

NEVER WAS

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Lyrics and Music © 2008 by Bill Roper

Am G D F Em7 A
What do you remember that isn't really real?
F Am Dm7 E7
When I say it never happened, can you tell me what you feel?
Dm7 Am7 C/G D
A little trick of memory, a fragment of a dream
Dm Am F E7
Are safer than believing that all things aren't what they seem.

(Chorus)

Am C/G G D
What the moving finger wrote is now unwritten
Dm Em7 A
And sent off to the land of never was.
F G Am
And I'm cursed now with the knowledge that's forbidden
C D E7
As I'm left to find the way to break the laws
Am C/G D E7 Am C/G D E7
Of never was.

Time flies like an arrow, but its path is never straight
And the twists and turns it takes, you'll never see till it's too late.
The past is always changing, like a mist upon the wind,
And as it's rearranging, it reshapes our where and when.

Shredded strands of memories are all that's left behind
And we try to play them over, but we find we can't rewind.
It may be your good fortune that you're able to forget,
But I'm haunted by the memory of a girl I never met.

I can see her smile and the laughter in her eyes
And walks and talks together underneath October skies.
The smell, the taste, the touch of her, her hopes and all her fears
Have vanished in the never was that's taken all our years.

(Bridge)

F G E7 Am
Now no one else remembers all the things that I recall
F G E7 Am
And if it weren't for memory, she'd not exist at all.
D G E7
So I'm waiting now for time to rearrange.
Am
I'll rewrite her life by mastering the change.

(Chorus, then alternate chorus)

What the moving finger wrote is now unwritten
And sent off to the land of never was.
And I'm cursed now with the knowledge that's forbidden
And I'm going to find the way to break the laws
Of never was.

*The McGuffin here is very similar to the one that Kurt Busiek used in his fine **Astro City** story, "The Nearness of You". After the McGuffin, things diverge pretty sharply, which somehow didn't surprise me. (Not that I disliked Kurt's story -- I loved it. But I'd rather write my own.)*