

# THE DESTROYER

1

Lyrics and Music © 1979 by Bill Roper

**Em**      **Em7**            **A7**            **Em**  
Dark I grew in the house of my uncle.  
**Em**      **Em7**            **A7**            **Em**  
Dark I grew in his presence so black.  
**Em**      **Em7**            **A7**                    **Em**  
Dark I grew as the years they passed by me.  
**Em**      **Em7**                    **A7**            **Em**  
Dark I grew till twas no turning back.

(Chorus)

**D**                    **Em**  
I am the Destroyer!  
**D**                    **Em**  
I, the wrecker of worlds!  
**D**                    **Em**  
I, the rider of lightning!  
**Em**      **D**            **C**            **Em**  
As the storm around me swirls.

Came the day when I saw what was hidden.  
Came the day when I learned of my power.  
Used its force and drove my sister from me,  
Breaking her heart in the very same hour.

I went out and I cruised on the star lanes,  
Bending my power to my chosen career.  
Silver tongued, I'd peer into a man's soul  
And tear him apart with the things he held dear.

(Chorus)

I walked many worlds as I worked as a Newsman.  
Then I came to New Earth to cover their war.  
Found my sister's husband there among the drafted levees  
And swore I'd repay her for the things I'd done before.

I worked my will upon his commander  
And had young David assigned as my aide.  
At my side, he'd be safe from the battle.  
A small gift from me to the sister I'd betrayed.

(Chorus)

Our air car downed, we found a group of soldiers  
And stayed with them as they fought the Friendly foe.  
But a shot through my knee left me half crazed and crippled  
And I could not stay with them when the time came to go.

The Friendlies found us and they took David prisoner,  
But I was a Newsman, so I was safe from harm.  
And that damned Friendly groupman, he massacred the prisoners  
And he left David with me to die in my arms.

(Chorus)

## THE DESTROYER

2

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I went to my sister to tell her what had happened,  
But she just stared through me and sent me away.  
Though it was not my fault, she called me Destroyer  
And I lost the last thing that I loved on that day.

And I thought long on the mad dogs of the Friendlies  
And then I knew, in my power, I held the key  
To take revenge and smash the Friendly culture.  
If I shall not have love, then Destroyer I shall be!

(Chorus)

*Based on Tam Olyn from Gordon R. Dickson's **Soldier Ask Not**, this song didn't get on **The Grim Roper** because it was already on the (also now out of print) tape **Liftoff to Landing** which I put together with my good buddy Clif Flynt up at Todd Voros' STI Studios in Milwaukee.*

*Happily, it's in print on **Shai Dorsai!**, but I want to put it on an album of my own again.*