

# Alanis Morissette's Voices

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*Music Theory Online 28 (4)*

## APPENDIX

Complete lyrics from *Jagged Little Pill* highlighted according to vocal style

# Key for highlighted lyrics

Marked value in table indicated by **red text**

Vocal style	Chest or head voice	Neutral or breathy phonation	Constricted (twang) or open	Range
Speech-song	Chest	Neutral	Twang	Mid
Modal	Chest	Neutral	Open	Mid
Belt	Chest	Neutral	Twang	High
Soft voice	Chest	Breathy	Open	Mid
Sweet voice	Head	Breathy	Open	High
Squeal	Head/mix	Neutral	Twang	High

## Vocal effects

**h** = yodel break

Vocal fry

Flange or similar

Double Tracking or similar

# 1 All I Really Want

## Verse

Do I stress you out?<sup>h</sup>  
My sweater is on backwards and inside out  
And you say, "how appropriate"  
I don't like to dissect everything today  
I<sup>h</sup> don't mean to pick you apart you see  
But I can't help it<sup>h</sup>

## Prechorus

And there I go jumping before the gunshot has gone off<sup>h</sup>  
Slap me with a splintered<sup>h</sup> ruler<sup>h</sup>  
And it would knock me to the floor if I wasn't there already<sup>h</sup>  
If only I could hunt the hunter<sup>h</sup>

## Chorus

And all I really want is some patience  
A way to calm the angry voice  
And all I really want is deliverance. ah

## Verse

Do I wear you out?<sup>h</sup>  
You must wonder why I'm relentless and all strung out  
I'm consumed by the chill of solitary<sup>h</sup>  
I'm like Estella<sup>h</sup>  
I like to reel it in and then spit it out  
I'm frustrated by your apathy

## Prechorus

And I am frightened by the corrupted ways of this land  
If only I could meet the maker<sup>h</sup>  
And I am fascinated by the spiritual man<sup>h</sup>  
I am humbled by his humble nature, <sup>h</sup> yeah

## Chorus

And what I wouldn't give<sup>h</sup> to find a soul mate,  
someone else to catch this drift.  
And what I wouldn't give<sup>h</sup> to meet a kindred. Ah

## Bridge

Enough about me, let's talk about you for a minute  
Enough about you, let's talk about life for a while  
The conflicts, the craziness and the sound of pretenses falling

All around, all around

### Verse

Why are you so petrified of silence?

Here, can you handle this?

Did you think about your bills, your ex, your deadlines,  
or when you think you're going to die?

Or did you long for the next<sup>h</sup> distraction<sup>h</sup>?

### Prechorus

And all I need now is intellectual intercourse

A soul to dig the hole much<sup>h</sup> deeper<sup>h</sup>

And I have no concept of time other than it is flying<sup>h</sup>

If only I could kill the killer<sup>h</sup>

### Chorus

And all I really want is some peace man

A place to find a common ground<sup>h</sup>

And all I really want<sup>h</sup> is a wavelength,<sup>h</sup> ah<sup>h</sup>

### Chorus/outro

And all I really want is some comfort

A way to get my hands untied

And all I really want is some justice, ah<sup>h</sup>

It's all I really want, some patience

A way to calm me down

And all I really want is deliverance

A place to find a common ground

## 2 You Oughta Know

### Verse

I want you to know, that I'm happy for you  
I wish nothing but the best for you both

An older version of me  
Is she perverted like me?  
Would she go down on you in a theater?  
Does she speak eloquently  
And would she have your baby?  
I'm sure she'd make a really excellent mother

### Prechorus

'Cause the love that you gave that we made  
Wasn't able to make it enough for you  
To be open wide, no  
And every time you speak her name  
Does she know how you told me  
You'd hold me until you died  
Till you died, but you're still alive

### Chorus

And I'm here, to remind you  
Of the mess you left when you went away  
It's not fair to deny me  
Of the cross I bear that you gave to me  
You<sup>h</sup>, you<sup>h</sup>, you<sup>h</sup> oughta know

### Verse

You seem very well, things look peaceful  
I'm not quite as well, I thought you should know

Did you forget about me, Mr. Duplicity?  
I hate to bug you in the middle of dinner  
It was a slap in the face how quickly I was replaced  
And are you thinking of me when you fuck her?

### Prechorus

'Cause the love that you gave that we made  
Wasn't able to make it enough for you  
To be open wide, no  
And every time you speak her name  
Does she know how you told me

You'd hold me until you died  
Till you died, but you're still alive

### Chorus

And I'm here, to remind you  
Of the mess you left when you went away  
It's not fair to deny me  
Of the cross I bear that you gave to me  
You, you, you oughta know

*[instrumental bridge]*

### Prechorus

'Cause the joke that you laid in the bed  
That was me and I'm not gonna fade  
As soon as you close your eyes, and you know it  
And every time I scratch my nails  
Down someone else's back I hope you feel it  
Well, can you feel it?

### Chorus

Well I'm here, to remind you  
Of the mess you left when you went away  
It's not fair to deny me  
Of the cross I bear that you gave to me  
You, you, you oughta know  
that I'm here, to remind you  
Of the mess you left when you went away  
It's not fair to deny me  
Of the cross I bear that you gave to me  
You<sup>h</sup>, you<sup>h</sup>, you<sup>h</sup> oughta know<sup>h</sup>

## 3 Perfect

### Verse

Sometimes is never quite enough  
If you're flawless, then you'll win my love  
Don't forget to win first place  
Don't forget to keep that smile on your face

### Chorus

Be a good boy  
Try a little harder  
You've got to measure up  
Make me prouder

### Verse

How long before you screw it up<sup>h</sup>  
How many times do I have to tell you to hurry up<sup>h</sup>  
With everything I do for you  
The least you can do is keep quiet

### Chorus

Be a good girl  
You gotta try a little harder  
That simply wasn't good enough  
To make us proud

### Bridge

I'll live through you, I'll make you what I never was  
If you're the best, then maybe so am I  
Compared to him, compared to her  
I'm doing this for your own damn good  
You'll make up for what I blew  
What's the problem, why are you crying<sup>h</sup>?

### Chorus

Be a good boy  
Push a little farther now  
That wasn't fast enough  
To make us happy

We'll love you just the way you are  
If you're perfect

## 4 Hand In My Pocket

### Verse

I'm broke, but I'm happy<sup>h</sup>  
I'm poor, but I'm kind<sup>h</sup>  
I'm short, but I'm healthy, yeah<sup>cough</sup>  
I'm high, but I'm grounded<sup>h</sup>  
I'm sane, but I'm overwhelmed  
I'm lost, but I'm hopeful, baby

### Chorus

And what it all comes down to<sup>h</sup>  
Is that everything's gonna be fine, fine, fine  
'Cause I've got one hand in my pocket  
And the other one is giving a high five<sup>h</sup>

### Verse

I feel drunk, but I'm sober<sup>h</sup>  
I'm young and I'm underpaid  
I'm tired, but I'm working, yeah<sup>h</sup>  
I care, but I'm restless  
I'm here, but I'm really gone  
I'm wrong and I'm sorry, baby<sup>h</sup>

### Chorus

And what it all comes down to<sup>h</sup>  
Is that everything's gonna be quite alright  
'Cause I've got one hand in my pocket  
And the other one is flicking a cigarette<sup>h</sup>

*[harmonica solo]*

And what it all comes down to<sup>h</sup>  
Is that I haven't got it all figured out just yet<sup>h</sup>  
'Cause I've got one hand in my pocket<sup>h</sup>  
And the other one is giving a peace sign<sup>h</sup>

### Verse

I'm free, but I'm focused  
I'm green, but I'm wise<sup>h</sup>  
I'm hard, but I'm friendly, baby<sup>h</sup>  
I'm sad, but I'm laughing  
I'm brave, but I'm chicken shit  
I'm sick, but I'm pretty, baby

## Chorus

And what it all boils down to<sup>h</sup>

Is that no one's really got it figured out just yet<sup>h</sup>

But I've got one hand in my pocket

And the other one is playing a piano<sup>h</sup>

And what it all comes down to my friends, yeah<sup>h</sup>

Is that everything is just fine, fine, fine

'Cause I've got one hand in my pocket

And the other one is hailing a taxi cab<sup>h</sup>

## 5 Right Through You

Vocal range is relatively constant (E5–A5 as central melodic area, with total range B4–B5).

### Verse

Wait a minute man<sup>h</sup>  
You mispronounced my name  
You didn't wait for all the information  
Before you turned me away<sup>h</sup>  
Wait a minute sir<sup>h</sup>  
You kind of hurt my feelings  
You see me as a sweet back-loaded puppet  
And you've got meal ticket<sup>h</sup> taste

### Chorus

I see right through you  
I know right through you  
I feel right through you  
I walk right through you

### Verse

You took me for a joke  
You took me for a child  
You took a long hard look at my ass  
And then played golf for a while  
Your shake is like a fish  
You pat me on the head  
You took me out to wine dine 69 me  
But didn't hear a damn word I said

### Chorus

I see right through you  
I know right through you  
I feel right through you  
I walk right through you

### Verse

Oh hello Mr. Man  
You didn't think I'd come back  
You didn't think I'd show up with my army  
And this ammunition on my back

Now that I'm Miss Thing  
Now that I'm a zillionaire  
You scan the credits for your name  
And wonder why it's not there

**Chorus**

I see right through you  
I know right through you  
I feel right through you  
I walk right through you, you

## 6 Forgiven

### Verse

You know how us Catholic girls can be (hi-yai)  
We make up for so much time a little too late

### Prechorus

I never forgot it, confusing as it was  
No fun with no guilt feelings  
The sinners, the saviors, the loverless priests  
I'll see you next Sunday

### Chorus

We all had our reasons to be there  
We all had a thing or two to learn  
We all needed something to cling to  
So we did

### Verse 2

I sang Alleluia in the choir (Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia)  
I confessed my darkest deeds to an envious man

### Prechorus

My brothers they never went blind for what they did  
But I may as well have  
In the name of the Father, the Skeptic and the Son  
I had one more stupid question

### Chorus

We all had our reasons to be there  
We all had a thing or two to learn  
We all needed something to cling to  
So we did

### Bridge

What I learned I rejected but I believe again  
I will suffer the consequence of this inquisition  
If I jump in this fountain, will I be forgiven

### Chorus (quiet)

We all had our reasons to be there  
We all had a thing or two to learn  
We all needed something to cling to  
So we did<sup>h</sup>

**Chorus (loud)**

We all had delusions in our heads

We all had our minds made up for us

We had to believe in something

So we did

We all had our reasons to be there

We all had a thing to learn

We all needed something to cling to

So we did

So we did

So we did

## 7 You Learn

### Verse

I recommend getting your heart trampled on to anyone, yeah.  
I recommend walking around naked in your living room.

### Prechorus

Swallow it down (what a jagged little pill)  
It feels so good (swimming in your stomach)  
Wait until the dust settles

### Chorus

You live, you learn  
You love, you learn  
You cry, you learn  
You lose, you learn  
You bleed, you learn  
You scream, you learn

### Verse

I recommend biting off more than you can chew to anyone  
I certainly do  
I recommend sticking your foot in your mouth at any time  
Feel free

### Prechorus

Throw it down (the caution blocks you from the wind)  
Hold it up (to the rays)  
You wait and see when the smoke clears

### Chorus

You live, you learn  
You love, you learn  
You cry, you learn  
You lose, you learn  
You bleed, you learn  
You scream, you learn

### Bridge

Aye-hi-ya

### Prechorus

Wear it out (the way a three-year-old would do)  
Melt it down (you're gonna have to eventually anyway)

The fire trucks are coming up around the bend

### Chorus

You live, you learn

You love, you learn

You cry, you learn

You lose, you learn

You bleed, you learn

You scream, you learn

You grieve, you learn

You choke, you learn

You laugh, you learn

You choose, you learn

You pray, you learn

You ask, you learn

You live, you learn

## 8 Head Over Feet

### Verse

I had no choice but to hear you  
You stated your case **time** and again  
I thought about it  
**You** treat me like I'm a princess  
**I'm not** used to liking that  
You ask how my day was

### Chorus

You've already won me over in spite of me  
Don't be alarmed if I fall head over feet  
And don't be surprised if I love you for all that you are  
**I couldn't help it**  
It's all your fault

### Verse

**Your love is thick and it swallowed me whole**  
**You're so much braver than I gave you credit for**  
That's not lip service

### Chorus

You've already won me over in spite of me  
And don't be alarmed if I fall head over feet  
And don't be surprised if I love you for all that you are  
**I couldn't help it**  
It's all your fault

### Verse

You are the bearer of unconditional things  
**You** held **your** breath and the door for me  
Thanks for **your** patience

*[harmonica solo]*

You're the best listener **that I've ever met**  
**You're** my best friend  
Best **friend with benefits**  
What took me so long?  
**I've** never felt this healthy before  
**I've** never wanted something rational<sup>h</sup>  
**I am aware now**

I am aware now

**Chorus**

You've already won me over in spite of me

Don't be alarmed if I fall head over feet

And don't be surprised if I love you for all that you are

I couldn't help it

It's all your fault

You've already won me over in spite of me

Don't be alarmed if I fall head over feet

And don't be surprised if I love you for all that you are

I couldn't help it

It's all your fault

## 9 Mary Jane

### Verse

What's the matter Mary Jane, had a hard day?  
As you place the don't disturb sign on the door  
You lost your place in line again, what a pity<sup>h</sup>  
You never seem to want to dance anymore

### Chorus(?)

It's a long way down  
On this roller-coaster  
The last<sup>h</sup> chance<sup>h</sup> streetcar  
Went off the track  
And you're on it

### Verse

I hear you're counting sheep again Mary Jane  
What's the point of tryin' to dream anymore?  
I hear you're losing weight again Mary Jane  
Do you ever wonder who you're losing it for?

### Chorus

Well it's full speed baby<sup>h</sup>  
In the wrong direction  
There's a few more bruises  
If that's the way  
You insist on heading

### Verse

Please be honest Mary Jane  
Are you happy?  
Please don't censor your tears

### Interlude

Ooh-ooh-ooh

### Chorus

You're the sweet crusader<sup>h</sup>  
And you're on your way  
You're the last<sup>h</sup> great<sup>h</sup> innocent  
And that's why I love you

### Verse

So take this moment Mary Jane and be selfish

Worry not about the cars that go by  
'Cause **all** that matters Mary Jane is your freedom  
So keep warm my dear, keep **dry**

**Tell** me, tell me  
What's the matter Mary Jane?  
Tell me, tell me  
Please be honest, Mary Jane<sup>h</sup>  
Tell me<sup>h</sup>  
Ooh-ooh-ooh

## 10 Ironic

### Intro

Hey, yeah, yeah

Yeah, ah-ah hi, yeah hi

### Verse

An old man turned ninety-eight.

He won the lottery, and died the next day.

It's a black fly in your Chardonnay;

it's a death row pardon two minutes too late.

*Refrain*

And isn't it ironic?

Don't you think?

### Chorus

It's like rain on your wedding day

It's a free ride when you've already paid

It's the good advice that you just didn't take

And who would've thought? It figures.

### Verse

Mr. Play-It-Safe was afraid to fly

He packed his suitcase and kissed his kids goodbye

He waited his whole damn life to take that flight

And as the plane crashed down

He thought, "Well, isn't this nice?"

*Refrain*

And isn't it ironic?

Don't you think?

### Chorus

It's like rain on your wedding day

It's a free ride when you've already paid

It's the good advice that you just didn't take

And who would've thought? It figures.

### Bridge

Well, life has a funny way of sneaking up on you

when you think everything's okay and everything's going right

And life has a funny way of helping you out

when you think everything's gone wrong

And everything blows up in your face

## Verse

A traffic jam when you're already late

A "No smoking" sign on your cigarette break

It's like ten thousand spoons when all you need is a knife

It's meeting the man of my dreams

And then meeting his beautiful wife

## Refrain

And isn't it ironic?

Don't you think?

A little too ironic

And yeah, I really do think

## Chorus

It's like rain on your wedding day

It's a free ride when you've already paid

It's the good advice that you just didn't take

And who would've thought? It figures

And yeah, life has a funny way of sneaking up on you

And life has a funny, funny way of helping you out

helping you out

## 11 Not the Doctor

### Verse

I don't want to be the filler if the void is solely yours  
I don't want to be your glass of single malt whiskey  
Hidden in the bottom drawer  
I don't want to be a bandage if the wound is not mine  
Lend me some fresh air

I don't want to be adored for what I merely represent to you  
I don't want to be your babysitter  
You're a very big boy now  
I don't want to be your mother  
I didn't carry you in my womb for nine months  
Show me the back door

### Chorus

Visiting hours are nine to five and if I show up at ten past six, well I  
already know that you'd find some way to sneak me in and oh  
Mind the empty bottle with the holes along the bottom, you see it's  
too much to ask for, and I am not the doctor

### Verse

I don't want to be the sweeper of the egg shells that you walk upon  
And I don't want to be your other half, I believe that one and one make two  
I don't want to be your food or the light from the fridge on your face  
At midnight, hey  
What are you hungry for?

I don't want to be the glue that holds your pieces together  
I don't want to be your idol  
See this pedestal is high and I'm afraid of heights  
I don't want to be lived through  
A vicarious occasion  
Please open the window

### Chorus

Visiting hours are nine to five and if I show up at ten past six, well I  
already know that you'd find some way to sneak me in and oh  
Mind the empty bottle with the holes along the bottom, you see it's  
too much to ask for and I am not the doctor

### Verse

I don't want to live on someday when my motto is last week

I don't want to be responsible for your fractured heart and its wounded beat  
I don't want to be a substitute for the smoke you've been inhaling  
What do you thank me, what do you thank me for?

### **Chorus**

Visiting hours are nine to five and if I show up at ten past six, well I  
already know that you'd find some way to sneak me in and oh  
Mind the empty bottle with the holes along the bottom, you see it's  
too much to ask for and I am not the doctor

## 12 Wake Up

### Verse

You like snow, but only if it's warm

You like rain, but only if it's dry

### Prechorus

There's no sentimental value to the rose that fell on your floor

There's no fundamental excuse for the granted I'm taken for

### Chorus

'Cause it's easy not to

So much easier not to

And what goes around never comes around to<sup>h</sup> you

To you ooh, yeah-ai, yeah-ai-ya-ai yeah, mm-hmm-mm-mm

### Verse

You like pain but only if it doesn't hurt too much

And you sit<sup>h</sup>, and you wait, to receive

### Prechorus

There's an obvious attraction

To the path of least resistance in your life

Well, there's an obvious aversion no amount of my insistence

Could make you try tonight

### Chorus

'Cause it's easy not to

So much easier not to

And what goes around never comes around to you

To you, to you, to you, to you, to you

### Bridge

Ahh-ahh

There's no love, no money, no thrill anymore

### Prechorus

Well, there's an apprehensive, naked, little trembling boy

With his head in his hands

And there's an underestimated and impatient little girl

Raising her hand

### **Chorus**

But it's easy not to

So much easier not to

And what goes around never comes around to you

To you, to you

### **Outro (terminal climax?)**

Get up, get up, get up off of it

Get up, get up, get up off of it

Get out, get outta here, enough already

Get up, get up, get up off of it

And wake up<sup>h</sup>

## 13b Your House

### Verse

I went to your house;  
I walked up the stairs;  
I opened your door without ringing the bell.  
I walked down the hall  
into your room,  
where I could smell you

And I shouldn't be here without permission;  
shouldn't be<sup>h</sup> here.

### Chorus

Would you forgive me, love,  
if I dance in your shower?  
Would you forgive me, love,  
if I laid in your bed?  
Would you forgive me, love,  
if I stay all afternoon<sup>h</sup> oh?<sup>h</sup>

### Verse

I took off my clothes;  
put on your robe;  
I went through your drawers,  
and I found your cologne.  
Went down to the den,  
found your CDs,  
and I played your Johnny.

And I<sup>h</sup> shouldn't stay long<sup>h</sup>,  
you might be home soon.  
I shouldn't stay long.

### Chorus

Would you forgive me, love,  
if I dance in your shower?  
Would you forgive me, love,  
if I laid in your bed?  
Would you forgive me, love,  
if I stay all afternoon?<sup>h</sup>

### Verse

I burned your incense;

I ran a bath;

I noticed a letter that sat on your desk.

It said "Hello, love.

I love you so, love.

Meet me at midnight."

And no, it wasn't my writing

I better go soon

It wasn't my writing.

### Chorus

So forgive me, love

If I cry in your shower

So forgive me, love

For the salt in your bed

So forgive me, love

If I cry all afternoon.