

The Decemberists
The Hazards of Love

1. Prelude

Jenny Conlee: Hammond B-3 organ, synthesizer
Jim James: backing voice
Keiko Araki, Greg Ewer: violins
Adam Hoornstra: viola
Collin Oldham: cello

2. The Hazards of Love I (*The Prettiest Whistles Won't Wrestle the Thistles Undone*)

FIRST VOICE:

My true love went riding out
In white and green and gray
Past the pale of Offa's Wall
Where she was wont to stray

And there she came upon
A white and wounded fawn
Singing: oh, the hazards of love

She, being full of charity
A credit to her sex
Sought to right the fawn's hind legs
When here her plans were vexed

The taiga shifted strange
The beast began to change
Singing: oh, the hazards of love
Oh, the hazards of love
You'll learn soon enough
The prettiest whistles won't wrestle the thistles undone
Undone

Fifteen lithesome maidens lay
Along in their bower
Fourteen occupations paid
To pass the idle hour
But Margaret heaves a sigh
Her hands clasped to her thigh
Singing: oh, the hazards of love
Oh the hazards of love
You'll learn soon enough
The prettiest whistles won't wrestle the thistles undone
Undone

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar
Chris Funk: tenor guitar
Jenny Conlee: Wurlitzer piano, synthesizer

Nate Query: upright bass
John Moen: the drums, backing voice

3. A Bower Scene

SECOND VOICE:

"Thou unconsolable daughter," said the sister
"When wilt thou trouble the water in the cistern?
And what irascible blackguard is the father?"

And when young Margaret's waistline grew wider
The fruit of her amorous entwine inside her
And so our heroine withdraws to the taiga

Colin Meloy: voice, electric guitar
Chris Funk: electric guitar, piano, hammered dulcimer
Jenny Conlee: Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: bass guitar
John Moen: the drums

4. Won't Want for Love (*Margaret in the Taiga*)

MARGARET:

Gentle leaves, gentle leaves
Please array a path for me
The woods all growing thick and fast around

Columbine, columbine
Please alert this love of mine
Let him know his Margaret comes along

And all this stirring inside my belly
Won't quell my want for love
And I may swoon from all this swelling
But I won't want for love

Mistle thrush, mistle thrush
Lay me down in the underbrush
My naked feet grow weary with the dusk

Willow boughs, willow boughs
Make a bed to lay me down
Let your branches bow to cradle us

chorus

WILLIAM:

O my own true love!
O my own true love!

Can you hear me love?
Can you hear me love?

chorus

Becky Stark: voice
Colin Meloy: electric guitar, 12-string acoustic guitar, voice
Chris Funk: electric guitar
Jenny Conlee: piano, Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: electric bass
John Moen: the drums, backing voice

5. The Hazards of Love 2 (*Wager All*)

WILLIAM:

And here I am softer than a shower
And here I am to garland you with flowers
To lay you down in a clover bed
The stars a roof above our heads

And all my life I've never felt the tremor
All my life — that now disturbs my fingers
I'll lay you down in a clover bed
The stars a roof above our heads

And we'll lie 'til the cornercraze crows
Bereft the weight of our summer clothes
And I'd wager all
The hazards of love
The hazards of love

Take my hand, cradle it in your hand
Take my hand. Feel the pull. The quicksand.
I'll lay you down in a clover bed
The stars a roof above our heads
And we'll lie 'til the cornercraze crows
Bereft the weight of our summer clothes
And I'd wager all
The hazards of love
The hazards of love

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar, electric guitar
Chris Funk: electric guitar, percussion
Jenny Conlee: piano, Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: electric bass
John Moen: the drums, percussion
Becky Stark: backing voice

6. The Queen's Approach

7. Isn't It a Lovely Night?

MARGARET:

Isn't it a lovely night?
And so alive with fireflies providing us their holy light
And here we made a bed of boughs
And thistledown that we had found to lay upon the dewy ground

And isn't it a lovely way
We got in from our play
Isn't it babe? A sweet little baby

WILLIAM:

Wasn't it a lovely breeze
That swept the leaves of arbor eaves
And bent to brush our blushing knees?

M & W:

And here we died our little deaths
And we were left to catch our breaths
So swiftly lifting from our chests

chorus

Becky Stark: voice

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar

Chris Funk: pedal steel guitar, synthesizer

Jenny Conlee: accordion

Nate Query: upright bass

John Moen: the drums

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8. The Wanting Comes in Waves / Repaid

WILLIAM:

Mother I can hear your footfall now
A soft disturbance in the deadfall how
It precedes you like a black smoke pall
Still the wanting comes in waves

And you delivered me from danger, then
Pulled my cradle from the reedy glen
Swore to save me from the world of men
Still the wanting comes in waves

In waves, and waves
And the wanting comes in waves
And the wanting comes in waves
And I want this night
And I want this night

QUEEN:

How I made you
I wrought you
I pulled you

From ore I labored you
From cancer I cradled you

And now: this is how I am repaid?
This is how I am repaid?
Remember when I found you
The miseries that hounded you

And I gave you motion
Anointed with lotions

And now: this is how I am repaid?
This is how I am repaid?

WILLIAM:

Mother hear this proposition right
Grant me freedom to enjoy this night
And I'll return to you at break of light
For the wanting comes in waves

And waves, and waves
Still the wanting comes in waves
Still the wanting comes in waves
Still the wanting comes in waves
And you owe me life
And you owe me life

QUEEN:

And if I grant you
This favor to hand you

Your life for the evening
I will re-take by morning

And so: consider it your debt repaid
Consider it your debt repaid

Colin Meloy: voice, electric guitar, acoustic guitar

Shara Worden: voice, backing voice

Chris Funk: electric guitar, synthesizer

Jenny Conlee: harpsichord, piano, Hammond B-3 organ

Nate Query: electric bass, upright bass

John Moen: the drums, percussion

9. An Interlude

Colin Meloy: acoustic guitar

Robyn Hitchcock: electric guitar

Chris Funk: bouzouki

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10. The Rake's Song

RAKE:

I had entered into a marriage

In the summer of my twenty-first year
And the bells rang for our wedding
Only now do I remember it clear

All right, all right, all right!
No more a rake and no more a bachelor
I was wedded and it whetted my thirst
Until her womb started spilling out babies
Only then did I reckon my curse

All right, all right, all right!

First came Isaiah with his crinkled little fingers
Then came Charlotte and that wretched girl Dawn
Ugly Myfanwy died on delivery
Mercifully taking her mother along

All right, all right, all right!

What can one do when one is a widower
Shamefully saddled with three little pests
All that I wanted was the freedom of a new life
So my burden I began to divest

All right, all right, all right!

Charlotte I buried after feeding her foxglove
Dawn was easy: she was drowned in the bath
Isaiah fought but was easily bested
Burned his body for incurring my wrath

All right, all right, all right!

And that's how I came your humble narrator
To be living so easy and free
I expect that you think that I should be haunted
But it never really bothers me

All right, all right, all right!

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar

Shara Worden: yelling

Nate Query: electric bass

Jenny Conlee: the drums

Chris Funk, John Moen: the drums, percussion, yelling

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11. The Abduction of Margaret

FIRST VOICE:

And all the while whispering arbors provide cover
What previous witnessed ardors of our lovers
Our heroine here falls prey to her abductor!

All a'gallop with Margaret slung rude 'cross withers



MARGARET



WILLIAM



RAKE



QUEEN

Having clamped her innocent fingers in fetters
This villain must calculate crossing the wild river!

Colin Meloy: voice, electric guitar
Chris Funk: electric guitar, synthesizer, piano, hammered dulcimer
Jenny Conlee: Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: electric bass
John Moen: the drums

12. The Queen's Rebuke / The Crossing

QUEEN:
I'm made of bones of the branches, the boughs, and the brow-beating
light
While my feet are the trunks and my head is the canopy high
And my fingers extend to the leaves and the eaves and the bright
Brightest shine, it's my shine

And he was a baby abandoned, entombed in a cradle of clay
And I was the soul who took pity and stole him away
And gave him the form of a fawn to inhabit by day
Brightest day, it's my day

And you have removed this temptation that's troubled my innocent
child
To abduct and abuse and to render her rift and defiled
But the river is deep to the banks and the water is wild
But I will fly you the far side

Shara Worden: voice
Colin Meloy: electric guitar
Chris Funk: electric guitar, baritone guitar
Jenny Conlee: Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: bass guitar
John Moen: the drums

13. Annan Water

WILLIAM:
Annan water, you loom so deep and wide
I would cross over if you would stem the tide
Or build a boat that I might ford the other side
To reach the farther shore where my true love lies in wait for me
In wait for me

O gray river, your waters ramble wild
The horses shiver and bite against the bridle
But I will cross if mine own horse is pulled from me
Though my mother cries that if I try I sure will drowned be
Drowned be

But if you calm and let me pass

You may render me a wreck when I come back

So calm your waves and slow the churn
And you may have my precious bones on my return
Annan water, oh hear my true love call
Hear her holler above your water's pall
God that I could, that my two arms could give me wing
And I would cross your breadth and wrap my breast about her amber
ring
Her amber ring

But if you calm and let me pass
You may render me a wreck when I come back

So calm your waves and slow the churn
And you may have my precious bones on my return
And you may have my precious bones
And I will call your depths my home
And you may have my precious bones on my return

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar
Chris Funk: mandolin, hurdy-gurdy, autoharp, synthesizer, marxophone,
hammered dulcimer
Jenny Conlee: accordion, Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: upright bass
John Moen: hand drum, percussion

14. Margaret in Captivity

RAKE:
I have snipped your wingspan
My precious captive swan
Here all clipped of kickstand
You spirit won't last long

Don't you lift a finger
Don't you snap and jaw
Limber limbs akimbo
Rest 'til rubbing raw

MARGARET:
O my own true love
O my own true love

Can you hear me love
Can you hear me love?

RAKE:
Don't hold out for rescue
None can hear your call
'Til I have wrest and wrecked you
Behind these fortress walls

MARGARET:

O my own true love
O my own true love
Can you hear me love?
Can you hear me love?
Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar, electric guitar
Becky Stark: voice
Chris Funk: electric guitar
Jenny Conlee: piano, Hammond B-3 organ
Nate Query: bowed bass, electric bass, synthesizer
John Moen: the drums
Jim James: backing voice
Keiko Araki, Greg Ewer: violins
Adam Hoorndra: viola
Collin Oldham: cello

15. The Hazards of Love 3 (*Revenge!*)

CHALOTTE:
Father I'm not feeling well, the flowers me you fed
Tasted spoiled for suddenly I find that I am dead
But father don't you fear
Your children all are here
Singing: O the hazards of love!

DAWN:
Papa turn the water down, the basin's overflow'd
The water covers everything and me left all alone
But Papa here in death
I have regained my breath
To sing: O the hazards of love!

ISAIAH:
Spare the rod, you'll spoil the child but I'd prefer the lash
My sisters drowned and poisoned, all, and me reduced to ash
And buried in an urn
But father, I return
Singing: O the hazards of love

Natalie Briare, Clara Ell, Joseph Ell: voices
Jenny Conlee: harpsichord
Chris Funk: synthesizer
Colin Meloy: percussion
Keiko Araki, Greg Ewer: violins
Adam Hoorndra: viola
Collin Oldham: cello

16. The Wanting Comes in Waves (reprise)

WILLIAM:
Here come the waves!
And the wanting comes in waves
And the wanting comes in waves

And the wanting comes in waves!

And I want this night

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar

Chris Funk: electric guitar

Jenny Conlee: piano, Hammond B-3 organ, harpsichord

Nate Query: bass guitar

John Moen: the drums

Jim James, Shara Worden: backing voices

Keiko Araki, Greg Ewer: violins

Adam Hoornstra: viola

Collin Oldham: cello

17. The Hazards of Love 4 (*The Drowned*)

WILLIAM:

Margaret, array the rocks around the hole before we're sinking

A million stones, a million bones, a million holes within the chinking

And painting rings around your eyes, these peppered holes

So filled with crying

A whisper-weight upon the tattered down where you and I

Were lying.

So tell me now, O tell me this: a river's son, a forest's daughter

A willow wand, a will-o-wisp, our ghosts will wander all of the water

W & M:

So let's be married here today, these rushing waves to bear our witness

And we will lie like river stones, rolling only where it takes us

But I pulled you and I called you here

(Didn't I, didn't I, didn't I)

And I caught you and I brought you here

(Didn't I, didn't I, didn't I)

But these hazards of love

Never more will trouble us

WILLIAM:

O Margaret the lapping waves are licking quietly at our ankles

Another bow, another breath; this brilliant chill has come to shackle

W & M:

But with this long, last rush of air let's speak our vows in starry whisper

And when the waves came crashing down, he closed his eyes

And softly kissed her

chorus

Colin Meloy: voice, acoustic guitar, Nashville guitar

Chris Funk: pedal steel guitar, banjo

Jenny Conlee: piano, Hammond B-3 organ, marxophone

Nate Query: bass guitar

John Moen: the drums

Becky Stark, Rebecca Gates, Jim James: backing voices

Keiko Araki, Greg Ewer: violins

Adam Hoornstra: viola

Collin Oldham: cello

All songs written by Colin Meloy, except "Prelude" by Jenny Conlee

All songs published by Music of Stage Three/Osterohzhna Music, admin. by Stage Three Music Inc. (BMI)

String arrangements by Jenny Conlee and Nate Query

Produced by Tucker Martine and The Decemberists

Recorded July–September 2008 at Flora in Portland, OR

Recorded and mixed by Tucker Martine

Assisted by Rich Hipp

Mixed in October 2008 at Supernatural Sound in Oregon City, OR

Mastered at SAE by Roger Seibel

Management: Jason Colton and Ron Laffitte, Red Light Management

Booking: Kevin French, Big Shot Touring

Legal: Gillian Bar, Carroll, Guido & Groffman

Design: Carson Ellis, Colin Meloy, and Mario Hugo for Hugo & Marie

Illustration: Carson Ellis

Band photo: Autumn de Wilde

Jim James of My Morning Jacket appears courtesy of ATO Records.

Becky Stark of Lavender Diamond appears courtesy of Matador Records.

Shara Worden of My Brightest Diamond appears courtesy of Asthmatic Kitty Records.

Robyn Hitchcock appears courtesy of Yep Roc Records.

The Decemberists thank:

Natalie Briare, Clara & Joseph Ell, Michael Mayer, Olivier Sultan, Tom Hulce, Gillian Bar, Lionel Conway, Rosemary Carroll, Laurel Stearns, Ambrosia Healy, Sharon Lord, Jennifer Bird, Taylor Brigode, Chris Nary, Brian Stowell, Amy Davidson, Rick Sanger, Dan Cohen, Alison Tarnofsky, Cem Kurosman, Nicole Frantz, Ashley Stagg, Matt Kroepel, Geoff Travis, Ruth Patterson, Ben Ayres, Rob Jones, David Weise, Wendy Robinson, Chuck Pettry, Laura Veirs, Aaron Stewart-Ahn, Mike Scott, Robyn Hitchcock, Carson Ellis, Marissa Maier, Steve Drizos, Sarah Z. Dykes, Louise B. Moen, Hank Meloy, Scout Funk, Eric Lovre, Chad Crouch, Corinna Repp, Paul Dalen, Asif Ahmed, James Worden, Bob Stark, Alan Garren, Silverfox Drumsticks, Alex Auxier & Orange Amplifiers, Ed DeGenaro & THD Amplifiers, Pro Sound and Lighting, Dan Lakin & Lakland Basses

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