

“Strawberry Fields”

See Hunter Davies, *The Beatles*, with a new introduction, New York: Norton, 2009 and Tim Riley, *Tell Me Why*, New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1988.

- Lennon / Released February 17, 1967 as “Double A”
- Originally intended for next album (would have been *Sgt. Pepper’s*)
- Surreal lyrics surrounding the name of the Salvation Army orphanage near Lennon’s childhood home in Liverpool (it was a magical place for him as a child)
- play of “no” and “know”
- tension created F and Bb (Dominant / Tonic or V / I)

Mellotron (descending chromatic line F to Bb, outlines chords / V – I progression is upended by minor and figures in guitar II and mellotron)

[Chorus]

[descending melodic line]

Let me take you down, because I'm going to Strawberry Fields

Bb

Fm7

Nothing is real and nothing to get hung about

[ascent not completed]

Strawberry Fields for ever

Eb

Bb

Note the absence of other instruments – a “clean” sound

[Verse 1]

Living is easy with eyes closed, misunderstanding all you see

It's getting hard to be someone but it all works out

It doesn't matter much to me

[Chorus]

Let me take you down, because I'm going to Strawberry Fields

Nothing is real and nothing to get hung about

Strawberry Fields forever

Cello and trumpet enter at this chorus and become prominent timbre in Verse 2

[Verse 2]

No one I think is in my tree, I mean it must be high or low

That is you can't, you know, tune in but it's all right

That is I think it's not too bad

[Chorus]

Let me take you down, because I'm going to Strawberry Fields

Nothing is real and nothing to get hung about
Strawberry Fields forever

Descending sitar line (F minor)

[Verse 3]

Always, know, sometimes it's me
But you know I know when it's a dream
I think a "no", I mean a "yes" but it's all wrong
That is I think I disagree

[Chorus]

Let me take you down, because I'm going to Strawberry Fields
Nothing is real and nothing to get hung about
Strawberry Fields forever

[Outro]

Strawberry Fields forever
Strawberry Fields forever

Guitar solo begins with variant of last vocal iterations of "Strawberry Fields" with piano,
contrabass, then to sitar FADE OUT

FADE IN

Tape / piano / drums

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