

Thirty Years In: November 31, 2015: I began, perhaps as long as three years ago, with the title, “thirty years in. . . and nothing to show for it.” It was supposed to be about me. But somewhere along the way – I think I can recall the moment, maybe six months ago, at the bar, and Ty had dissed my mixes yet again – I decided it was going to be about Ty. He inadvertently suggested another title, “thirty years – no parole,” but I decided against it, as tempting as it was. The actual mix started, again long ago and while it was still about me, with *Factory*, the second cut: “its temporary, this place I’m in/I permanently won’t do this again.” I tend to call Xavier the fog factory and neither of us intended to stay this long. But here we are, thirty years in....

The opening (and closing) cut, *Valerie*, speaks to the shape of my relationship with Ty, thirty years in. Not quite unrequited love, but if I didn’t contact him, I’d never see him. Hence “won’t you come on over, and stop making a fool out of me.” And that parallels the Carver and Porcphat personas we have taken on – and occasionally exchanged – over the years. Carver is laconic, world-weary, cynical, and cutting, always puncturing the blowsy, optimistic, over-heated visions of Porcphat (including his “exit strategies” for setting himself up at the fog factory).

Overture: Valerie – 1. The Zutons: Amy Winehouse’s cover of this song plays as the credits roll at the end of the documentary *Amy*. Don’t miss that version, which concludes this mix. **Side One: The Carver Recarved:** 2. factory – band of horses: I’ve heard this so many times, I’ve worn it out; hopefully it will still sound fresh for others. A ballad, rolling out the story. 3. Make a Fist – Phantogram: “Make a wish/Watch me disappear/And see me turn into a hound/Bloody fangs/Growing from your gums/And bleeding on the ground around/I relate to things I hate/Don’t know why”: that’s Carver speaking. 4. We almost lost Detroit – Gil Scott Heron: Why do people from Detroit always think we care where they came from? Ty wrote his one millionth conference paper about Heron and then I saw the house on Logan Square where Heron lived in the early 70s; and then I remembered Alison Steele, the nightbird, from growing up listening to progressive rock on WNEW; I first heard Heron from Ms. Steele. 5. Some unholy war – amy winehouse; well Amy’s on my mind, but the guy here is who Ty wishes he was, or at least the singer is the woman Ty wishes he had. **Intermission:** 6. Mt. Washington Kroger Man of the Year: Carver and Porcphat, 2/18/14; short take on one of Ty’s many accomplishments. 7. Andrew in Drag – the magnetic fields: I think this band appeared on an earlier mix; concerns a time in North Carolina; just ask Ty. 8. Performance Art – Carver and Porcphat, 9/23/14; somewhat longer take on the fascinating life of a great poet. A nice tuck of loose ends here. **Side Two: Porcphat’s Complaint:** 9. Phoenix Wind – naysayer: why don’t people get into my obsession with Phoenix? “When they said when they said life would get better/If we?” – my exit strategies. No one can decipher the bridge lyrics. 10. He would have laughed – deerhunter: I can’t tell you how much I love this song; as my loyal followers know, aging has been a theme, a preoccupation; “only bored as I get older”; not, of course, the way I’ve experienced it; it’s so sad because it just keeps getting more interesting; but then “where did my friends go” and “where do your friends go” places it on this mix 11. Old Friend – Sea Wolf: “But now we’re getting older/And we’re growing up” and then “I know don’t believe me when I believe in you”: Ty never did embrace my “the hottest poet in the United States” take. Such a sweet, Porcphatty song. 12. Patternicity – the New Serene Republic: pretentious and long song; pure Porcphat. Don’t give up on it; strong finish.

Coda: 13. Valerie – Amy Winehouse: how can anyone resist this song? A Jewess from north London singing the blues.