

# **HOME SWEET HOME: Songs of Love, Loss, and Belonging**

**Amy White** (with Al Petteway)

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File As: Contemporary Folk / Acoustic

1. Home Sweet Home (5:39)
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8. Love Across the Boundaries (5:31)
9. May Turn Away (2:51)
10. Dying on the Vine (5:31)
11. When You Were Here With Me (3:31)

(Total Time: 51:05)

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Track 1 © 2011 Amy White (BMI)

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Recorded & Mixed by Al Petteway

at Fairewood Studios, LLC, Fairview, NC

Percussion by River Guerguerian on Tracks 4, 7 & 9

was recorded at River's Resonating Room, Asheville, NC

Mastered by Bill Wolf at Wolf Productions, Inc., Arlington, VA

Photography & graphics by Amy White - except artist photo by Al Petteway

Amy White & Al Petteway's photography is represented

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Amy played the "Al Petteway Signature" Crescendo

acoustic guitar by Bill Tippin on most tracks.

She played the "Petteway Cutaway" acoustic guitar by Larry Sifel on Track 4,

a "Nightingale" acoustic guitar by Kevin Ryan on Track 5,

a mountain dulcimer by Tom Fellenbaum on Track 1,

and a grand piano by Boston on Track 11.

Is she a lucky girl, or what?

Strings by Elixir and Octacore.

## NOTE FOR THE LISTENER:

Suddenly, after decades of writing instrumental music, so many songs came to me in a wonderful rush of emotions. A few of these songs seemed to be given to me by my tabby cat, Olson. (No, I'm not kidding. Several mornings in a row, Olson perched on my chest, put his paws on my face, and many of these words, complete with corresponding melodies came right through.) Other songs were born of more playful challenges, both given and self-imposed. And the rest came from many long-suppressed meditations on grief, finally put into words after all these years.

I hope that these songs speak to you. Thank you so much for listening....

### 1. HOME SWEET HOME (5:39)

Amy White – Dulcimer, Vocal

Al Petteway – Guitar, Bass, Harmony Vocal

Lisbet Searle-White – Harmony Vocal

*I love the drive from my adopted home in western North Carolina to my old home place in Washington, DC. Even if it may take a bit longer, I always take the scenic route along I-81 and Route 11 - down among the beautiful valleys that parallel the spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This route is a truly beautiful, historied path, with pastoral vistas framed by mountainous parkland, studded with old family farms and centuries-old communities. This song came to me while making that drive on a particularly stunning autumn day.*

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Beautiful fields under autumn skies  
Dappled then shining bright  
Red barns and white steeples  
Fences of stone  
Tracing the ways of our lives

Oceans of clouds kiss the mountain side  
Softness against the stone  
Tears from the heavens  
Tears of joy  
Water the gardens of home

(chorus)

Home Sweet Home

Home Sweet Home

Home Sweet Home

Home Sweet Home

Crossing the creek  
Stepping stone by stone  
Up past the chimney that stands alone  
There is the tree where you promised me  
That you would never leave

The hands that encourage a life to grow  
Often are wrung in grief  
A stone for the founding  
A stone for loss  
A stone for the wedding ring

(chorus)

Home Sweet Home  
Home Sweet Home  
Home Sweet Home/Stone By Stone  
Home Sweet Home

## 2. SALT OF THE EARTH (5:48)

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal  
Al Petteway – Guitar, Field Drum  
Duncan Wickel – Violin  
Scott Ainslie – Harmony Vocal  
with protest chants by the good people of:  
Appalachia Rising – “Clean Water” “Mountains-Justice”  
One Nation Rising – “Money for Jobs and Education”  
and Environmentalists in Albany, New York – “No Fracking Way”

*Here is my Peaceful Battle Hymn for the Bleeding Hearts. Living wages, education, health care, safe and clean food, water, and energy – all of these are vital national security issues, too. Thank you to those who keep speaking out with their loving, compassionate voices. And thank you to the very few left in government who have not yet been bought and sold, and who continue to champion these causes.*

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You know you're in trouble when the well runs dry  
When the clouds in the sky above refuse to join your cry  
When winter comes to spring and robs the apple trees blind  
You know you're in troubled times

You know you're in trouble when the farms are all wrong  
When the seeds that have risen die as soon as they are born  
When butterflies are done and honeybees can't be found  
You know you're in trouble now

(chorus)

Hard times are here  
What are we supposed to do

*When the salt of the earth  
Have salt on their wounds*

You know you're in trouble when the faucet's on fire  
When the houses are all shuttered from the illness that's inside  
When mountains disappear and swallow people alive  
You know you're in troubled times

*(chorus)*

You know you're in trouble when the factory's locked  
You worked there twenty years but owners care more for their stocks  
See if you can live on little more than hard knocks  
You know you're in trouble now

*(chorus x 2, and final chorus)*

*Hard times no more  
Feel the change upon the land  
The salt of the earth  
Are making a stand*

### **3. THE BEST DOG (4:29)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal

*Our dogs. They are truly the best medicine in the world, and are often the cause of our biggest heartbreak. Unconditional love is the true path. Dogs have that all figured out, of course. But we humans are forever struggling to stay on course. Thank goodness for our dogs, for they keep showing us the way. -- (Now don't get me wrong. I adore cats, too. But after writing and illustrating an entire, full-color book in their honor - "Cat Angels: The Secret Lives of Cats" - I knew that I needed to devote at least one song to our beloved puppy-dogs.)*

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Let's go for a walk, just you and I, down on our favorite path  
We'll smile as the leaves begin to fall, we'll run 'til we're out of breath  
I cannot believe how lucky we are, I'll never forget that fine day  
When I found you there, all alone in that sterile, silver cage

*(chorus)*

*You are the best dog, the best dog ever  
Who could have left you to die  
Well it's alright now, 'cause we have each other  
Let's go for a walk, you and I*

You are better than sunshine, you make me laugh right out loud  
My mornings were sad and grey without you, now they're my favorite hours  
Each morning just means we have one more day to go out, to find, and to seek  
All those wonderful things that are all around us just waiting for you and me

*(chorus) You are the best dog, the best dog ever  
Who could have thrown you away  
Well it's alright now, 'cause we have each other  
Let's go for a walk, you and me*

One day soon you will leave, I can see the farewell in your eyes  
You still send me love with your waggy tail, but your body is barely alive  
You gave to me the best of your years and I loved you much more than I knew  
You may leave my side, but you'll always be here whenever I think of you

You were the best dog, the best dog ever  
How could I love someone new?  
I will walk down the aisle 'til I find the cage  
That holds a great spirit like you  
We will sniff our hellos, we will bow our heads  
And we'll honor your beautiful life  
It'll be alright, 'cause we loved each other  
Let's go for a walk, you and I  
It'll be alright, 'cause we have each other  
Let's go for a walk, you and I

#### **4. YOU ALREADY KNOW (5:14)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal  
Al Petteway – Guitar, Bass  
River Guerguerian – Percussion  
Annie Lalley – Harmony Vocals  
Sally Sparks – Synthesizer

*Well, it may be 18 years late, but here is a love song for my husband. Al, you already knew that I loved you, and you always see all this beauty around us. I don't have to tell you. But I just had to say this anyway. And I had to say it funky-sweet, too, just the way you like it. I love you (more.)*

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Did you hear that songbird, singing to the wood  
And wasn't it so very fine when the pines replied with their own lonesome tune  
Did you see that one flower, swaying alone when that breeze came through  
I used to dance like that when no one was watching, waiting for you

*(chorus)  
I don't have to tell you, you already know  
That all of this beauty's a gift to behold  
I don't have to tell you, 'cause you already know*

Did you see that sweet light out the window, on your way

Did you see that arc of color blazing the sky, after the rain  
It was just a moment, now the shimmer's gone but the glow remains  
My heart is just like that, whenever we're apart the feeling stays

*(chorus)*

*I don't have to tell you, you already know  
That all of this love continues to grow,  
I don't have to tell you, 'cause you already know*

No more leaving, no more sorrow, I'll be staying,  
'cause you, you are my home, you are my home

All those missing pieces, promises and prayers  
Now I feel completed, I have my answers and now they're shared  
Did you even think that we would ever find something so rare  
I was so doubtful then, hoping for something I thought wasn't there

*(chorus)*

*I don't have to tell you, you already know  
That all of this love continues to grow  
I don't have to tell you, you already know  
That what we have is truer than gold  
I don't have to tell you, 'cause you already know*

## **5. HOW CAN YOU LOVE ME (2:40)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal

*This song happened almost by accident. After reviewing the lyrics for the ten songs on this album, Al said, "Well, you've covered just about everything. But you are missing one song." So I asked, "Which song is that?" And he replied, "The song about your insecurities." We laughed. It was a joke. But I guess I eventually took it on as a challenge. I knew I got it right when I played it for Al the first time. I hadn't even gotten to the first verse and his tears started to fall. So thank you, my sweet Al. Here is another love song for you.*

How can you love me  
Will I ever know  
All this time I was so sure  
That I would be alone  
I can't see what you see in me  
That's worthy of this love

I laugh too loud  
I don't fit in  
I hate to look in the mirror

But you see love when you look at me  
And you want me near

How can you love me  
Will I ever learn  
To keep this love you give to me  
And give love in return  
I will try to keep this love you give  
And give my love to you

## **6. AMERICAN DREAM (4:43)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal  
Al Petteway – Guitar, Bass  
Duncan Wickel – Violin

*For those of us who, for whatever reason, are just one paycheck or just one illness away from losing everything.*

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It used to be easy, the money came in just when we needed it to  
We never worried, not much anyway we always knew we'd get through  
It's not that we didn't work hard for our pay  
We deserved it and more, we earned what we made  
We just never knew how  
Close to the edge we'd become  
Now they're saying....

*(chorus)*

*It's time to move on  
These walls aren't your own  
They're not closing in  
But they're not your shelter  
So stand in line now  
And hold your hand out  
This is your lot  
And you'll be grateful*

The pieces were heavy, so few of them ours  
It didn't make sense to hold on  
Counting our blessings, the pennies we found  
And watch after them till they're gone  
We thought we could live here from cradle to grave  
We tried to put by but we never could save  
It ended the day that we noticed the post on the door....

(chorus)

Clothing and photos thrown out on the curb  
Things that weren't meant for the rain  
Treasure in heaven, do not turn away, harden your hearts again  
People are cautious, not sure what they see  
This isn't a sale, these things aren't for free  
Blessed are they who fit all of their dreams in a bag

(chorus & tag)

### **7. SEVEN SISTERS (4:46)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal

Al Petteway – Guitar, Bass, Harmony Vocals, Ebow

River Guerguerian – Percussion

*An aural, aerial view of the beautiful Black Mountain range near our home. The time signature of this piece is in seven. And we sequenced the album so that this track would be 7th in line. How could we resist? This track harkens back to some of Al's and my earlier work. We have missed that lush, New Age sound and have really enjoyed diving into that sound again for this piece.*

### **8. LOVE ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES (5:31)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal

Al Petteway – Guitar, Bass, Harmony Vocal

Scott Ainslie – Harmony Vocal

Lisbet Searle-White – Harmony Vocals

Danny Ellis – Trombone

*In honor of all the consenting, loving relationships that are still shunned. It is alarming to think of how this shunning can abbreviate one's very life - sometimes in the most tragic way. Straight, gay, inter-racial, West Side - all love is true. This song is for the people on both sides of the shunning.*

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You love someone  
That they don't approve of  
So you hid your love away  
But your love  
Is not their dominion  
No matter what they say

(chorus)



Learn to let go  
Of the old ways  
Send your love  
Across the boundaries  
Your love...is yours to love

You love someone  
That they don't approve of  
But they can't hate your love away  
Someday you will walk  
In sunlight, together  
And not be afraid

(chorus)  
Learn to let go  
Of the old ways  
Send your love  
Across the boundaries  
Your love...is yours to love

### **9. MAY TURN AWAY (2:51)**

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal  
Al Petteway – Bass  
Steven Dembroski – Electric Guitar  
River Guerguerian – Percussion

*Those of you familiar with my earlier, instrumental work may recognize this as the rhythmic tune titled, "Playground," originally on Al's and my debut duo recording, "Racing Hearts." It wasn't until we began work on this recording of new songs that Al learned I had written lyrics to that same tune, almost fourteen years ago. The story behind these lyrics came to me often when I commuted from the District of Columbia to the suburbs of Takoma Park, Maryland. It would play out in the rhythm of the subway tracks and in the visual staccato of graffiti, desperation, and decay.*

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Little boy running  
Down the street at night  
He's got money in his pocket  
And nobody's in sight  
He's afraid of the shadows  
Afraid of the light  
Afraid of what he'll find  
When he gets home tonight

Look at that man  
He's got a monkey on his back  
He had a woman used to love him  
Now he lives along the tracks

He's gotten so low  
Children run when they see him  
They fear him

(chorus)  
Ashes to ashes  
And dust to dust  
You can pray all you like  
But do what you must  
And it's watch what you do  
And watch what you say  
Cause the one that's s'posed to love you  
May turn away...

Listen to that woman  
How she laughs all day  
Her laughter sputters out like bullets  
Leaving wounded in the fray  
Her eyes are mad  
Her hands are mean  
Her limbs were broken  
Just like her dreams

(chorus)

## 10. DYING ON THE VINE (5:31)

Amy White – Guitar, Vocal

Al Petteway – Guitar

*Death, drought, and politics - all in a nutshell for you, Dad. With love. You once confessed to me that whenever you felt happiness coming on, you'd kick it in the teeth. I hope that you somehow found your joy. Mom and I think that that may be in some kind of liberal's heaven where you can yak it up with the likes of Molly Ivins, and other rabble-rousing wits. We bet you'd like that.*

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You pleased so many with your talent and your charm  
Little did they know you were so broken  
The drink got the better of your best intentions  
You romanced your sadness and hedged your bets on our endless love  
Dying on the vine

She always had so much promise  
It's been said she was the envy of the world  
But her parents, they refuse to care for her siblings or the rightful heirs to her garden,  
that's dying on the vine

(chorus)

When will it rain  
when will this reign end  
Can't we just bend  
Can't we just tend to each other  
Can't we just bow to kindness  
And help each other –  
Learn to keep other, from dying

Sometimes one voice rises above the crowd  
Sometimes the crowd makes one voice  
But the people who are paid to listen  
Turn deaf ears to all but their own ambition  
And leave us all dying on the vine

(chorus)  
When will it rain  
When will this reign end  
Can't we just bend  
Can't we just tend to each other  
Can't we just bow to kindness  
And help each other  
Learn to keep other  
Help each other  
Keep each other

### **11. WHEN YOU WERE HERE WITH ME (3:31)**

Amy White – Piano, Vocal

*For those of you who have lost the love of your life.*

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What am I to do  
With all of this treasure  
What am I to do in this castle of dreams  
The windows, they are narrowing  
And I can hardly see  
But I saw the light  
When you were here with me  
I loved it here when you were here with me

What is there to ask  
When there won't be an answer  
What is there to send, there will be no reply  
My friends say time enough has passed

And that I should be fine  
But they don't know  
The kind of love we had  
I gave you my heart  
There's nothing left

City streets and parks of green  
Are cruelty for the lonely  
Lovers cavalier  
They don't know what they have  
There was a time when seeing them  
Would make my heart feel glad  
But now it leaves me empty

I will mark the times  
The moments of pleasure  
Quietly I'll honor  
The days we held dear  
Someday I'll be strong enough  
To move beyond the tears  
But for now I like to think of you with me  
I loved it here when you were here with me

**THANKS:**

To family, friends and fans – for keeping me inspired, for keeping my spirits up, and for lending their voices to this project and to this life that we share.

To the great songwriters who have provided the soundtrack to our lives.

And of course, thank you to all the furry-critters who keep my soul smiling.

**THANKS ESPECIALLY TO:**

Al Petteway - the true love of my life, my sweet home, and my most treasured artistic partner and shepherd. I cannot imagine how life would have been if we had not found each other.

Mom - for your empathy and achingly beautiful voice. For showing me how one can love and see the world in so many different ways, and for showing how a soul can blossom, even if she first has to break through a crack in the pavement.