ATLAS TRIUMPHANT

NO BORROWED SUN

Complete lyrics / 12 songs / Both takes



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Twelve original stories inspired by selected themes in Ayn Rand's Objectivism: independent judgment, honest work, chosen love, and happiness.

Both takes share these submitted lyrics. Bracketed labels preserve section and performance directions; generated recordings may vary in wording or arrangement.

Creative direction: NexusOS Music. Original AI-assisted lyrics; music and vocals generated with Suno. Atlas Triumphant and the story characters are fictional. Artwork is AI-generated.

Listen: nexusosworks.com/music/albums/no-borrowed-sun

No Borrowed Sun

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Instrumental Intro: driving melodic bass, live drums, guitar enters]

[Verse 1]

They drew my road in Sunday ink
And hung it where the daylight fell
A steady job, a borrowed house
A life they said would fit me well
But in the shed behind the tracks
I kept a wheel that would not turn
Each broken tooth, each midnight spark
Was something only I could learn

[Pre-Chorus]

I loved the hands that raised me
I heard the fear beneath their words
But no one else could answer
For the dream I hadn't earned

[Chorus]

No borrowed sun above my door
No borrowed dream worth living for
These hands will build, these eyes will see
The life I choose begins with me
Let the long road rise and run
I'll find my way by no borrowed sun

[Verse 2]

The first machine shook off its bolts
The second burned its bearings black
I sold my watch to buy the steel
And carried every failure back
I wrote the fault beside the date
I changed the part, I tried again
The morning that the rotor held
I called the people who said when

[Pre-Chorus]

No voice could make it working
No cheering crowd could make it true
The choice was mine to question
And the work was mine to do

[Chorus]

No borrowed sun above my door
No borrowed dream worth living for
These hands will build, these eyes will see
The life I choose begins with me
Let the long road rise and run
I'll find my way by no borrowed sun

[Instrumental: extended guitar and melodic bass exchange]

[Bridge]

I don't need a sky without a storm
I need the nerve to read the rain
And when the evidence says turn
I'll choose another road again

[Final Chorus]

No borrowed sun above my door
No borrowed dream worth living for
These hands will build, these eyes will see
The life I choose begins with me
Let the long road rise and run
I'll find my way by no borrowed sun

[Outro]

My eyes are open
The wheel is turning
My eyes are open
The day is mine

The Evidence of Fire

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Instrumental Intro: uneven bass pulse and restrained organ]

[Verse 1]

The flags were hung above the floor
The mayor had rehearsed her line
They wanted thunder from the doors
At ten o'clock, precisely timed
I watched the needle cross the red
I heard the housing start to sing
A hundred people held their breath
And I reached out to kill the thing

[Pre-Chorus]

They said the future needed faith
They said the cameras couldn't wait
But heat was writing on the wall
A truth no wish could negotiate

[Chorus]

Read the evidence of fire
Read the fracture in the stone
Every answer I desire
Has to stand upon its own
Let the bright illusion fall
Let the honest question climb
I would rather face the ashes
Than be blind a second time

[Verse 2]

I took the photographs back home
The ruined shaft, the twisted seam
The flaw was in a curve I'd drawn
The flaw was hiding in my dream
I crossed my proudest figure out
And learned the thing I feared to know
The dawn arrived without applause
A smaller light began to glow

[Chorus]

Read the evidence of fire
Read the fracture in the stone
Every answer I desire
Has to stand upon its own
Let the bright illusion fall
Let the honest question climb
I would rather face the ashes
Than be blind a second time

[Bridge: quiet, exposed vocal]

An error is a door
If I will turn the key
The world will not grow kinder
For pretending not to see
I set the numbers down
I let the measurements speak
And found the hidden strength
In the answer I thought weak

[Instrumental: guitar and organ build through shifting meters]

[Final Chorus]

Read the evidence of fire
Now the turning wheel holds true
Every answer I acquire
Leaves another test to do
Let the honest question climb
Through the darkness, through the wire
We can build a lasting light
From the evidence of fire

[Outro: full band resolution]

Glass in the Ledger

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: low growling bass, dry snare, clean guitar]

[Verse 1]

There was a window in my office
Looking down on Mercer Street
Every Friday, polished leather
Every month, another key
I could move a loss to Monday
I could make a quarter shine
With a stroke beneath a column
And a signature like mine

[Pre-Chorus]

Then the woman from the loading dock
Asked why her hours had disappeared
I saw my own face in the window
And the shape of every year

[Chorus]

There's glass in the ledger
There's blood beneath the shine
Every little hidden figure
Has been cutting through my life
I will open every page
I will name the hand I know
If the truth should take this room away
I'll carry what is whole

[Verse 2]

I brought the files into the daylight
I kept my own name on the wrong
No clever tale of following orders
No excuse to hide behind
The lift went down without my title
The rain came through my cardboard box
For the first time since I'd entered
I could hear the city clocks

[Chorus]

There's glass in the ledger
There's blood beneath the shine
Every little hidden figure
Has been cutting through my life
I will open every page
I will name the hand I know
If the truth should take this room away
I'll carry what is whole

[Bridge: piano and voice]

I cannot buy the morning back
I cannot unwrite yesterday
But I can count the cost in full
And start repaying what I made
A smaller desk, an open book
A number I can meet with eyes
No shadows underneath the sum
No ladder balanced on a lie

[Instrumental: sustained blues guitar over melodic bass]

[Final Chorus]

No glass in the ledger
No shelter in disguise
I have lost the gilded doorway
And recovered honest eyes
I will open every page
I will own the debt I owe
When the truth has cleared this room away
There is room for me to grow

[Outro: quiet bass and final chord]

The Line Beneath My Name

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Instrumental Intro: galloping bass and heavy guitars]

[Verse 1]

They rolled the drawings down the table
With a contract and a glass
A tower rising from the water
Every wall a sheet of brass
But the braces I'd demanded
Were erased in softer lead
And the man who called it progress
Said just sign and go ahead

[Pre-Chorus]

I could hear the whole room counting
Every reason I should bend
I could see the missing supports
In the shadows at the end

[Chorus]

There's a line beneath my name
That no golden hand can move
Every promise that I make
Has a weight I have to prove
Let the contract turn to paper
Let the crowded doorway close
I will stand behind the things I build
When the hardest weather blows

[Verse 2]

They said someone else would sign it
They said I was young and proud
I laid the load tests on the table
And explained the failure out loud
Then I took my case of drawings
Down the thirty-seven floors
With the future looking smaller
Than it ever had before

[Chorus]

There's a line beneath my name
That no golden hand can move
Every promise that I make
Has a weight I have to prove
Let the contract turn to paper
Let the crowded doorway close
I will stand behind the things I build
When the hardest weather blows

[Bridge: heavy half-time]

Months went by in rented daylight
Then a bridge across a stream
Four good people, honest figures
And a modest living dream
When the first bus crossed at sunrise
I could watch it all the way
Every bolt was where it should be
Every word was mine to say

[Instrumental: soaring guitar solo, organ answers]

[Final Chorus]

There's a line beneath my name
And it reaches through the steel
From the thought I dared to follow
To the structure standing real
Let the river rise below us
Let the winter gather rain
I will stand behind the things I build
And the line beneath my name

[Outro: fast full-band finish]

Engines of My Own

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: bass riff, drums join, roaring organ]

[Verse 1]

The roof let in November
The sign had lost its paint
I found a lathe beneath a blanket
And a box of broken gauges
I swept the floor on Saturday
I wired a single light
Then set a kettle on the bench
And measured through the night

[Pre-Chorus]

A hundred small decisions
A thousand turns of steel
An idea asking questions
Until my hands could make it real

[Chorus]

Engines of my own
Hear the room begin to thunder
From a sketch beside the phone
To the wheel that pulls its weight
Every hour becomes a stone
In the road I'm building under
All the miles I haven't known
Engines of my own

[Verse 2]

The first man brought a water pump
The next a frozen gear
I learned to price an honest hour
And to make the purpose clear
Some weeks I barely paid the rent
Some nights the lights stayed on
But every finished working part
Was a reason to come back at dawn

[Chorus]

Engines of my own
Hear the room begin to thunder
From a sketch beside the phone
To the wheel that pulls its weight
Every hour becomes a stone
In the road I'm building under
All the miles I haven't known
Engines of my own

[Instrumental: shifting-meter bass feature, guitar and organ responses]

[Bridge]

There's a young man at the doorway
With a drawing in his hand
I ask him what the part must do
And listen to his plan
Now two lights burn above the benches
And two minds test the load
We each have something worth exchanging
We each can choose the road

[Final Chorus]

Engines of my own
Hear the room begin to thunder
From a sketch beside the phone
To the wheel that pulls its weight
Every hour becomes a stone
In the road I'm building under
All the miles I haven't known
Engines of my own

[Outro]

The roof is sound
The lamps are bright
Tomorrow waits
We close tonight

This Life Is Mine

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: piano, soft organ, exposed voice]

[Verse 1]

I wore the coat they bought for me
I learned the words they loved to hear
A place inside the family firm
A future measured year by year
But on the train at half past six
I'd draw the harbor from the glass
And hide the book before the stop
As if my life were contraband

[Pre-Chorus]

I counted what I'd have to lose
I counted what I'd have to learn
I saved a year of living costs
And chose a different turn

[Chorus]

This life is mine
These hours have a name
The quiet wish I kept alive
Is asking for a flame
I'll take the road, I'll pay the fare
I'll learn the work, I'll dare to care
For every day that waits in line
This life is mine

[Verse 2]

My father watched me fold the coat
My mother wouldn't meet my eyes
I said I loved the home they'd made
And told them why I had to try
There was no promise in the studio
No waiting crown behind the door
Just rented space and patient practice
And a reason to ask for more

[Chorus]

This life is mine
These hours have a name
The quiet wish I kept alive
Is asking for a flame
I'll take the road, I'll pay the fare
I'll learn the work, I'll dare to care
For every day that waits in line
This life is mine

[Bridge: band gathers momentum]

The first sale paid the heating bill
The next repaired the window frame
A woman bought the harbor dawn
And said it made her breathe again
I called my family after dark
We talked until the kettle cried
They asked about the next one
And I let the answer shine

[Instrumental: double-time lift, soaring guitar solo over driving bass]

[Final Chorus]

This life is mine
These hours have a name
The work I choose, the love I keep
Are growing from the flame
I'll take the road, I'll pay the fare
I'll learn the work, I'll dare to care
For every day that waits in line
This life is mine

[Outro: triumphant sustained vocal, decisive band ending]

Worthy of My Name

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: restrained guitar, warm organ and melodic bass]

[Verse 1]

My name was lit above the entrance
My face was on the evening train
I smiled beside a golden record
And never said who wrote the refrain
An old friend waited by the stage door
With the notebook I had kept
I saw the years I'd built on silence
In the way his hands were clenched

[Pre-Chorus]

All the noise could never drown
The thing I knew when lights went down
The room was full, the mirror plain
I couldn't bear to meet my name

[Chorus]

I want to be worthy of my name
When no one knows I'm standing here
When the applause has gone away
And the truth is all I hear
Let me earn the voice I raise
Let the work outlive the shame
One honest choice, another day
Till I'm worthy of my name

[Verse 2]

I told the story on the record
I sent the money I had owed
No easy speech could buy forgiveness
No single night could clear the road
I took a job above a cafe
And played the songs I'd written there
Sometimes the room was nearly empty
But every word was mine to share

[Chorus]

I want to be worthy of my name
When no one knows I'm standing here
When the applause has gone away
And the truth is all I hear
Let me earn the voice I raise
Let the work outlive the shame
One honest choice, another day
Till I'm worthy of my name

[Bridge]

I will not call the wound a virtue
I will not make a home of blame
I can repair what can be mended
I can refuse that choice again
A letter came one winter morning
He'd heard a song I'd made alone
He wrote, I recognize the singer
Keep making music of your own

[Instrumental: melodic bass solo into soaring guitar]

[Final Chorus]

Let me be worthy of my name
When no one knows I'm standing here
When the applause has gone away
And the truth is all I hear
I have earned the voice I raise
I am learning without shame
One honest choice, another day
I am building up my name

[Outro]

The lights go down
I meet my eyes
The song is mine
And so am I

Measure the Deed

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: tense odd-meter bass riff, snare accents]

[Verse 1]

They gathered by the empty storeroom
They had a name before a fact
The quiet man from second shift
Was walking in as they turned back
He never joined them after payday
He never knew which jokes to tell
And that was all the proof they needed
To decide they knew him well

[Pre-Chorus]

I took the key logs off the wall
I read the time stamps line by line
A rumor travels without weight
A judgment has to carry mine

[Chorus]

Measure the deed
Let the evidence speak
Don't make a verdict of a face
Or a voice that sounds too weak
Measure the deed
Let the hidden record show
I will give a person what is earned
By the things I truly know

[Verse 2]

The lock was opened before midnight
The quiet man had left at ten
A truck had crossed the rear gate camera
With the foreman's oldest friend
I laid the pictures on the table
I said the words they didn't like
The man they'd praised had signed the order
The man they'd blamed had worked all night

[Chorus]

Measure the deed
Let the evidence speak
Don't make a verdict of a face
Or a voice that sounds too weak
Measure the deed
Let the hidden record show
I will give a person what is earned
By the things I truly know

[Bridge: half-time, exposed bass]

An apology belongs to someone
A correction has a name
I called the workers back together
And cleared him where they'd placed the blame
Then I signed the commendation
For the work he'd done for years
No favors, no convenient silence
Just a truth that all could hear

[Instrumental: guitars rise, bass stays forward]

[Final Chorus]

Measure the deed
Let the evidence speak
Let admiration find the hands
That have earned the words we keep
Measure the deed
Let the honest record show
I will give a person what is earned
By the things I truly know

[Outro: decisive unison riff]

Hand to Open Hand

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: two contrasting riffs, bass joins them]

[Verse 1]

She could draw a summer morning
Through a furnace into glass
I could shape a frame of copper
Strong enough to make it last
We had stalls across the market
We had little time to speak
Till the storm came through on Thursday
And left water in the street

[Verse 2]

I could mend her broken awning
She could make my windows shine
We sat down beside the heaters
And put prices on our time
No one owed the other labor
No one had to say it's fair
Till we both could read the offer
And see something worth it there

[Chorus]

Hand to open hand
A promise freely made
Your gift for understanding
Meets the craft I've learned to trade
You can keep the road you stand on
I can choose the road I know
Hand to open hand
We both have room to grow

[Verse 3]

Soon a lamp hung in the doorway
Amber light in copper leaves
Every joint had held my hammer
Every color held her heat
We could do apart what we had done
But together there was more
We wrote both names upon the label
And took orders at the door

[Chorus]

Hand to open hand
A promise freely made
Your gift for understanding
Meets the craft I've learned to trade
You can keep the road you stand on
I can choose the road I know
Hand to open hand
We both have room to grow

[Instrumental: extended guitar and organ exchange, melodic bass featured]

[Bridge]

Some designs we couldn't settle
Some requests we both declined
We could leave without a quarrel
We could change what we designed
Then the lamp lit up a kitchen
Where we'd never been before
Something neither made alone
Had given both of us much more

[Final Chorus]

Hand to open hand
A promise freely made
Your gift for understanding
Meets the craft I've learned to trade
Every value freely offered
Every answer freely known
Hand to open hand
We have room to build our own

[Outro: both opening riffs unite]

No Claim Upon My Soul

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Instrumental Intro: fast gallop, distorted bass, organ stabs]

[Verse 1]

They took my picture from the window
And left a paper on the door
The council said a painted question
Wasn't welcome anymore
Across the square my oldest rival
Had been laughing at my work
Then they came to take his canvas
And he learned what silence was worth

[Pre-Chorus]

I carried both our names downtown
I held the notice to the light
A freedom measured by agreement
Would vanish in a single night

[Chorus]

You have no claim upon my soul
No right to close another mind
You may turn away, you may answer back
You may leave my words behind
But the hand that draws must be my own
And the same right must be yours
We can meet beneath an open sky
With no lock upon the doors

[Verse 2]

He painted things that made me angry
He called my colors cold and tame
I wouldn't trade away his freedom
For a city that approved my name
We took the notices before a judge
We brought the orders and the dates
We asked for equal room to answer
And a law that guarded both our gates

[Chorus]

You have no claim upon my soul
No right to close another mind
You may turn away, you may answer back
You may leave my words behind
But the hand that draws must be my own
And the same right must be yours
We can meet beneath an open sky
With no lock upon the doors

[Bridge: quiet voice over bass harmonics]

I cannot force you to admire me
I cannot make your choice my due
The boundary that protects my canvas
Is the one protecting you
No fist can paint conviction
No threat can teach the eye
Give us room to make our reasons
And to hear the other's reply

[Instrumental: explosive guitar solo and organ counterpoint]

[Final Chorus]

You have no claim upon my soul
No right to close another mind
Let the morning fill the windows
Let the choices meet the light
The hand that draws will be my own
And the same right will be yours
We can meet beneath an open sky
With no lock upon the doors

[Outro: full band, sustained high vocal]

Two Fires, Freely Burning

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Intro: piano, bass harmonics, warm organ]

[Verse 1]

You came in from the workshop
With the weather in your hair
I was bent above a drawing
Trying to find the answer there
You didn't ask me to forget it
You pulled a chair into the light
And told me what you saw inside it
We were talking half the night

[Verse 2]

I watched you argue for a stranger
When the easy thing was turn away
I loved the care you gave the details
And the truth you wouldn't trade
You saw the work behind my silence
I saw the courage in your plans
We found a hundred things to cherish
In the lives beneath our hands

[Chorus]

Two fires, freely burning
Two lights across the room
I choose the warmth you bring me
And the life I bring to you
No promise made in darkness
No word we cannot own
Two fires, freely burning
And a place we call our home

[Verse 3]

We have dreams that meet at sunrise
We have roads we walk apart
You can need a quiet evening
I can need a running start
When the winter took your mother
I was there to share the weight
Because the person that I treasure
Was the person at the gate

[Chorus]

Two fires, freely burning
Two lights across the room
I choose the warmth you bring me
And the life I bring to you
No promise made in darkness
No word we cannot own
Two fires, freely burning
And a place we call our home

[Bridge: drums and bass build]

I love the mind behind your laughter
I love the life you dare to make
I love the way you meet the morning
And the time you choose to take
Let tomorrow bring its questions
We will answer as we are
Two whole lives in one direction
Two warm windows after dark

[Instrumental: double-time lift, extended expressive guitar solo]

[Final Chorus]

Two fires, freely burning
Two lights across the room
I choose the warmth you bring me
And the life I bring to you
Every morning freely offered
Every evening freely known
Two fires, freely burning
And a place we call our home

[Outro: voice, bass and sustained organ]

I choose you
You choose me
The door is open
We turn the key

The World I Choose

NO BORROWED SUN / Read down the left column, then the right

[Movement I: Dawn, quiet organ and melodic bass]

[Verse 1]

The city wakes in separate windows
A kettle sings, a shutter climbs
A woman sets her brushes ready
A man unlocks the shop at nine
A folded letter waits for posting
An honest sum is written down
A wheel begins another turning
And ordinary light fills the town

[Pre-Chorus]

No single hand designed this morning
No borrowed dream could make it true
A thousand minds have shaped the daylight
Through a thousand things they choose

[Chorus: full band enters]

This is the world I choose
The work, the love, the open view
The hours I can stand inside
And call my own when day is through
I have a mind, I have a name
A road to walk, a living flame
With both my eyes upon the truth
This is the world I choose

[Movement II: 174 BPM, heavy driving gallop]

[Verse 2]

I've known the cost of easy answers
I've worn the weight of other plans
I've watched a proud design fall open
Like a broken clock inside my hands
I've learned to leave a lie behind me
I've learned to mend the wrong I've done
And every time I faced the question
Another part of life begun

[Chorus]

This is the world I choose
The work, the love, the open view
The hours I can stand inside
And call my own when day is through
I have a mind, I have a name
A road to walk, a living flame
With both my eyes upon the truth
This is the world I choose

[Instrumental: shifting-meter bass feature into guitar solo]

[Movement III: The Open Door, half-time warmth]

[Bridge]

Tonight the work is on the table
Tomorrow's drawing can be done
The person that I love is waiting
And there's bread enough for everyone
We chose the guests, we bought the flowers
We earned the quiet in this room
No distant voice can grant this evening
No distant voice can live it through

[Build]

Here is the laughter worth pursuing
Here is the hand I want to hold
Here is a life of my own making
Here is a joy that won't be sold

[Movement IV: 174 BPM, triumphant full-band return]

[Final Chorus]

This is the world I choose
The work, the love, the open view
The hours I can stand inside
And call my own when day is through
I have a mind, I have a name
A road to walk, a living flame
With both my eyes upon the truth
This is the world I choose

[Reprise]

No borrowed sun above my door
No borrowed dream worth living for
These hands will build, these eyes will see
The life I choose begins with me

[Extended Instrumental Finale: seamless ninety-second guitar and roaring organ exchange, melodic bass leads underneath, drums maintain heavy gallop, rising harmony, no silence, no false ending]

[Final Vocal]

My eyes are open
The day is mine

[Decisive Full-Band Ending]