

Rebecca Parks Messiah Refugees Music

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Song Summaries

Closest to my live piano/vocal sound: Track 8, *Fade to Black* (1st verse); Track 10, *Other Ways to Fight* (entire song)

Best Folk-Country songs: Track 1, *Working*; Track 4, *Right Thing to Do*; Track 12, *I Don't Want to Tell You*

Best Folk-Rock songs: Track 11, *You Will Find Me*; Track 14, *Night Ship*

1. Working: After my mother got divorced and before she got her degree, she struggled to earn enough to raise three children. I fared much better, but discovered that a bad job that pays well is still a bad job. Yet I was more fortunate than my coworkers who worked 80-hour weeks on critical projects only to be sacrificed to save the stock price. This is how corporate greed really trickles down.

2. World in His Pocket: An ode to corporate excess. I wrote it after the WTO protests in Seattle, then Enron and other corporate meltdowns gave it new life. Guest vocal: Gary Lee Parks

3. Turn of the Tide: I loved one man before I met my husband. He pulled away when he feared that I wouldn't be able to hear what he really wanted to say. I gave up trying to get him to tell me anyway. But before that happened, our time together seemed timeless.

4. Right Thing to Do: A friend of mine became the confidant of an unhappily married woman, who left her husband for him even though no "affair" occurred. She just wanted someone to talk to. He was guilt-stricken at first, but eventually he realized that love knows no rules.

5. Only I Know Me: The people who tried to run my life—parents, teachers, partners—had the best of intentions for me, or so they thought. When what I wanted conflicted

with what they wanted, the truth was revealed. This is my personal Declaration of Independence.

6. Playing God: Coastal California, where I grew up, is Guru Central. I witnessed the attempts of several people to start their own therapies, religions, and philosophies. Charisma attracts, then power corrupts. I played a bit part in one such epic tragedy when I was young and having difficulty believing in myself.

7. Kill His Memory: Not long after the latest scandal in the Catholic Church broke out, I had a vivid dream about a funeral in the chapel of a private school. The school staff was trying unsuccessfully to stop a group of students from loudly denouncing the deceased.

8. Fade to Black: I have stood helplessly and watched a close friend give up her life and her soul to alcohol. This song began as a letter to her that I never sent.

9. Under the Moon: As I got older and learned, often the hard way, about what I did and didn't want in a relationship, I wondered whether I'd ever find that elusive combination of chemistry and compatibility. Being single later in life isn't easy.

10. Other Ways to Fight: A nurse I befriended during my college years grew up in Nazi Germany. She told me about how she discovered her father's greatest secret on a trip home to the old country. There were many unsung heroes in WWII. I hope to change that for one of them.

11. You Will Find Me: After my grandfather died, my grandmother said, "In his last years it was hard to reach him. But now that his spirit is free, I feel closer to him than I have in a long time." Years after her passing, remembering her words still gives me awe-inspired chills. I dedicate this to both my grandparents. They are still with me.

12. I Don't Want to Tell You: I keep very few secrets, but I have sometimes had conversations like this. The details in this song are more from my parents' lives than mine. As for what "it" is, well...

13. You Will Pay: I was picked on a lot as a kid and never quite got over it, which explains my need to vent. But in many cases I heard about, life beat up those bullies for me later on. I love karma when it works.

14. Night Ship: When creative people marry, they don't need drugs. They just need passion, imagination, and a cozy place to cuddle. Wild nights, lazy mornings, and conversations, some without words, inspired this song.

15. Socks: It's amazing the unexpected things you discover when you live with someone. And my husband Gary is quirkier than most. He's a good sport for letting me sing this.