

# TOP BEAT

ALBUM LYRICS

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# 1951

*from Top Beat*

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(spoken)

## **Carmen:**

*I'm Carmen Metropolis and I have been waiting for you  
To help me find what I've been searching for an entire lifetime  
It's you. You're it.  
But back before the beginning I had another me in mind  
Than the me they wanted me to become – or the one that I actually did*

(sung)

## **Verse 1**

The year is 1951  
The days of hard bodies are coming to an end  
Although their time is sure to come again  
This is the age of soft-bellied men

## **Bridge**

Thunder broke a hole for the sun today  
The clouds rolled by and still the rain didn't come  
So it's one more time, and one more day I'm waiting  
While the elements assert their control over me

## **Verse 2**

I'm not the madam, I'm just one of the whores  
Confronted by the scent of possibility  
Detected behind the stubborn dissent of closed doors  
Locked up inside a fortress of uncertainty

## **Tag**

The year is 1951, the year is 1951

# TOP BEAT

*from Top Beat*

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## Verse 1

Top beat can be lyrical - or empirical  
It's a spherical form  
There's a lighter side  
To the hi-hat ride  
And the kick beat ain't the norm

## Verse 2

Top beat - that you've read about  
It leaves the backbeat out  
And puts the two beat on the floor  
Puts the muzzle on the muscle  
So you hear the hollow rustle of forever more  
In the silent four  
With the two beat down - on the bottom floor

**Verse 3:** (With the three beat like - the one you heard before)  
Top beat - top beat

## Pre-Chorus

Top beat - it's the open space  
That will leave you wanting more and more  
Top beat takes you on a ride  
Where you've never been before

## Chorus

I wanna hear the top beat in the morning time  
Top beat in the evening  
Top beat - play it all night long  
Let me hear the top beat some more  
I wanna hear the top beat  
Top Beat!

## Instrumental

(Verse 1)

Verse 3 – use Verse 2 with alternate line in parenthesis

(Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus - extended)

# DEEP TREBLE

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken over music vamp)

## **Reggie:**

*Come on in – you got nothing to lose*

*We offer nothing to you – at a cost much less*

*Than ever before*

*Nothing is real – nothing is the real thing*

*If you are excited by nothing – come to Deep Treble*

*We got nothing for you – like nothing you've had before*

(sung by Reggie with Carmen)

## **Verse 1**

It takes six crows to hackle a solution (and)

To tackle a problem and pin it down

It takes six crows to dispose

Of a potentially sticky situation

## **Verse 2**

Come to Deep Treble at the Hotel Clayton

When the sun goes down

There's Onsombo waiting for you

Waiting there for you

## **Pre-Chorus**

When the moon is high in the midnight sky

And the dancers are in motion

Let the beat get through to the raven in you

It will carry you with devotion

Black as water in the ocean

## **Chorus**

Come away to the Hotel Clayton

There's no harm in feeling blue

Come away to Deep Treble

And let Carmen sing to you

## **Instrumental**

**(Verse 1)**

**(Pre-Chorus)**

**(Chorus) 2x**

# I'VE GOT AN IDEA

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

## **Carmen:**

*I've got an idea – maybe this will help  
If it doesn't – it could be you are beyond help  
And that's not a good thing - if you are an audience  
You may not want to leave yourself wide open  
But you better be a little – or life just doesn't add up  
Love is more than one feeling – it's made up of separate components  
Piece it together – make it good enough  
Maybe I can convince the guys in the group - to help me explain*

(sung)

## **Versel**

Components, I've got an idea - I'll break it apart  
Into it's separate components - component parts  
That make up an idea - this idea of mine  
It could have been yours but I thought of it first  
It came to me - It came to me in a dream  
It came to me - It came to me in a dream

## **Verse 2**

On a field of proponents all conspiring against  
The idea's proponents - split apart at the seam  
Into separate components all seeking a form  
On which to settle out of a mist - into a gist  
Constituting this moment

## **Chorus**

This here and this now, that we can claim as long as we own it  
Love's a feeling made up of its separate components

## **Verse 3**

Disaster, love's a disaster, waiting to happen  
A natural disaster, a catastrophe  
Get out of the way of the tidal wave, mountain  
Of misery comin' to the shores of the mind  
Convinced love's a game that you play

## **Bridge**

You will find love's gonna churn your heart  
Like a pepper grinder takes a seed apart  
And makes a black rain fall on the yellow part

Of a fried egg and bacon sandwich  
People come from miles around to see the silly looks on a circus clown  
Or the possibility that someone will fall off of the high wire  
Which one are you today, today, today

**Verse 4**

Peccadillos, there's certain peccadillos  
That get to me more than, more than the others  
When I pull back the covers or throw back the shutters  
Or sweep out the gutters, some stick out more than others  
Some would do less injury, if I had my druthers

**(Chorus)**

**Tag**

And I've got an idea, I've got an idea, I've got an idea - I'm falling in love

# ABSENT CHILD

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

**Reggie:**

Becoming my own

**Birdman:**

The face of becoming

**Carmen:**

The countenance of the unknown

**Johnny:**

A ghosting presence

**Reggie:**

The mask of the future

**Birdman:**

From the land of the dead

**Carmen:**

Childhood is a state of mind

**Johnny:**

It passes

**Reggie:**

It dies

**Birdman:**

It is regained

**Carmen:**

It remains

**Johnny:**

So does any age

**Reggie:**

It has always been

**Birdman:**

It is gone forever

**Carmen:**

The sound of the ancient ones

**Johnny:**

The cry of the newly born

**Reggie:**

The hope of the hopeless

**Birdman:**

Even in the ashes

**Carmen:**

There is room

**Johnny:**

For the breath of spirit

**Reggie:**

If you listen

**Birdman:**

You can hear it

**Carmen:**

Breathing

**Johnny:**

In what is left

**Reggie:**

Unspoken

**Birdman:**

Something comes to life

**Carmen:**

From ashes and bones

(sung by Carmen)

**Verse 1**

Absent Child

She was born out of an injury

Sprung out from an infirmary

Catapulted from a malady

Absent from where she's supposed to be

She's my absent child

**Verse 2**

You stay from me

I tell myself I don't think about you

I can live my life without you

And it doesn't mean that much to me

That you haven't been in touch with me

In a long, long while

**Bridge**

There's a hole in my heart filled with empty space

A hollow feeling I can't erase

Someone's gone that I can't replace

So I'll act, act as if I've been drinking

That my heart's not really sinking

And I'll act as if you actually feel the way I do

And I'll act as if you miss me and you love me too

**Instrumental**

**(Verse 2)**

**(Bridge)**



# **BORROWED TROUBLE**

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

## **Birdman:**

*Hey Reggie*

*From behind*

*Your waistline appears*

*To be settling on your hip*

*If you're willing to settle that is*

## **Reggie:**

*Why don't you adopt the soft belly, Birdman*

*And get firm in the thigh - instead*

*Thigh is what cool has become*

*And I'm known as one who has some - thigh*

*It takes some good thigh - to get by*

*Now is the time*

*From now on*

*It's thigh on down*

*If you go looking for more*

*You're just borrowing trouble*

(sung by Reggie and Carmen)

## **Verse 1**

Broken trust is a sanctuary for the nonbeliever

Where borrowed trouble is the gospel for the newly confirmed

When must the truth be bold enough to shake free of the fear

That yokes it to the debt it owes for borrowed trouble

For borrowed trouble

## **Bridge**

Since pattern became a word

Since voices were first aware of being heard

Since mountaintops suffered the climb

Since passages first acknowledged the loss of time

I've been considering my options...thinking about you

Wondering if I'll spend my breath in song

Singing about you

## **Chorus**

What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

Yes you are, you're ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

**Verse 2**

When will the rain break free from skies that hold it in restraint  
To give up on the one I love in honor of the love that ain't  
My will remains divided because I have not decided  
What it comes down to is I have not decided  
I haven't decided

**Chorus 2**

What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
Yes you are, you're ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

**Instrumental****Chorus 3**

What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
What you are is ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble  
Yes you are, you're ba ba ba ba ba ba borrowed trouble, you're borrowed trouble

# Ain't I Woman Enough

from *Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

## **Carmen Metropolis:**

*Why do people say - face up - face up to what's coming to you*

*How do they know*

*How do they know which direction it's coming from - up, down, in, out*

*I'm for making my own choices when it comes to getting what's coming to you*

(sung by Carmen with Reggie)

## **Verse 1**

I made my reservation for paradise - I settled all of my hotel bills

I'm drinking cognac in a tumbler poured over ice - I swallowed half of my sleeping pills

But in the meantime ...

## **Chorus**

Ain't I (you) woman enough for you baby

Ain't I (you) woman enough to get my man

Ain't I (you) woman enough for you baby

Ain't I (you) woman enough

## **Verse 2**

I was born in a leap year in la la land - must have been a surprise to my folks

While their romance washed ashore before it began - Mama's buttons started popping their yokes

Say what's it to you ...

## **(Chorus)**

## **Bridge**

I got the good stuff – that's hard to find baby

I got the good stuff – that'll make you beg me please

I got the good stuff – you'll need more and more of it

I got the good stuff - you'll be begging me (you) on your (my) knees

## **Instrumental**

## **Verse 3**

I've had five Benadryl and six Valium - and a spoonful to powder my nose

I've gone down so low I'm "subterranean" - and I'm numb from my head to my toes

I don't feel nuthin' ...

## **(Chorus)**

## **(Bridge)**

**Tag:** Ain't I woman enough for you baby (etc)

# SINCE YOU NEVER LEFT

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

**Johnny:**

*Hey Reggie – how ruthlessly honest with yourself – are you willing to be*

**Reggie:**

*There's something lost inside me – that adds up – to my inability to ever really connect*

*And all that does is make it harder – getting used to – missing her*

*Since she never left*

**Johnny:**

*Sounds like a song, Reg*

*Maybe you got one for yourself to sing this time*

(sung by Reggie)

**Verse 1**

Since you never left

So close is this distance between us

(That) I suffer your being here

I reach out feeling sure that I might touch you

Your tender skin, like milk

Your silken hair

(Instead) I find myself clutching air

**Verse 2**

And reaching straight through - a shining mirage

Of what once could have been - but is no longer

Because, because I can see - with my own eyes

You standing in front of me

I hear your voice ringing - in the night like magic

It's incredibly difficult to comprehend

Your being gone

Since you never left (since you never left me)

**Instrumental**

**(Verse 1)**

**(Verse 2)**

**Tag**

Since you never left me

How can I get used to your being gone

Since you never left me darling

How can I get used to your being gone

# THE GLOW IS GONE

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

**Birdman:**

*Whatever way we swing, we're all after that feeling. The glow.  
It's thigh. It's absent. Then you taste it. Now what? Where do you go?  
After the glow is gone.*

**Johnny:**

*Talk to us. You tell us, Birdman.*

(sung by Birdman et al)

If I laugh loud enough - I am able to pretend  
That the glow has not already - come to an end  
But from the way you are looking at me  
I can clearly see - it will be over soon - if it isn't already

**Verse 2**

Gone - gone 'round the bend  
I can't tell - when I am lit  
How far the light reaches  
Before it significantly dims  
Before the details run together  
And the thoughts run no deeper than whims  
I only know it's been since some time long ago  
That I've been searching after  
What comes before  
The hyped up volume of my laughter

**Pre-Chorus**

After I initiate - the induction  
Of a gradual - reduction  
In the experience of the world as loss and gain  
And if only but for a few moments - authentically obtain  
The feeling that I've come to know  
As the glow

**Chorus**

I only know - The glow is gone (2x)

**(Pre-Chorus)**

**(Chorus) 2x**

**Tag**

Gone

# 20% CHANCE OF RAIN

*from Top Beat*

1998 © 2022 Roger Lienke

(spoken)

## **Reggie:**

*Under a blanket of tears - the sky that is black - is a hole in the heavens  
Where the notes and the song - of sorrow - disappear  
I may be a fool - but I'm holding out  
For rain*

(sung by Reggie and Carmen)

## **Chorus**

There's a 20 % chance of rain – there's a 20% chance of rain  
There's a 20% chance of rain today

## **Verse 1**

When I look into your eyes - I see the oceans fall – I see the planets rise  
In my own little pocket of paradise - I see you coming back to me

## **(Chorus)**

## **Bridge**

It's a feeling I know but can't explain  
I only know that I'm in pain  
If I had a wish – I'd wish it would rain  
But it won't come true  
The sky stays gray most of the day  
But my blues won't go away  
I would give my life to be with you – to be with you

## **Bridge 2**

I hope it rains today - I hope it rains  
I hope it rains today - I hope it rains

## **Instrumental**

## **Verse 2**

Yes I know that the chances are slim to none - that I am or have been your only one  
Or that I mean to you what no one else has done - but it's a possibility

## **(Chorus) 2x**

## **(Bridge 2)**

## **Tag**

There's a 20% chance of rain  
There's a 20% chance of rain today

# CLOSE TO HOME

*(from Top Beat)*

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(spoken)

**Carmen:**

*So whose job is the list tonight*

**Johnny:**

*Somebody somewhere's got a pile of lists – and some of them have our names on them*

**Reggie:**

*Absent – that's absent*

**Johnny:**

*Maybe – a little scary too*

*There's a stink in the air – of repression*

*This time – when we look back at it – it's going to seem obvious*

*Next time it happens – it will be harder to recognize*

**Carmen:**

*Are you offering a suggestion, One String*

**Johnny:**

*Separate yourself from the dust - that is your remains – and your beginning*

*One way or the other – you will remember your way – back to where you already are*

*You're coming closer – closer to home*

(sung by Johnny with Reggie and Carmen)

**Verse 1**

Close to home - the hurt approaches - in clouds low with rain

Overhead the sky encroaches - and closes in

The moon might help - but it's the middle of the day

The playgrounds are empty - because the children know - to stay away

**Chorus**

So there's no high voices - raised in distant glee

Or autumn leaves - in mournful disarray

Where is the familiar - imagery of loss

To make some sense - of this hurt - that approaches

Close to home

**Instrumental**

**(Chorus)**

**(Verse 1)**

**(Chorus)**

**Instrumental Tag**

# LOVE ME AT YOUR OWN RISK

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(spoken)

## **Carmen:**

*It's not what you should – or ought to have done  
It's what I had to do, did, and don't regret  
Which was leave you with your own searching sadness that I was unequipped to address  
And take the path - you may not have approved of – but lent me the freedom  
To claim my own right – to exist  
So if you're going to love me – love me at your own risk  
Let's do this last one – I'd like to do my face – before the people get here  
And we have to turn around – and come back on*

(sung by Carmen with Reggie)

## **Verse 1**

Love me at your own risk - making advances toward me  
I'm not giving handouts or second chances  
I was born to the city life - and I never was naive  
So your conduct unbecoming – 's not gonna make it with me  
Love me at your own risk

## **Pre-Chorus**

Do the bunny hop - do the baker's roll  
Past the barber shop – (with) the red, white, and blue pole  
Say Captain May I - when you walk up my stairs  
(And) look me in the eye – (then) tell me that you're not scared

## **Chorus**

Love me at your own risk - maybe tonight  
Love me at your own risk - and treat me right  
Love me at your own risk - love me at your own risk

## **Verse 2**

Tiptoe like a houseguest - on his best behavior with me  
Treat me like a queen upon her throne  
From the moment you wake up – 'til the time you go to sleep  
You'll obey, serve, and honor, protect and respect me  
And love me at your own risk

## **(Pre-Chorus)**

## **(Chorus) 2x**

## **Tag**

Love me at your own risk  
Love me at your own risk