


# Sam Phillips



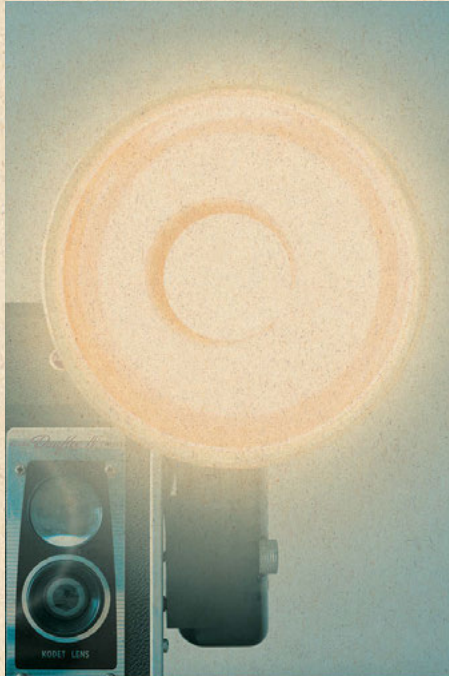
a boot and a shoe

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1. How to Quit
  2. All Night
  3. I Dreamed I Stopped Dreaming
  4. Open the World
  5. Red Silk Five
  6. Reflecting Light
  7. Infiltration
  8. Draw Man
  9. I Wanted to Be Alone
  10. Love Changes Everything
  11. If I Could Write
  12. Hole in My Pocket
  13. One Day Late

PRODUCED BY T BONE BURNETT



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Being off balance, wearing a boot and a shoe, described my life as I was writing these songs. As I waded through a personal mess, my aim was to write my experience while keeping the songs open enough for the listeners to bring their own stories to this old, sparsely furnished room.

I was scoring the TV show *Gilmore Girls* while recording this album. Creator/writer/executive producer Amy Sherman-Palladino chose two of the songs to use in the series: "If I Could Write" and "Reflecting Light" (which was played for Luke and Lorelei's first dance as they were falling for each other, and again for their wedding dance in the revival series *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*). I will always hear a bit of Stars Hollow in these recordings.

This was the last one of my records made with producer T Bone Burnett. When I asked T Bone if there was anything he wanted to say in these notes, he suggested a Hafiz poem we both love called "And Then You Are". Though permission to print the poem here escaped us, it's not hard to find.

One last note . . . I asked NOT to be on the album cover, but they found a photo of a person with a similar haircut whose face you couldn't see. Having an imposter on the cover seemed to fit the murky sounds of someone singing to themselves in the dark . . . off stage. Or, as I wrote in the first song, "when no one's listening I have so much to say."

Sam Phillips  
2024

Produced by T Bone Burnett

Recorded by Mike Piersante at Sunset Sound,  
Hollywood, CA; The Village, Los Angeles, CA;  
Stagg Street Studios, Van Nuys, CA  
Assistant Engineers: Brian Hearity, Jason Wormer,  
Emile Kelman, Ben Mumphy

Mixed by T Bone Burnett and Mike Piersante

Mastered by Gavin Lurssen

Production Coordination: Ivy Scott  
Technical Support: Paul Ackling

Design: Doyle Partners

Cover photographs: Eg Project/Photonica (left)  
and Glen Erler/Photonica (right)  
Other Photographs: Rocky Schenck

For Nonesuch Records:

Production Assistant: Eli Cane  
Editorial Coordinator: Gregg Schaufeld  
Production Supervisor: Karina Beznicki

Executive Producer: David Bither

All songs composed by Sam Phillips  
and published by Eden Bridge Music (ASCAP)  
administered by Some Kind of Music LLC

Thank you Mikie, Syd, Josie, Ivy, Patrick,  
David, Dan, Amele, and Carla.

Thank you T Bone for your generosity.





### HOW TO QUIT

I was broken when you got me  
With holes that would let the light through  
Red smoke and sequins an invisible floor  
Faith is running toward the sound of water  
Blind dancing in the footlights  
Torn curtain talent, sparks from a lucky guess  
Camera can't find me I'm officially astray  
When no one's listening I have so much to say

I thought I knew how to quit  
Drunk on memory we start up  
Stockings on the rooftop, exotic innocence  
Living on air, desire and reverie,  
gravity pulls our lives down  
Holding on to change, I want to walk the deep  
Can't get free from freedom  
when I refuse to choose  
Walls go with me as I leave my fate to lose

Carla Azar drums, Sam Phillips guitar

### ALL NIGHT

I heard you were here then you disappeared last  
night when they killed the light  
Words we didn't say your eyes that took us down to  
more than we were ready for  
You came up behind me, grabbed my wrists in the  
dark and said  
Don't look at what you can see

All night, I've been looking for you all night

It doesn't matter what I tell myself  
The flame is small, but it burns it all  
Sleepless questions and some sly suggestions  
that I could fly if I could only fall  
I've been wanting to touch you since we met  
You don't give a girl a chance to forget

No straight lines when love unwinds out in the night  
where you took the light  
You're all around but I haven't found you  
You're coming in, right through my skin  
Oh comrade, what do you need  
Where will all this trouble lead

Carla Azar drums, Jay Bellerose drums, Sam Phillips guitar,  
David Piltch bass

### I DREAMED I STOPPED DREAMING

I dreamed I stopped dreaming and singing and  
I was alone with you  
Moving and watching, we fell way beyond words

Under dream under stars  
Understanding beneath solid ground  
Above all time and light

Technical flesh, evacuated bodies and  
thrill-gone eyes  
Cavities chase us and I pull you down  
hard and warm

Under dream under stars  
Understanding beneath solid ground  
Above all time and light

You think you've got too much to lose to feel what  
you feel for me

What you're afraid you'll lose is already gone

Under dream under stars  
Understanding beneath solid ground  
Above all time and light

Carla Azar drums, T Bone Burnett bass, Jim Keltner drums,  
Sam Phillips rhythm guitar, Marc Ribot guitar,  
Patrick Warren string arrangement,  
The Section Quartet: Eric Gorfain violin, Daphne Chen violin,  
Richard Dodd cello, Leah Katz viola

### OPEN THE WORLD

Hiding in mirrors, invisible stage  
My life went on without me 'til pain brought  
the house down

Now that it's broken, let's open the world  
Outside are corners falling into life awake

Every time you look at me, you're in disguise  
Too many endings  
The pain has drawn a stranger in your eyes

Now that it's broken, let's open the world  
The sky inside is bigger for our hearts to hold  
Upside down and beyond repair the light is  
coming through

You caught me wanting and the shame in my  
eyes was so inductive

That it magnetized you pulling down my need

He put something in my drink that made me  
want to say yes

Fishnets and tassels

My dance was the only way I could confess

Carla Azar drums, Chris Bruce electric guitar,  
Sam Phillips rhythm guitar

### RED SILK FIVE

Stolen ring, an old hat, a boot and a shoe  
A satin dress at your feet  
Every day trace, code name, no bullets  
Red silk five

Disconnection and heat, the lines are down  
Pulled into a corner with you  
Lips and fingers, slow secret weapons  
Red silk five

I'm bleeding, didn't notice, heart doesn't mind  
I took your book, I have no words for you  
You wanted me excited without contact,  
broken frame

Red silk five  
Everything I wanted, nothing I needed  
Red silk five

Carla Azar drums, T Bone Burnett bass, Jim Keltner drums,  
Sam Phillips rhythm guitar, Marc Ribot electric guitar



### REFLECTING LIGHT

Now that I've worn out, I've worn out the world  
I'm on my knees in fascination  
Looking through the night  
And the moon's never seen me before  
But I'm reflecting light

I rode the pain down, got off and looked up  
Looked into your eyes  
The loss opened windows all around  
My dark heart lit up the skies

Give up the ground under your feet  
Hold on to nothing for good  
Turn and run at the mean dogs chasing you

Stand alone and misunderstood

T Bone Burnett bass, Sam Phillips guitar,  
Patrick Warren piano, pump organ, string arrangement,  
The Section Quartet: Eric Gorfain violin, Daphne Chen violin,  
Richard Dodd cello, Leah Katz viola

## INFILTRATION

Making both sides of the conversation  
Sometimes, I don't know what to do  
Don't start talking inside my head,  
If you're a dead man then stick to being dead  
Living between time and choice the soul's free  
I'm awake, but the dream keeps dreaming me

Imagination, infiltration  
The real is so fragile shaken by my trance  
I felt you coming, that's all I knew now you've  
arrived and I don't know what to do  
Living between time and choice the soul's free  
I'm awake, but the dream keeps dreaming me

Up above we can see where we are  
We'll jump from the highest place and leave it  
all for the fall

Location suspension, inches from you  
Sometimes I don't know what to do  
Living between time and choice my soul's blue  
I'm awake but my dream keeps dreaming you

Carla Azar drums, T Bone Burnett bass, Jim Keltner drums,  
Sam Phillips rhythm guitar, Patrick Warren string arrangement,  
The Section Quartet: Eric Gorfain violin, Daphne Chen violin,  
Richard Dodd cello, Leah Katz viola

## DRAW MAN

Dig baby you're a rock man, a powder man,  
a draw man, a driller  
The harder I make it for you the better  
you like it  
Dig baby you're a draw man,  
a pipe man, a furnace, a filler  
Let's make time escape,  
let's excavate the surface

It's too much trouble to impress you,  
My lies are never big enough  
I use the truth to cover up where  
you're looking

You loved not knowing what I would  
do with you  
You knew exactly what to do with me

Carla Azar drums, T Bone Burnett bass, Jim Keltner drums,  
Sam Phillips guitar, Patrick Warren string arrangement,  
The Section Quartet: Eric Gorfain violin,  
Daphne Chen violin, Richard Dodd cello, Leah Katz viola

## I WANTED TO BE ALONE

I said I wanted to be alone  
Alone with him

He said he wanted to be alone  
Alone with her

She said she wanted to be alone  
Alone with me

Mike Elizondo bass, Carla Azar drums,  
Jay Bellerose drums, Sam Phillips guitar

## LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

We can't fix what's broken so let's leave it here  
and walk on  
I'll be right behind you

Love changes everything  
I'm not sorry we loved, but I hope I didn't keep  
you too long

We're not experts  
We are believers, ministers of silence  
Let no man pull us under doubt  
I'll always open my hands to you  
I'll be right behind you

Carla Azar drums, T Bone Burnett bass, Sam Phillips guitar

## IF I COULD WRITE

If I could write I'd set all the words free to follow you  
Tell you wonder, tell you secrets and solitude  
I've had to let go of so much it's hard to hold on now  
Something far off is pulling me and when I go this time I  
don't think I'm coming back

I took your ring that never comes off and put it on  
Sorry to lose you, sorry to keep you after you were gone  
Nothing is small, nothing is unexpected  
I want more  
When I go this time I don't think I'm coming back

Desire's the element that I can't fight,  
dream is the arm of God  
Girls looking for themselves in your eyes,  
I'm looking for you

What's this supposed to be some kind of perfect  
I want more  
When I go this time I don't think I'm coming back

Sam Phillips guitar, Patrick Warren string arrangement  
The Section Quartet: Eric Gorfain violin, Daphne Chen violin,  
Richard Dodd cello, Leah Katz viola

## HOLE IN MY POCKET

My life fell through a hole in my pocket  
I lost my solitude, I lost my balance,  
I lost my reverence and my voice  
Pieces of soul building up a mountain  
moving seeds of doubt

My life fell through a hole in my pocket  
I can't see anything, only this moment  
I hear my heart breaking into faith  
Pieces of soul building up a mountain  
moving seeds of doubt

Carla Azar drums, Sam Phillips guitar,  
Chris Bruce guitar

## ONE DAY LATE

Help is coming, help is coming one day late  
One day late  
After you've given up and all is gone  
Help is coming one day late

You try to understand, you try to fix your  
broken hands

But remember  
That there always has been good like stars  
you don't see in the day sky

Wait 'til night

Lies have kept me down but I've been growing  
under ground

Now I'm coming up  
And when time opens the earth we'll see love  
has been moving all around us making way

T Bone Burnett electric guitar, Mike Elizondo bass,  
Carla Azar drums, Jay Bellerose drums, Sam Phillips guitar

