

**Fortune's Favour Track by Track**  
**By: Great Big Sea**

***Love Me Tonight:*** We had written the album and then Hawksley showed up in St. John's with the beautiful and brilliant Jeen O'Brien and decided to write it again. We thought he was cracked but had previously agreed to give him enough rope to hang himself and waited for the sound of the rope snapping tight. We are still waiting. This was the third song we wrote in as many days. It's about the dimming of lights before the show begins and the insecurity we feel from the stage. Or a girl.

***Walk on the Moon:*** Alan wrote this in Nashville with Grammy winner Gordie Sampson and originally demoed it for the "Something Beautiful" record, but it somehow never made the cut. A huge oversight in retrospect. This tune is very clearly about recognizing opportunity when it comes knocking and not being too nervous to open the door.

***England:*** I remember being very lonely in Charlotte N.C. I missed my family at home and thought how tragic it would be if something bad were to happen and I never got to see them again. I was overwhelmed. I realized how the first immigrants to Newfoundland must have felt centuries ago, never knowing if they would ever get to say goodbye. "England" is my family.

***Here and Now:*** This is the fastest lyric we have ever written. Hawksley pulled me into the isolation room with a guitar and the verses literally fell out. When we came out 30 minutes later, Alan and Bob had the chorus gift wrapped and ready to go. The brilliant chant in the middle was all Jeen. We are old enough now to start losing people and we don't very much like that. The difference between the past and the next.....is Now.

***Long Lost Love:*** Another Trapper collaboration. It's essentially about a one-sided relationship doomed to fail. A cautionary tale about the dangers of placing your faith in the superficial. But some people just won't listen.

***Oh Yeah:***

This is Alan's fault.

***The Banks of Newfoundland:*** Bob bought this beautifully terrible song to the table and scared us all half to death. The intense feeling of dread and foreboding was not lost on Hawksley who managed to bottle the tangible fear inherent in this track. It is Fortune's Favour's dark heart.

***Dream to Live:*** Written on St. Patrick's day in Boston over several pints with itinerant tunesmith Chris Trapper. We found ourselves in the care of the Irish in America and I felt strangely at home. Many immigration stories were told that day and this was my contribution. It's about my great uncle John.

***Company of Fools:*** One of Alan's collaborations with songwriter Russell Crowe who occasionally moonlights as an Oscar winner. Born out of a discussion about the late American comic, Bill Hicks, and how many in his trade are the first to have the balls to tell it like it is. Funny how often the Fool and the Jester are wiser than the King. Also a condemnation of the pompous and celebration of the honest, this song is a tip of the hat to anyone with little to lose and nothing to hide.

***Hard Case:*** Initially written with Kalem Mahoney, it took Jeen O'Brien less than 5 minutes to create the killer chorus. It's about knowing something is really bad for you and then doing it anyway. Like smoking cigarettes.....

***Rocks of Merasheen:*** This may sound like a traditional song but it was actually written in the 70's by poet Al Pitman and Mersaheen native Pat Byrne. A rugged rock in Placentia Bay, Merasheen fell victim to an aggressive resettlement program in the 60's. This recalls what that lost way of life might have been like. It has been incorporated into the unofficial canon of Newfoundland songs to learn and sing.

***Dance Dance:*** About two thirds in we began to realize the record might benefit from a little levity. We wrote this fast and furious in the studio on a rare sunny day and recorded it with much red wine that night. And we all felt better.

***Heart of Stone:*** Another Sean song born of despair and regret. It is actually the marriage of 2 entirely different pieces. Kalem had submitted a tune called Heart of Stone and when Jeen heard the chorus she realized it would work better here. She was right. And then Bob played the pipes.....

***Straight to Hell:*** If Great Big Sea had a soul, Its name would be Alan. Unfortunately, a degree in religious studies has evidently done little to prevent him from dealing with the devil. I think he wrote this after reading "The God Delusion" or some similar theory. Either way, wherever he goes, I'll be right there behind him.