

# Only Skin

from "Ys"

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♩ = 86

The musical score consists of four staves of music for voice and harp. The vocal part (top staff) starts with a melodic line in F major, quarter notes, followed by a section where the lyrics mention a boom, above you, at night, black air-planes flew. The harp part (second staff) provides harmonic support, primarily in G major. The vocal part continues with a section over the sea, mentioning whales, shelled. The harp part (third staff) continues its harmonic function. The vocal part then shifts to a section about snails, strained, squint-ed, and the retreat of their hair-less and. The harp part (fourth staff) continues its harmonic function. The vocal part concludes with a section about blind cav-al-ry, You froze, in your sand shoal, prayed for your poor soul. The harp part (fifth staff) provides harmonic support throughout the piece.

F F F a G F

And there was a boom - ing a-bove you that night black air-planes flew

Harp

a F a G

o - ver the sea and they were low - in' and shift - in' like beached whales, shelled

Hp.

9 F a G<sub>2</sub> F

snails, as you strained and you squint-ed to see the re - treat of their hair - less and

Hp.

12 a G<sub>2</sub> e7 D C B<sup>b</sup> 3

blind cav - al - ry You froze in your sand shoal prayed for your poor soul

Hp.

## Only Skin

15 F C B<sup>b</sup> d e7 D

Sky was a bread roll soak-in' in a milk bowl and when the bread broke

15 Hp.

18 C B<sup>b</sup> 3 F C

fell in bricks of wet smoke My sleep-ing heart woke

20 B<sup>b</sup> d F a G

Tempo I

and my wak-ing heart spoke And there was a si-lence you took to mean some - thing: run, sing,

23 F a G F a G

for a-live you will e-ver more be And the plague of the greas-y black en-gines a-skulk-ing has gone

## Only Skin

3

27 F G a G F  
east while you're left to ex - plain them to me re - leased from their hair - less and

27 Hp.

30 a G e7 D C B<sup>b</sup> 3 c  
blind cav - al - ry With your hands in your pock - ets stub-bl - y run - ning

30 Hp.

33 F C B<sup>b</sup> d 3 e7 D  
to where I'm un - fresh un - dressed and yawn - ing, well what is this cra - zi - ness?

33 Hp.

36 C B<sup>b</sup> 3 F C B<sup>b</sup> d 3  
this craz - y talk - ing? You caught some small death when you were sleep walk - ing

36 Hp.

The musical score consists of four systems of music. System 1 (measures 27-28) features a vocal part with lyrics about being released from hairless skin, and a harp part. System 2 (measures 30-31) features a vocal part with lyrics about being unfresh and running, and a harp part. System 3 (measures 33-34) features a vocal part with lyrics about catching death while sleepwalking, and a harp part. System 4 (measures 36-37) continues the vocal and harp parts. The vocal part uses a mix of letter names (F, G, a, etc.) and Roman numerals (I, II, V, etc.) above the staff, indicating different melodic lines or harmonies. The harp part is indicated by a brace and the label 'Hp.'.

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39 A e D A F C B<sup>b</sup> d

39

Hp.

43 A e D A F C B<sup>b</sup> d

43

Hp.

47 f# A b D f# A

47

Hp.

50 b D f# A

50

Hp.

## Only Skin

5

52 b B<sup>b</sup>add6 F C 6

52 riv - er - side I'd bring it here Ap - ply it gent - ly

54 B<sup>b</sup> d F While the riv - er was twist - in' and braid - in'

54 to the love you've lent me

56 a G F a G

56 the bait bobbed and the stream sobbed as it cut through the hu - stl - ing breeze

59 F a G F

59 And I watched how the wa - ter was knead - ing so neat - ly gone treac - ly near - ly slowed to a

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62 a G F a G

62 Hp.

$\text{♩} = 72$

65 a C e G a C e

65 Hp.

72 G a C e G a

72 Hp.

$\text{♩} = 96$

78 C e G d

78 Hp.

## Only Skin

7

83 F a C d F

long a - mong the reeds, a - mong the rush - es I heard your song be - fore my  
heart had time to hush it Smell of a stone - fruit be - ing cut and be - ing  
o - pened Smell of a low and of a la - zy cin - der smo - king

88 C a7 d F a

heart had time to hush it Smell of a stone - fruit be - ing cut and be - ing  
o - pened Smell of a low and of a la - zy cin - der smo - king

93 C d F C a7

o - pened Smell of a low and of a la - zy cin - der smo - king

98 C G C G/B a

And when the fire moves a - way Fire moves a - away

## Only Skin

105 G F C G C G/B

way, son Why would you say

Hp.

105

112 a G F FM7

I was the last one?

Hp.

112

118 a C e G a C

Scrape your knee, it is on - ly skin Makes the sound of

Hp.

118

125 e G a C e

vi - o - lins and when I cut your hair and leave the birds all of

Hp.

125

## Only Skin

9

130 G a C e

the trim - mings, I'm the hap - pi - est wom - an a - - - mong all

134 G D♭

wom - en And the shal - low

138 f D♭M7 f

wa - - - ter stretch - es as far as I can see, knee - deep

144 D♭ 3 E♭/D♭ f D♭ f f D♭ c

trud - gin' a - long, the sea - gull weeps: "So long!" Hum - min' a thresh - in' song un - til

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150 f D♭

the night is o - ver hold on, hold on, hold your hors - es back from the fick - le dawn. I

Hp.

150

154 f D♭

have got some bus - ness out at the edge of town can - dy weigh - in' both of my pock - ets down 'til I

Hp.

154

158 f D♭

can hard - ly stay a - float from the weight of them and know - in' how the com - mon folk con - demn

Hp.

158

162 f D♭

what it is I do to you to keep you warm be - ing a wo - man be - ing a wo - man, but al -

Hp.

162

166 **b**

ways up the mount - ain side, you're clam-bor - ing grop - in' blind - ly, hun - gry for a - ny-thing,

Hp.

166

D<sup>b</sup>

170 **b** *accel. poco a poco*

pick - in' through your pock - et li - nin', well, what is this? scrap of sass - a - frass, eh, Sis - y - phus? I

Hp.

170

E<sup>b</sup>

$\text{♩} = 120$

174 **f**

see the blossoms broke and wet af - ter the rain, lit - tle sis - ter, he will be back a - gain I

Hp.

174

D<sup>b</sup>

178 **f**

have washed a thous - and spi - ders down the drain Spi - der's ghosts hang soaked and dang - ling

Hp.

178

D<sup>b</sup>

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182 b♭ D♭

Silent - ly from all the bloom - ing cherr - y trees in ti - ny noos - es, safe from ev' ry - one

Hp.

186 b♭ D♭ E♭

No - thing but a nui - sance, gone now, dead, done Be a wo - man, be a wo - man, though

Hp.

190 ♩ = 120 f b♭

We felt the spray of the waves we de ci - ded to stay 'til the tide rose too far

Hp.

193 A♭ g dim f

We weren't a - fraid 'cause we know what you are and you know that we

Hp.

The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is for the voice, starting at measure 182 in B-flat major. The second staff is for the harp (Harp.), starting at measure 182. The third staff is for the harp, continuing from measure 186. The bottom staff is for the harp, starting at measure 190. Measure 182 starts with a piano dynamic and a B-flat key signature. The lyrics mention cherry blossoms and tiny blossoms. Measures 186 and 190 continue with similar patterns, with the lyrics changing to 'No-thing but a nuisance, gone now, dead, done' and 'We felt the spray of the waves we de ci - ded to stay'. Measure 193 begins with a forte dynamic (f) and an A-flat key signature, with the lyrics 'We weren't a - fraid 'cause we know what you are and you know that we'. The harp parts provide harmonic support throughout, with various chords and sustained notes.

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13

196 **b** know what you are **A<sup>b</sup>** Aw - ful a - toll, oh in - calc -

Hp. { **cadd6**

196 **b** **E<sup>b</sup>** u - la - ble in - dis - creet - ness and sorr - oow, bawl, bel - low, sy - bill sea - cow all done up in a bow

Hp. { **D<sup>b</sup>M7add11**

199 **f**

202 **cadd6** Tod - dle and roll, teeth an im - palp - a - ble bit of leath - er while yarr - oow, heath - er, and holl - y - hock

Hp. { **E<sup>b</sup>** **D<sup>b</sup>M7add11**

202 **f** awk - ward - ly molt a - long the shore. Are you mine?

Hp. { **E<sup>b</sup>** **a tempo f** **D<sup>b</sup>**

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209 f D $\flat$

My heart, mine a - ny - more?

Hp.

214 F 3 D $\flat$  F

Stay with me for a - while That's an aw - full - y real gun And though

Hp.

219 3 D $\flat$  3 F

life will lay it down As the light - nin' has late - ly done Fail - ing

Hp.

223 a C

this, fail - - - ing this Foll - ow me, my sweet -

Hp.

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15

228 G F G/F a

228

Hp.

234 C G

234

Hp.

238 F a G F

238

Hp.

2

Tempo I

241 a G F a G F

241

Hp.

245 a G F a G e7 D

245

Hp.

249 C B♭ 3 F C B♭ 3 d

249

Hp.

252 e7 D C B♭ 3 F C

252

Hp.

255 B♭ 3 d A e D A F C

255

Hp.

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17

259 **B<sup>b</sup>** — 3 — **d** A e D A

take her to a higher place Said "dog, nor vul - ture, nor cat shall toy with you,

Hp.

262 **F** C **B<sup>b</sup>** — 3 — **d** **f<sup>#</sup>** A

and though you die, bird, you will have a fine view" Then in my hot hand

Hp.

265 **b** D **f<sup>#</sup>** A

She slumped her sick weight We ramped through the poi - son oak

Hp.

267 **b** D **f<sup>#</sup>** A

Heart - broke and in - cho - ate The dogs were snap - pin' and

Hp.

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269 b D f# A

you cuffed their coll - ars While I climbed the tree house

Hp.

271 b D f# A 3

Then how I holl - ered while she'd lain as still as a stone in my

Hp.

273 b Bbadd6 F C Bb d

palm for a life - time or two then saw the tree tops, cocked her head, and up and flew a-way

Hp.

276 f# A b Bbadd6

Back in the world that moves of - ten ac - cord-ing to the hoard - ing of these clues

Hp.

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19

278 F M7 C B♭ d

278 dogs still run rough - ly 'round little tufts of finch down

281 And the cit - ies we passed were a flick - er - ing waste - land but his hand in my hand made 'em

284 hale and harm - less While down in the low - lands the crops are all com - ing we have ev' - ry -

287 thing life is thun - der - ing bliss - ful towards death in a stam - pede of His fum - bl - ing green

Hp.

## Only Skin

$\bullet = 72$

290 a G a C e G a  
 gen - tle - ness You stopped by, I was all a - live In my

Hp. {

296 C e G 2 a 2 C  
 door - way we shucked and jived and when you wept, I was gone see, I got

Hp. {

301 e G a C e  
 gone when I got wise but I can't with cert - ain - ty say we sur -

Hp. {

$\bullet = 96$

306 G d F a  
 vived Then down and down and down and down and down and

Hp. {

## Only Skin

21

311 C d F C a7

deep - er Stoke, with - out sound, the blame - less flames you end - less sleep - er

Hp.

316 d F a C d

Through fire be - low and fire a - bove and fire with - in Sleep througuh the things

Hp.

321 F C a7 C

$\bullet = 86$

that should-n't a been if you had-n't a been And when the fire

Hp.

326 G C G/B a G F

moves a - way fire moves a - way, son

Hp.

## Only Skin

333 C G C G/B a 6

And why would you say I was the

Hp.

340 G F FM7

last one? *accel. poco a poco*

Hp.  $\text{♩} = 120$

345 a C e G a C

All my bones they are gone gone gone Take my bones oh I

Hp.

345

All my bones they are gone gone gone

351 G d a C e G

don't need none Cold cold cup-board Lord noth-in' to chew on

Hp.

351

Cold cold cup-board Lord noth-in' to chew on

357 a C G F

Suck all day on a cher - ry stone

Hp.

361 a C e G a

Dig a lit - tle hole not Three in - ches 'round Spit your

Hp.

361

Dig a lit - tle hole not three inch - es 'round

366 C G d a C

pit in a hole in the ground Weep up - on the spot for the

Hp.

366

Weep up - on the spot for the

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371 e G a C G  
 starv - in' of me 'Til up grow a fine young cherr - y tree

Hp.

371

371

376 F a C e G  
 When the bough breaks what - 'll you make for me? A

Hp.

376

376

381 a C G d a  
 lit - tle wil - low cab - in to rest on your knee Well what will I

Hp.

381

381

Well what will I

# Only Skin

25

386 C e G a C

do with a trink - et such as this? Think of your wo - man who's gone

386

Hp.

386

do with a trink - et such as this?

391 G F a C e G

to the west Well I'm starv-in' and freez - in' in my meas - ly old bed Then I'll

391

Hp.

391

Well I'm starv - in' and freez - in' in my meas - ly old bed

397 a C G d

crawl a - cross the salt flats to stroke your sweet head Come

397

Hp.

397

26

## Only Skin

401 a C e G a  
 a - cross the des - ert with no shoes on I love you

Hp. {  
 401 {  
 401 {  
 Come a - cross the des - ert with no shoes on  
 406 C G F FM7 a  
 tru - ly or I love no one

Hp. {  
 406 {  
 406 {  
 412 {  
 412 {  
 Fire

419 moves a - way Fire

Hp. {  
 419 {  
 419 {

The musical score consists of six staves. The top staff is vocal (soprano) with lyrics. The second staff is harp (Harp). The third staff is bass (Bass). The fourth staff is vocal (alto). The fifth staff is harp (Harp). The bottom staff is bass (Bass). Measure 401 starts with a vocal line: 'a - cross the des - ert with no shoes on I love you'. The harp provides harmonic support. Measures 402-405 continue the vocal line: 'Come a - cross the des - ert with no shoes on'. Measure 406 begins a new section with a vocal line: 'truly or I love no one'. The harp continues its harmonic function. Measures 412-415 show a rhythmic pattern for the harp, labeled '4x'. The bass part is present throughout. Measures 419-422 show another rhythmic pattern for the harp, labeled 'moves a - way Fire'. The bass part is present throughout.

426 F M7

moves a - way son Why

426

Hp.

433

would you say that I

433

Hp.

441

was the

441

Hp.

442 F M7

last one?

442

Hp.

## Only Skin

448 a G  
Last one... 

448 Hp. { 

454 slower Clear the room, there's a fi-re, a fi-re, a fi - re, get go-ing and I'm go-ing to be right-be- 

454 Hp. { 

457 a rit. G F • = 86 a G  
hind you And if the love of a wo - man or two, dear, could 

457 Hp. { 

460 F a G F rit. a  
move you to such heights then all I can do is do my dar-lin' right by you 

460 Hp. { 

460 