



Sam Bayer
Live at Club Passim

Do You Believe In Me
What Kevin Remembers Next
Life is Like a River
It Seemed like a Good Idea at the Time
A Cup of Coffee

Do You Believe In Me

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*I was born in the paper
A fourteen year old crack whore with a baby on my
hip
And another on the way
The latest symbol of suburban paranoia and urban
decay
But they say she torched her reputation
And I was a figment of her imagination
And if you think it's hard to hear you're counterfeit
You don't know the half of it*

*Do you believe
Do you believe in me
Do you believe in me*

*I was born in a briefing
An ungrateful welfare queen
Cruising in her Cadillac with her ill-gotten gains
Stealing food from the mouths of the hardworking
farmers on the American plains
But I was bad, bad information
Just a partisan misrepresentation
And if you think it's hard to hear you're bullshit
You don't know the half of it*

*Do you believe
Do you believe in me
Do you believe in me*

*And each day I learn things that amaze me still
Like how cigarettes won't kill you, but marijuana
will
And the way the stars control our destiny
And those aliens from Roswell and their obsession
with gynecology*

*It's noon on a Sunday
And Elvis and I have a brunch date with the second
gunman from the Kennedy assassination
And afterward we're all going to the ballgame with
the guys who discovered cold fusion
And the sun is high, and I'm feeling clever
Cuz I've got this hunch we're gonna live forever*

*And if you think a lie don't know when to quit
You don't know the half of it*

*Do you believe
Do you believe in me
Do you believe
Do you believe in me
Do you believe
Do you believe in me
Do you believe in me*

*Didja read that story in the paper about the
woman who put her
baby in the microwave? What the hell is this world
coming to?*



What Kevin Remembers Next

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*It's a grim day dawning in the 'hood for
Whitey'thieves
Young toughs on the corner, cigarette packs in their
shirtsleeves*

*Grizzled lieutenants spitting tobacco in the shade
And muttering about the mess these careless
youngsters made*

*Hooker by night, waitress by day
Serves a coffee to a wise guy who plugged a bookie
to pad his resume*

*They've all read the papers, and they're scared and
perplexed
About what Kevin will remember next*

*Nerves fray in the kitchen, tempers flare in the yard
Fingers drum on bakery counters, shoulders hunch
on the boulevard*

*Lips are sealed and fingers are crossed in the
context*

Of what Kevin will remember next

*Kevin's associates are kind of upset
About those people and places he was supposed to
forget*

*There's frustration, and rage, and occasional regret
And no one thinks he's finished yet*

*Eight by ten cell, a little sunshine at three
Wonder Bread for breakfast, General Hospital for
company*

*The thought of Whitey in a fake mustache
Swimming in women and liquor and cash
Jogs his memory*

*There was this bimbo down on Broadway who
wanted a piece of the action*

*She dropped too many names for Whitey's
satisfaction*

*When a woman like that makes such a rash
demand*

You've got to kill her or deal her a hand

*They seem to love their mamas, they can't be such
bad chaps*

*Just another day at the office, running numbers
and busting kneecaps*

*It's a dirty job, and just a privileged few can do it
It sure beats Burger King, it's a shame that Kevin
blew it*

*The iron fist turns rusty, the secrets wilt in the light
of day*

*Counterfeit twenties in the till, shallow graves
beside the highway*

*From the crustiest veteran to the youngest Turk
They're all looking for a new line of work*

*And Kevin pumps the freeweights in the federal pen
He's serving two to five instead of eight to ten
It ain't good behavior's gonna save his skin
It's that Whitey can't get in*



Life is Like a River

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*He picked up somebody else's guitar
"Hey man, can I play a little?"
And he wailed the blues like a man possessed
with the bite of a thousand heartbreaks
And he offered a song to the wedding boy
A cryptic twelve-bar dream
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*We drank a toast, the ten of us,
The seven of us, the six of us,
We dwindled in number as the beers grew tall
And swam around our heads like some vile
primordial soup
We cheered the guitar man playing
I could swear I caught him saying
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*We're looking for wisdom and all we find is a riddle
The current is trickier out here in the middle
We paddle a lot, and move just a little
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*The assembled ladies wrote his fortune on the
back of a cocktail napkin
"When she asks how she looks, say 'lovely'"
"Never kiss her without brushing your teeth"
And in gold, the words "Whatever you say, dear"
She'll laugh and he'll smile and say, "Hey dear,
Life is like a river
Life is like a river"*

*We're looking for answers and all we find is a
riddle
The current is trickier out here in the middle
We study a lot, and learn just a little
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*And today, today is the equinox
And we are halfway between faith and despair*

*Halfway between truth and fiction
Halfway between here (wherever that is) and there
Will the world make more sense when two people
in love are married
Will the universe feel my lips when I kiss the bride
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*Each one of us has our mermaid
Each one of us has sought her
Some of us are still fishing
And some of us have caught her
And some of us lose toes when we put them in the
water
Life is like a river
Life is like a river*

*We're looking for wisdom and all we find is a riddle
The current is trickier out here in the middle
We paddle a lot, and move just a little
Life is like a river
Life is like a river (4x)*



It Seemed like a Good Idea at the Time

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*He invited me onto his yacht
And offered me champagne and truffles from a
platinum bowl
"Would you believe I started with nothing but the
clothes on my back
And a no-interest loan from the governor's son?
Y'see, there's this little company down in Texas
And I'm not sure what they do but they seem to do it
very well
I made my investment and watched it accrue
I tripled my money, and you can too"*

*You take three parts hubris and no parts shame
Mix a gallon of repellent and you'll get bitten all
the same
You've been oh so entertaining and I haven't spent
a dime
Yeah it was dumb
But it seemed like a good idea at the time*

*She was a persistent little brat
And there were days I could swear that she'd never
take no for an answer
So there was the time in the hallway and the time
under my desk
And the time I left a stain
Now the world regards me as a congenital liar
who can't keep his pants zipped
And I lost my job, and the dog died
And I'm staring at the tatters of my legacy
And my wife has made her choice between Strom
Thurmond and me*

*I took three parts hubris and no parts shame
Mixed a gallon of repellent and got bitten all the
same
I've been oh so entertaining and you haven't spent
a dime
Yeah it was dumb
But it seemed like a good idea at the time*

*And those pesky small corrections
That leap in from strange directions
They're just pebbles in the path
They'll never crease your placid brow
But from the poles to the equator
You're gonna look real stupid later
And if you want my frank opinion
You don't look too clever now*

*So if you've ever left a courthouse with a bag over
your head
Or referred all reporters to your attorney
If you've ever stopped reading the paper because
every time
you read the paper thinking things couldn't get any
worse
They get worse
And if your ears are ringing with the sound of
mocking laughter
And your face is flushed, and your nerves are shot
You might pray for something curable, like the
plague or halitosis
But that ain't gonna be your doctor's diagnosis*

*You went heavy on the hubris and skimmed on the
shame
Mixed a gallon of repellent and got bitten all the
same
You've been oh so entertaining and I haven't spent
a dime
Yeah it was dumb
But it seemed like a good idea at the time*



A Cup of Coffee

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*Had a cup of coffee, September leaves turn red
beyond the outfield wall
Dug in my spikes, swung three times, missed them
all
Put some sugar in my coffee, drank it down
Enjoyed that cup like it was my last cup, packed my
bags and headed out of town*

*Six months later, back in Buffalo
Pounding my glove, booting grounders in the
melting snow
Coach saw the ice on my shoulders, saw me hang
my head
Spit a wad the size of the Brooklyn Bridge, and this
is what he said*

*"I've been here since the world was young
I'll be choking chalk with my dying breath
It's the little fish in the bigger pond
That keep the bigger fish from certain death"
And he paused and I thought that he was done
He picked a blade of grass and chewed off the
stem
And as he walked away, he said "Remember, son
There are more of us than there are of them"*

*Riding the bus, playing video games in the Texas
rain
Wondering what's the difference between the ones
who got off and the ones who remain
Is it pride, is it fear, is it the girls and beer
Is it the chartered jet hovering just ahead
Or are they betting men
Or just bad at math instead*

*It's been this way since the world was young
I'll be eating their dust with my dying breath
It's the little fish in the bigger pond
That keep the bigger fish from certain death
And as I cast my eyes along those tattered seats
I see a hundred pebbles for every gem
And I remind myself as I lace up my cleats
There are more of us than there are of them*

*People along the way
All have games they play
Poker or shirts and skins
Whoever dies with the most toys wins
Victory sure tastes sweet
But there's always someone else to beat
And when you get to the top of your hill
You find another taller
Still*

*And I ain't rising to the top, yes I'm milk not cream
And I doubt I'm ever gonna get there, but it's a
sucker's dream
So I shag my flies, and I take BP
If I'm gonna be a failure, gonna be the best damn
failure I can be*

It's been this way since the world was young

