

LAST LOVE

All Words & Music © Kenny Karen

GONE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I can feel the freedom in your eyes
It's a sign I've come to know and recognize
Love that once possessed you in the night
And then undressed the morning light
Blinded by the rays of broken dreams and
endless days

Nothing I can say will change your mind
It's as young as spring and just as old as time
Love has lost its meaning in your soul
Though I fight to gain control
Falling to the ground, I've found that I can't
hold a love that's gone.

And though the fire is there the love we shared
is gone
And as I slip into a world where there's no
pain, just the love remains
I dream I see a time when all the hurt is gone.

I can hear the sound of your goodbye
It can drown a desert, make a grown man cry
Love that tasted magic in your name found the
fantasy in flames
Reaching for the sky you spread your wings
and fly until you're gone.

And though the fire is there the love we shared
is gone
And as I slip into a world where there's no
pain, just the love remains
I dream I see a time when all the hurt is gone.

ALONE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

All by myself in the morning
It's cold lying here all alone
Playing with shadows that stayed when you
left me
And watching my dreams turn to stone.

Filling my days with your memory
Asking myself what went wrong
Following traces of lies on our faces
The answers all tell me you're gone.

Where are your eyes
Did they forget how to see?
Where is your heart
Did you forget about me?
And how much I loved you....

Where do you go when it's over?
Trying so hard to hold on
Scraping my knees on the ground just to please
you
And begging your heart to come home
'Cause it's cold lying here all alone.

LAST LOVE

Words and Music by Kenny Karen

First dance, flashes of memories
Photograph albums, handled with care
First chance to picture tomorrow
Love will be waiting there.

First dream, over the rainbow
Golden profusion, touched by a star
First beam lighting the future
Love will be where you are.

Older and wiser and here to stay
Captures the meaning of each new day.

Last love, love for the ages
Standing beside us, never alone
Last love, love everlasting
Finding its way back home.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

There was a time when all was bright
We couldn't see beyond the light,
Our ideals were just, truth and trust
As we pursued the golden years.

And we would always be this way
There'd always be another day,
And life would see us through, tried and true
As we pursued the golden years.

We would live the life of kings
Of youthful dreams and endless springs,
We'd let our passions choose, win or lose
As we'd pursue the golden years.

Like the shifting, blowing sands
We let it all slip through our hands,
And as we steered off course with no remorse
We still pursued the golden years.

But, after all I've come to know
And all the gifts that life bestowed
Only love withstands the plight of man
As we pursue the golden years.

I am not afraid to die
To bid the world one last goodbye,
Forever thankful for what lay in store
As we pursued the golden years.

Only love withstands the plight of man
As we pursue the golden years.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

There are words to heal the heart and ease the
mind

There are flags that drape the fate of all
mankind

There are tree-lined souvenirs, a canopy of
tears

And a hunger for the years they leave behind.

As the sun anoints the start of each new day
We will eulogize the prize God took away
We will grieve for the unknown, for seeds that
won't be sewn

For the eagles who will never learn to fly
And it hurts the heart to have to say goodbye.

It hurts the heart to see the pieces fall
The sacrifice that answers freedom's call.

And the medals seem like dust upon a prayer
When a child is lost the cross is ours to bear
There are names that war engraves, the noble
and the brave
And though liberty prevails the price runs high
'Cause it hurts the heart to have to say
goodbye.

It hurts the heart to stem the flowing tide.
The rush when fear and arrogance collide.

When the shades of evening sunset turn to
night
When the gleaming rows of color fade to white
We will ask and wonder why, our young ones
have to die,
For the sins of those who don't know wrong
from right.
The bugler's sound is so forlorn
The cannons cry, the rifles mourn
It just breaks the heart to have to say goodbye.

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE PARIS TO ME

Words & Music by Kenny Karen, February
2005

My mind takes me back through the years
A river of dreams reappears,
And we're strolling alongside the Seine
Lovers again, passion and tears.
The gardens at Musée Rodin
The spirit that moves the Sixième,
Where the beauty and flow
Touched our hearts long ago,
The fantasy lives once again.

You'll always be springtime, you'll always be
sunshine
You'll always be Paris to me.
You'll always be walks through the Bois de
Boulogne
You'll always be Paris to me.
The salon de thé, the croissants, the café,
Then a day spent on Ile Saint-Louis.
You'll always be music, you'll always be
flowers
You'll always be Paris to me.

We shadowed the streets every night
The banks of the City of Lights,
As we searched for the fountain of youth
The lies and the truth, the freedom of flight.
We captured the dreams left behind
The memories refreshed and refined,
For if love still conceives
What our hearts still believe
Then Paris still lives in our minds.

You'll always be springtime, you'll always be
sunshine
You'll always be Paris to me.
You'll always be walks through the Bois de
Boulogne
You'll always be Paris to me.
The salon de thé, the croissants, the café,
Then a day spent on Ile Saint-Louis.
You'll always be music, you'll always be
flowers
You'll always be Paris to me.

I Need To Say I Love You

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I am drifting far away I am lost within my skin
I set limits for today and each new day that
begins

There is hope that springs eternal, tapping
water from a stone
But there's nothing more internal than another
day alone.

I just need to say I love you and to know you
are my friend
There is light beyond the darkness and a dream
that never ends
There is little more to measure than the gift of
sweet surprise
And my greatest sense of pleasure is when I
look into your eyes
And say, "I love you."

I am young and I am old, there are feelings
I've restrained
I'm not weak, but I'm not bold, I have chosen
to abstain
But, your love's my inspiration I can rise
above all men
With intense anticipation 'til you're in my
arms again.

I just need to say I love you and to know you
are my friend
There is light beyond the darkness and a dream
that never ends
There is little more to measure than the gift of
sweet surprise
And my greatest sense of pleasure is when I
look into your eyes
And say, "I love you."

You're my instrument of learning, my
obsession from afar
And the passion keeps on burning, and I must
be where you are.

'Cause I need to say I love you and to know
you are my friend
There is light beyond the darkness and a dream
that never ends

There is little more to measure than the gift of
sweet surprise
And my greatest sense of pleasure is when I
look into your eyes
And say, "I love you."

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Unconditional love, unconditional love
Misuse, mistakes, I give, you take
Unconditional love.

Holdin' out for vindication
Anyone can justify what they do.
Buy into manipulation
It's all about what I can do for you.

That's your version of an unconditional love
I'm the victim of your unconditional love.
Who pays, that's clear, blank check, sign here
Unconditional love.

Inconclusive conversations
Vintage expectations passin' through time.
Subject to interpretation
Baby, you've got yours and I've got mine.

Your impressions of an unconditional love
Nothin's sweeter than an unconditional love.
Pure gold, pure greed, you cut, I bleed
Unconditional love.

Nothin' hurts as much as unconditional love
Complications from an unconditional love.
True grit, true hell, tough buy, tough sell
Unconditional love.

LETTING GO

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Lost in ambition a constant refrain
Drowning in impracticality
Chronic condition, obsessed and restrained
Lacking all sense of reality.

Letting go of the pain
Who'll be there to bear the blame
Nothing lost and nothing gained
Have we learned, did we grow?
Letting go, moving on
Who can we depend upon
When the fruits of hope are gone
We can't reap what we sow
Letting go.

Hard to perceive what I can't comprehend
Images based on frivolity
Thoughtless and careless a song without end
Truth is the basis for quality.

Letting go of the pain
Who'll be there to bear the blame
Nothing lost and nothing gained
Have we learned, did we grow?
Letting go, moving on
Who can we depend upon
When the fruits of hope are gone
We can't reap what we sow
Letting go.

Have I failed to secure what you need
To prevail, to endure, to succeed
Fantasy reigns, never attains your demands
It's in your hands.

Letting go of the pain
Who'll be there to bear the blame
Nothing lost and nothing gained
Have we learned, did we grow?
Letting go, moving on
Who can we depend upon
When the fruits of hope are gone
We can't reap what we sow, letting go.

TODAY I LOVED YOU

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Sunlight pouring through the trees
The breeze is stilled by two hearts beating
Shadows dancing in the air
Were unaware
Today I loved you.

Now my heart has come alive
And to survive means to possess you
And the dream of kings is mine
If when I reach out
I can touch you.

Who can say that what we share is wrong
Must I weigh my heart against my mind
I have found a world where I belong
And all the feelings of a thousand lifetimes.

Could it be that this is real
That I can feel you clinging to me
And if life should end this way
I'd know today I loved you
And that perhaps today you loved me, too.

GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

We sit in pews with lowered eyes
What does it matter that the patter's
compromised.
This special man, this priceless gem,
More than a jewel, but fate is cruel,
Goodbye, old friend.

We search for truth, to dry our tears,
His cup was filled but still his voice rings in
our ears.
He's in our prayers, in each "Amen"
The wealth of praise that marked his days,
Goodbye, old friend.

He fought the fight and then moved on,
He filled our shattered lives with hope then he
was gone.
We question how we will sustain,
His mission's done, now we're the ones who
must remain

We read the psalms, the twenty-third,
The Shepard's strength will redefine the holy
word.
Though he won't pass this way again,
We laughed and cried, he lived and died,
Goodbye, old friend.

EPITAPH

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Well I've filled so many empty hours that I've
just lost track.
And I've focused on the ceiling for so long, it's
looking back.
It seems like it's been years since I last had
some wine to drink.
Or was it yesterday? I need some time to
think.

The four walls of my room once painted white
are dressed in black.
And tears I never cried before are leaking
through the cracks.
The phone that keeps on ringing is the phone a
deaf man hears.
And what I've lost can't be replaced with
souvenirs.

Can broken hearts be mended, can they learn
how not to cry?
Can you send them out for fifty cents to be
cleaned and washed and dried?
If I think I can begin again, then I'm thinking
like a fool.
I guess I didn't pass that course in Sunday
school.

Well, lately I've been talking to myself and
wouldn't you know...
We've got so much in common -- lots of time,
no place to go.
With a bottle in each hand I straighten every
crooked line.
And when I finish drinking his, I start on mine.

If I could write my epitaph, I know the words
I'd choose.
Don't ever say you've lost until there's nothing
left to lose.
If I had your love one moment, I've seen all
there was to see
And no one could take that away from me.

LIFE'S BEEN GOOD TO ME

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Lookin' back through misty eyes at days that
we once knew
Photographs of childhood dreams we thought
would all come true.
When we'd be sittin' 'round the table with our
families and friends
Just tasting all the joys of life that time would
let us spend
If only I could live those magic moments once
again.

When love was all around us, sweet innocence
had found us
The games we played, the masquerade
Would dance into the night, then fade away.

But here I am and it's tomorrow
Chasing daydreams I could never hope to find.
Pictures never tell the story they just smile,
They can't read between the lines.
It's the good times I remember
All the rainy days have drifted out to sea.
Bringin' back a lost forever, mem'ries we can
share together,
Here's to life, life's been good to me.

Second story window lookin' down a quiet
street
A five cent glass of lemonade, my day was
made complete.
And after dinner we'd all gather 'round and
watch the radio
The nights were long and winter's song would
echo through the snow.
If only I were free to be the me I used to know.

A common understanding, a life not too
demanding,
The simple ways of yesterday
We held them close then let them slip away.

But here I am and it's tomorrow
Chasing daydreams I could never hope to find.
Pictures never tell the story they just smile,
They can't read between the lines.
It's the good times I remember
All the rainy days have drifted out to sea.

Bringin' back a lost forever, mem'ries we can
share together,
Here's to life, life's been good to me.

Growing Older

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Growing older by design
Stirring memories that pass through my mind
Growing older, stealing years
Though I'm geared for attack
Still I veer from distraction to tears
There is more I feel determined to pursue
Traces of life I never knew
Cherish the moments shared with you.

Growing older, in my prime
I have earned what is rightfully mine
Growing older, much to see
I have conquered the demons
Who failed in their conquest of me
I have learned how to accept and to deny
To bid each yesterday goodbye
Still I await tomorrow's call
Growing older isn't hard for me at all.

Recollections -- dark dismay
Sweet reflections -- brighter days
But, tomorrow awakens the strength that's
been taken away.

Growing older, unafraid
No regrets for mistakes I have made
Growing older, feeling free
I have dealt with the sentiments vented
All pointing at me
But the best times of my life are yet to come
Phases that still have not begun
Golden the days we shall recall
Growing older isn't hard for me at all.

ZEIDE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Glass partition separates the old and new
Definition in a sea of pink and blue
Wrapped securely in the comfort of a nameless
pair of eyes
Reassurance that will resonate through all our
lives.

'Cause I'm your Zeide
From another time and place,
I'm your Zeide
Lines and creases mark my face,
A reminder of the many years and
opportunities
A succession of the gifts that God has given
me,
Now I'm your Zeide

Steal my heart, as you glance my way
Distant memories left forsaken live again
today.

Little figure in a strange and distant land
Tiny fingers stroke the contour of my hand
I will show you the traditions that were handed
down to me
And the ethics of our fathers through our
history
'Cause I'm your Zeide

Shall I stay, shall I watch you grow
Will you be my flower in spring time,
Melt the winter's snow?

What's a Zeide, just and a smile and an
embrace
What's a Zeide, loving hands that hold your
face
My misfortune that I never met the man whose
name I bear
But my Zeide's badge of honor now is mine to
wear
'Cause I'm your Zeide.