

Imaginary Television

Graham Parker

GRAHAM PARKER - IMAGINARY TELEVISION (2010)

1. Weather Report
2. Broken Skin
3. It s My Party (But I Won t Cry)
4. Bring Me A Heart Again
5. Snowgun
6. Always Greener
7. See Things My Way
8. You re Not Where You Think You Are
9. Head On Straight
10. More Questions Than Answers
11. First Responder

1. WEATHER REPORT

[Chorus]

Dm **A#** **F**

Hey, can you tell me

C

What everybody plans to do

Dm **A#** **F**

Hey, can you tell me

C

Where s everybody s going to

[Verse 1]

(improvise a bit with the basic chords during each verse)

G#m

They re out there on the street

N.C.

They must be elite

F#

They got shoes I can t afford on their

G#m

Quick fast feet

N.C.

They have modified irises

N.C.

Behind opaque lens

F#

They re hiding equipment

G#m

Behind barbed wire fences

N.C.

They have somewhere to go

N.C.

They have somewhere to lurk

F#

They have this high-end electronic stuff

G#m

I wouldn't know how to work

[Chorus]

Dm **A#** **F**

Hey, can you tell me

C

What everybody plans to do

Dm **A#** **F**

Hey, can you tell me

C

Where's everybody's going to

[Verse 2]

G#m

I'm sitting here on my couch

N.C.

My enthusiasm sinking

F#

I don't know where anybody's going

G#m

I don't know what they're thinking

N.C.

There seems to be some secret

N.C.

That everybody's onto

F#

But I just don't seem to get it man

G#m

Not even if I want to

[Chorus 2]

Dm **A#** **F**

Hey, can you tell me

C

What everybody plans to do

[Guitar solo]

G#m **F#** **G#m**

Am **G** **Am** **A#**

[Chorus]

Dm A# F

Hey, can you tell me

C

What everybody plans to do

Dm A# F

Hey, can you tell me

C

Where s everybody s going to

[Verse 3]

G#m

I got an upright piano

That is blocking my door

F#

But my fingers don t obey me

G#m

So I don t play it anymore

N.C.

I got chains around my ankles

N.C.

That are made out of spaghetti

F#

My newspaper s shredded

G#m

Into so much confetti

N.C.

I tried to make sense of it

N.C.

But my eyes start to bleed

F#

G#m

Every single page is impossible to read

[Chorus]

Dm A# F

Hey, can you tell me

C

What everybody plans to do

Dm A# F

Hey, can you tell me

C

Where s everybody s going to

[Outro]

G#m

Just sittinâ€™ here waitinâ€™ on the weather report

G#m F# G#m

N.C.

(Repeat until fade, improvising with each repeat)

2. BROKEN SKIN

[Intro]

Bb Eb Bb Eb Bb

[Verse 1]

Eb Bb
It's not surprising
Eb Bb
That you have all those wounds
Eb Bb
They're advertising
Eb Bb
The things that you've been through
Eb Bb
It's tantalizing
Eb Bb
To psychoanalyze
Eb Bb
We're all downsizing
Eb
What we do with our lives

[Chorus 1]

F Bb
There's not enough money
Eb Bb
In this whole world
F Bb Eb
To pay for a break or two
F Bb Eb Bb
There's not enough armor in a suit of mail
F Bb Eb Bb
Your broken skin's not black or blue
F Bb Eb
But damaged just the same
F Bb Eb Bb
And who does not feel fractured too
Eb Bb
Like broken skin
Eb Bb
Broken skin

[Instrumental break]

Bb Eb Bb Eb Bb

[Verse 2]

Eb Bb
The sun's not rising
Eb Bb
Upon your burned out shell
Eb Bb
Still exercising

Eb **Bb**
The things you don't do well

Eb **Bb**
It's not enterprising

Eb **Bb**
To grapple with the past

Eb **Bb**
You're past surmising

Eb
How long the past can last

[Chorus 2]

F **Bb**
There's not enough trees

Eb **Bb**
You can hide behind

F **Bb** **Eb**
Not enough walls to climb

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
Not enough cracks in the paving stones

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
Your broken skin's not black or blue

F **Bb** **Eb**
But damaged just the same

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
And who does not feel fractured too

Eb **Bb**
Like broken skin

Eb **Bb**
Broken Skin

[Guitar solo]

Bb **Eb** **Bb** **Eb**
Bb **Eb** **Bb** **Eb**

[Chorus 1]

F **Bb**
There's not enough money

Eb **Bb**
In this whole world

F **Bb** **Eb**
To pay for a break or two

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
There's not enough armor in a suit of mail

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
Your broken skin's not black or blue

F **Bb** **Eb**
But damaged just the same

F **Bb** **Eb** **Bb**
But who does not feel fractured too

Eb **Bb**
Like broken skin

Eb **Bb**

Broken skin

[Outro]

Eb Bb

Broken skin

Eb Bb

Broken skin

Eb Bb

Broken skin

3. IT S MY PARTY (BUT I WON T CRY)

[Intro]

G C G

[Verse 1]

C G
It s my party but I won t cry

C G
It s my funeral but I won t die

C G
It s my fiction but I won t lie

C G
It s my party but I won t cry

[Pre-chorus 1]

Em

I don t have the power to be superman

C

Em

And I don t have the smarts to understand

C

Em

Why you walked out and left me for another man

Am

With the cake in the oven

D

And the meat in the pan

[Verse 2]

G C G
It s my party but I won t dance

C G
My feet get tangled I can t take the chance

C G
It s my party but no one s here

C G

They left me chocolate and warm beer

[Pre-chorus 2]

Em

I don t have the strength left to pull a train

C

Em

I don t have the fortitude to start again

C

Em

Well you might have left me in a world of pain

Am

D

But I won t fall apart or go insane

[Chorus]

G **C** **G**

Itâ€™s my party now

C **G**

Itâ€™s my party yeah

[Organ/Guitar solo]

Em **C** **Em**

Em **C** **Em**

Em **C** **Am** **D**

[Verse 3]

G **C** **G**

It is my party but I won t leave

C **G**

The wound is fatal but I won t grieve

C **G**

I m not in traction I m not bereaved

C **G**

It s my party and I won t leave

[Pre-chorus 3]

Em

I don t have the heart to beat myself up

C

Em

It s a farfetched tale you can t make this stuff up

C

Em

Well you might have left me in a world of pain

Am

D

But I won t fall apart or go insane

[Chorus]

G **C** **G**

Itâ€™s my party yeah

C **G**

Itâ€™s my party now

C **G**

Itâ€™s my party yeah

C **G**

It's my party now

4. BRING ME A HEART AGAIN

[Verse 1]

F **G**
/ / / I don t feel comfortable
C **Am** **F**
Inside my own skin
G **C** **C7** **F**
It doesn t keep things in
G **C** **Am** **F**
I never get a kick from vodka or gin
G **C** **F**
Bring me a heart again

[Verse 2]

G
I got some courage
C **Am** **F**
And I got a brain
G **C** **C7** **F**
Straw man though I may be
G
But long ago I felt
C **Am** **F**
My empathy wane
G **C**
Bring me a heart again

[Chorus 1]

F **C**
Though I had one once
Dm **C**
I must have lost it in the rain
F **C**
Pushin up the roots while ivy
F **G**
Grows around your windowpane

[Verse 3]

F **G** **C** **Am** **F**
/ / / I walk the city streets for hours at night
G **C** **C7** **F**
Searching for some new clue
G
But I just hit dead ends
C **C7** **F**

It s always the same

G C

Bring me a heart again

[Guitar solo]

F G C Am

F G C

F G C C7

F G C

[Chorus 2]

F C

Though I had one once

Dm C

I must have lost it in the sun

F C

Where it melted fast and now it

F G

Can t be found by anyone

G G7 F

[Verse 4]

G

I got some courage

C C7 F

And I got a brain

G C F

Straw man though I may be

G

But long ago I felt

C C7 F

My empathy wane

G C F

Bring me a heart again

G C F

Bring me a heart again

G C

Bring me a heart again

5. SNOWGUN

[Intro]

A D A E

A D A E

[Verse 1]

A

D

A

/ / / While that snowgun blasts into

E A

The future from the past

D

It blasts that phony snow that

A E A

Looks like cake mix down below

D

From my vantage here

A E A

Up on this mountain ski lift chair

D A

I can see a lot but it s

E

Not always crystal clear

A

On my own

{Chorus}

D A

O---n Belleayre Mountain

E A

Where the snowgun blasts on my own

D A

High on Belleayre Mountain

E A

Where the snowgun blasts

[Verse 2]

D

The trail has a lot of turns

A E A

And one of them just made me pay

D

But I always knew those strong winds

A E A

Would come around and take you away

D

So I check my gear and make sure

A E A

That everything is strapped on tight

D

Cos I ve seen a lot of accidents

A E E7

And that s why I ll be alone tonight

A

On my own

[Chorus]

D A

O---n Belleayre Mountain

E **A**

Where the snowgun blasts on my own

D **A**

High on Belleayre Mountain

E

Where the snowgun blasts

[Guitar solo]

F#m **D** **A** **E**

F#m **D** **A** **E**

[Interlude]

A **D** **A** **E**

A **D** **A** **E** **A**

[Verse 3]

D

The crystals block my vision

A **E** **A**

And it s hard to keep the trail in sight

D

But just like snowflakes

A **E** **A**

No two of us are quite alike

D

So I check my gear and make sure

A **E** **A**

That everything is strapped on tight

D

Cos I ve seen a lot of accidents

A **E** **E7**

And that s why I ll be alone tonight

A

On my own

[Chorus]

D **A**

O---n Belleayre Mountain

E **A**

Where the snowgun blasts on my own

D **A**

High on Belleayre Mountain

E **A**

Where the snowgun blasts

[Chorus 2]

D **A**

Yeah on Belleayre Mountain

E **A**

Where the snowgun blasts on my own

D **A**

High on Belleayre Mountain

E

Where the snowgun blasts

[Outro]

A D A E
A D A E A

6. ALWAYS GREENER

[Verse 1]

B **E** **C#m**
/ / / She likes it in this line of work
F# **B**
But it doesn't matter
E **C#m**
Whatever happens seems to work
F#
But it doesn't matter

[Chorus]

E **B F#**
The grass is always greener
E **B F#**
The grass is always greener

[Verse 2]

B **E** **C#m**
/ / / There's something lacking in his life
F# **B**
But he can't define it
E **C#m**
Three kids two cars a house a wife
F#
I guess that defines it

[Chorus]

E **B F#**
The grass is always greener
E **B F# E**
The grass is always greener

[Refrain]

B **E**
Always greener
B
Always greener

[Bridge]

C#m **G#m** **A**
/ / / I know there s jackpots everywhere
B **C#m**
A different face with different hair
G#m **A**
I know there s cherries in a pair
B
So I will pull that handle
C#m **A**
(Pull that handle) [x2]
C#m **A** **F#**
(Pull that handle)

[Guitar solo]

B **E** **C#m** **F#**
B **E** **C#m** **F#**

[Chorus]

E **B** **F#**
The grass is always greener
E **B** **F#**
The grass is always greener

[Verse 3]

B **E** **C#m**
/ / / They know there s nothing they can do
F# **B**
But do something other
E **C#m**
Than stay the course and see it through
F#
Without one another

[Chorus]

E **B** **F#**
The grass is always greener
E **B** **F#** **E**
The grass is always greener

[Coda]

B **E**
 Always greener
B **E**
 Always greener
B **E**
 Always greener
B
 Always greener

7. SEE THINGS MY WAY

[Verse 1]

G **Em**
 There is more than one of me
C **G**
 So many I lose count
G **Em**
 Sometimes that s the fun of me
C **G**
 That s what I m all about
Em **C**
 But I ll be there for you
Em **C**
 And you know that that s true
Em **C**
 I just can t guarantee
G **D**
 Which one of me it s going to be, so

[Chorus]

G **C** **G** **D**
 See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
 (Come on) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
 (Can you) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
 See things my way

[Verse 2]

G **Em**
 All the pieces fit
C **G**
 Like pieces in a puzzle do
G **Em**
 The joins are jagged the edges rough
C **G**
 But the heart is straight and true
Em **C**
 Well this one s fragile this one s tough

Em **C**
This one s kind of blue
Em **C** **G**
And this one has a lot of things that
D
Remind me of you, so

[Chorus]

G **C** **G** **D**
See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
(Come on) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
(Can you) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
See things my way, my way, my way

[Bridge]

Em **C**
A brighter shade of red
Em **C**
Like sunshine on my bed
Em **C**
But everybody s head
G **D**
Is filled with more than just one soul, so

[Chorus]

G **C** **G** **D**
See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
(Come on) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
(Can you) See things my way
G **C** **G** **D**
See things my way, my way, my way

(Repeat until fade)

8. YOU RE NOT WHERE YOU THINK YOU ARE

[Intro]

A **D** **A** **D**
A **D** **A** **D**

[Verse 1]

A **D**
This room got really weird
A **D**
It changed before my eyes

A **D**
And then I grew this beard

A **D**
A really cheap disguise

A **D**
That chandelier that fell

A **D**
It wasn't there before

A **D**
And now I have to pick

A **D**
The pieces from the floor

[Chorus]

F#m **E**
You're not where you think you are

D
You're not where you think you are

A
Anymore

F#m **E**
You're not where you think you are

D
You're not where you think you are

A
Anymore

[Instrumental break]

A D A D

[Verse 2]

A **D**
This street has changed its name

A **D**
So many times before

A **D**
I looked out yesterday

A **D**
And it had changed once more

A **D**
The cells I used to have

A **D**
Have long since gone to waste

A **D**
And in the coming years

A **D**
It will all be replaced

[Chorus]

F#m **E**
You re not who you think you are
D
You re not who you think you are
A
Anymore

F#m **E**
You re not who you think you are
D
You re not who you think you are
F#m
Anymore

[Guitar solo]

F#m **E** **D** **A**
F#m **E** **D** **A**
D **A** **D** **A** **D**

[Verse 3]

A **D**
This piece of literature
A **D**
I m holding in my hands
A **D**
The plot just took a turn
A **D**
That I don t understand
A **D**
This movie makes no sense
A **D**
That I ve been sitting through
A **D**
The actors disappeared
A **D**
Killed off two by two

[Chorus]

F#m **E**
You re not where you think you are
D
You re not where you think you are
A
Anymore

F#m **E**
You re not where you think you are
D
You re not where you think you are
F#m
Anymore

F#m **E**

You re not

D

You re not where you think you are

F#m E

Anymore

D

You re not where you think you are

A

Anymore

[Instrumental break]

A D A D

[Verse 4]

A

D

This room got really weird

A

D

It changes as I write

A

D

The furniture was cleared

A

D

By someone in the night

[Outro]

A D A D

9. HEAD ON STRAIGHT

[Intro]

C C7 F D
C E A A7
F Fm C G

[Verse 1]

C

E

/ / / I had my day in the sun

F

Then it rained every day

D

Every day was no fun

C

E

A

A7

But things are looking up of late

F

Fm

C

G

C

Now I got my head on straight

[Verse 2]

E

I had my week in the news

F

But now I m old news now

D

I m not the news they choose

C

E

A

A7

But things are looking up of late

F

Fm

C

Since I got my head on straight

[Chorus]

Bb

C

F

/ / / You put that sugar in my cup

D

Bb

And that just stirred my spirits up

C

F

You took that monkey off my back

D

G

And now my train is back on track

G7

Oh yeah!

[Verse 3]

C

E

/ / / I spent my year on the roof

F

Staring up at the stars

D

Wondering if I was from mars

C

E

A

A7

But things are looking up of late

F

Fm

C

G

Now I got my head on straight

[Kazoo solo]

C E F D

C E A A7

F Fm C

[Chorus]

Bb

C

F

/ / / You put that sugar in my cup

D

Bb

And that just stirred my spirits up

C

F

You took that monkey off my back

D

G

And now my train is back on track

G7

Oh yeah!

[Verse 4]

C **E**
/ / / I lost it all in the crash
F
I lost everything
D
I lost all my cash
C **E** **A** **A7**
But things are looking up of late
F **Fm** **C**
Now I got my head on straight
C **E** **A** **A7**
But things are looking up of late
F **Fm** **C**
Now I got my head on straight

10. MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

[Chorus]

C **F** **C**
/ / / There are more questions than answers
F **G** **C** **C7**
Pictures in my mind that will not show
F **C**
There are more questions than answers
F **Fm** **C**
And the more I find out the less I know
G **C**
Yeah, the more I find out the less I know

[Verse]

G **F** **C**
I ve asked the question time and time again
G **Fm** **C**
Why is there so little of a moment

[Bridge]

F **G**
But what is life, how do we live
Am **Dm** **C** **C7**
What should we take and how much should we give

[Chorus]

F **C**
There are more questions than answers

F **G** **C** **C7**
Pictures in my mind that will not show
F **C**
There are more questions than answers
F **Fm** **C**
And the more I find out the less I know
G **C**
Yeah, the more I find out the less I know

[Guitar solo]

C **F** **C**
F **G** **C** **C7**

[Bridge]

F **G**
But what is life, how do we live
Am **Dm** **C** **C7**
What should we take and how much should we give

[Chorus]

F **C**
There are more questions than answers
F **G** **C** **C7**
Pictures in my mind that will not show
F **C**
There are more questions than answers
F **Fm** **C**
And the more I find out the less I know

[Outro]

G
Yeah, the more I find out
C
The less I know

11. FIRST RESPONDER

[Intro]

A **F#m** **D** **A**

[Verse 1]

A **F#m** **D** **A**
Well it might get rough in this world for you
E **A**
It won't get any easier I'll tell you true

There s hard knocks road blocks coming thru
You gotta grow up tough but keep your head on too

[Chorus 1]

Sometimes you re gonna need a helping hand
Don t worry about it kid I understand
But you better have a good reason to
Don t drag me outta bed unless you really do
Then I ll turn up in a Cadillac
A Chevy or a Honda
I ll be your first responder
A Pullman train an all terrain
A tractor or Hyundai
I ll be your first responder
Whatever it is you won t wait any longer
For your first responder

[Instrumental break]

A F#m D A

[Verse 2]

Well I got nothing better to do with my time
Than bail you outta jail or pay your parking fine
Well my daddy would a done the same for me
I paid him back later cos nothing s free

[Chorus 2]

Sometimes you re gonna need a helping hand
Don t worry about it boy I understand

But you better have a good reason to

A **E**

Don t drag me outta bed unless you really do

A **F#m**

Then I ll turn up in a hybrid

D **A** **E**

Or a hummer or a Honda

A

I ll be your first responder

F#m **D** **A** **E**

A wicked Maserati a Kia or Hyundai

A

I ll be your first responder

F#m **D** **A** **E**

Whatever it is you won t wait any longer

A

For your first responder

[Bridge]

F#m **D**

But your explanation for this mess

F#m

Better not be too weird to confess

D

Or I ll box your ears till your teeth come loose

E **D**

You better have a good excuse

E **D** **E** **E7**

Ooh, ooh

[Guitar solo]

A **F#m** **D** **A** **E** **A**

A **F#m** **D** **A** **E** **E7**

[Chorus 3]

A **D**

Sometimes you re gonna need a helping hand

A **E**

Don t worry about it kid I understand

A **D**

But you better have a good reason to

A **E**

Don t drag me outta bed unless you really do

A **F#m** **D** **A** **E**

And don t worry now you won t have to ponder

A

Who ll be your first responder

F#m **D** **A** **E**

I ll cross any distance or the wild blue yonder

A **E**

To be your first responder

A E

I ll be your first responder

E7 A

I ll be your first responder

[Outro]

A F#m D A