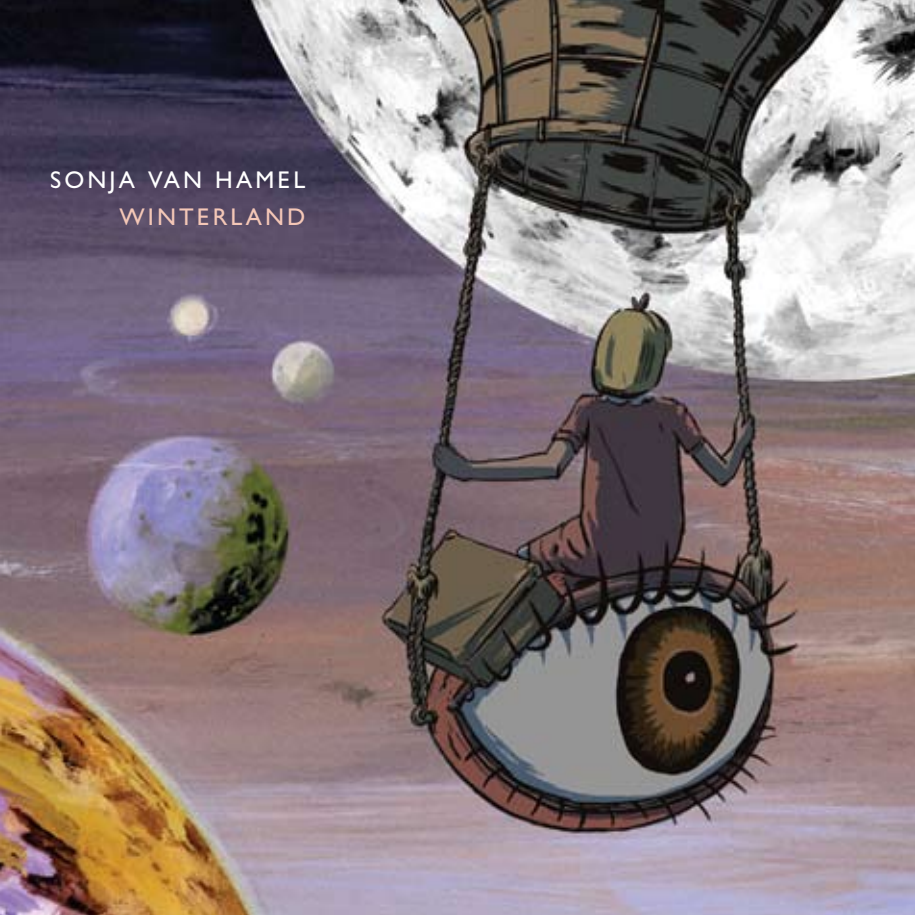


SONJA VAN HAMEL
WINTERLAND





WINTERLAND

Let me take you by the hand
and lead you back to Winterland
It's a strange uncommon road
The only way to go

As time grows flowers
I'm on the edge of a field
Where grassleaves towers
On canvas almost real

I guess I'm feeling comfortable
Like a shadow on the wall
All is strange and all is true
and all the Me is You

As time grows flowers
I'm floating back on a cloud
These weightless hours
Solid to the ground

I keep stories in mind
of people talking
Rocks that are kind
Walking trees that sing a chorus

I like travelling time
And in my dreams
I see through the night
Winterland is right before us



WHY DO PEOPLE TALK?

I should have left you sitting on a Stone Age Fence
I know I should have much more opinion
I'm like a rock that's hiding from the waving sand
In a shady spot

Why do people talk?
When they don't know what they say
Whenever I'm awake
I hear songs occur from sleeping birds

I never questioned living was a simple plan
I never rest my back on a pillow
I'm on a track and tracing down to Winterland
In a strobic sun

Why do people talk?
When they don't care what they say
Whenever I'm awake
I hear songs occur from sleeping birds

We speak, we smile
Disagree once in a while
These words remain
Unheard, spoken today

Riddles and rhymes
Stories and signs
Letters and calls
Why do people talk?

INSTANT CHEMISTRY

I can feel there is chemistry in the air
better switch on and tune in there
I'm a fugitive, I'm on a plane
with a sixth sense for instant pain
I hear people think, you don't care
just a crush upon a love affair
Think of what you said, I don't know
so I'll just go with the flow

I think I know what you're looking for
A silouhet on a postcard at the shore
Try to take a closer look once more

Many places I wanne go you haven't seen
only pictures in a magazine
Keeping busy just to hang around
'cause the best comes in small amounts
I was laughing over silly scenes
an obsession with fulfilling dreams
Now we're backing off and pretty near
I wish that you were here

I think you know where you wanne be
it's just a matter of instant chemistry
Try to take a closer look and see

PARALLEL LIVES

We were never far
from the spot where the arrow points
In a run down bar
on a street in the tenderloin

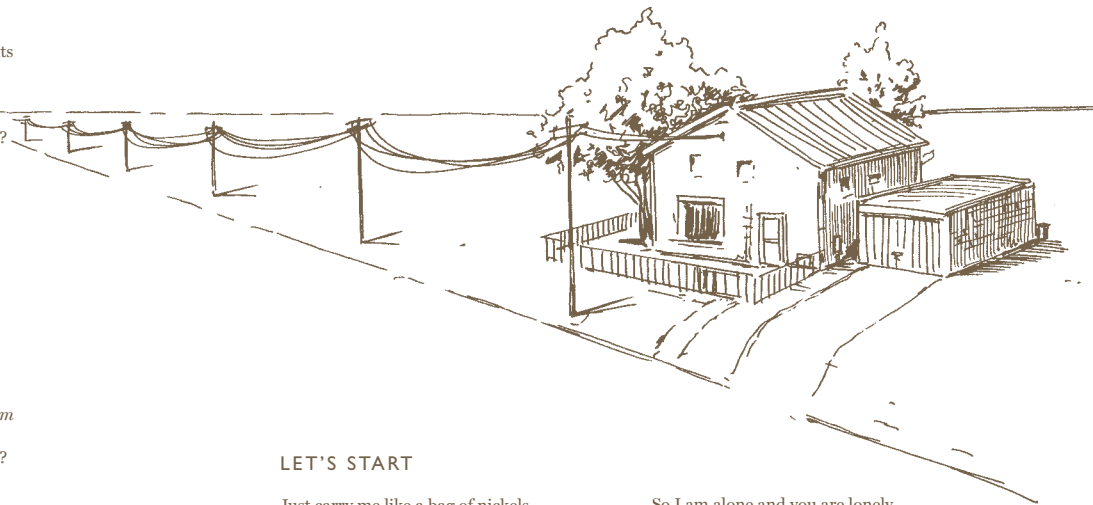
What is the place we're gonna meet?
What is the timing of the beat?
What is the tune we're tuning in?
What is the set we're gonna sing?

We were laughing and debating
Always looking out, always waiting
for you to arrive
in Parallel Lives

We were never far
from the point where we turn
into being superstars
Playing shows at the *Make Out Room*

What is the place we're gonna meet?
What is the timing of the beat?
What is the tune we're tuning in?
What is the set we're gonna sing?

When I caught your eye
it had never appealed to me
Then I recognized
you have always been here with me
on the other side
of the split screening of our lives



LET'S START

Just carry me like a bag of nickels
and count me while you trive
G ive me all the change that's left to figure
it out when we arrive

Let's buy ourselves a house and garage
With kids out in the yard
Let's go pretend that we are average
Let's start

So I am alone and you are lonely
Most people come in pairs
I'll let you be if I can only
Just sit around and stare

Let's buy ourselves a little kitten
that'll follow us around
Responsibilities are written
in sound



BIZARRO CITY

The city lits
as I take my bike to Brooklyn Heights
and over the bridge
The moving sounds
are pulling me into town

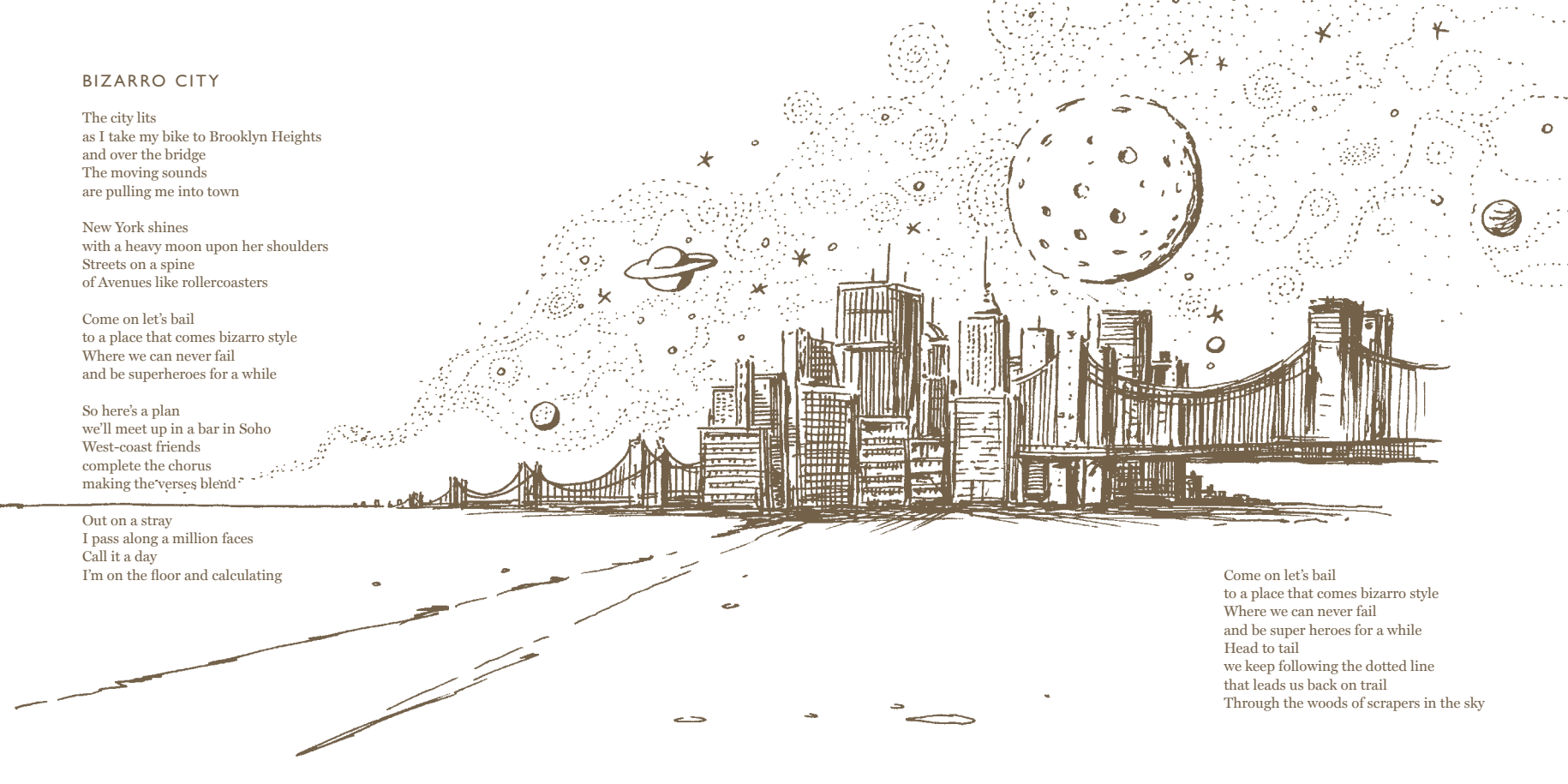
New York shines
with a heavy moon upon her shoulders
Streets on a spine
of Avenues like rollercoasters

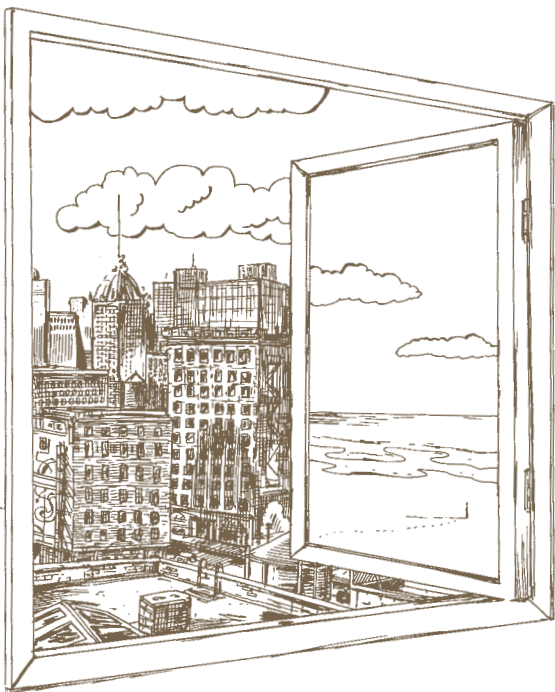
Come on let's bail
to a place that comes bizarro style
Where we can never fail
and be superheroes for a while

So here's a plan
we'll meet up in a bar in Soho
West-coast friends
complete the chorus
making the verses blend

Out on a stray
I pass along a million faces
Call it a day
I'm on the floor and calculating

Come on let's bail
to a place that comes bizarro style
Where we can never fail
and be super heroes for a while
Head to tail
we keep following the dotted line
that leads us back on trail
Through the woods of scrapers in the sky





TRANSPARANT ROOMS

Don't say you always kept me waiting
So stay in the distance and remain
This time you accidentally wasted was mine
You're my funny Valentine

What have I done so far?
What if I kept it coming?
What's the view up there like from a cloud?
What if I grabbed the moon?
What if the roof was lifted?
I am seeing through Transparant Rooms

I drew you sitting in the corner
You knew all my faces but a few
Come down, sometimes you'll see me roaming around
in the scenery of sound

What have I done so far?
What if I kept it coming?
What's the view up there like from a star?
What if I grabbed the moon?
What if the roof was lifted?
I am seeing through Transparant Rooms

At last the minute that we parted has passed
Hear the beating in my chest

THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE

Johnny wasn't here, ungratefull and unhappy
Johnny wasn't here and fainted to the ground
We were standing near, outrageously, uncanny
Wearing off the gear and playing to the crowd

I can never tell,
I guess I'm doing well
time travelling, spirits levelling
and blue eyes diving in

What if it's bound to happen
What if I try
What if the sky is cracking
What if I sleep and what if I die

What if time ellapses
and finds me sitting there one night
Staring at the picture slides
of The Best Days of My Life

Johnny didn't mind driving down together
he would always find his kicks in time
and then he'd write most upsetting letters
to anyone who digs his rhymes

I can't always tell,
I guess he's doing well
time travelling, spirits levelling
and blue eyes diving in



SICK OF GOODBYES

Sunny days
Passing the time away
in hot water springs
with coloured soft drinks
Quiet lifes
When we go out at night
We point at the sky
and count the satellites

I'm not afraid
of giving an understatement
on things that I see
The things that bother me
Every time
there is a flattening line
I point at my heart
and make the beat go thunder

Remember how we started off
with pictures that show the six of us
Wonder why we didn't last
in spite of the fact
we were given the best
This is when I hit the ground
and realise it all comes down to why
I'm so sick of goodbyes

We're sad, we're insane
lasting lives in given names
Come back, keep it up
climb a summit, reach the top
Come find sense to heal
tricks to mend a soul of steel
Slow down, sleeping in
Think it over to begin with

DREAM INTERRUPTIONS

It's just the weight of your mind
It's just the curve in your spine
It's this position I take
I'm half asleep half awake

Dream interruptions go by
in times in which we don't try
These many options float by
Remember we both know why

It's just the crack in your voice
(it's breaking)
It's just the lack of a choice
(you're making)
It's this decision I made
(I'm leaving)
to spend my life in a day
(I'm breathing again)

Dream interruptions go by
in times in which we don't try
These many options float by
Remember we both know why

All together we keep what was given today
Write a letter a week, just to keep it awake
Always try to achieve, keep a mind of your own
Better take it or leave, gotta see how it grows

COSMIC FEAR

Sliding on a craft the atmosphere is breathing
holding my feelings back
Moon is on the left she's smiling like a maniac
and time is elastic
Lonely in a crowd companions are weakening
silence is all around
moving to the right the moon is shifting out
of sight
time is elastic

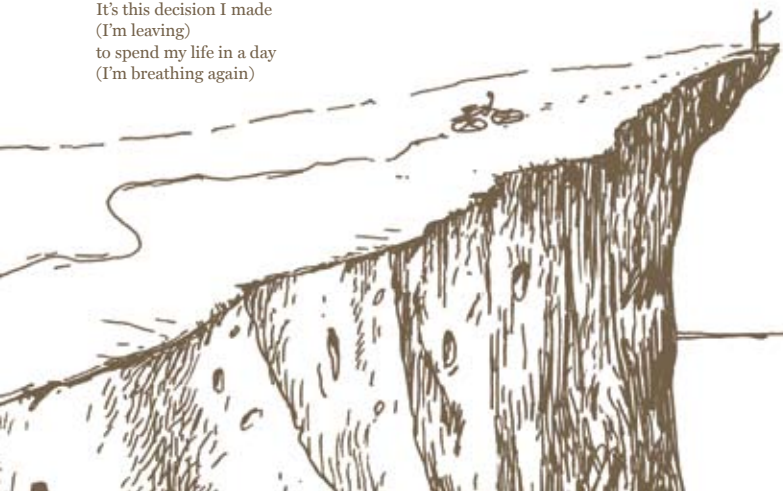
Watching a world so amazing
The colors are constantly changing
I am so lost but right in place

Once there was a time
when everything was even
Closed in and certified
Love was passing by
The emptiness was terrifying
but time was elastic

Watching a world so amazing
where people are constantly changing
Why do I keep on waiting
for someone to come fade in

Come closer but keeping safe
It's too much for a man to take
Get closer, we're gonna get near
to overcoming this cosmic fear

Lying on my back I'm starrng at a planet
drifting in to the black
everything is set, the map is on the ceiling yet
time is elastic







SALLY IN WINTERLAND

I crossed the line to Winterland
I tossed a coin to know
left over right, sound over sight
Watching the landscape grow
out of my hands it flows

I lost my sense of innocence
I caused this crack in time
Meadows and hills fade into stills
Watching a cosmic flight
litting up in my eyes

I AM SO FREE

Just a minute before our eyes collide
I was blinded by weary thinking
No direction to go, no step behind,
in time (this time)
I'm fine (she's fine)

All the words that were navigating
All the thoughts that I pushed aside
I just needed some time to realize,
my eyes (her eyes)
are right (she's right)

I'm so free, I am just me
Up in the sky on the eye that carries me
I'm so free, now I can see
I am the one that I was meant to be

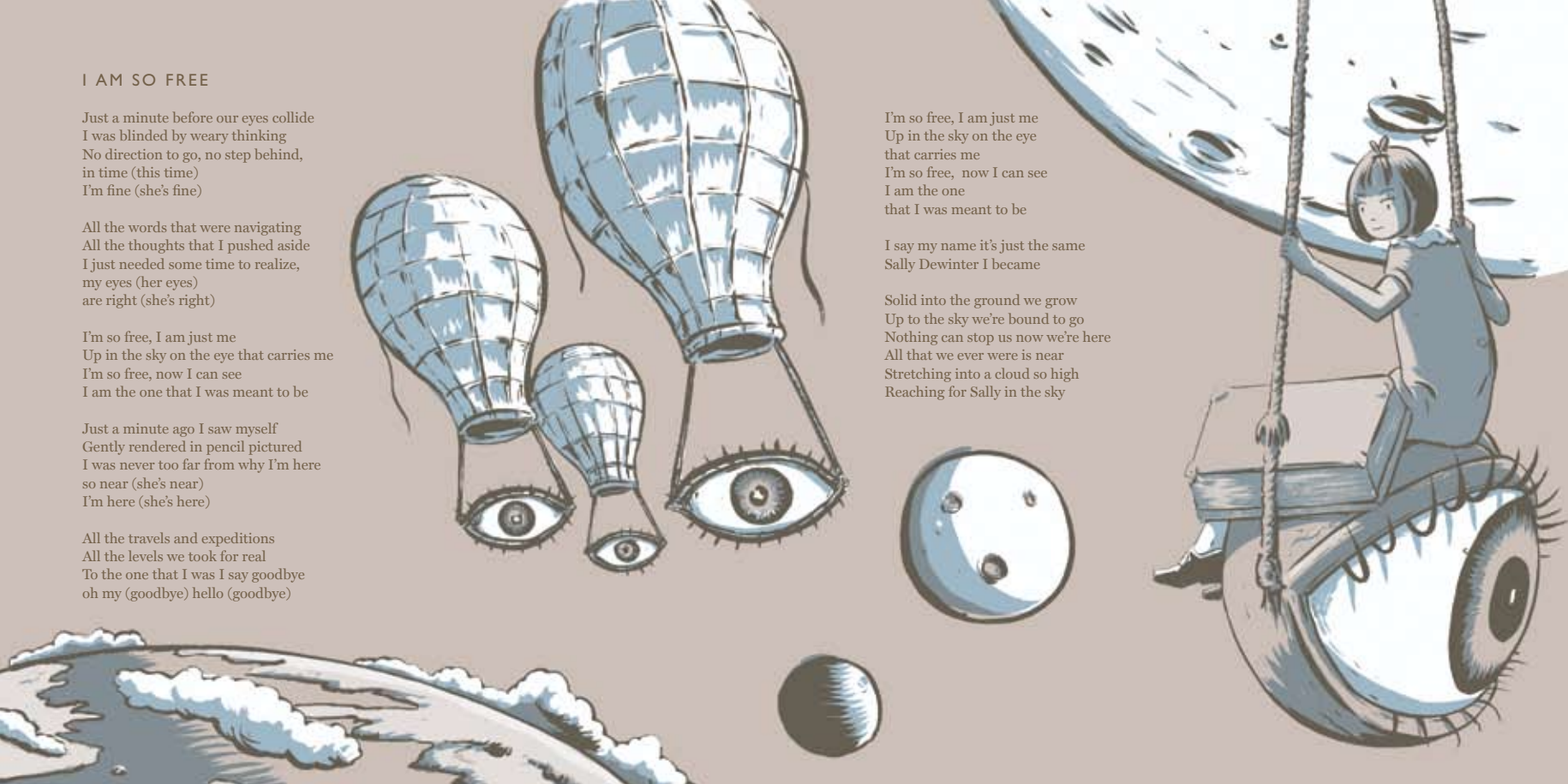
Just a minute ago I saw myself
Gently rendered in pencil pictured
I was never too far from why I'm here
so near (she's near)
I'm here (she's here)

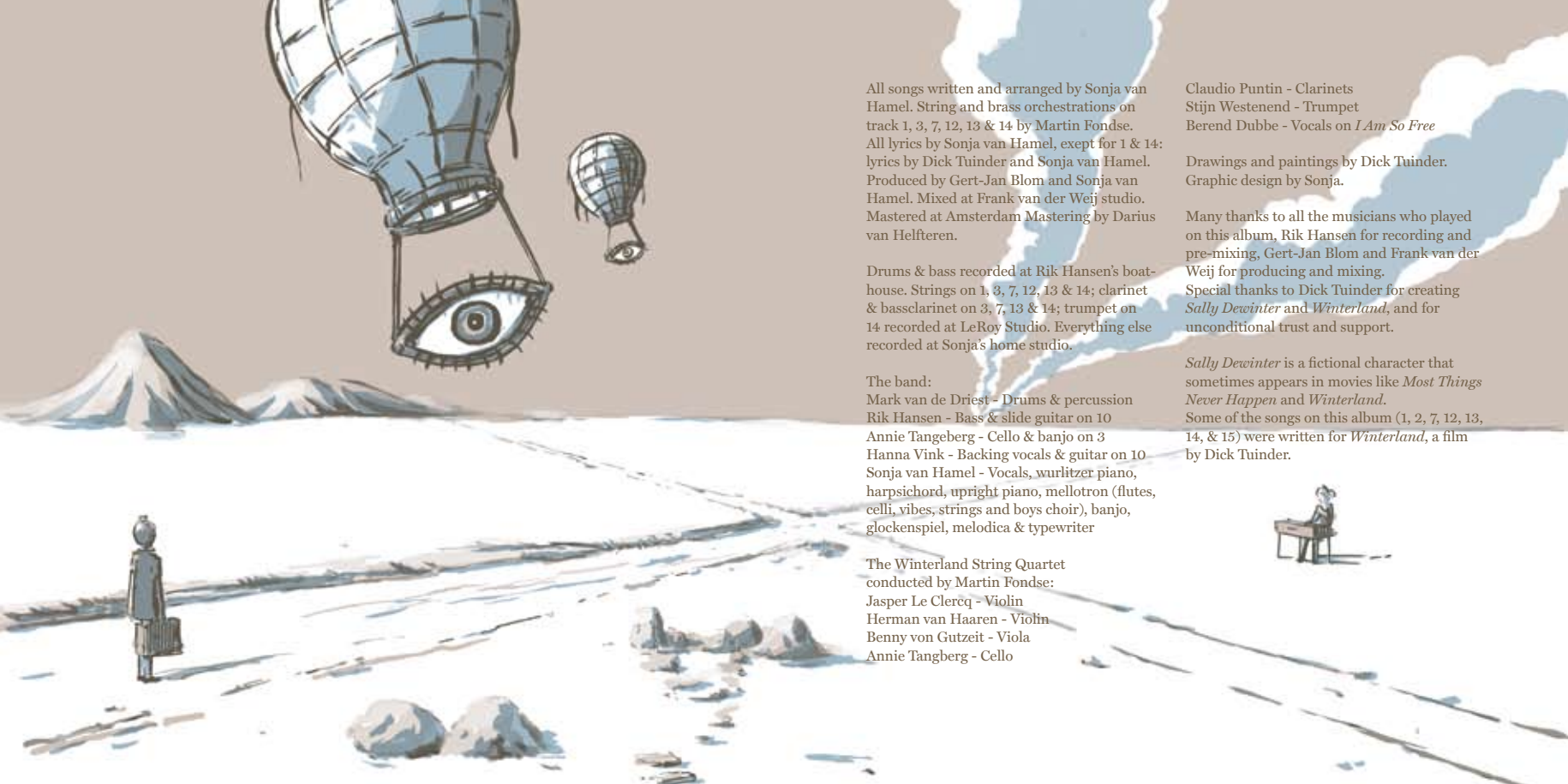
All the travels and expeditions
All the levels we took for real
To the one that I was I say goodbye
oh my (goodbye) hello (goodbye)

I'm so free, I am just me
Up in the sky on the eye
that carries me
I'm so free, now I can see
I am the one
that I was meant to be

I say my name it's just the same
Sally Dewinter I became

Solid into the ground we grow
Up to the sky we're bound to go
Nothing can stop us now we're here
All that we ever were is near
Stretching into a cloud so high
Reaching for Sally in the sky





All songs written and arranged by Sonja van Hamel. String and brass orchestrations on track 1, 3, 7, 12, 13 & 14 by Martin Fondse. All lyrics by Sonja van Hamel, except for 1 & 14: lyrics by Dick Tuinder and Sonja van Hamel. Produced by Gert-Jan Blom and Sonja van Hamel. Mixed at Frank van der Weij studio. Mastered at Amsterdam Mastering by Darius van Helfteren.

Drums & bass recorded at Rik Hansen's boat-house. Strings on 1, 3, 7, 12, 13 & 14; clarinet & bassclarinet on 3, 7, 13 & 14; trumpet on 14 recorded at LeRoy Studio. Everything else recorded at Sonja's home studio.

The band:

Mark van de Driest - Drums & percussion
Rik Hansen - Bass & slide guitar on 10
Annie Tangeberg - Cello & banjo on 3
Hanna Vink - Backing vocals & guitar on 10
Sonja van Hamel - Vocals, wurlitzer piano, harpsichord, upright piano, mellotron (flutes, celli, vibes, strings and boys choir), banjo, glockenspiel, melodica & typewriter

The Winterland String Quartet
conducted by Martin Fondse:

Jasper Le Clercq - Violin
Herman van Haaren - Violin
Benny von Gutzeit - Viola
Annie Tangberg - Cello

Claudio Puntin - Clarinets
Stijn Westenend - Trumpet
Berend Dubbe - Vocals on *I Am So Free*

Drawings and paintings by Dick Tuinder.
Graphic design by Sonja.

Many thanks to all the musicians who played on this album, Rik Hansen for recording and pre-mixing, Gert-Jan Blom and Frank van der Weij for producing and mixing. Special thanks to Dick Tuinder for creating *Sally Dewinter* and *Winterland*, and for unconditional trust and support.

Sally Dewinter is a fictional character that sometimes appears in movies like *Most Things Never Happen* and *Winterland*. Some of the songs on this album (1, 2, 7, 12, 13, 14, & 15) were written for *Winterland*, a film by Dick Tuinder.



