



## GRAHAM PARKER & THE GOLDTOPS

### *Last Chance To Learn The Twist*

Big Stir Records BSR-0099: CD/Streaming, September 8, 2023

Big Stir Records BSR-0100: Vinyl LP, October 2023

#### **TRACK LIST:**

1. The Music Of The Devil (4:02)
2. Grand Scheme Of Things (3:13)
3. Sun Valley (3:12)\*\*
4. It Mattered To Me (2:55)\*\*
5. Wicked Wit (3:29)
6. Pablo's Hippos (2:41)
7. Cannabis (2:08)
8. Shorthand (3:19)
9. We Did Nothing (2:36)\*
10. Lost Track Of Time (3:46)
11. Last Stretch Of The Road (2:15)
12. Them Bugs (4:06)\*
13. Since You Left Me Baby (3:14)

\*pre-release singles

\*\*focus tracks

All songs written by **Graham Parker (BMI)**, published by **Ellisclan LTD.**

Administered by **BMG Rights Management UK LTD. (BMI)**

#### **Album Credits:**

Produced by **Graham Parker** and **Tuck Nelson**

Recorded at **RAK STUDIO 3**, London.

Overdubs and Mixing at **ECHO RAY**, Wood Green.

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Engineered by **Tuck Nelson**  
Assistant Engineer at RAK: **Adele Phillips**

Mastered by **Neil Pickles** at **Reveal Sound**

**SIMON EDWARDS:** Electric and upright bass, Moog, low vocal on “Pablo's Hippos”

**JIM RUSSELL:** Drums and percussion

**MARTIN BELMONT:** Electric guitar

**GERAINT WATKINS:** Keyboard

**GP:** Acoustic and electric guitars, harmonica

Backing vocals by “**The Lady Bugs**”:

**Marietta Smith**

**Paige Stublely**

**The Easy Access Orchestra:**

**James Morton:** Tenor sax

**Andrew Ross:** Baritone sax

**Ralph Lamb:** Trumpet, trumpet cornet

**Jimmy Parker:** Artwork

## **COMPLETE LYRICS:**

### **1. The Music Of The Devil**

Now time on this planet is limited enough  
Miserable for many brutal and rough  
I made my decision to be wicked and tough  
I made my choice and it was nasty stuff  
(The music of the devil. The music of the devil)

Since time immemorial men have acted this way  
Look back in history it's as plain as day  
Kings and serfs wise men and fools  
You don't learn it in college you don't learn it in school  
(The music of the devil)

So we listened and studied made signs and notations  
Spread the word to many other nations  
Took the trains dropped it off at the stations  
The music of the devil was our salvation

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(The music of the devil)

Well they tried to eliminate it good luck with that  
Pushed it underground but it just grew back  
It just grew stronger with every iteration  
The music of the devil was the new sensation  
(The music of the devil)

Since time immemorial men have acted this way  
Look back in history it's as plain as day  
When it's my funeral and the playing field is level  
Send me off with the music devil  
(The music of the devil)

Let's go down!  
Down, down, down, down down.  
Down, down.  
(The music of the devil)

## 2. Grand Scheme of Things

Where do we stand in the grand scheme of things  
Love or murder  
Or flying on angel's wings  
Where do we lean in the grand scheme of things  
Backwards to the past  
Or head first into the wind  
Everybody's got their own charade  
The skin the bone the heart  
The dust they've made  
I was thinking that I'd got it made  
In the Grand Scheme of things

I knew some people they were  
Friends of mine  
They hit a wall it's not their  
Choice or mine  
Suddenly they just ran outta time  
In the grand of scheme of things

What do we mean by the grand scheme of things  
Dendrochronology means counting a tree's rings

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Once you were mine in the grand scheme of things  
But we know how that goes  
Lost into the wind  
In the grand scheme of things  
Blowing in the wind  
In the grand scheme of things  
Lost into the wind  
In the grand scheme of things

### 3. Sun Valley

I lived in sun valley  
Where the weather was fine  
And the wind was low  
My time in sun valley  
Was as good as it gets  
As good as it gets  
Then I brought the rain  
It was self-generated  
Take something simple  
And complicate it  
Take something you love and then  
Act like you hate it

But they're knocking on the window pane  
There's a girl, there's a boy, there's a dog  
They're out there in the rain  
Just knocking on the window pane  
Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh

Everybody says go where your heart tells you to  
Nobody says, "Stop, look where it's leading you"  
They say that a man his destiny must be true  
No matter what lies he tells  
No matter who gets hurt  
Is that what we mean by that  
Is that why we always meant  
They're knocking on the window pane  
That boy, that girl, that dog  
Just knocking on the window pane  
Sun Valley

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Sun valley

#### 4. It Mattered To Me

It mattered to me  
When you took love that mattered  
It mattered to me  
When you left it in tatters  
It mattered to me  
Did it matter to you?  
Everyone has something that matters  
But they didn't know  
Until that something shatters  
It mattered to me  
It mattered to me

The windows were open  
Our minds were locked up  
I said something tasteless  
And filled up my cup  
I shared it with you  
As if that were enough  
To make something matter  
Like love mattered to me

Well it mattered to me  
Like something important  
Like some kind of treasure that we left behind  
It wasn't like we, had some kind of falling out  
Maybe we just stopped knowing how to be kind

And it mattered to me  
When a friend got so cut up  
By somebody who  
Needed to shut up  
It's called empathy  
We need more of that now  
It mattered to me  
Yes, it mattered to me  
Baby, baby, baby

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## 5. Wicked Wit

Once you turned your wicked wit on me  
Well I knew it wasn't funny  
Once you pulled that hit job, I broke free  
It was arsenic not honey

Everybody tells me  
You were trying to sell me  
Something I don't need anyway  
I can take a barb I can take a jab or two  
Hit me with your best shot I don't mind  
But this was something different  
This was something new  
Wicked is wicked and that's not cricket now

Once your elbow struck my belly  
Oh, that low blow down below  
Once that cherry blocked my poppin', oh  
Well that wasn't helping any  
No one expects it  
The Spanish inquisition  
Is that your position now

Put another bucket of wine down you girl  
And pass out on the floor in the hall  
I'll probably join you soon it's what we do after all  
Wicked is wicked stone cold wicked now, hey!

I can take a barb I can take a jab or two  
Hit me with your best shot I don't mind  
But this was something different  
This was something new  
Wicked is wicked, stone cold wicked now, hey!  
Wicked wit, wicked wit  
Just like bathtub gin  
So good I wrote it twice  
Wicked wit  
Wicked wit

## 6. Pablo's Hippos

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Juanita and Chucho went down to the river  
Stood on the banks of the Magdalena  
The missed their days at Hacienda Napoles  
Where they always got paid and ate fresh tamales  
Between the boiling oil for their enemies  
Heavy artillery from many countries  
Smuggling planes and submarines  
And trucks with false bottoms to bring that sweet powder to you and me

Gracias América por esta oportunidad  
Muchas gracias señors

For every Pablo there's a replacement  
By definition more violent than the last one  
Created by America's unwinnable war  
Persona de color!

Pablo's hippos  
Pablo's hippos

They wallow in glorious mud all day  
They ain't going nowhere they're here to stay  
From the war that took them from far away  
To haunt this land till their dying day  
Pablo's hippos are the living memory  
Basking in the river like dead-eyed sentries  
Pablo's replacements do not care  
Business is booming under the hippo's dead-eyed stare

Gracias América por esta oportunidad  
Muchas gracias señors

For every Pablo, there's a replacement  
By definition more violent than the last one  
Keep it flowing  
Keep it, keep it flowing

Pablo's hippos  
Pablo's hippos

## 7. Cannabis

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Oh, oh, oh cannabis  
Much maligned by ill-informed prohibitionists  
The longest list of nothingness ever known  
Oh oh oh, put me here  
I know this place  
It's very near  
It's very clear  
My inner ear  
Hears music straight from the sun

High high high, heightened love  
For everything on planet earth  
Not only you  
There's more to life  
Than only you know anyway

Oh, and the novelty  
Always strikes me as Innocence  
Reminding me  
Of something lost  
But found again at long last  
Long last  
Long, long last

## 8. Shorthand

I'm learning silence, because I talk too much  
I talk a blue streak, but I don't say too much  
I've got to shut up, because I'm out of touch  
With myself  
I'm learning shorthand, because I write too much  
I write a blue streak, but I don't say too much  
I've put my pen down, until I'm back in touch  
With everyone else

Still I'm onto, something here  
I'm shaping some new form  
I'll distil it like a spirit  
I'll try to make it quick, I'll make this fast  
I'll get out of your way now, this won't last

Silence

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Shorthand  
Blue streak

Breathing, I'm supposed to breathe a lot  
Loving, I try to love a lot  
That's what they tell me, but then they say a lot  
Just like me

Silence  
Shorthand, shorthand  
Breathing  
Loving, loving  
Breathing  
Loving, loving  
Blue streak  
Shorthand  
Silence  
Silence, silence

### 9. We Did Nothing

I knew you were slipping away by the day  
What did I do? I did nothing  
The tone of your sky was a gunmetal grey  
And what did I do? I did nothing  
That iceberg of indifference must have meant something  
But I wore a coat of steel so it meant nothing

We saw the floods in Pakistan  
And smelt the burning forest  
We had to fail Afghanistan  
And the richest crushed the poorest

We saw the glaciers hit the water  
And jumped in for a swim  
The water felt so good and warm  
We all went rushing in  
A pandemic of stupidity  
Was closing in and then  
What did I do I looked at you  
But you were gone by then

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The filaments of light in the bulbs of your eyes  
Died a death for me, but I did nothing  
The streets of your town pulled their shutters right down  
I wanted them pulled up but I did nothing  
Nothing  
Nothing

#### 10. Lost Track of Time

I sat there thinking of you  
On a bed made out of stone  
In a cheap motel with an office block view  
And an air conditioner groan  
So I walked down to the drinks machine  
But it's been empty for years  
The ancient smell of cigarettes  
No disinfectant can clear

But then I just lost track of time, baby  
Just lost track of time x3

Now when you lose track of time  
You know it's all on your watch  
It's like a job that you botched  
For someone else  
And now you've let yourself down  
Your gonna let her down too  
Now you got plenty of time  
But it's all for you

When you just lose track of time  
Yeah, just lose track of time

What does it take to get a message to you  
On this dodgy wifi  
The soap won't foam and the air sits still despite the  
Air condition whine  
The only place I can feel anything now  
Is right here in my heart  
Because the clocks just stopped  
And my brain seized up  
I miss you like a missing part

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And then I just lost track of time  
Just lost track of time...

#### 11. Last Stretch Of The Road

Both feet forward  
There's no more turning back  
No pearly gates before us  
That was written by some hack  
No angels singing  
No heavenly abode  
And the choir got the day off  
On the last stretch of the road

Who's that man before us  
Blowing us a kiss  
He's swaying with his bottle  
He looks quite Brahms and Liszt  
He's not a holy figure  
They don't even exist  
The road comes up before him  
Last chance to learn the twist

Why didn't I do good things  
Why didn't I detox  
Why did I wear those sandals  
With a pair of socks  
Why didn't I hold you tighter  
Why didn't I love you so  
I just didn't see it coming  
On the last stretch of the road  
You don't always see it coming  
On the last, last  
Stretch of the road

#### 12. Them Bugs

Them bugs came freakin' out tonight  
Freakin' out, freakin' out  
Them freakin' bugs came out tonight  
Freakin' out tonight  
Woah yeah

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Woah yeah

They came out in the evening  
Just about twilight time  
We'd just set up the fireworks  
For it was the fourth of July  
Woah yeah  
Woah yeah

Come time to light the fireworks  
As it was dark outside  
There we was in short shorts  
We had nowhere to hide  
They came down from the tree tops  
They came up from the grass  
Just like fighter pilots  
I swear they moved that fast

Chorus

They bit me round the ankles  
They bit me on the hip  
They bit me in the places  
You never should get bit  
That's right

Chorus

Well momma said, "Rub on bacon fat"  
I said, "Momma you must be whack  
That bacon fat just make you fat  
Still them bugs come out, oww!"

Chorus

### 13. **Since You Left Me Baby**

Since you left me baby  
I been running on air  
Since you left me baby  
I been going nowhere

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This cat is in the doghouse  
I'm wasted in the shed  
Catastrophic weather  
Is pouring through my head  
I know I need some treatment  
I'm anything but fine  
I can't recall my doctor's name and I see him all the time

Since you left me baby  
There's no more fish in the sea  
They've eaten all my shopping bags  
They taste like plastic to me

I tried to wax poetic  
But I couldn't make it rhyme  
The words turn into jelly  
They don't even sound like mine  
It's not that you mistreated me  
It's the other way around  
But if I blame you anyway  
I'm on solid ground

Since you left me baby  
Yeah since you left me baby  
Since you left me baby  
Yeah since you left me baby  
Uh huh

This cat is in the doghouse  
I'm wasted in the shed  
Catastrophic weather  
Is pouring into my head  
I know I need some treatment  
I'm anything but fine  
I can't recall my dentist's name, and I see her all the time

Chorus

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