

## White Dandelions

Music: Herin, Parmenter / Lyrics: Herin

Drums: Johnathan Blake  
Upright bass: Kevin Chown  
Electric guitar: Chris Herin  
Lead & backing vocals: Matthew Parmenter  
Piano: Matthew Parmenter  
Horn arrangement, trumpet, trombone: Walter White

### The Story

The song that *apologetically* has to close out the album by encapsulating the gravity of dementia is the solemn yet touching "*White Dandelions*." Magnificently performed with *Parmenter's* lead vocals balancing between empathy and sorrow but steering clear of overwrought drama. *Matt* also insisted on replacing *Herin's* piano and delivers a more skillful rendition (*Herin: it's true!*) along with renowned jazz drummer *Johnathan Blake* (*Kenny Barron, Tom Harrell*) on drums, *Walter White* (*Wynton Marsalis, Maynard Ferguson*), and the ever-present *Chown* on upright bass.

*(Herin): "When I hear this song I return to that pivotal moment when my dad's condition finally had a diagnosis. I relive the sinking feeling upon hearing the news and the numb confusion of the immediate aftermath. At that point I didn't know much about Alzheimer's, but everyone knows a person's future is a predestined death sentence. Finally knowing what was wrong with him ended up being of little consolation. While working on the song I struggled whether to keep the last line – is it too blunt? – too strong? – even though it's the truth. Although I'm still profoundly uncomfortable every time I hear it, Matthew's compassionate delivery softens the directness. Of special note is Johnathan's remarkable first-take performance. Sympathetic and impeccable dynamics rise and fall as he told a story with his drums and honored the memory of his grandmother, who passed from Alzheimer's complications."*

## White Dandelions

Dandelions wax then wane to gray  
In waves before their time  
Here the lost man stands  
Before the time-lapse dance  
Collapsed his mind

A thousand surface cuts belie your smile  
Of sorrow in your eyes  
Now the lost man sits  
In a shrinking world  
No beacon shines  
No cure divine

Face without a name  
A day of reckoning

I am at your side  
I apologize  
Bringing you the news  
It's time to die

White flags fly  
Goodbye