**Hurricane’s Eye Lyrics:**

**Hurricane’s Eye Jan Gillies**

1. As we count our days backwards to equalize time

From death to the present, trying to synchronize

Future expectations we don’t recognize

Like life in a hurricane’s eye

**Chorus:**

Can’t turn on a light, the piano’s out of tune

Theater’s empty, with plenty of room

But the play’s not been written, & the song has no tune

Or voice, to give it wings.

1. While storms howl around us, I hear gentle rains

As oceans of tears attempt to drown the pain

And the ragged survivors join hands once again

Not knowing the ‘how’ or the ‘why’

But there’s love in a hurricane’s eye

**(chorus)**

1. Will winds tear us to pieces, or can this storm end?

Let brothers and sisters find family & friends?

Can we subdue the anger on which it depends?

Find a way to fight temperatures rise,

And find peace in a hurricane’s eye?

(**chorus – 2X)**

**Swamp Song Jan Gillies**

1. Indiana, the sixties, a 10-year-old kid

Two sisters, both older, didn’t care what I did

TV, black & white, just half-hour a day

I’d complain, Mom stood pat, & then she would say:

**Chorus:**

Go play in the swamp, it’s a lovely day

Just grab some grub & grubby duds, & then just go away.

1. Now, she meant it, we had one, down below our back yard

Spring-fed giant pools, snapping turtles bite hard!

Grapevines you could swing on, & land with a splash

But the leeches made sure that the dip didn’t last!

**(chorus)**

1. Teenager, uncertain, in turbulent times

A guitar, war protests, and making up rhymes

My audience of fishes, turtles and frogs

Life seemed so simple, down in the bogs

**(chorus)**

1. A Vietnam veteran, sick from the war

The body was fine, but the spirit was sore

We connect chasing butterflies, out in the green

A smile touches eyes where just teardrops had been

**(chorus)**

1. Several years later, a wedding to plan

South Florida, now, and the perfect man

The preacher is puzzled, but soon understands

He can stand on a boardwalk, while we hold hands

**New chorus:**

A different swamp, but how serene, Divine!

Just watch the alligators and the guests will be just fine!!

**(repeat 1st chorus)**

**Three Kisses Jan Gillies**

1. Words seem so clumsy, they rattle around

And stumble passing teeth & tongue

Get twisted around, confusing the sound

The soul needs to speak to old & young

1. So I sent you three kisses, while I was asleep

And the world was so far away

The night kept them hidden, so you couldn’t see

But I knew they would not go astray

**Chorus:**

One on the forehead, for what lies within

One on the hand, for forgiveness of sin

One on the heart, for where it can lead

Three kisses, sent in a dream

1. I hope that you felt them, and understood

The love that they meant to convey

‘Cause an email or letter just wouldn’t do

Couldn’t touch what I needed to say.

**(chorus)**

**Musicians & Sailors Jan Gillies**

1. As a young girl, drawn by the ocean; inspired by songs of the sea

Longing to find what love promised, I ached to be wild & free

But climbing the dunes on the shoreline, the Great Lakes were all I could see

My Midwestern mother was worried, & this is what she said to me:

**Chorus:**

Beware of musicians & sailors, they sail & wander away

Leaving echoes of inspiration fading like dreams in the day

1. One leads a life of adventure, the other holds hearts in their hands

As they lure us away from our troubles, transported to faraway lands

But, when the dance, it is over; you find yourself stranded ashore

Without a home, they wander alone, & leave you longing for more

**Chorus:**

So beware of musicians & sailors, they’ll haunt you wherever you go

The wind sings their song long after they’ve gone, leaving memories melting like snow

1. The lure of musicians and sailors, is they fan the heart to a flame

In a world full of hopeful romantics, they keep us from going insane

But the music & man are divided, and the sailor is wed to the sea

So love from afar, but bloom where you are, love must balance reality

**Chorus:**

And beware of musicians & sailors, they may seem too good to be true

But the bonds they can’t break can be painful mistakes, & can tear both hearts in two

1. Now I’ve been a musician & sailor, experienced life on the sea

Made music that spoke to the longing, to be more than I thought I could be

& now as I gaze at my daughter, the wisdom I want to pass on

Has shifted away from my mothers, and taken shape in this song:

**Chorus:**

Take care with musicians and sailors, share their love of song & sea

They bring us so much to cherish, without them what would this world be?

…But, beware of musicians and sailors, they sail & wander away

**Gone Jan Gillies**

1. Safe in your fortress, with thick walls of stone

Guarding the treasures that you think you own

With layers of lies, to bury the cries

No way in, or out, so I’m gone

**Chorus:**

Gone, like lonely in the night

Gone, like the child too young to fight

Gone, like the sense of wrong & right

I can’t live in that world, so I’m gone.

1. The sickness still grows, and gnaws deep inside

And everyone knows what you think you can hide

Fear of the future, as you rewrite the past

No way to get through, so I’m gone

**(chorus)**

**Bridge:**

It’s your right to be wrong; weakness, being strong

Your anger that drives me away

With no way to break through, and reach out to you

A war with no winners, just “gone”

1. Secure in the knowledge that your way is true

Not caring your ‘treasure’, actually owns you

Assuming that’s all anyone would value

But I can’t agree, so I’m gone.

**(chorus –with alternatet last line:**

Can’t live in that world, I’ve got one of my own.

**Nobody Home Jan & Jen Gillies**

**Chorus:**

There’s nobody home, just an echo upstairs

And the look in your eye is a blank empty stare

I know you’re alive, but the spark isn’t there

‘Cause there’s nobody home

1. Now the slick politicians, they found long ago

That the keystone to power lies in what you know

They think that we’re children, give fairytale truths

Exploiting our dreams and the passions of youth

With image consultants to show them the way

And ghostly speech writers who write all they say

Our leaders somehow just don’t seem very real

Even slip through the bars when they lie, cheat, and steal

**(chorus)**

1. And the media masters, with plans of their own

With each new disaster their fortunes have grown

They prey on our terror of what we can’t see

As they edit the world that they show you and me

They’ve crippled our will and chained us with fear

As they control most of what we see and hear

Stampeding the masses with hate and deceit

Assassins of reason, they treat us like sheep

**(chorus)**

1. But I’ve seen a power that shines in each eye

The power of judgment, the power to try

In most it’s still sleeping or shackled by fear

But children grow older, and their time is near

And I look for a day when the masters are gone

Each man must decide what’s right and what’s wrong

There’s a fate worse than dying or living alone

It’s to live in a body with nobody home

**(chorus, w/ ‘nobody home’ repeat twice at the end)**

**Dogs of War Jan Gillies**

1. Puppies are playful, considered best friends

Devoted companions, faithful to the end

But trained to protect, and taught how to kill

We turn them to weapons of war

**Chorus:**

And war becomes play to those who don’t pay

The price that it takes from its pawns

They don’t feel the pain. Its just another game

To win or lose, so it goes on (and on, and on, and on…)

1. Children learn kindness, or to fear and to hate

Take care what you teach them before it’s too late

Under banners of glory, and ribbons of pride

We turn them to weapons of war.

**(chorus)**

**Bridge:**

The baying grows louder, the hounds drawing near

In the shadow of the towers, we all live in fear

In a world full of weapons of war

1. The masters of conflict seek power and gain

While screaming of freedom, they control the game

Using their weapons to kill and to maim

They glory in their dogs of war

**(chorus)**

**Repeat 1st verse, & “**In a world full of weapons of war **“**

**Lobo & Blanca** **Jan Gillies & Joshua Hisle**

1. Now, lost to legend, this furred Hercules, once roamed the New Mexico plains

A giant among wolves, both cunning & strong, outfoxing mere men was a game

With his beautiful Blanca, white wolf, at his side, they terrorized ranches & farms

Thousands of cattle & sheep felt their teeth, but no human had ever been harmed.

1. For over 5 years, these bold cavaliers reclaimed what had always been home

Since before men arrived, wolves had survived where the deer & buffalo roamed

Then humans had come, with their traps & their guns, & new herds of beasts they called theirs

But with time on their side, this young Bonny & Clyde stole back what was taken, as fair.

**Chorus:** But a lion, shorn of his strength, an eagle denied the sky

A dove, bereaved of its mate; all, it’s said will surely die

But it took all three to claim Lobo, the king of the Currumpaw Plains

Once the will to live is gone, death takes what remains

1. A huge bounty was posted, & Lobo’s fame grew, as he triumphed again & again

Laughing at poisons, and clever plans of incredibly arrogant men

‘Til a man came, encamped for a long winter siege, famous hunter, ‘Seton’ by name

Who knew even kings can be stabbed through the heart, with a terrible twist to the game.

1. He targeted Blanca, deep in her heat, and less cautious than Lobo, her mate

Trap chained to a 50-pound head of a steer, the horns in the rocks sealed her fate

The lassoed & strangled between mounted men, ‘til blood foamed from her jaws & she died

“Good riddance” they said, when at last she was dead, with a hollow echo of pride

**(chorus)**

1. For days Lobo howled, as the winter moon scowled, & they set traps with Blanca as bait

They found him with iron jaws clamped on each leg, exhausted, game over, checkmate

Bound & muzzled, the king ignored all, & the sting of his pride was felt by all the men

His gaze locked far away; undefeated, they say, but he never saw sunrise again.

1. They laid him with Blanca, & all felt the shame, for the terrible deeds that were done

Seton was changed, at the end of the game; perhaps after all, Lobo won

For his life took a turn, Seton helped others learn of the wolves, & their part in the plan

How wolf & man can share the land, when we finally understand.

**(chorus)**

**Snake Jan Gillies**

Johnny saw a snake one day, when he was very young

Curled up on the woodpile, out basking in the sun

Someone had told him snakes were bad, and so he was afraid

So he picked up his daddy’s ax, they said he should be brave

The little garter snake awoke, as Johnny ventured near

A looming shadow blocked the sun, the snake had much to fear

& so he coiled in self-defense, just trying to survive

& tried to bite the falling ax; when Johnny struck, he died.

**Chorus:**

A killer’s heart begins to pound dark rhythms all its own

A pulse of power, growing dear, as viper’s blood replaces fear

Destruction, at its end

The young boy marveled at the snake, how vicious it had been!

Chopped off its head in triumph, to kill it was no sin.

The only good snake was one dead; he’d show them all, with pride,

And bask in all their praises when he took the head inside.

Decades passed before the boy, now grown, went off to war

To show the world he wasn’t scared to fight for cause and corps

The evil enemy must die. He’d walked this stage before

But these snakes looked a lot like us, and killing leads to more.

**(chorus)**

With every bullet that hits home, the fear and hate just grows

For self-defense, revenge or pride; the thirst for blood won’t go

Which side is ‘snake’, and which is ‘boy’? Our vision starts to blur

The right or wrong, the weak or strong; ‘til we’re not quite so sure.

What if the poor snake wasn’t bad, just a different form of life?

Another creature on this earth, enduring calm & strife?

Our point of view can alter things. It’s something we can change

Understanding conquers fear. Hatred is deranged.

**(chorus)**

But Johnny saw a snake one day when he was very young.

**Star Jan Gillies**

**Chorus:**

Dream maker, heart breaker

What’s your song today?

So pretty, it’s a pity

You’ve got nothin’ to say

1. Once you were one of the chosen

Thousands called out your name

Now they just see your shadow

Such is the price of fame

**(chorus)**

1. People still pay for the privilege

To stand close to a fading star

The shine in their eyes mesmerizes

Can’t really see where you are

**(chorus)**

1. Surrounded by those who adore you

Believers who think you’re the one

To save them from lives full of darkness

So many, they block out the sun

**(chorus - & repeat last line)**

**Change is Coming (Four Little Pigs) Jan Gillies**

**Chorus:**

Change is comin’, hear the sound, in the air, underground

From within & all around, change is comin’

1. One little pig built a house of fame, a trophy room, the perfect game

Adoring fans & girls galore, never thought what lay in store

Rising sea took his house, they say; and all his pride was swept away

Lost beneath the ocean waves - change is comin’

**(chorus)**

1. A second little pig was so divine, her house was built by Calvin Swine

So glamorous, with mirrored walls, her clothes could fill the Taj Majal

But howling winds and flying glass, left shredded clothes & beauty past

Face the future, looks don’t last – change is comin’

**(chorus)**

1. A third little pig, so tough and strong; had guns galore, might knows no wrong

Took what he wanted, hated all; no tears were shed at his downfall

A simple virus in the air, he never even saw it there

Never knew and didn’t care – change was comin’

**(chorus)**

1. Deep in the forest, owl calls: “Who’s immune? Who cares at all?

Who makes a difference? Who’s to blame? Who knows the answers? Who can change?”

A fourth pig answers, “We’re the ones! We have the wind, the earth, the sun!

We’ll find the answers; we can change” – ‘cause change is comin’!

**(chorus)**

**Silent Shore Jan Gillies**

1. Little frogs all sing of Spring, they chirp & croak their love

Woo their ladies in the dark, the night is full of song

Coastal wetlands teem with life; the nurseries of the sea

Where man & beast both live & feast since ancient history.

**Chorus:**

But something’s wrong, where is the song that filled the warm night air?

A silent shore, that sings no more. The music has died there.

1. And far beneath the lapping waves, deep currents carry doom

To those who call the ocean home, as dead zones change the tune

Dispersants used to hide the shame now poison life below

As creeping toward the coral reefs, the deadly masses flow.

**(chorus)**

1. “It was an accident” they say, “No way that we could know”

“They happen every now & then”, the price of oil just grows

But all along the coastline there’s a silence on the shore

Canary died down in the mine, and frogs sing no more.

**(chorus)**

**Chocolate Jan Gillies**

**Chorus:**

Melts on the tongue, taste buds go “Yum!”

You feel like you’re falling in love, in love

Can’t get enough, what is this stuff?

Delicious, nutritious chocolate!

1. Once only kings had it, in tropical lands

A drink for the chosen few

Now it’s spread far & wide, helping lovers who sighed

For chocolate, and ones became two

**(chorus)**

1. It’s good for the heart, and the head does its part

Though the mid-section does tend to grow

But when rationed with care & happily shared

Spirits lift & smiling eyes glow

**(chorus)**

1. In pies & in cakes, fondue fruit dips make

Strawberries taste even more divine

A food for the gods from those sweet coco-pods

A joy beyond reason or rhyme!

**(chorus)**

**(tag)** Delicious, nutritious chocolate!

**Annie’s Violin**  **Jan Gillies**

**Chorus:**

Annie loves her violin, in her arms it sings

The music flies like memories, on swift & fading wings

1. All her life they sang as one, for eager ears to hear

Solos, trios, orchestras; over 30 years

In humble homes & velvet halls, they laughed & loved & cried

But memories are fragile things, those years have nearly died, but..

**(Chorus)**

1. Her music spoke to young & old, its magic soothed the soul

Helped the mind to unwind, and kept the body whole

But no medicine or money can protect the mind

Her memories are tangled, now, and often hard to find

**Bridge:**

But varnished wood and shining strings can kindle coals gone gray

The fire remains in soaring strains of melodies she plays, ‘cause..

**(chorus)**

1. Annie can’t remember that she has a violin

At 88, her slender hands seem frail and paper-thin

But pull out her forgotten friend, and rosin up the bow

Her music soars just like before, her eyes begin to glow…

‘Cause Annie loves her violin, in her arms it sings.

**Heroes & Sheroes Jan Gillies**

1. You inspire, by how you sing your song

You inspire, by your sense of right & wrong

With the things you say & do, the honesty shines through

……You inspire.

1. You lead, by the challenges you face

You lead, with purpose and with grace

Determination shines, while others cry and whine

……You lead.

**Chorus:**

Through all we face together

Changing climates, wind and weather

You’re the kind of person I want to be.

1. You love, though it hurts like hell’s own fire

You love, beyond lust or desire

Through the ecstasy and pain, sharing glory, pride & shame

……You love.

**(chorus)**

**(repeat 1st verse)**

**Tag:**

With the things you say & do, the honesty shines through

……You inspire.