

# TABLE TALK

## ALBUM LYRICS

### Table of Contents

<u>ACT I</u>	<u>ACT II</u>
1. Overture (Instrumental)	11. Theme Music for Act II (Instrumental)
2. I'd Miss You	12. Blue Weeds
3. CyberTalk Show Theme (Instrumental)	13. Processional (Instrumental)
4. Piece of Paper	14. Don't Touch Me Too Close
5. Cold Feet	15. Guilty Habits
6. Saturated Fat	16. That Gets My Bird
7. The Good Guys	17. In the Space Between the Notes
8. One Tie All Tie	18. Get It Up Men
9. It's All Over America	19. Real Men Do Not Leave
10. Table Talk	20. Squeeze Play
	21. Table Talk (Reprise)

## **I'D MISS YOU**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

If you ever left and went away  
I'd be missing you every single day

I'd miss you like the trees would miss the wind  
I'd miss you like a journey would miss its end  
Yes – I'd miss you like the flowers would miss the spring  
I'd miss you – I'd be missing you more than anything  
I'd miss you – Oh how I'd miss you

I'd miss you like the sky would miss the blue  
I'd miss you like a level would miss its true  
I'd miss you like the kitchen would miss the floor  
I'd miss you – and I'd keep missing you more and more  
I'd miss you – Oh how I'd miss you

Sometimes I stop and think about it  
Is it really gonna end – is it all over  
Then I walk up to the corner – of the street that never ends  
And get run over

I'd miss you like the ground would miss the storm  
I'd miss you like a blanket would miss the warm  
You know – I'd miss you like the wood would miss the grain  
I'd miss you – then I'd be missing you again  
I'd miss you – Oh how I'd miss you

And it bothers me to think it might be over 'fore it's done  
And this time I might have missed it  
But what it is – is what it is – it is an isness  
And a waste of time to resist it

I'd miss you – I've stopped to consider  
I'd miss you – Oh I'd miss you  
Oh – how I'd miss you  
You know that I'd miss you

## **PIECE OF PAPER**

*from Table Talk*

1975 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Piece of paper says – something missing  
One dead tree and  $2+2=5$   
Fear's alive and well  
In the private hell between thought and feeling  
In individual minds – it's alive

In the towers of the undead and the powers of the unsaid

Action central commissioned General Admission  
To preside over a think tank  
He's got Lieutenant Dewitt – Major Disaster  
Private Quarters – Corporal Punishment  
They've been sent

To a top-secret convention on recruitment and retention

Of young men to combat an enemy that  
Can functionally blind all humankind  
And now it's up to us to eliminate this horrible fate  
Just waiting for the right time – to attack

Without using standard weapons – it's the Unwhat power that threatens  
(Meanwhile) Boom goes Sherman – police determine –  
It must be Germans – but it's not

Straight to the heart – catch the eye of the people  
While the Unwhat stalks its prey  
Up in the loft of a digital steeple  
Making a clean getaway

(All we got is this) Piece of paper – describes a caper  
How to erase the progress of mankind  
Between digital bits of information – an alien nation  
A diabolical mind – the enemy lies

We have got to stop and consider  
If we're ever going to get rid of

Shame and envy – fear and denial – every once in awhile  
(Get rid of)  
Shame and envy – fear and denial – every once in awhile

Piece of paper – piece of paper – piece of paper

## **COLD FEET**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

I'm a plastic bag stuck in a spindly tree  
The tree is convinced that I'm one of the family  
And every single time a hard wind blows through the tree  
I try to let go but the branch it keeps snagging me

The wind can't help itself – it keeps blowing  
I know there's somewhere else I should be going  
But I keep sticking around – I can't get myself free  
I'm a little white cloud – a flag of plastic  
Flying over the ground – the branch that I stick on  
Has got a grip on my soul that won't set me free

Cold feet leave footprints  
Where angels fear to tread  
Words from wetless waters  
Disturb the solace of the dead  
Tumbling over high falls  
Into the caldron of the unsaid  
Cold feet leave footprints  
Where no one's been before – where no one's been before

I'm a plastic bag stuck in a spindly tree  
The tree is convinced that I'm one of the family  
And every single time a hard wind blows through the tree  
I try to let go but the branch it keeps snagging me

The wind can't help itself – it keeps blowing  
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Tumbling over high falls  
Into the caldron of the unsaid  
Cold feet leave footprints  
Where no one's been before – where no one's been before

# **SATURATED FAT**

*from Table Talk*

1993 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Chew the fat – the saturated fat – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
All the airways are saturated with fat  
Chew the fat the saturated fat  
Information pathways are saturated with fat  
Chew the fat – the saturated fat

And the newspapers force feed you the new that's fat  
The company chewed and spat back into the face of facts  
An agenda to choose from that's limited  
To the strictly saturated fat – saturated fat – saturated fat

Chew the fat – the saturated fat – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
All the magazines are saturated with fat – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
Hollywood movies are saturated with fat – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
What's the public going to think of that – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
Use the pat and tried and true format – chew the fat – the saturated fat

And the newspapers force feed you the news that's fat  
The company chewed and spat back into the face of facts  
An agenda to choose from that's limited  
To the strictly saturated fat – saturated fat – saturated fat

Images – images – so many images – so little imagination  
Messages – messages – so many messages – so little communication

Chew the fat – the saturated fat – chew the fat – the saturated fat  
All the airways are saturated with fat  
Chew the fat the saturated fat  
Information pathways are saturated with fat  
Chew the fat – the saturated fat

And the newspapers force feed you the news that's fat  
The company chewed and spat back into the face of facts  
An agenda to choose from that's limited  
To the strictly saturated fat – saturated fat – saturated fat

Get the video cameras to make you look glamorous  
Forget the cassette from the DAT  
That shows how unique you are  
Nothing's important as that

You're saturated – you're saturated – you're saturated  
Fa fa – fa fa – fa – fat

## **THE GOOD GUYS**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

We are the good guys  
We are the good guys  
We are the good guys – the good guys

We are the right ones  
We are the right ones  
We are the right ones – the right ones

Don't you believe it – I'm telling you the truth  
I meant well – you meant well – what – what – what

Clean as a whistle  
Clean as a whistle  
Clean as a whistle – a whistle

Don't you believe it – I'm telling you the truth  
I meant well – you meant well – what – what – what  
We are the super sane  
And we all have sex in one way or another  
It's been admitted – it's been permitted  
We all have sex in one way or another  
It's been admitted – it's been permitted – it's been committed

We are the good guys  
We are the good guys  
We are the good guys – the good guys  
The good guys – the good guys  
The good guys

## **ONE TIE ALL TIE**

*from Table Talk 1998*

© 1985 / 1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Power merchants – soldier servants – standing in a row  
Waiting for the call to service to tell you where to go  
Reaching for the golden ring before you grow too old  
Where the men are bought and sold – they sing  
One tie all tie – one tie all tie

Two-way mirrors – one-way tickets – will it come to pass  
Everyone's a slave to commerce – nothing's made to last  
Who was once the golden boy his time has long since passed  
Had it written in the rules about  
One tie all tie – one tie all tie

Look at that – look at that – look at that – look at that boy  
Look at that – look at that – look at that – look at that boy  
Such a beautiful face – such a beautiful smile – he's caught your eye  
He's one in a mil' – he's dressed to kill – one tie all tie

Brash opinions and rash decisions protect us from ourselves  
The cant that covers can't explore the mem'ries on our shelves  
Now you see it – now you don't – the trickster's shadow dwells  
In the lie inside the truth that tells us  
One tie all tie – one tie all tie  
One tie all tie – one tie all tie – one tie all tie

Look at that – look at that – look at that – look at that man  
Look at that – look at that – look at that – look at that man  
Can do as can can – he's a man with a plan – he's a get ahead guy  
With every notch in the belt – with every pain that is felt  
One tie all tie

# IT'S ALL OVER AMERICA

*from Table Talk*

1984 © 1985, 2022 Roger Lienke

It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America

Drawbacks – cutbacks – setbacks  
Banks are getting robbed  
Paint the future jet black – rioting and mobs  
Very frightened people – trying to keep their jobs  
We might have to sell our television

It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America

Sons of fathers' children  
If all of us get killed  
Then who will watch the ballgames – get prescriptions filled  
Who will pay the monthly – electrical bills  
Shop at the shopping malls and the delis

It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America

We put our stock in plastic rainbows  
Hang our asses out the window  
Can't go broke when you've got nothing to start with  
What can they steal that we simply cannot part with

It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America

It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America  
It's all over America

It's all over America – it's all over America



## TABLE TALK

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Table talk – table talk – what's become of heroes  
What's become of values – who will pave the way  
Table talk – table talk  
When you walk away from a price too stiff to pay  
Who will choose to stay

For every enemy we battle there's one more foe to slay  
For every hurdle we jump over there's one more in the way  
For every mountain that we climb there's a higher peak to scale  
There's no risk or sacrifice when you make it safe to fail  
So – when you color your decision use darker shades of gray

Table talk – table talk – it's only ones and zeroes  
What's the need to fear those – there's nothing else to find  
Table talk – table talk  
Hidden in the absence – in the holes between the substance  
Of the fate of humankind

It's the Unwhat that's advancing – not who which when or why  
And the Unwhat that is dancing on the graves of those who try  
To consider what goes on – to take notice of what's gone  
In the blanks on every page of the information age  
And in the eyes of non-believers and the ones who turn away

Table talk – table talk – you made your reservation  
To exchange information – but where's communication  
Table – table talk  
Table talk

## **BLUE WEEDS**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Men on the move – men on the march  
Shiny riveting machines of forward motion  
In step with the best of the best – subject to no one  
Objects of fascination

Gentlemen – there's a call to arms – heed and seize the opportunity  
Raise above determined scepters of – glory, honor and victory

Listen to the men – what are they saying to each other  
All for shine and all for show  
Men offer men for sacrifice  
There's no cause and effect or corroboration

No one responds to a cause anymore – take the path of least resistance  
Lies are the most effective way to advertise for men in service

Men don't talk – men don't talk to each other  
Men don't talk – men don't talk to each other

Cannons – cannons are now missiles – they fly over the sea  
Soldiers – we are foot soldiers who lie in blue weeds  
Weapons of war – not used any more  
They hold us – they hold us back – there's no point in attack  
Consider very carefully why would you want your son to be  
A foot soldier – we are foot soldiers who lie in blue weeds

Men don't talk – men don't talk to each other  
Men don't talk – men don't talk to each other

Men on the move – men on the march  
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A foot soldier – we are foot soldiers who lie in blue weeds

We lie in blue weeds

## **DON'T TOUCH ME TOO CLOSE**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Don't touch me too close – don't hold me too near  
I think you oughta know  
It's important for me for you to hear

Don't touch me too long – don't hold me too tight  
I like the way that it was – can do as can does  
Do what feels right

But – don't touch me too close – I told you before  
Do you recall  
If you touch me close – I'd rather that you  
Not touch me at all

Don't touch me too close  
I'm telling you now  
If you do it again – I'll pop you in the kisser  
So – help me  
Pow!

Don't hold me too close – don't hold me too near  
I think you oughta know  
It's important for me for you to hear

Don't touch me too long – don't hold me too tight  
I like the way that it was – can do as can does  
Do what feels right

But – don't touch me too close – I told you before  
Do you recall  
If you touch me close – I'd rather that you  
Not touch me at all

Don't touch me too close  
I'm telling you now  
If you do it again – I'll pop you in the kisser  
So – help me  
Pow!

## **GUILTY HABITS**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

I got guilty habits – I got guilty thoughts  
I can see that look in your eye  
Don't know if I should thank God or apologize  
But it's all because of you – I can tell by looking at you

I can see that look in your eyes and I know now what I gotta do  
Deny it – deny it – deny it  
Deny that it's true

I can see both ways on some days  
It's either one or the other one and I'm locked in a digital bay  
Walking in darkness I can't see a thing  
What kind of game shall we play  
What shall we sing  
What shall we sing  
What will the night bring out of this meeting

I got guilty habits – I got guilty thoughts  
I can see that look in your eye  
Don't know if I should thank God or apologize  
But it's all because of you – I can tell by looking at you

I can see that look in your eyes and I know what I gotta do  
Deny it – deny it – deny it  
Deny that it's true

## **THAT GETS MY BIRD**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

We're into dissatisfaction – it's not what you think  
I get a whole lotta action – living on the brink  
That's why I really love my country  
It's going down the drink  
I get a kick out of Americans – we're so hoodwinked

Hoodwinked, buffaloed and blinded  
We don't want to be reminded  
Our number's up – morale is down  
There're soldiers in the heart of town  
Giving us the run around – and we line up behind it

That gets my bird – always gets my bird  
Stands my hair on end – gonna march again  
I give my word – that gets my bird

We want to follow the leader wherever he goes  
We wanna stick our feet in faces and wiggle our toes  
Whoever calls us a fascist is scared cause they know  
Whoever plays around with matches will make a fire grow

Hoodwinked, buffaloed and blinded  
We don't want to be reminded  
Our time is up – the axe will fall  
I read the writing on the wall  
And wrote the number down to call  
And now I cannot find it

That gets my bird – always gets my bird  
If you get our goat – we're gonna cut your throat  
I give my word – that gets my bird  
I give my word – that gets my bird  
That gets my bird  
That gets my bird  
That gets my bird

## **IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE NOTES**

*from Table Talk 1998*

1994 © 2022 Roger Lienke

*(aka The Space Between the Notes)*

In the space between the notes  
Between the even – odd harmonics  
Between the numbers on or off  
Does absence make the ear grow fonder  
When the oscillating wave is sliced to little digitalized particles  
Does the song remain the same – are feelings analog or digital

Can't see the forest for the trees  
Cut them down and there's no problem  
When a sound in outer space runs into things it bounces off them  
And goes on and on forever

In the digital domain – in an effort to reduce the static  
Does a presence still remain  
In the absences that have been added  
Between the words that make the phrase  
Between the beats that make the rhythm rhythmical  
It's the silences that lay  
Between the sounds that make them musical

Can't see the forest for the trees  
Cut them down and there's no problem  
When a sound in outer space runs into things it bounces off them  
And goes on and on forever

It's not what you say that counts – it's what you don't say  
It's not what you say that counts – it's what you don't say  
Music is made between the notes  
And love is alive in the intangible mystery  
Of what connects us together  
It's not what you say that sounds – it's what you don't say

Can't see the forest for the trees  
Cut them down and there's no problem  
When a sound in outer space runs into things it bounces off them  
And goes on and on forever  
And goes on and on forever  
In the space between the notes

In the space – in the space  
In the space between the notes

# GET IT UP MEN

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Borrowed from the future – speeding toward conclusion  
We can get our hopes up on a cup of coffee  
Coffee does the same thing as all of technology

We are the chairmen of the bored – the chairmen of the board  
Nothing moves our impassivity  
We are the chairmen of the bored – the chairmen of the board  
Come aboard – all aboard our board meeting

Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up!

Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get it up!

We are the get it up men – we have a job to defend  
Right down to the end – all life will depend  
On us get it up men – who will stand on a wall  
And do all that we can – to let in nothing at all

We are the get it up men  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get it up!

The army is our duty – our destiny – our calling  
We can spend a lifetime in strict loyalty  
The man without a mission is a sailor without the sea

We are the chairmen of the bored – the chairmen of the board  
Nothing moves our impassivity  
We are the chairmen of the bored – the chairmen of the board  
Come aboard – all aboard our board meeting

Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up  
Get up – get up – get up!

Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up

Get up – get up – get up – get up

Get up – get up – get up – get up – get up

Get up – get it up!

Get up

Get up

Get up

Get up

Get up

Get up

Get up

Get up!



## **REAL MEN DO NOT LEAVE**

*from Table Talk*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

There's the me that's me and there's the me that's not me  
And there's the you that's not you – but me  
And there's the me I used to be

We are five for each other fortunately not  
We are strictly speaking strangers – coming apart together  
For the sake of strategy – a coming to consensus  
About the state of our defenses

I come apart when I see me inside the mirror  
My eyes go blind  
I cannot see through all this fear – my thoughts unwind

There's more to this life than living a dollar at a time  
So – clue me in whenever you find out what  
Before I waste away crumpled up – tossed with all the rest  
With all the other discarded papers pressed

Men do not leave – we will be here – waiting for you  
Men do not leave  
When you come back – we will be here waiting for you

Real men do not leave – real men do not leave

If I could hold the world – I'd tell you what I'd do  
I'd take and shake it upside down  
They'd all fall off but I'd hang on and I'd have me  
All to myself – God help me – it's true

Men do not leave – we will be here – waiting for you  
Men do not leave  
When you come back – we will be here waiting for you

Real men do not leave – real men do not leave

Men do not leave  
Men do not leave

## **SQUEEZE PLAY**

*from Table Talk 1998*

1977 © 1980 / 1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

Squeeze play Private Quarters – now your life is through  
If you could do it all over – would you  
Squeeze play Private Quarters – would you like to make a speech  
Or is there one last lesson you can teach us

Corporal – Corporal Punishment – you've been second guessed  
And you've become a victim like the rest  
Corporal – Corporal Punishment – we're proud to serve with you  
Your sacrifice is making you a martyr

Now if you please then – will you excuse us – have a pleasant day  
And if you want to – forget you knew us – it's O.K.

So long first lieutenant – what will you do now  
That you have left the service with a vow  
You will never make the same mistake again  
Of trying to fill an absence that's forever

Squeeze Play – Squeeze Play – Suicide Squeeze Play