

Nick Cave Concert Poster  
**The Riddle Map**

Solutions to the Mystery of

THE RIDDLE MAP

A Special Nick Cave Concert Poster by EMEK.net Studios

**Riddle**

**Description**

**Lyric**

**Song (Album)**

1.



A snow white dove eating  
a branch made of hearts

*Love, dear, is strictly for the birds  
We each get what we deserve  
My little snow white dove  
Rest assured*

Idiot Prayer  
(Boatman's Call,  
1997)

Partial credit: And all the birds will Sing to your  
beautiful heart Upon the Bough (No More Shall  
We Part)

2.



A black crow with a king's  
crown crows atop a corn  
cob

*I am the black crow king  
Keeper of the nodding corn*

Black Crow King  
(The firstborn is  
Dead, 1984)

3.



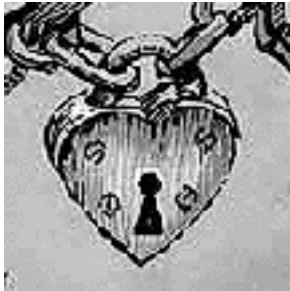
The red handprint of a right hand drenched in blood

*He's a god, he's a man,  
He's a ghost, he's a guru  
They're whispering his name  
Through this disappearing land  
But hidden in his coat  
Is a red right hand*

Red Right Hand  
(Let Love in, 1994)

*Partial: In my house he wrote, Red Right Hand (Song of Joy, Murder Ballads)*

4.



A lock in the shape of a heart

*You have a heart and I have a key  
Lie back and let me unlock you*

Cannibal's Hymn  
(Abattoir Blues/  
The Lyre Of  
Orpheus, 2004)

5.



Knife

There are over a dozen references to knives in Nick Cave's lyrics, so one had to be included somewhere.

1. *Mack the Knife* (Mack the Knife)
2. *Six inch Gold Blade* (Six inch Gold Blade)
3. *Pen Knife* (Henry Lee)
4. *Bolo Knife* (John Finn's Wife)  
although a bolo knife is more like a machete)

6.



Antique Pistol

There are also so many references to pistols in Nick Cave's lyrics...

1. O'Malley's bar
2. Stagger Lee
3. Wanted Man
4. O Children

7.



A writhing snake in the desert, the desert is also depicted in this clue!

*At night the deserts writhed  
With diabolical things*

Lovely Creature  
(Murder Ballads, 1996)

*Partial: Well, you know the story of the  
Viper/Its long and lean with a poison tooth  
(Jack The Ripper- Henry's Dream)*

8.

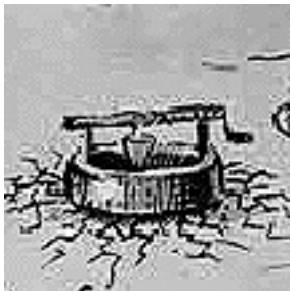


Desert of Despair

*Deep in the desert of despair*

Well Of Misery  
(From Her to Eternity, 1984)

9.



Well of Misery

*Deep in the desert of despair  
I wait at the well of misery*

Well Of Misery  
(From Her to Eternity, 1984)

10.



Pyramids and Sphinx

*Over hills, this lovely creature  
Over mountains, over ranges  
By great pyramids and sphinxes  
We met drifters and strangers*

Lovely Creature  
(Murder Ballads, 1996)

11.



Sand dunes with drifting sands

*Somewhere she lies, this lovely creature  
Beneath the slow drifting sands*

Lovely Creature  
(Murder Ballads,  
1996)

*Partial: Over the Shifting Desert Plains  
(To Be By Your Side)*

12.



Crumbling white towers

*All the towers of ivory are crumbling*

Straight To You  
(Henry's Dream,  
1992)

13.



Two people swim in a boiling river

*The rivers we swim in are boiling*

Babe, I Got You  
Bad (Boatman's  
Call, 1997)

14.



A woman and her shack near the river...the miners from a closed mine approach...she goes and gets a gun.

*She lives alone by the river  
The rolling rivers of pain  
Crow Jane Crow Jane  
There is one shining eye on a hard-hat  
The company closed down the mine  
(see lyrics for complete story)*

Crow Jane  
(Murder Ballads,  
1996)

15.



A fish with a crown of thorns on it's head and a hook in its mouth

*a gilled Jesus shivering on a fisherman's hook*

Darker With The  
Day (No More Shall  
We Part, 2001)

16.



Deep sea diver smoking a pipe

*You took me back to your place  
And dressed me up in a deep sea diver's  
suit...Later on we smoked a pipe that struck  
me dumb*

Nature Boy  
(Abattoir Blues /  
The Lyre Of  
Orpheus, 2004)

17.

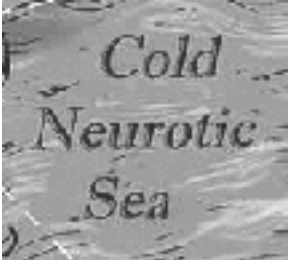


Tower of Song

*And there's a mighty judgment but it won't  
be long, but i may be wrong  
You see, you hear these funny voices in the  
tower of song*

Tower Of Song  
(‘I’m Your Fan’  
(Leonard Cohen  
Tribute Album),  
2001)

18.



Cold Neurotic Sea

*In a world where everybody fucks  
everybody else over  
You who are so far from me  
Far from me  
So far from me  
Way across some cold neurotic sea*

Far From Me (The  
Boatman’s Call,  
1997)

19.



The ‘boatman’ appears  
here as Charon from  
Greek myth, blowing a  
horn to call those who  
have died.

*The boatman calls from the lake*

Lime Tree Arbour  
(The Boatman’s  
Call, 1997)

20.



Two bottles, one labeled hormiga ("fly" in Spanish) and the other with a pair of monkey testicles. Both "Spanish fly" and "monkey gland" were used as aphrodisiacs a century ago.

*Her widow's peak, her lips I've kissed  
Her glove of bones at her wrist  
That I have held in my hand  
Her Spanish fly and her monkey gland*

West Country Girl  
(The Boatman's  
Call, 1997)

21.



A trident and pointed tail arise from the water, a devil beneath the sea.

*No God up in the sky  
No devil beneath the sea  
Could do the job that you did, baby  
Of bringing me to my knees*

Brompton Oratory  
(The Boatman's  
Call, 1997)

22.



An ink well imprinted with a King's crown

*King ink strolls into town  
He sniffs around  
King ink kicks off his stink-boot  
Sand and soot and dust and dirt  
He's much bigger than you think  
King ink  
(also, not just a lyric, but also a reference  
to a book of Nick Cave's prose)*

King Ink (Prayers  
of Fire, 1981)

23.



A circle of ships, a bridge on fire

*Come sail your ships around me  
And burn your bridges down  
We make a little history, baby  
Every time you come around*

The Ship Song (The  
Good Son, 1990)

24.



### Burning Bridge

There are at least 3 references to burning bridges in Nick Cave's lyrics:

1. *Burn your bridges down* (The Ship Song)
2. *Smoke billowing from the bridges* (Babe I Got You Bad)
3. *All the bridges are burning... I'm Your Fan* (Tower Of Song)

25.



Orpheus, shown here in his more classical Greek form, playing a lyre amidst his ancient rivals, the sirens.

*Orpheus looked at his instrument  
And he gave the wire a pluck  
He heard a sound so beautiful  
He gasped and said O my God  
O Mamma O Mamma*

The Lyre Of Orpheus (Abattoir Blues / The Lyre Of Orpheus, 2004)

26.



This imagery is based on several different songs, many would work here..

*-Child Bride in her nighty, Whose assailant still at large, Violated in her slumbers (Mack the Knife)*

*-Just when you feel as you you've got strength enough to stand, as though your tears were at an end, Sorrows child lifts up her hand, and brings it down.. (Sorrow's Child)*

*-On the banks of red roses, my love and I sat down (Banks of the Roses)*

*-Her hair was falling down her shoulders, As I sat sadly by her side (As I sat Sadly By Her Side)*

*Night the shameless widow (You Funeral, My Trial)*

*Go son, go down to the water, And see the women weeping there (The Weeping Song)*

*The Good Son has sat often and wept (Good Son)*

*Come back darling and put things right, I*

*hang my head and cry cry cry (Slowly Goes the Night)*

27.



Woman w/ Black Hair

*Full of all my whispered words, her black hair  
And wet with tears and good-byes, her hair of  
deepest black  
All my tears cried against her milk-white throat  
Hidden behind the curtain of her beautiful  
black hair*

Black Hair (The Boatman's Call, 1997)

28.



A noose on the tree

*Who's that hanging from the gallows tree?*

Up Jumped the Devil (Tender Prey, 1988)

*Also: - I fear the noose, I fear the stake...  
(When I first Came to Town)*

*Partial: Hangman's leash (Hey Joe)  
A strange lit stair And find a rope  
hanging there (Stranger Than  
Kindness)*

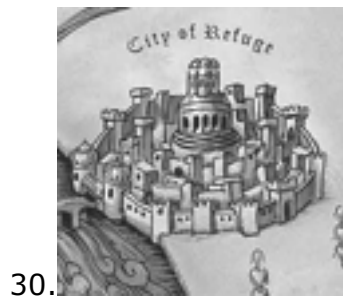
29.



An axe in the tree

*O say goodbye to the little girl tree.  
O you know that I must say goodbye  
To the little girl tree.  
This wall I built around you  
Is made out of stone-lies.  
O little girl the truth would be  
An axe in thee.*

Say Goodbye to the Little Girl Tree (The Firstborn is Dead, 1985)



City of Refuge

*You better run You better run and run  
You better run  
You better run  
You better run to the City of Refuge*

City Of Refuge  
(Tender Prey,  
1988)



A Little Church

So many different churches appear in Nick Cave's lyrics, we had to include one:

1. *Our Little Church is Painted White* (God is in the House)
2. *A Tiny Church in Leige* (Christina the Astonishing)
3. *I stopped at a Church, and Jostled through the Crowd* (Darker with the day)



Tupelo: This John Lee Hooker cover refers to the flooding of the town of Tupelo, Mississippi.

*Ya can say these streets are rivers.  
Ya can call these rivers streets.  
Ya can tell ya self ya dreaming buddy.  
But no sleep runs this deep.  
O god help Tupelo!*

Tupelo (The First Born is Dead,  
1985)



Where the Wild Roses Grow

*I said, "Do you know where the wild roses grow  
so sweet and scarlet and free?"*

Where The Wild Roses Grow  
(Murder Ballads,  
1996)

34.

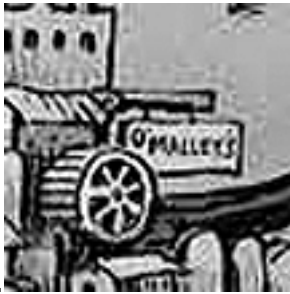


The Town of Millhaven

*I live in a town called Millhaven  
And its small and its mean and its cold  
...All god's children they all gotta die*

The Curse of  
Millhaven (Murder  
Ballads, 1996)

35.



O'Malleys Bar

*Well I entered into O'Malley's  
Said, "O'Malley I have a thirst"  
O'Malley merely smiled at me  
said "You wouldn't be the first"*

O'Malleys Bar  
(Murder Ballads,  
1996)

36.



Drowning victim in a  
creek (near Millhaven)

*How last Christmas Bill Blake's little boy  
didn't come home  
They found him next week in one mile  
creek*

The Curse of  
Millhaven (Murder  
Ballads, 1996)

*Partial: Death By Drowning (Death By  
Drowning)  
Jump in the River and Drown (Grief  
Came Riding)*

37.



An overweight Jesus in a  
Trashcan

*Title: Big Jesus Trashcan*

Big Jesus Trashcan  
(The Peel Sessions  
- The Sampler,  
1988)

38.



Two skeletons near the sea screwing under a cherry tree (and making music)

*Skeletons entwined fucking and braying  
Blossoms falling from the cherry tree  
That's what jazz is to me  
...I long to be by the sea where a blossom falls from a cherry tree  
That's what jazz is to me*

That's What Jazz Is To Me (Red Right Hand Single, 1994)

39.



Two shallow graves hidden in the forest

*I took her from rags right through to stitches (pray for me now)  
Oh baby, tonight we sleep in separate ditches.*

Deep In The Woods (The Bad Seed, 1983)

40.



Sad Waters -

*Across these sad waters and across my heart  
We go down to the river where the willows weep*

Sad Waters (Your Funeral, My Trial, 1986)

41.



Willow trees, a wine bottle, and a dead girl in the river

*Down in the willow garden, me and my love did meet, and as we sat a-courting, my love fell off to sleep  
I had a bottle of burgundy wine; my love, she did not know, and so I poisoned that dear little girl along the banks below  
I drew my saber through her; it was a bloody night, I threw her in the river, which was a dreadful sight*

The Willow Garden (Where the Wild Roses Grow Single, 1995)

42.



A row of trees along a path, and a garden structure, both known as an arbour.

*Down in the lime tree arbour  
The wind in the trees is whispering*

Lime Tree Arbour  
(Boatman's Call, 1997)

43.



Monsters bound to a tree

*We rounded up demons and forced them  
To tell us what it all meant.  
We tied them to trees,  
And broke them down, one by one.  
On a scrap of paper they wrote these words:  
Dread the passage of jesus, for he will not return.*

Time Jesum  
Transeuntum Et  
Non Riverentum  
(Songs in the Key of X, 1996)

44.



This is the famous gateway to the garden at St. Edmund's Cathedral, about which the song was written. Inside the garden stand the ruins of the old church.

*Won't you meet me at the gates to the garden  
beneath the creeping shadow of the tower  
the bell at St. Edmunds informs me of the hour.*

Gates to the Garden (No More Shall We Part, 2001)

45.



Empty rowboat

*But my little boat is empty  
It don't go  
And my oar is broken  
It don't row, row, row*

Little Empty Boat  
(Into My Arms Single, 1997)

46.



Skeletons rising out of  
the ocean near bent trees

*Through the windswept coastal trees  
Where the dead come rising from the sea*

Supernaturally  
(Abattoir Blues/  
The Lyre Of  
Orpheus, 2004)

47.



A girl being chased by  
bats

*Whoooahh! bite! whoooah! bite!  
Release the bats! release the bats!  
Don't tell me that it doesn't hurt  
A hundred fluttering in your skirt  
Don't tell me that it doesn't hurt*

Release the Bats  
(Junkyard, 1982)

48.



A well with a cross

*Jesus met the woman at the well  
And he told her, everything that she`d  
done, that she`d done*

Jesus Met The  
Woman At The Well  
(Kicking Against  
the Pricks, 1986)

49.






A broken cross in the  
fields. (To be `reprobate`  
is to be damned, or  
rejected by god,  
Abandoned.

*Along the loom of the land  
The mission bells peeled  
From the tower at Saint Mary's  
Down to Reprobate Fields*

The Loom Of The  
Land (Henry's  
Dream, 1992)

*Partial: laying all his crosses down (6  
strings that drew blood)  
Foi Na Cruz (On the Cross/The Good Son)*

50.  A fountain with weeds growing around it  
*The place was all overgrown with weeds  
 And behold from it's centre there rose a  
 great fountain  
 The fountain with the healing waters*  
 The Witness Song  
 (The Good Son,  
 1990)
51.  A leaving train heading West (clouds FOLLOW a train, they do not come before it)  
*The smell of her black hair upon my pillow  
 Where her head and all its black hair did  
 rest  
 Today she took a train to the West*  
 Black Hair (The  
 Boatman's Call,  
 1997)
52.  A dead lamb with insects buzzing around it  
 (that's not a horse)  
*Way down yonda', down in the medder  
 There's a poor little lambie.  
 Bees an' the butterflies peckin' out his eyes  
 Poor lambie cried fo' his mammy.*  
*Very Partial credit: the body of sorrow...to  
 float upon the surface of the eaten soil  
 (The Carny)*  
 All The Pretty Little  
 Horsies (Current  
 93, 1996)

53 et al. BONUS EXTRA CREDIT:

upper right corner: Interventionist God: Into my arms, from The Boatman's Call

mermaid: In came a sailor with mermaids tattooed on his arms, from The Ballad of Robert Moore and Betty Coltrane...

Thank you again for making this so much fun for us, did we miss anything?

"The task of remembering the Telltale Clues" – The Sorrowful Wife

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