



JAXX GHOST

DAWN'S LIGHT

TRACK LISTING

01	Before the Sun Came Up	3:49
02	Dirt Road Saturday	3:13
03	Ride with Me	3:20
04	Lights on Friday (Mariposa Nights)	4:25
05	Since Dawn (Slow Dance Version)	4:18
06	Long Way from Done (Off-road Duet)	3:48
07	When Two Hearts Beat (Whiskey Version)	5:18
08	Our Skin from Within (Jaxx Version)	4:47
09	When Is Here (California)	3:45
10	The One Who Stayed (Nashville Version)	3:48
11	Still Know Every Road (Jaxxability)	2:39
12	Chasing Shadows	3:17
13	Where Nothing is Everything	4:19
14	Dawn's Light (The Ballad of Wild Irish Rose)	5:18

BONUS

15	When Is Here (Wild Slide)	4:22
16	Where Nothing is Everything (The Opera)	5:04
17	Still Know Every Road (Duet)	3:54
18	Lights on Friday (Muddy Streets)	4:09

Total Runtime: 73:33

01

Before the Sun Came Up

3:49

Porch light off and the coffee's black
Four AM and the sky's still flat
Gravel pops somewhere down the road
Just the cold and the dark and the quiet I know

Funny how the things you hide from the day
Find you when the noise all falls away
Every word I swallowed, every door I shut
All comes back when the world ain't up

Before the sun came up
Before the world got loud
I could finally hear myself
Without the noise and the crowd
Just the dark and the dew
And a sky turning blue
I was more me than I've been in years
Before the sun came up
Before the world got loud
I was more me than I've been in years

Your jacket on my shoulders walking home
That cracked sidewalk we made our own
You said something about the way the leaves had turned
I didn't know that night was one I'd never unlearn

I barely remember the cap and gown
Or the handshake from some man in some small town
But I could paint you that Tuesday sky
The hood of my truck and the look in your eyes

Before the sun came up
Before the world got loud
I could finally hear myself
Without the noise and the crowd
Just the dark and the dew
And a sky turning blue
I was more me than I've been in years
And yours are the only ones that stay

Before the sun came up



“

Four AM. Coffee black. The world hasn't started yet. A song about the things you can only hear when nobody else is listening, and the moments that matter more than any milestone ever could.

”

02

Dirt Road Saturday

3:13

Cooler in the truck bed, Friday night paycheck
Ice cold cans and a country rock playlist
Picked her up at seven with the windows rolled down
She's wearing cutoffs and that smile I can't get past

Dirt road stretching out past the old fairgrounds
Dust kicking up where the tires touch the ground
She's got her boots up on the dashboard now
And that stereo turned all the way loud

It's a dirt road Saturday
Small town, big noise, get outta my way
Her hand on my leg, sun coming down
Ain't nothing in this world gonna bring me down
Dirt road Saturday, yeah

Bonfire burning down at the Henderson place
Boys all yelling, trucks lined up in a row
She's singing every word I put on the radio
And Lord I never wanna let this night go

It's a dirt road Saturday
Small town, big noise, get outta my way
Her hand on my leg, sun coming down
Ain't nothing in this world gonna bring me down
Dirt road Saturday, yeah

Mama said don't waste your time on a weekend girl
But she don't understand how this one feels
Some nights just hit a little different
And this one's a night I'll never forget

It's a dirt road Saturday
Small town, big noise, get outta my way
Her hand on my leg, sun coming down
Ain't nothing in this world gonna bring me down
Dirt road Saturday, yeah



“

Friday night paycheck, windows down, her boots on the dashboard. The weekend anthem that set the country anchor for the whole album. Small town, big noise, and a night worth never forgetting.

”

Ride with Me

3:20

Dust road sunset in my eyes
 Pickup truck and open skies
 Boots hit gravel feel the beat
 Country rhythm city street
 Windows down and volume loud
 Cut through smoke and through the crowd

Turn it up the radio's on
 Singing every word to our song

Ride with me ride tonight
 Stars are burning country bright
 Ride with me don't look back
 Down the long and winding track
 Ride with me ride tonight

Tail lights bleeding through the dust
 Chrome and rust and wanderlust
 Her perfume on the passenger side
 Gone but she's still along for the ride
 Every fence post every mile
 Counting distance by her smile

Turn it up the radio's on
 Singing every word to our song

Ride with me ride tonight
 Stars are burning country bright
 Ride with me don't look back
 Down the long and winding track
 Ride with me ride tonight

Yeah we rolling country roads no GPS no map
 Just the white line and the yellow line and the thunder in the back
 Backroad kings with the windows cracked mud season on the tires
 Trading city lights for firefly nights and old fence wire
 Used to think I'd leave this place and never look behind
 But the ridge keeps pulling like a bass line in my spine
 So we ride yeah we ride
 Ain't nothing out here but the truth and the sky

Ride with me ride tonight
 Stars are burning country bright
 Ride with me don't look back
 Down the long and winding track
 Ride with me
 Ride with me



“

K-pop meets country on a dust road at sunset. The first flavor track, and the first surprise. Five voices, one truck, chrome and rust and a beat that doesn't care what genre it belongs to.

”

Lights on Friday (Mariposa Nights)

4:25

Bullion is a street flowing quiet through shadows in the pines
Same old courthouse, same old mountain, same old mines
Prestons staked their claim before the roads had lanes
Ashworths built fame, hard to tame... neither rode the trains

But wait till the headlights hit old Highway Forty-Nine
You can feel it in the air, it must be mountain time

Lights on Friday, whole town comes alive
Every truck , every road, all headed home tonight
Up here in the mountains where the world don't reach
We got everything we need... lights on Friday

Bleachers fillin' up at our high school on the hill
Gravel lot half full but every space sure to fill
Smoke from the grill drifts up through the oaks and pines
Waas boys got a back woods bootjack story every time

And it don't matter what the week put you through
Friday night's the only church this town won't lose

Lights on Friday, whole town comes alive
Every truck , every road, all headed home tonight
Up here in the mountains where the world don't reach
We got everything we need... lights on Friday

I've run every twisted road out of Forty-Nine
Nothing shines more true than our courthouse light

Lights on Friday, whole town comes alive
Every truck , every road, all headed home tonight
Up here in the mountains where the world don't reach
We got everything we need... lights on Friday

Lights on Friday
Living canvas, city folks flock to see
Lights on Friday
Pure paradise, a place for you and me
Lights on Friday
Lights on Friday



“

*A mountain town that sits
quiet all week and comes
alive under Friday night
lights. Bleachers packed,
smoke from the grill, old
man Johnson telling stories.
Named for the butterflies
that find the Sierra at dusk*”

05

Since Dawn (Slow Dance Version)

4:18

With the wind at her back, she's a sight to behold
But her laughter's a memory, like a story retold
I chase after shadows, but they fade with the light
Every moment without her feels like an endless night

She was off running wild, through the fields and the trees
Like a wild horse racing, chasing moonlight with ease
With a heart full of fire, and a soul that wouldn't break
Every mile that she traveled, left a mile in its wake

Since dawn I've been standing in the cold
Of a light that used to feel like home
Every morning comes but you don't
And nothing's felt right since dawn

I'll lace up my boots, chase the sunset tonight
With a heart full of hope, I'll follow her light
Through the valleys of dreams, where the echoes still sigh
And dance in the moonlight, till the morning arrives

Maybe she's the fire, maybe she's the fall
Maybe she's the silence after all
Maybe dawn's a promise, maybe dawn's a name
Maybe what I'm chasing never was the same

Since dawn I've been standing in the cold
Of a light that used to feel like home
Every morning comes but you don't
And nothing's felt right since dawn

So I'll raise up a toast, to those nights under stars
With the fire in my soul and the love that's still ours
Though the road may be long, and the journey's unclear
I'll keep running wild, 'til her light reappears



“

The emotional center of the album. Dawn's name hides in plain sight. A slow dance about chasing someone who was already running, and the sunrise that changed everything. Since dawn. Since Dawn.

”

06

Long Way from Done (Off-road Duet)

3:48

Knees pop like gravel on a back porch step
Mirror says I'm older but it ain't right yet
Same boots, same highway, same dumb grin
World keeps spinning and I keep digging in

They can write me off, they can count me out
But I didn't come this far to slow down now

Long way from done
Still chasing the rush like I'm twenty-one
Got rust on the bones but I'm gold in the sun
Long way from done

New kids talk fast but they don't say much
Shiny paint jobs but they've never left the clutch
I've been through the fire and I liked the heat
Still got dirt road rhythm in my city street

They can turn the page, they can start a new trend
But the road I'm on don't have an end

Long way from done
Still chasing the rush like I'm twenty-one
Got rust on the bones but I'm gold in the sun
Long way from done

Some nights the quiet gets a little too loud
And the road feels longer than I'd ever say out loud
But the sun comes up and I lace 'em tight
Still got one more round, still got one more fight

Long way from done
Still chasing the rush like I'm twenty-one
Got rust on the bones but I'm gold in the sun
Long way from done

Long way from done



“

Knees pop like gravel on a back porch step, but the grin hasn't changed. A defiant duet about refusing to slow down, trading verses between two voices who aren't done yet. Not even close.

”

When Two Hearts Beat (Whiskey Version)

5:18

When two hearts beat
Can they beat as one

I watched you running like the wind for all to see
Gave everything you had to everyone for free
I didn't seek the fire I just needed you to be
Still enough to hear the truth about you and me

I kept on giving til there was nothing left to give
I kept on waiting for the life we're meant to live
Two hearts beating wrong can still beat right
Maybe dusk was just the long way to the light

I gave you everything the fire had to give
Loud enough to drown the ghosts I couldn't quit
Thought if I burned brighter you would finally see
The girl behind the flame was all you'd ever need

When two hearts beat — one wild, one true
One chasing fire, one seeing through
When two hearts beat — through dusk and dawn
Find what they need and fight through what went wrong
Chase off the ghosts that followed them so long
But when two hearts beat — they can beat as one

I've been the storm that never learned to rest
Gave every room my loudest and my best
But somewhere in the giving I forgot to see
The quiet that was waiting just for me

I kept on giving til there was nothing left to give
I kept on waiting for the life we're meant to live
Two hearts beating wrong can still beat right
Maybe dusk was just the long way to the light

When two hearts beat — one wild, one true
One chasing fire, one seeing through
When two hearts beat — through dusk and dawn
Find what they need and fight through what went wrong
Chase off the ghosts that followed them so long
But when two hearts beat — they can beat as one

Running from the quiet all my life
Standing in the quiet like a light
The cold before the dawn nearly broke me down
Never let go, never left the ground
Two hearts beating
No longer alone
The shadows lifting
We're finally home
The dawn is breaking
Can we now be one

When two hearts beat — one wild, one true
One chasing fire, one seeing through
When two hearts beat — through dusk and dawn



“

The longest track on the album, and it earns every second. A rocker cowgirl and a country boy raise whiskey glasses at a bar while the dawn breaks behind them. Two hearts that beat wrong can still beat right.

”

Our Skin from Within (Jaxx Version)

4:47

Smile the smile I needed to wear
 Held my breath with nothing to spare
 Kept the peace kept the pace that smile on my face
 Will the calm touch that space

Shedding all I don't know
 Underneath me way down low
 Let it fall let it fall just let it go
 What's beneath after all is the real show
 What's beneath after all is the real show

We're the gold they couldn't see
 Wore the world and finally free
 Our skin from within
 Was never torn never thin
 We can can we will we must live again

Wore the weight of a world on a wire
 Played the part held the bar a little higher
 Watched the pines shed their bark to the ground
 Stood right there as new life came around

We're the gold they couldn't see
 Wore the world and finally free
 Our skin from within
 Was never torn never thin
 We can can we will we must live again

Don't know what tomorrow wears
 Don't need to try it on
 Morning comes for those who dare
 To stand in what they've known
 Our skin from within
 Was always there

We're the gold they couldn't see
 Wore the world and finally free
 Our skin from within
 Was never torn never thin
 We can can we will we must live again



“

The dark pivot. Post-punk electronics replace the pedal steel. What happens when you shed everything the world asked you to wear and find out what's underneath. The gold they couldn't see.

”

When Is Here (California)

3:45

Is it near
When is here

Same mug, same chair, same morning light
Hands on the table don't look right
When did these lines show up to stay
Who is this man and where's the kid who ran away

Time didn't walk it didn't crawl
It just showed up standing tall

When is here
Caught me in the mirror unaware
When is here
Every year I lost is in my stare
I held the world but couldn't hold the time
When is here

Stack of books and a corner desk
Gave the world my Sunday best
Traded sunsets for one more year
Of chasing things that disappear

Could've run when the road was wide
Now I just watch it from the side

When is here
Caught me in the mirror unaware
When is here
Every year I lost is in my stare
I held the world but couldn't hold the time
When is here

Faces 'round the table wearing years like coats
Stories we've been telling now have different notes
A door closed somewhere back behind the noise
And I still reach for the handle like a kid reaching for his toys

When is here
Caught me in the mirror unaware
When is here
Every year I lost is in my stare
I held the world but couldn't hold the time
When is here

When is here
Is it near
Here is now



“

The mirror doesn't lie but it doesn't explain either. A meditation on time's silent ambush. The wrinkles that arrived without invitation, the friends who aged while nobody was watching. California sun on a quiet morning.

”

10

The One Who Stayed (Nashville Version)

3:48

Pulled off the interstate at the county line
Same gas station, same broke neon sign
Pines still hold the fog like nothing changed
My granddad's fence still leans the same old way

I learned the hard way what I should've known
Not every road you travel will take you home

She's the one who stayed
Kept the porch light on and the coffee made
I crossed the valley chasing what I couldn't name
But she's the one who stayed

The boys all leave, they always do
Follow the dotted line to something new
Send back pictures of the golden gate
Don't say nothin' 'bout the things they hate

Am I really missing out on something grand
You'll never see my stars from where you stand

I'm the one who stayed
Kept the porch light on and the coffee made
He crossed the valley chasing what he couldn't name
But I'm the one who stayed

I swam the ocean blue but I miss tall pines
I found my peace of mind in old fence lines
World moves wicked fast and it's none too kind
Home is silky slow and that suits me fine

She's the one who stayed
I'm the one who stayed
Kept the porch light on and the coffee made
We both crossed a line we couldn't name
We're the ones who stayed

The one who stayed
The one who stayed



“

He crossed the valley chasing what he couldn't name. She kept the porch light on and the coffee made. A Nashville duet about coming home to the one who never left.

”

Still Know Every Road (Jaxxability)

2:39

Still hear the silence

In the fields where we would roam, finding peace of mind
Though I've traveled far, it's still a part of me
This town shaped my heart, it's where I'm meant to be
Still know every road

Passed the water tower doing fifty-five
Same old rust, same old paint, same old fading sign
Parked outside the place we used to waste our time
Everything looks smaller through a different set of eyes

But something pulls me like it always did
Like the county line knows where I've been

Still know every road
Every turn, every fence, every field I used to own
Moved away but it never let go
This town's in my blood and my bones
Still know every road

Your mama's porch light still comes on at eight
I wonder if she'd recognize my face
There's a lot I never said the night I drove away
Some roads you take and some you just escape

But something pulls me like it always did
Like these backroads know what I can't admit

Still know every road
Every turn, every fence, every field I used to own
Moved away but it never let go
This town's in my blood and my bones
Still know every road

I didn't just leave a town
I left the only one who ever slowed me down

Still know every road
Every turn, every fence, every field I used to own
Moved away but it never let go
This town's in my blood and my bones
Still know every road



“

Passed the water tower doing fifty-five. Everything looks smaller through a different set of eyes. The last burst of fun before the descent begins, delivered in a rockabilly duet that Elvis would have tapped his foot to.

”

12

Chasing Shadows

3:17

Driving through the night
Looking for a sign or two
Thought you'd be right beside me now
But the road feels so empty

'Cause I'm a little bit restless
A little bit lost
Still chasing the shadows of
Things I miss the most

I still hear your laughter
Echoing through the pines
These winding roads remind me
Of those sweet summer nights

Yeah, I'm a little bit restless
A little bit gone
But with every mile I drive
I feel you in the song

And every town I pass through
Brings me closer to you
With the stars shining bright
Guiding me through the night

Yeah, I'm a little bit restless
A little bit lost
But the road's my companion
And it knows what it costs

Chasing sunsets, I'm feeling alive
With your memory beside me, I know I'll survive
These open highways whisper, secrets of the past
But I'm looking forward now, I'm free at last

Yeah, I'm a little bit restless
A little bit gone
But with every mile I drive
I feel you in the song

Yeah, I'm a little bit restless, a little bit free
But with your love in my heart, I know where I should be



“

The descent begins. A haunted night road, headlights on empty pavement, and the things that follow you home. Dark atmospheric country from the ancestral corridor of the album.

”

Where Nothing is Everything

4:19

Snow came down through the pines last night
Stopped the whole world from making a sound
Stood on the porch where my grandfather stood
Watched the ghosts come up out of the ground

He built that fence back in fifty-three
With hands that still live in mine
The wire's gone slack the posts lean down
But the line holds up just fine

Where nothing is everything is
Where silence sings I can hear him still
The mountain keeps what the mountain knows
And I am where my people go

Cold moves different up here on the ridge
Time forgets what it came to do
I'm not alone in these empty woods
Something old walks through

Where nothing is everything is
Where silence sings I can hear him still
The mountain keeps what the mountain knows
And I am where my people go

I used to think the dead were gone
Now I know they just got quiet
They live inside the space between the trees
In the breath before the wind comes down

Where nothing is everything is
Where silence sings I can hear them all
The mountain keeps what the mountain knows
And I answer when they call



“

Snow came down through the pines last night and stopped the whole world from making a sound. A grandfather's fence, a mountain's silence, and the ghosts that rise from the ground where nothing is everything.

”

Dawn's Light (The Ballad of Wild Irish Rose)

5:18

Her wild spirit rode the golden dream
 Left Missouri for a life not fame
 Rode the wagon to a strange exchange
 The fare going West was not as tame
 The lifting, the rising, was freeing

She crossed the last of the desert
 The Sierra rose up white and wild
 Reined the paint near the ridgeline
 Snow on the peaks and heart of a child

If I am the first, can I do this alone?
 In my heart, does a hole feel at home?
 Can I bear that my bones may bleach white?
 Dusk must always surrender in dawn's light
 I am not the first, the last, or all alone

The dusk and the dawn are the hand of God
 Blinding snow against the frozen rock
 Inviting and dangerous so wondrous
 My paint stomps, snorts, breathes deep
 In clarity there's beauty then truth

If I am the first, can I do this alone?
 In my heart, does a hole feel at home?
 Can I bear that my bones may bleach white?
 Dusk must always surrender in dawn's light
 I am not the first, the last, or all alone

A hundred winters of courage
 Nearly a hundred more
 The mountain's stone is the rose's thorn
 Every daughter has tested the ridge on her own
 And all must answer Rose when she calls

Little one, I rode alone through the snow
 With a hole nobody filled
 The man who loves you can't be your father
 But he's standing at the edge, and he's still

Let him stand there, let the warmth do the work
 The cold wind carries away
 I'm your blood, and I'm telling you plain
 You were held before you had a name

You are not the first, you don't do this alone
 In your heart, a hole will feel at home
 Your bones will atone on their own
 Dusk must always surrender in dawn's light
 You are not the first, the last, or at all alone

The dusk always surrenders in dawn's light
 The dusk always surrenders in dawn's light

Wild Irish Rose rising in the dawn
 Tells the words a father still wants to say



“

The album closer. 1850s. A wild Irish woman named Rose rides a paint horse across the Sierra Nevada with snow on the peaks and the heart of a child. One hundred and seventy-five years later, a father's ghost still has words to say. The dusk always surrenders in dawn's light.

”

BONUS TRACKS

Tracks 15-18 are reimagined versions of album tracks.

Same lyrics. Completely different universes.



15 When Is Here (Wild Slide)

Country Rock Duet · 4:22



16 Where Nothing is Everything (The Opera)

Symphonic Rock Opera · 5:04



17 Still Know Every Road (Duet)

Country Rock Duet · 3:54



18 Lights on Friday (Muddy Streets)

Art Rock Deconstruction · 4:09

CREDITS

All songs written by	Todd Margrave
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AI music production	Suno v5.5 / Udio
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Mastering	Neural Analog Pro (-14 LUFS)
Cover art direction	Todd Margrave
Cover art generation	DALL-E
Image processing	ImageMagick
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Sequenced using the Completion Backward Principle

Present day to the 1850s

jaxxghost.com

youtube.com/@JaxxGhost

open.spotify.com/artist/62Gxn4G84gbA4SopPgAe78

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JAXX GHOST

Country roots. Rock instincts. Atmospheric ambitions.

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