

The Lion Keeper

Words and Music © 2024 by Jamie McElman
Mountain Rise Music, All Rights Reserved

And so it begins, said the lion keeper
To the feral beast within
You'll live out your days in the confines of a cage
And surrender the life that might've been.

You'll be one of my most prized possessions
On display for the elite
Is it selfish of me
To prevent your being free
And boosting my image on the street.

Perhaps I'm obsessive and neurotic
Bending nature to my will
To find the unique and exotic
All for a temporary thrill.

I know how this looks, said the lion keeper
Surveying the items all about
I'm just staging them here
For no more than a year (You have no need to fear)
There's always a path to find my way out (When you're ready to leave I'll show you out).

You're still one of my most prized possessions
On a shelf somewhere collecting dust
I'll smile just the same every time I pass your way
Despite your withering stare and your disgust.

So I'm obsessive and neurotic
To clutch these trinkets to my breast
It seems I'm powerless to stop it
Neurons firing at their best.

I know how this ends, said the lion keeper
With a sad smile on her face
You've outgrown your cage
And with your understated rage
Illustrated the error of my ways.

So I'm obsessive and neurotic
Some just say I've turned the bend
I'm so impulsive and myopic
That I've lost you as a friend.