### **HUTCH JACK FLATS RAG**

Graham Lindsey 2003

I set out for Hutch Jack Flats to be alone in peace It had been twenty-one years since the first time I could leave From anywhere that gave me life or slowly killed me quietly And still I heard the urgent voices although no one followed me They begged drive on, drive on

I rounded a hilltop and started down the other side My mortality began to doubt the view that struck my eyes Twenty men all tied together digging twenty graves on the roadside And each man called beyond his chains without compromise Carry on, carry on

Now passed the brooks and creeks and streams and rivers I did go
Each one flowing madly into something I'd never know
I contemplated ever-afters as my stride began to slow
And when I reached the Hutch Jack Flats I heard a song I did not know
Singing hold on, hold on

Everywhere was here and there no matter where I went The wind blew bones across the road but my ghosts were already dead And suddenly I longed for all the places I'd already been And for the people and the things that I ignored when they all said Hey boy slow down, slow down

### MY MUSEUM BLUES

Graham Lindsey 2003

I can't articulate the shame the vain and unrelenting blame

I place to man and beast the same

I guess to aim the water in the drain is only human

My fingers unfold without restraint

To cling and claw the veil from the face

That drapes the windows from the rain

And brace them together in some sort of union

I must address the obvious

The mess of this and that and this

That famous anonymous wilderness

This bliss undressed by wisps of dim confusion

And tethered to the floors

I hear a scream that leaves the boards that creak

To free itself beyond mere fleeting speech

That breathlessly breeds these delusions

Dear lady please answer me

I beg of you your new and naked attitude

The exact truths which you conclude

In lucid soaring interludes

That move your soul to some relief

I see the things that anybody sees

The dreams the sermons, elegies

These cheap cryptic formalities

To clean and eat the humbled spirit

An empty hand lays down the prize

The prayers turn to a soft disguise

The dead and living both decry

But amplify the reasons why they still fear it

The marksman nears a clearing where

The message ain't no clearer

But it mirrors here and Heaven there

And why creatures revere the weirdness of their maker

Tonight my love she lays in bed

While forms of dread swim through my head

Instead she said she won't contend

with things she doesn't hate yet and I won't wake her

Sweet lady that I look to

Along this nameless ancient chain I yank

This insane circus train track takes

It's aim without it's brakes

I can't see through the smoke it makes

And so I look for you

#### EMMA RUMBLE

Graham Lindsey 2003

Emma Rumble Emma Rumble
Your black hair's hanging low
Your naked arms are glistening
And frozen from the snow
Emma Rumble Emma tell me
For if you don't let me know
My heart's already taken
So tomorrow I will go
Emma gladly I'll stay with thee
Only if just for tonight
I will read the lines between your palms
Just move into the light
And let it bathe you let me know you
You who have been so confined
By the beauty that you suffer's
Why your hair is growing white
Your hair is growing white

Emma Rumble Emma Rumble Why do you stir in such distress? Late in the evening you were sleeping You were dreaming I should guess Do not touch me do not hold me You cried it was useless And implied to me through wild eyes Those things you can't confess Emma sadly I must leave thee As my true love waits alone On the porch step in the moonlight She looks out and through the cold If I kiss you I must kill you You told me in gentle tones Emma Rumble do not wait for me I'll see you down the road

In my hometown the sheriff found My true love in the snow Her body lay beaten there And covered in your clothes Emma Rumble Emma Rumble I cry as my shotgun loads The night is hot and heavy now And I'm walking down the road I'm walking down the road

#### **HEY HEY**

Graham Lindsey 2003

I've been taught and I've been told
And I've been turned and pushed and pulled
I've been played hey hey hey hey
The sun goes up the sun goes down
This big wide world keeps spinning round
It's all the same hey hey hey
And all along the winding way
Beauty ain't an act of faith
All in all it's not the same

I've been bought and I've been sold
And I've been crooked and cockeyed and cold
I've been swept and swayed hey hey
The tide comes in and the tide goes out
The whole wide world starts to shake and shout
Say what you will say hey hey
But all along there are the waves
The rays of daylight faraway
They live they die but nothing's changed
All along the winding way
I came I saw I did not stay
I lived I died I did not change

# I WON'T LET YOU DOWN

Graham Lindsey 2003

The mirror of your bureau leans as it had before Reflecting on a bed where now lays an empty floor Your doorway is lamp-lit and aching with some kind of invitation But you stand there with the curtains pulled down around your body like some final decision But I won't let you down I won't let you down I'll never let you drop to your knees for me Just put your ear to the ground 'Cause I won't let you down I won't let you down

Whatever keeps you warm and lets you sleep tonight I must guess it's the dress the windows wrap you in with moonlight I'll lay on this naked floor and wait for you And watch your eyes close slowly sadly from across the room And I won't let you down I won't let you down And if by midnight I'm gone I swear I'll be back by dawn 'Cause I won't let you down I won't let you down

### **EVERYBODY SINGS A LONESOME SONG**

Graham Lindsey 2003

Where have all the singers gone
Gone to churches one by one
The street's been quiet for so long
Where has all the music gone
The radio keeps everyone at home
Slow dancing through the telephone
And then we die and no one knows
And there's just the sound of the radios
While the counterfeits who hate our dreams
Moan joyful tones through the tv screen
But I can't believe what I have seen
Now everybody hums the same damn melody
And the pushers know the junkies will come back
If no one ever understands the trap

And for those young without their mouths
Echoes break the windows in an empty house
And no one wants to hang around
Not long ago I was just a babe
When targets chased the armed parades
They ran in rhythm with the notes that played
And we'd sing along with the falling rain
But that ain't how it feels today
'Cause the butchers with those electric bones
Fired hearts like empty bombs explode
Now everyone's back on their own
Dying fast I am not growing old
Yes the lonely know the only way is down
And not everybody comes back around

Whose song has stopped for the voice of God Angels or fools call them what you want We all make do with what we've got You are hard-wired for eternity Eyes roll back so the heart can sleep Conversations bite the ankles of infancy You and I are a stupid symphony Reborn and dying constantly Like the jukebox wind on the ocean blows Take this change and make the silence gold It's deafening out here on my own I suppose that's just the way it goes But the solitude proves everybody wrong 'Cause everybody sings a lonesome song

# VIOLA Graham Lindsey 2003

Viola Viola violets turn brown Who was the poor outlaw that has dragged you down He held you and dealt you and then he was gone Viola Viola you were done wrong

Viola Viola violins won't sing Your paintings are fading in stacks on the street The tones and the colors are puddles at my feet But lady sad lady who sleeps with the hounds Viola Viola you will be done wrong

Viola I know the passed year has been hard I've sung at your temples I've slept in your bars I've seen the Jack dance with the Queen in your cards I gave you my hand and you dropped to the ground Viola Viola I did nothing wrong

Viola Viola please don't make a sound For that poor outlaw is back in your town He walks with a swagger and whistles this song Viola Viola it was me all along

## DEAD MAN'S WALTZ

Graham Lindsey 2003

When you're weary and worn out

And no arms can seem to hold you

When you're heavy and strung out

And tired with no place to go to

And the times feel for certain

That nobody's hurtin' like you do

Bring your heartache and smile

And we'll walk as many miles as we have to

When the people you've known

Wave like armfuls of smoke through the air

And the rain on your shoulders

Doesn't pass like the wind through your hair

And your eyes begin to fool you

And fail you from the face that you wear

Don't trust any mirrors you will need something clearer

To find what you're looking for there

If the streets don't respect you

Yet constantly rap at your door

Well you know what neglect means

Now you know what deceit can afford

But to stand there like that with your heart in your hands

Dealing for more

The streets will break in again and again

And take only what you're living for

Since your body betrayed you

You've been so afraid of the cold

But what storm has pursued you

That makes you do everything that you're told

It must be the ice that drains

Down from your eyes through your clothes

That first taught you your voice

But now haunts you with it from the side of the road

To look at your face is to lose myself in those eyes

How softly they open and swiftly they close from the light

Like the curtains in your room bending shadows over you tonight

As you snake through your skin from the shape you've been in

That you still somehow seem to fit inside

Like the shadows on your face

Can't help falling into place line by line

As the strangers that pass

Leave their fingerprints on the glass

Just so they can say they at least tried

Well if the whole world looks vain

Through this tainted window frame

You're probably right

## YOU WILL BE ALRIGHT

Graham Lindsey 2003

All night in our wintry rooms
Through liquid light we limp along
With saviors there
Our bodies know no compromise
So hold onto to the first thing
That decides to care
And hunted as an insect by the perfect defect
We will both just sit and stare
This could be anywhere

There is sun and there is rain
I'll never swim that stream again
It is a gutter now
And life-like I begin to move
And spin what is this drain I'm in
I am not proud
I climb back on my rotting bed
Where every joke aims for my head
Where are the clowns?
They're in the tavern now

I rode in on a hungry horse
I plundered open range
And came by way of spite
Now sitting beside you your naked needing
Wants releasing
And stay I might
But lady don't mistake me
For another medication
I'm not that strong to night
You will be alright

## IF I WAS A HORSE

Graham Lindsey 2003

If I was a horse I'd want to be a bucking horse And if I was a mule
I'd kick and spit and scream and roar
And I would never work no more
If I was a mule
If I was a hound
I'd want to be a mean old hound
I'd chase and hunt my master down
If I was a hound

If I was a horse
I'd want to be a bucking horse
And if I was a bull
I'd stomp the ground and steam and snort
Like you ain't ever seen before
If I was a bull
If I was a horse
I'd want to be a bucking horse
I'd kick and spit and scream and roar
If I was a horse

### SONG TO NEW YORK

Graham Lindsey 2003

I went to every city where I met no one

And I stood in every barroom where nothing had begun

There were fights in every alley way

And protests panting until dawn

Pleading someone listen to them

Belch their empty songs

And the pirates dressed in new blue jeans

Sold tickets in the square I heard that

Somewhere something happened once

But never quite occurred

Stagecoaches sent limp lovers passed

I watched the lure sink then raise

And dangle like a lullaby

But the children ran away

I saw twenty flowers bearing

Twenty colors in a line

Each dancing to a cadence

Keeping them there 'til they die

As lonely dreamers peddled their schemes

To loners looking for anything

Take me where you want to

Just don't let me see the strings

The waterfront reeked of new perfume

Where strangers strangely drifted by

For morning would be coming soon

While unwilling goes the night

And I in my fading raincoat wondered

Mothered by a million fears

How ancient are these memories

That have always left me here

I remember serpent skylines rising

Swimming in infinity

And all the poisoned people

Submerged in obscurity

As if to reach up was enough

To beg eternity for more

I can't remember waking up

Or what my dreams were for

I am useless to the wild earth

So sings the bowels of every place

I used to map the laughter

Though I could never find its face

And anywhere that I may go

My judgment roars its restless bells

I never knew and shall never know

A worse place than myself