something More  
Beautiful and Last Leaves of Autumn  
Nico Muhly: String arrangement on See Through Blue  
String players: Rob Moose, Caroline Shaw, Yuki Numata  
Ben Russell: Violin  
Nadia Sirota: Viola  
Clarice Jensen: Cello

All songs written and published by Beth Orton, except:

Call Me The Breeze

Written by Beth Orton and Tom Rowlands

Published by Beth Orton and Universal Music Publishing

Something More Beautiful

Written by Beth Orton and Matthew Ward

Published by Beth Orton and Crooked Spine Music (ASCAP)

See Through Blue

Lyrics by Beth Orton

Music by Beth Orton, Pierre Brault and Clemence Des Rochers

Published by Beth Orton & Les Editions Gamma Ltée,  
a Division of Unidisc Music Inc.

Incorporates musical elements of the song

“La Douce Emma” by Louise Forestier

Art direction and design by Oscar & Ewan

Cover photograph by Jo Metson Scott

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