

## STAGE 1: HIS NAME IS HENRY

No one comes around anymore  
He is the furthest thing from their mind  
Henry thinks that he's going home  
But he was abandoned here, and here he'll stay

As kind as a man can be  
Discarded with hardly a word  
He doesn't yet know  
His whole world is gone

A warm smile and hopeful eyes  
Greeting everyone as a friend  
Inoculated against woe

Of doom and gloom he's unaware  
Patient is he, waiting in vain  
For the door to open

They're analyzing (agonizing), penalizing (neutralizing), criticizing (minimizing),  
fantasizing (ostracizing), paralyzing, supervising (and surmising)  
all will be lost soon

At times the hazy static in his  
mind would give way  
to momentary lucidity.  
Recollections as  
real and focused as sunlight

Separations vanish as his senses would thoughtlessly betray  
Reality or merely the memory (of a memory) here?

Only to forget, only to vanish  
Awake and in the  
moment yet pitifully unaware  
He knows with resolute conviction here he does not belong.

The dull ache of an absence he's yet to realize  
This parting yet to be understood  
Soon enough in him the optimist will die

"Let me go," he begs.  
With tearful eyes,  
he smiles  
to hide he's desperate

Get away.  
He wants to scream yet still he  
Just smiles  
Hoping for Mary.

This ceaseless dream confounds, bears no understanding  
“Am I a prisoner?” His fears swirl and swarm like flies  
Parades of unfamiliar faces passing by  
Stolen from his home or was his home stolen from him?

Parades of  
unfamiliar faces  
passing by

## STAGE 2: THE CAPTIVE

What have you done with my wife?  
**(Get your hands off me!)**  
Mary can you hear my voice?  
**(I don't belong here)**

**Open this door**  
**Release me from this cage**  
**You have the wrong man**  
**I'm not a criminal**  
**Tell me what have you done with her?**

Terrifying to believe  
I've been locked away  
Must be some kind of mistake  
Who would leave me here alone?

I can't see the sunrise through these walls  
Who do they think I am?  
What do they think I've done?

They try to tell me that this is my home  
Malefactor they must think me to be  
**Get out! Let me go!**  
How can I convince them that I'm not the one  
Deserving to be here alone  
**Get out! Let me go!**

### STAGE 3: THE PALLIATIVE BREATH

The holes are deepening in my mind.  
Memories like phantoms die  
Approaching doors, extending hands  
Turn the knob and what do I find?  
Only a stark emptiness  
Nothing here now.

No future mine  
But no past behind  
I'm just another empty shell.  
Death of the mind  
No one beside  
Perhaps this is my own hell

Do not ask me to remember  
Don't try to make me understand  
Let me rest and know you're with me  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand  
I'm so confused and I'm so lost.

So the best of me is done.  
All this time  
Further away  
I know there's even worse to come  
Leaving me  
My faculties

A brief pause in this madness  
A chance for me to recognize my end

A young man passed by here today,  
He said, "good to see you."  
He seemed so kind the more we spoke  
He told me of his father old.  
Poor boy was confused, called me "Dad" left in falling tears  
I don't understand why he's so sad it makes me want to runaway in fact  
I just want to fly away  
I still want to fly away

So the best of me is done.  
All this time  
Further away  
I know there's even worse to come  
Leaving me

My faculties

#### STAGE 4: THE DREAM

Float out away from this place.  
And all that they know.  
Beneath a sunless sky you might  
Remember who you are.

Henry is it in you to give up?  
Live in dust  
Turn to rust

In a night or in a day  
In a vision or in none  
Hope it seems will disappear  
Do you see? Do you seem?

Will they be there when  
You open  
Eyes again

Mary I can  
See you standing  
Wrapped in white  
So beautiful  
I'm so glad to  
See you again  
I've been so  
alone.

Hold my hand  
No more fear  
Lost so much  
You appear

Stay with me

Where have you been?  
Why can't I hear you?  
Your lips are moving  
But nothing's clear.  
My hands are trembling  
My wings are broken

Will you lift me up with  
Your song?

Do I dream?  
Is this real?  
Can I see?  
Can I feel?

Flying higher, clouds so far beneath us.  
I knew you'd come back to me.  
Gravity is calling us back home.  
We can break it, we can break free  
Henry you know I'm not really here.  
No, I won't let you go!  
All dreams dissolve I too disappear.  
Please don't leave me alone again!

Falling down...

#### STAGE 5 : THE NIGHTMARE

No one's listening  
You're alone now Henry  
We will take  
Everything  
Starting with  
Memories  
Your true love  
Remember she is dead?  
We will  
Take your hands  
Take your legs  
Take your lungs  
Take your eyes  
Paralyzed  
Like an insect pinned in place  
Though you feel it all

*Steal from you that sweetest melody  
Feel the tide drawing you further down  
Here exists no more reverie  
Just melancholy and woe  
See now, your body won't obey  
Trapped inside an endless night*

*Relive the darkest of all your days  
Real and dream will cease to have a line  
Watch as you burn without flame  
Fugitive is hope  
So pitiless are we  
Here on this despondent shore*

Now or then  
Then or now  
Tell me Henry, Is it now or is it then?  
The pitiful fragments of your mind  
Won't permit you to differentiate

*All woe  
Shall be  
Visited upon you, Henry  
No more light in your eyes  
No more words from your lips  
Rejoice in this mute hell  
All this chaos concealed (you won't reveal)  
In this imprisoned mind  
Left with no recourse (no where to go)  
You will wish you could die*

**Death comes** – so slowly in this blankness  
**You'll beg** – for it to all end  
**Hope leaves** – all now extinguished  
**Trapped here** – a corpse that can't die

**Sullen** – your body a casket  
**Frozen** – a glacial mind  
**Bottomless** – perdition to dwell  
**Empty** – is your hell

*All woe  
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**There is no way out.**

STAGE 6: THE OUBLIETTE

Can't speak  
Can't eat  
Cemented to this bed  
Can't breathe  
Can't think  
An empty oubliette now

Pieces of who I was...  
Forming a river under...  
Listless and unaware...  
Not dead. Not asleep.

I am awake.

Never knowing.  
Never showing you.

White coats do not see me...  
Machines talk to them...  
Each day a new stranger...  
Think I'm gone but...

I am awake.

I know...  
My mind won't heal.  
My body died  
And left me behind.  
Blank space  
Where memories once were.  
Please god  
Just let me die.

STAGE 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Sleep now.