

Dumb Luck

When I began writing 'Dumb Luck' I was thinking a lot about perseverance but also how funny 'dumb luck' is as a phrase. Despite hard work, sometimes things don't pay off and other times things work out in total naiveté, for no other reason than some weird cosmic alignment. That said, I don't really subscribe to the idea of 'dumb luck'. Instead, perhaps being 'lucky' is the ability to make the best of circumstances as they present themselves; maybe luck is no more than finding a silver lining.

I think the artist way is often not so dissimilar from gold panning; you spend all day sifting through conceptual rocks and dirt to find something of value – and depending on how things go, people say "that's so lucky" or "that's hard luck." And, really, it's just hard work.

Rock & Roll Baby

'Rock & Roll Baby' is a tune about making peace with the cards you're dealt and poking fun at a losing hand. 'That's rock and roll for you, baby' is a goofy slogan I like to tell myself to move through disappointments; it helps remind me to find humour in some of the more crushing moments a musical nightlife can throw your way. For me it's a philosophical fridge magnet to explain the goofy and weird world of music. Sometimes things don't go your way at all, but every now and then these moments wobble along into something really special and you find yourself with some of the most wonderful people and that makes it all worth it. 'That's rock and roll for you, baby' becomes a celebration.

Dive On In

'Dive On In' is about climate anxiety, feeling powerless to say or do anything to steer the planet's course. We can see day-to-day the effects of climate change and below each damning article is an ad suggesting you buy even more plastic junk off Temu. "The bridge of the song expresses frustration at dismissing science as folklore or ghost stories. 'Dive On In' is almost a morbid slogan for accepting a depressing truth – but more to provoke the question: is this what we want?"

Busy Living

'Busy Living' is a song I wrote about filling life with meaningless noise and having no room for things you care for. Accumulating stuff without meaning. Buying things to fill a void as opposed to fill a purpose.

Fuselage

'Fuselage' is about feeling resistant to change. When trying to do something different it can be much easier to avoid the uncomfortable and return to the familiar thing – kinda like apathy over action, which ultimately leads to frustration at a lack of progression.

Love

Aside from luck, love is another theme that runs through the album; as well as many wonderful and enduring things, love can also be a source of great sadness in the world. The focus of this song is to remember in times of pain that there are people who love you.

Ballad Of The Barry Boys

'Ballad Of The Barry Boys' is a tale about a brood of brothers out on the range tracing a vein of gold, they're savvy and lucky but one gets lost. All of the Barry boys are confident outdoorsmen, but every true explorer knows that when traversing the great outdoors you must keep your wits about you. It's a short story about the regret of leaving things unsaid.

Moonlight Hotel

My third great-grandmother worked at the Moonlight Hotel as a barmaid. I often think about what that must have been like at that point in time, serving loyal patrons and those breezing through hoping for good fortune. The setting of the song is a run down hotel after the gold has dried up, not many folk left – more of a place to harbour the lost and found.

Fern Ridge

Fern Ridge is the kind of sad piece of music you might imagine someone playing on a saloon piano at 2pm on a weekday.

Let Me Get On

'Let Me Get On' came from my old Irish family superstition of opening the door to let the new year air in at midnight, maybe in the hope that that new year air has some sort of cosmic cleansing property to it...? I think in reality it's probably some sort of really basic human tradition to move through grief and close out the year starting fresh. My New Year's tradition looks like sitting on a beach and wondering whether I could have tried harder or made more of an effort with something last year. 'Let me get on' is my way of saying good riddance whilst feeling uncertain about the year ahead.