

# LARRY MURANTE

## PATCH OF SKY

### Little Patch of Sky

Got a little patch o' sky over me  
Silver clouds go rollin' by over me  
Could be rainin' could be dry, over me  
Got a little patch o' sky

How I love to watch that sky over me  
Spy a daydream with a sigh happily  
Don't look up to wonder why should it be  
Got a little patch o' sky

I ain't got a trust-fund to my name  
Never learned to play their money game,  
but don't think twice about the price  
Just give out a generous slice  
of some heavenly smiles,  
walkin' these earthy miles...

Got a little patch o' blue come what may  
Got a rainbow comin' through after grey  
Never two of the same view day to day  
and I would share it all with you

Some Days Sunshine  
Somedays Rain  
Sometimes joy and sometimes pain,  
but don't think twice about the price  
just give out a generous slice  
of some heavenly smiles  
walkin' these earthy miles

Got a little patch o' sky, for me and you  
Got a Rainbow comin' through me and you  
Gotta little patch of sky  
for me and you

### Hungry Ghost

Everybody is who they are  
Everybody is what they are  
Everybody is who they are,  
because somebody loves them

Everybody's gotta live their truth,  
but they need someone who holds the proof  
Everybody's gotta live their truth,  
but they need someone who knows it

Everybody's gotta live their dreams  
It's not as difficult as it seems  
Everybody's gotta live their dreams

You gotta find the fears that bind you

Everybody's got a hungry ghost  
that makes us wanna be liked the most  
We gotta stop feedin' that hungry ghost,  
'cause praise ain't gonna save us  
Everyone's got a forgotten song  
A little part of them that's been long gone  
If you wanna get back your forgotten song  
you gotta sing out to the ones who love you

Everybody's gotta have a home  
A little something they can call their own  
Everybody's gotta have a home  
so they can be with the ones who love them

Everybody is who they are  
Everybody is what they are  
Everybody is who they are  
Because somebody loves them

## **Story of the Sale**

My father owned a lot of cars  
though not all in a bunch  
He'd score 'em one at a time  
when he saw a buy,  
or he'd have a hunch

It could've been worse  
they could've been women,  
but he was a faithful man  
Mom always tied a fake flower  
'round the rear view mirror,  
but she never did understand  
Win or lose  
He loved the give and take  
He loved to deal then tell the tale  
Win or lose  
It's like he'd negotiate  
for the story of the sale

There were Datsons, Fords  
and Chevy pickup trucks  
an El Camino that rusted away  
We laughed so hard when he drove  
the three wheeled BMW  
right down the middle of our driveway  
It had that one big door in the front

We stuck an AC Delco  
spark plug sticker  
on that old Chevy truck, glove box door  
and it made our day when he said  
that he might leave it there,  
'cause he never did that before  
The sticker read,  
"Hot Car For A Cool Cat"

How he loved to haggle  
He'd know just what to say  
and how to wear you down,  
but he's always leave you  
with a smile on your face,  
'cause It was a very small town

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## **Ready for the Dark**

I love when the grass gets so frozen  
It breaks like glass  
beneath your feet  
When the clouds are  
so high in the sky,  
the air is clear as it can be

When your lips are wet  
and warm as summer  
Sets a fire in my heart  
We're comin' up  
on winter solstice honey  
Are you ready for  
Ready for the dark

Ready for the dark  
and the cold, cold night  
Put another log  
on the hearth  
When days are short  
and nights are longer  
You gotta get  
ready for the dark

Winter makes me  
pull you in much closer  
Tell you 'bout the things  
been on my mind  
How your touch  
always brings me comfort  
For you I'll lay it on the line

Lay it on the line  
like a loyal soldier  
Up on the wall there standing guard

It's a wild night nature's wieldin' honey  
Are ya ready for  
ready for the dark

Ready for the dark  
and the cold, cold night  
Put another log  
on the hearth  
When days are short  
and nights are longer  
You gotta get  
ready for the dark

Oh when the sun  
starts huggin' the horizon  
Honey that's my cue  
to hug a little more with you  
and as each day goes by,  
you and I make more light  
shine through  
A little more light each day  
all the way to June

Winter is the time  
for cold reflection  
For giving thanks  
to the ones we love  
To look inside for more direction  
I look at you and all I think of...

is how I'm gonna wrap  
my arms around you  
Watch this fire spit and spark  
on this quiet, cold December evening  
I'm so ready for the dark

## **Books Pliés and Sorrows**

Thirty nine Mays have past today  
Summer solstice on the rise  
Imagining a past year's smiley face  
Hula hoop, ballet shoes and stunned surprise

You were a miracle in the making  
Like dough's ascending rise  
Mom's careful hands at baking  
with her little helper's wrinkled brow  
and determined eyes

These May days bring an end of spring  
to buttercups and swallows  
Mind, muscle and memories cling  
to books, pliés and sorrows

She left that sweet air way to soon  
and that's what made you who you are  
Still I wish I could have been there with you  
I wish she could have seen you make your mark

Now here you are, a gem uncovered true

as sacred as the sun  
For all the seasons that lay claim to you,  
our time together has just begun  
Has just begun

These May days bring an end of spring  
to buttercups and swallows  
Mind, muscle and memories cling  
to books, pliéés and sorrows

Thirty Nine Mays have passed today  
Unlike every one before,  
you shared with me that smiley face  
May there be a good deal more  
A good deal more

## **Ball and Chain**

I got a bottle of Jameson  
and a shiny new 38  
I keep 'em on hand  
just in case

I've always tried to be the guy  
who lets the world roll off his back,  
but when the wind picks up  
and the clouds turn thick and black

And it rains

Poundin' like a heart attack  
Growlin' like a rusty old Cadillac  
In the rain  
All I want is  
my life on track,  
but I got a ball and chain  
holdin' me back

Daddy was a long way  
from being a happy man,  
but he loved to watch me play  
and when the big game came  
he was drinkin' early that day

While the opening tip  
hung high in the air  
I could hear his voice  
in the stands, loud and clear  
Yellin' our last name  
and callin' out, "Hey 42!"  
and "Go Blue!"

And the rain  
Poundin' like a heart attack  
Growlin' like a rusty old Cadillac  
I hear him callin' my name  
in the rain  
all I want is my life on track,  
but I got a ball and chain

holdin' me back

It was stormy and black,  
but Daddy should've seen  
the light turn red  
from a yellow and green  
The big car crumbled  
when a T-Bird T-boned them  
all the way in to next week

My brother and I  
needed rehabilitation  
He was banged up  
and I got real mean  
I know momma went to heaven  
and Daddy's in  
some kind of purgatory

...and a bottle of Jameson  
and a shiny new 38  
I keep 'em on hand  
just in case  
I keep 'em on hand

## **Nelson**

I would have died  
In that prison  
What an awful sin

Twenty seven years  
they took away from him

Nelson Mandela  
He put one over on them  
He took a big bite out of Apartheid  
and made 'em whole again

Keeps my hope alive  
He Keeps my hope alive  
Nelson,  
Keeps my hope alive  
Keeps my hope alive  
He Keeps my hope alive  
Nelson  
Keeps my hope alive

Severn Collis Suzuki  
was twelve years old  
when she flew down  
to Rio De Janeiro  
with her heart of gold  
She told the UN Earth Summit delegation  
if they don't know  
how to fix the world  
then please stop breakin' it  
and leave it alone

She keeps my hope alive

She Keeps my hope alive  
That one little girl  
keeps my hope alive  
She keeps my hope alive  
She Keeps my hope alive  
That one little girl  
keeps my hope alive

Yes it's true change takes a village,  
but someone needs to pave the way  
One brave soul  
is really all it takes  
to put it all in perspective  
to put 'em all in their place  
It's a holy perspective  
It's a state of grace  
It's Amazing Grace

A nineteen year old  
Eagle Scout named Zach  
told the Iowa House Of Representatives  
to get on track  
He said I was raised  
by two fine women  
on a cul-de-sac  
and they should have a right  
to wed the one they love  
and be blessed by the State  
and the Lord above

Our home's no different than yours  
That's a natural fact

Keeps my hope alive  
He Keeps my hope alive  
That one Eagle Scout  
he keeps my hope alive  
Keeps my hope alive  
He keeps my hope alive  
That one little girl  
keeps my hope alive  
She keeps my hope alive  
She Keeps my hope alive  
Nelson keeps my hope alive  
He Keeps my hope alive  
He keeps my hope alive  
Yeah we all gotta learn  
Keep our hope alive

## **Veterans Day**

While Departed Faithful  
wait their turn  
for a Beatific Vision,  
we pray for them  
and will them on their way

And while vile villains  
flail their swords

in an endless competition,  
I pray our words, not war  
will win the game

But Veterans Day  
is for the hero and the healers  
Veterans Day  
For all the ones left behind

There's always winners  
Always losers  
Always certain ones who'll pay  
and that's why we celebrate Veteran's Day  
Veteran's Day

First there, not self, but country  
Aim High, fly, fight, win  
Always prepared, so that others may live  
This we'll defend

We stand by you  
But sometimes  
We may blame you  
when our leaders lie  
It's a lesson we never learn  
and a battle you can't win

But Veterans Day  
is for the widowed and the weary

Veterans Day  
For all the ones left behind

There's always winners  
Always losers  
Always certain ones who'll pay  
and that's why we celebrate Veteran's Day  
Veteran's Day

## Property Line

Property Line (Leidy and Mabel)

It started with the shovel I guess  
on a bright autumn day  
when Dad helped Leidy  
spread stone in his driveway

We had just moved in  
and in the most neighborly way  
he helped Leidy spread stones  
in his driveway

His wife Mabel declared  
it was more than an error  
when Dad took a shovel  
home with him

She said it was hers

He said it was his  
That's where the  
property line war begins

Property line  
She'd say "What's yours will be mine,  
if it ends up on my side  
of the property line"  
She'd say, "Stay on your own 50 Feet"  
"Don't cross the property line"

Leidy worked the afternoon 3-11  
He'd pulled out at 2:45  
At 2:51 in the rain, or hot sun  
Mabel would walk that line

draggin' her toy wagon  
It was a red Radio Flyer  
with white rocks  
piled up to the brim  
She'd lay each one  
down on the line  
and then at 10:59  
she'd pick all up again from the...

Mabel had a broom stick  
with a nail  
sticking out of the end  
It was like a fairytale

The Grimms, or Aesop might write  
She'd flail it about  
if you got close to the edge  
Thank God her growl  
was so much bigger than her bite

There were baseballs  
and kickballs and soccer balls and toys  
that often disappeared in the night  
The next day she'd fire up her burn barrel  
and made sure we were home  
then she's burn our toys  
one at a time across the...

Sometimes Leidy would come over for coffee  
We'd all pretend things were normal and fine  
while Mabel would peek  
through her venetian blinds  
watching Leidy from their side  
of the property line

## **Heart of Happiness**

I was youngest of three  
The little kid of the family  
I got used to everybody  
starin' down at me,

but that was a gift

as far as I could see  
and I put a lot of hours in I guess,  
'cause looking up  
comes more easily  
and it always brings me closer  
To the heart of my happiness

Well I can be a wrecking ball,  
or I can be on fire  
Tearing down those bearing walls,  
or striding some high wire

I'm just trying to be  
who I'm supposed to be  
I'm not sure what that all means  
I must confess,  
but hearing these six strings  
ringin' next to me  
I move a little closer  
to the heart of my happiness  
The heart of my happiness

I wasted so much time  
pointing out the differences  
when I should have tried more empathy  
Maybe the secret's in forgiveness  
for everyone and for yourself  
You gotta forgive yourself especially

if you want to find happiness  
You don't have to go too far  
to find your happiness  
You gotta reach out and touch someone's heart  
it'll bring you happiness  
There are some  
who won't be happy  
with your happiness,  
but your steps  
will get more snappy  
when you find happiness  
Oh...life will be much more fun