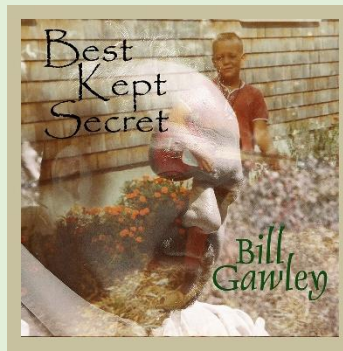


All Lyrics:

Best Kept Secret



Times of Our Lives ©2001, 2025- Bill Gawley

Ask me again if I don't understand- I've been listening for something way off in the distance.

The voices of old ones from far-away lands, to guide me along with their gentle insistence.

If I keep my ears open & am ripe for the sound, then sure I'll know just what to do

For the time has just come for the times of our lives, & I want to spend them with you.

Oh wayfaring stranger what news do you bring of poets & sonnets & sweet inspiration?

Of long arctic winters & deserts in spring, and the faces you've met in your strange destinations.

And I know you can hear it, I can tell by your eyes- by my eyes you know I've heard it too.

That the time has just come for the times of our lives, & I want to spend them with you.

The wind on the water, the sun on the sand, the silvery stream in the forest cathedral

All heed to the ancient enduring command to witness the whispers of voices primeval.

The answer's around us like the air clean & cool, one breath & we know it's all true

That the time has just come for the times of our lives, & I want to spend them with you.

Yes the time has just come for the times of our lives, & I want to spend them with you.

Castaway ©2001, 2025- Bill Gawley

From an ocean of sadness to an island of tears, cast off, by a ship of fools

Standing on the shoreline, alone with my fears. Waiting for the ship that leads to you.

In my short exile I've seen many sailors, wracked upon the rocks before my feet.

So I sit and watch the waves wash over my dreams, waiting for your love to rescue me.

Chorus:

Castaway, no escaping from this island. Castaway, surrounded by the silent sea.

Castaway, the only hope for my survival- you're my ship on the horizon

Set me free.

What I fool I must have been to go out to sea alone, never caring 'bout the dragons I might meet.

I sailed along a rocky uncharted course, I know, that brought me to this lonely life I've come to lead.

Each night I watch the empty ocean, the seabirds are the only friends I see.

But I've got a message in a bottle and it's racing off to you, and I know that before long you'll rescue me.

Chorus

Now my signal fire is burning, the flames rush to the sky. And the rising smoke will somehow set me free.

Meanwhile my thoughts of you are constant like the ebb and flow of tides, and I know that before long I'm gonna see

Rising up out in the distance- the sweetest ship I've ever seen

Sails overflowing with your love, bound for the harbor of my heart

I'll leave my island far behind and venture free.

Chorus

Last Holdout in Paradise ©1999, 2025- Bill Gawley

You used to recognize the names on the signs of the corner store, and the Five & Dime
Like the faces of the friends you knew so well.

Now you chalk it up to the changing times- we're sterilized by the bottom line,
It's the path of least resistance straight to hell.

Chorus:

I used to be like you, I used to want to make a difference too,
But the losing wore me down & made me older.
Keep the dream alive, you're the Last Holdout in Paradise,
With the weight of all our hopes upon your shoulders.

Could it be something in the air that you breathe that makes you see so clear, makes you feel the need
To keep the faith while all the world goes under?

You're squaring off against goliath powers, saying "Take what's yours, but leave what's ours"
While they choke & throttle on like distant thunder.

Chorus

I hear they landed at the end of town, now the rest of Main Street's closing down.
And it just don't look an awful lot like home.

You say they haven't seen the last of you, I can see your eyes, and I know it's true, but I
Don't know what one man can do alone.

Chorus

First Day of November ©2000, 2025- Bill Gawley

Cat starin' at the bird dancing in the snow fallin' on the ground outside my window
It's the first day of November, still can't bring myself to wear my socks & shoes.
And my mind's racin' bout the time spent chasin' after stuff that's always a step or 2 from my reach
And it's the first day of November, I can't believe how long it's been now without you

Dog's twitchin' as he lies sleepin' on the old smelly rug on the floor- beside my old smelly shoes
He's blind now, but in his dreams he still does all the things that he used to do.
And I've lost sight of how much I might have done my best work, when I was snoozing too.
And it's the first day of November, and all that I can see right now is you.

Mouse scratchin' at the trim, tryin' to find a way in from the cold, cause the snow's getting deep.
It's the first day of November, I'd better find my coat and hat with earflaps too.
And I think I'll put a log on the fire, cause all God's creatures need some warmth, 'specially when the snow flies
And it's the first day of November, I can't believe how long it's been now without you
Yes it's the first day of November, I can't believe how long it's been now without you
It's the first day of November, I can't believe how long it's been now without you

Chemistry ©2002, 2025- Bill Gawley

Chemistry- brick and mortar, skin and bones.
Chemistry- the heart of all we call our own or were ever meant to be.
My father taught me about chemistry.

Chemistry- strong reactions, steady burns.
Strange concoctions precipitating out the things that we have learned.
You know it all boils down to chemistry.

Teacher, now what do I do when the equation doesn't balance
Like it always did for you?
Molecules colliding out in space, just like people face to face,
Forever changed by what they do.

Chemistry- knowing what you're made of and what you can become.
Distilling out the best and demonstrating how it's done.
My father taught us all about chemistry

Chemistry- it's all about solutions, don't you know?
When you mix wisdom, time, and patience it turns to gold.
The golden love he gave to me,
My father taught me all about chemistry,
Because it all boils down to chemistry.

Bright Angel ©2000, 2025- Bill Gawley

Crocodile dreams fade away in golden sunlight, loneliness loses strength upon the break of day.
The road that as yet remains untraveled is calling out your name.
And at last you see there is no other way.

Many a time you felt the river ran too fast for you, many a time you thought the mountain was too high.
But now your vision becomes clear, as life whispers in your ear
That the answers that you seek are all inside.

Love can bring deep misunderstanding or enlightenment, tomorrow can be a shining promise or a lie.
The power to hold them in your hand is there at your command,
And each new step you take will show you why.

Sometimes the swiftest shooting star can't catch up with you, sometimes the world can't bear the weight of all your cares.
Just remember life's gifts are all around, just waiting to be found
Surely as the wind that's blowing through your hair,
Surely as the wind that's blowing through your hair.

Indecisive ©2003, 2025- Bill Gawley

I'm indecisive, or maybe I'm not. I can't be quite sure, but the one thing I know
Is I can't make up my mind about anything other than you.

I'm indecisive, at least they tell me I am. And the moment I start to believe them is when
You walk in the door and I'm suddenly sure about you.

I can't deny I don't try to be this kind of guy, waffling to and fro.
But when you're by my side there's no doubt in my mind- it's suddenly clear that although...

I'm indecisive, and I'll always be. But there's hope in the future for you and for me
'Cause if you can decide upon me, I can decide on you too
'Cause I can't make up my mind about anything other than you.

Chasm ©1996, 2025- Bill Gawley

I've fallen deep into your eyes just like a chasm, with little hope of ever coming back again.
One look over the side should not have mattered- next thing you know I'm tumbling right over the rim.
 And as I'm spinning and I'm falling I think I hear you calling
 Out my name as you are beckoning me in.
I've fallen deep into your eyes just like a chasm, with little hope of ever coming back again.
I've drawn you deep into my heart just like a magnet, just like the moon changes the direction of the sea.
And I have yet to learn the source of that attraction- all I know is you're pulling closer to me.
 And as I'm moving ever forward, I can feel you coming toward me,
 And I await with open arms what fate might bring.
I've drawn you deep into my heart just like a magnet, with little hope of ever breaking free.
 Time tells us that we can do it all again, and love asks us to open up, let feelings in.
 And faith can guide us safely through the night,
 But only what we know inside tells us what is wrong and what is right.
I've fallen deep into your eyes just like a chasm, with little hope of ever coming back again.
One look over the side should not have mattered- next thing you know I'm tumbling right over the rim.
 And as I'm spinning and I'm falling I think I hear you calling
 Out my name as you are beckoning me in.
I've fallen deep into your eyes just like a chasm, with little hope of ever coming back again.

The Fire That Burns in Me ©1987, 2025- Bill Gawley

She lights the candles in my soul, kindles all my inner fires
Stopping just short of self-control, ignites my deepest desires
 Everything she does is a mystery to me
 And it's just because I love her endlessly
She could never understand the depth of all the magic she inspires
She could never understand the depth of all the magic she inspires
She burns my fingers to the bone, the searing source of my salvation
Glowing embers, rising smoke, inferno of infatuation
 Everything she does is such a sweet surprise
 Turn around, see magic right before my eyes
She could never understand she holds the key to all my inspiration
She could never understand she holds the key to all my inspiration
 Temperature is rising every time she comes to town
 Burning like a wildfire running 'cross parched barren ground
She's got her dreams under control, all her demons have been banished
She fans the flames and stirs the coals, inhibitions slowly vanish
Everything she does is a mystery to me
 And it's just because I love her endlessly
She could never know she sparks the fire that burns in me-
She could never know she sparks the fire that burns in me-

CPU Blues ©2001, 2025- Bill Gawley

My display's going haywire- my calculations are a mess,
I hear the clicking & the crunching- I see the Blue Screen of Death.
My devices are in conflict, I got no free IRQ's

My memory's loaded with exceptions- what's a guy gonna do?

Lord have mercy- don't want to be in my shoes

'Cause I've got me a case of those CPU Blues

I'd better to scroll through my history to find out when this began,

Was it the surge in the voltage, or when I increased the RAM?

Was it a bug or a virus, maybe a mass-mailing worm?

Since we upgraded from papyrus the implications make me squirm!

Lord have mercy- don't want to be in my shoes

'Cause I've got me a case of those CPU Blues

I can't initialize my software, can't save my documents to text.

Can't help but wonder as each day dawns-what's gonna crash on me next.

Am I destined to re-format, can my backup be restored?

Should I take refuge in the Help Files, or put my faith in the Lord?

Lord have mercy- don't want to be in my shoes

'Cause I've got me a case of those CPU Blues

Lord have mercy- better stock up on the booze

Cause I've got me a case of those CPU Blues

Miss Samantha ©2002, 2025- Bill Gawley

From across the bar I saw her, just the other day. Her hair still red but now with shades of gray.

Momentarily her eyes met mine and then she turned away, to disappear again without a trace.

Well I told the band to take a break and I threw down my guitar, and ran out to the alley close behind.

That's where I heard the squeal of Michelins, saw the taillights of a car,

And then these words went racing through my mind:

Chorus:

Miss Samantha, is that you? Or just a specter of the girl that I once knew?

I think I know that twinkle in your eye.

I think I know that wrinkle in your brow, as you're trying to think of how

To explain where you have been through all this time.

As I shook my head, my thoughts went back a long, long time before. Samantha was my world; I had no cares.

She had a talent for temptation, and a knack for so much more, and a gift for vanishing into thin air.

Well, the last time that I saw her she left to build another life but promised to one day come back to me.

Did she join a cult or convent, was she a mafia ex-wife with a federally supplied identity?

Chorus

When I came back to reality the dust had settled all around, and I looked back to where that car just sped away.

I saw a napkin with a number lying folded on the ground, saying "call me soon so I can hear you say"

Chorus

24 Hours A Day ©2002, 2025- Bill Gawley

Hello, how are you? I'd like to speak to the lady of the house.
Oh is that so, no I didn't know, I'm so sorry that she moved out.
But now that you've got more time on your hands you'll want to hear what I have to say.
I've got a deal for you too good to be true, if you'll just sign up today.

There is a 21st century digital technology cellphone waiting for you,
With unlimited calls from here to Nepal, and it's in decorator colors too.
For just a 20-year obligation we can lock you in right away-
You can pay 10 cents a minute to talk to guys like me- 24 hours a day.

Now, if you're still undecided I can throw in this offer too:
There'll be no monthly payments if you're dead or disabled, just a minimum balance due.
And if your house burns down, you're covered, you can rest assured anyway
That you'll still get calls from guys like me- 24 hours a day.

All your friends will be in wonder, you'll be the 1st one on the block
To have this miracle machine with a 1-year guarantee and service around the clock.
You may not keep up with the Joneses, but it's a tiny price to pay
For the privilege of talking to guys like me- 24 hours a day.

Well, I see you don't want to save money or be a trendsetter or a sage.
Just let me verify your address and we'll send it out anyway.
You'll have 90 days of heaven before you have to pay,
And best of all, you'll get calls from guys like me- 24 hours a day.
Yes best of all, you'll get calls from guys like me- 24 hours a day.

You Just Never Know ©2001, 2025- Bill Gawley

I once had a girl, or maybe like the Beatles song goes I should really say she once had me.
Why in the world should I have doubted for a moment that our love should linger on eternally?
She didn't say why she set the stage then stole the show and split before the ending of the play.
Her final line, when I asked why she had to leave was "life is funny- sometimes you just never know".

There- at the ball- who's that there with Muffy's daughter? I thought he was much taller on TV.
Now I've seen it all, watch them stumble 'round the room- I guess I'm not the only one with two left feet.
Suave and debonair are in the eye of the beholder, but savoir faire just leaves me cold when it looks cheap.
Why in my mind does he not live up to the icon, life is funny- I guess you just never know

Oh the mysteries of life- the secrets that we keep
How the butcher is a Buddhist and the DJ is a nudist and still waters often run so cold and deep.

Yes I had a girl, but that was long ago and as I said before she really once had me.
Halfway 'round the world, I thought I saw her in an airport as she put her bags into a Jeep.
I didn't try to cross the street to ask her where she's been or ask her why she never said goodbye.\

I just watched her go, and as she drove away I thought how we're much better off when we just never know.
Yes life is funny, we're much better off when we just never know.

The Best Kept Secret ©2003, 2025- Bill Gawley

When I saw you first, I could not catch my breath
It's been a while now, I still haven't found it yet
And I wonder if I'll go through all my time
With just the image of you lingering in my mind.

You see the best kept secret in this heart of hearts
Is the way I've felt about you from the start.
And I hope you understand, I think you do.
Because it's never hard explaining things to you.

You know that circumstance has placed us on this dark and stormy sea,
Just like those celebrated ships that pass at night
And I know the wind can change your course and bring you here to me,
And I'm hoping and I'm praying that it might.

If you can bring yourself to feel the way I do
Let's find out what the future holds for me and you.
And if you'll excuse my weakness things will be OK,
Cause I could never keep a secret anyway.