

PARIAH

songs of the outcasts
a concept album by Aryn Michelle

Track listing and Credits:

1. **The Limit** (*Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
2. **Furnace of Affliction** (*Caroline Cobb & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
3. **Give It All Away** (*David Gentiles & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
4. **Honest (feat. Delaney Ramsdell)** (*Delany Ramsdell & Aryn Calhoun*)
5. **Making a Way** (*Cedric Isreal & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
6. **Secondhand Love** (*Meg Ammons & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
7. **Cast a Stone** (*Kristina Ray, Kaden Slay & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
8. **The In Between** (*Paul Demer & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
9. **Pariah** (*Cedric Isreal & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)
10. **Shadow of Your Wings** (*Meesah Kuteyi, Jason Hundley & Aryn Michelle Calhoun*)

Produced by Chad Carouthers

Mixed & Mastered by JC Dirks

Photography & Graphic Design by Laura Kellerman

Scripture References & Lyrics:

The Pariah project is a collection of songs inspired by biblical people who found themselves to be a pariah, an outcast, in a particular moment of their lives. But these are not simply biographical stories of biblical characters. These biblical inspirations are a jumping off point for a deeper conversation. We ask ourselves the questions: How did these real people struggle with and overcome their real problems? Where did they turn for wisdom and comfort? Can we find ourselves in similar positions of emotional, mental and physical turmoil? What lessons can we learn from their lives? This project strives to seek answers to these questions and illustrate how the lives, and struggles, of biblical people can be real and relevant to our modern faith journeys.

TO ACCESS LYRICS & SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ONLINE:

arynmichelle.com/pariah-lyrics

Facebook: [arynmichellemusic](https://www.facebook.com/arynmichellemusic) <> Instagram: [arynmichelle](https://www.instagram.com/arynmichelle) <> YouTube: [arynmichellemusic](https://www.youtube.com/arynmichellemusic)

1. The Limit (Joseph)

Aryn Michelle Calhoun 2019

Scripture Reference:

Starting in GENESIS 37

“37:19 *Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. 20 “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”*

Lyrics:

Down in a hole, down in the dark, how did this happen?
Fallen from grace, feeling betrayed, stripped and helpless
I saw visions of my life where everything would work out
But it’s hard to keeping on dreaming when I am so alone now

I am a stranger, I am a slave in a hard place
No looking back, there’s no escape, just the next step
I get tangled up in trouble trying to do the right thing
Speaking up for my convictions has led to my pain

Everyday I’m pushed to the limit
Waiting patiently for deliverance
But ain’t no one on earth gonna do me, do me like they should
But I know my God is good

People come in, people come out, out of the story
Get what they want, then they move on without any warning
If I had a grain of sand for every promise they’ve made
I’d be sinking in a desert full of all my heartache

Hands on the bars, knees on the floor, head feeling heavy
Make no mistake, I’m keeping the faith, I will be ready
‘Cause days and weeks and months and years could pass me all by
But my hope is in the only one whose saving my life, in time

Everyday I’m pushed to the limit
Waiting patiently for deliverance
But ain’t no one on earth gonna do me, do me like they should
But I know my God is good

Maybe my whole life’s been building up to this
My whole life’s been building, building
My whole life’s been building up to this
My whole life’s been building, building

Everyday, everyday
No one on earth’s gonna do me like they should

Spoken:
No famine, no fear, no fire, no flood
No man, no beast can keep me from your love
No chains, no trials, betrayal or blood
No king or kingdom can keep me from you

Everyday I’m pushed to the limit
Waiting patiently for deliverance
But ain’t no one on earth gonna do me, do me like they should
But I know my God is good

2. Furnace of Affliction (Job)

Aryn Michelle Calhoun/Caroline Cobb 2019

Scripture Reference:

The book of JOB

“36:5 Indeed, God is mighty, but He despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. 6 He does not keep the wicked alive, but He grants justice to the afflicted. 7 He does not take His eyes off the righteous, but He enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever. 8 And if men are bound with chains, caught in cords of affliction, 9 then He tells them their deeds and how arrogantly they have transgressed. 10 He opens their ears to correction and commands that they turn from iniquity. 11 If they obey and serve Him, then they end their days in prosperity and their years in happiness.”

Lyrics:

I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
For the refining of my soul
I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
Did you break me down just to make me whole?

My friends all say I must deserve it
Asking me what I could have done wrong
The ones I love they tell me to give you up
Turn my back and move on

I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
For the refining of my soul
I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
Did you break me down just to make me whole?

I lost my fortune, lost my future
My body is aching and my strength is all gone
you gave and gave and then took it all away
If I just have you, is that enough?

I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
For the refining of my soul
I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
Did you break me down just to make me whole?

I know that you can do all things 'cause
everything is yours
Who am I to run my mouth, I'll wait, I'll wait
I'll stay right here among the flames until
your work is done
Then pluck me from the ashes like a
phoenix rising up

I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
For the refining of my soul
I have been tried in the furnace of affliction
Did you break me down just to make me whole?

3. Give It All Away (Zacchaeus)

Aryn Michelle/David Gentiles 2020

Scripture Reference:

LUKE 19:1-10

“19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Lyrics:

There's gotta be more
I gotta see it with my own eyes
Been a cheater, been a thief,
Yeah I got riches that don't satisfy
I'm undignified
'Cause it don't matter what they think no more
I got a front row seat to something more

Stuck in a crowd
But I've never felt so all alone
But then he called me out
Out on a limb I'm feelin' so exposed
He said to come down
And in that moment when he knew my name
I knew I'd never, ever be the same

He found me, I found him
He saw me, said I'm worth it
I'd be crazy not to give it all away
'Cause he saved my life and that's worth everything
I'm gonna give it all away
All away, I'm gonna give it all away

Everything's new
I'm gonna try my best to make it right

But if I win or if I lose
I've got the only thing that satisfies
If you don't understand
I hope you'll see that it is worth the cost
Compared to knowing Him all else is loss

He found me, I found him
He saw me, said I'm worth it
I'd be crazy not to give it all away
'Cause he saved my life and that's worth everything
I'm gonna give it all away
All away, I'm gonna give it all away

And now I'm rich with mercy
Silver and gold can't win me back
Don't underestimate me
And now I'm rich with mercy
Silver and gold can't win me back
Don't underestimate me
Don't underestimate

He found me, I found him
He saw me, said I'm worth it
I'd be crazy not to give it all away
'Cause he saved my life and that's worth everything
I'm gonna give it all away
All away, I'm gonna give it all away
I'm gonna give it all away
All away, I'm gonna give it all away

4. Honest (Ruth & Naomi)

Aryn Calhoun, Delaney Ramsdell

Scripture Reference:

The book of RUTH

"1:16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Lyrics:

If I'm being honest

I thought my life was over once or twice
I thought this well of bitterness would never
run dry

If I'm being honest

I'd taken all the punches I could take
I'd given up that anyone I loved would ever
stay

It was hard to believe that we'd survive
Lonely and weak, the world ain't on our side
Like a shot in the dark, like a light in the
storm
New life walked through that door
I lost so much but I've been given so much
more

If I'm being honest

I never knew that life could hurt so bad
I had built my dreams on a shifting pile of
sand

If I'm being honest

All that I had left was faith in you
You've taught me all I need to know and
what to do

It was hard to believe that we'd survive
Lonely and weak, the world ain't on our side

Like a shot in the dark, like a light in the
storm

New life walked through that door
I lost so much but I've been given so much
more

On every dusty road you were right there by
my side

In the confusion of the night, you were
always there to guide me

We've been to hell and back and by mercy
we're still fighting

We've been to hell and back and by mercy
we're still fighting

We're moving on, we're moving on together

It was hard to believe that we'd survive
Lonely and weak, the world ain't on our side
Like a shot in the dark,
like a light in the storm
New life walked through that door
I lost so much
but I've been given so much more
I lost so much
but I've been given so much more

5. Making a Way

(John the Baptist)

Aryn Michelle Calhoun, Cedric Israel 2020

Scripture Reference:

MARK 1:1-8

“1:4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...7 And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Lyrics:

I'm making a way in the wilderness
I got something to say whether you're ready
or not yet
If you hear what I say better run to the river
I'm making a way cause change is coming

I'll walk a hard and dusty road
I'll choose the desert all alone
Forsake a lavish life to
Speak truth to power

I got a wild streak in me
You know it's who I'm made to be
And I don't care what people think 'cause
Now is the hour

Destiny is calling me out

I'm making a way in the wilderness
I got something to say whether you're ready
or not yet
If you hear what I say better run to the river
I'm making a way cause change is coming

Don't matter who your daddy is
Ain't gonna save you from your sins
I know the truth will set you free so
Come to the water

I'mma preach what I'mma preach
This word will reach who it will reach
'Cause the only One who saves
He's quickly coming and

Destiny is calling you out

I'm making a way in the wilderness
I got something to say whether you're ready
or not yet
If you hear what I say better run to the river
I'm making a way cause change is coming

Every mountain be made low
Every valley lifted up
The ax is at the root and oh
The fire's burning hot
The night will turn to day and
The first shall be made last
The crooked paths make straight because
The kingdom is at hand

I'm making a way in the wilderness
I got something to say whether you're ready
or not yet
If you hear what I say better run to the river
I'm making a way

I'm making a way in the wilderness
I got something to say whether you're ready
or not yet
If you hear what I say better run to the river
I'm making a way cause change is coming

6. Secondhand Love (Leah)

Aryn Michelle, Meg Ammons 2019

Scripture References:

starting in GENESIS 29

“29:30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years. **31** When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. **32** And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.” **33** She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon. **34** Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. **35** And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.”

Lyrics:

I’m good, but somehow not enough
I’m faithful but it doesn’t seem to matter much
I’m strong but I’m tired of being overlooked
I’m a rock next to a diamond but I’ll get the job done

I wonder what it would be like to get the best of you
There’s nothing more that I can do to be the one you’d choose
I’m still stuck in second place after all my hearts been through
I kinda win, I kinda lose; secondhand love
Secondhand love

I’m here, for better or for worse
I’m ok but still sometimes it hurts
I’ll keep trying to prove to you what I am worth
Always living in a shadow waiting for my turn

I wonder what it would be like to get the best of you
There’s nothing more that I can do to be the one you’d choose
I’m still stuck in second place after all my hearts been through
I kinda win, I kinda lose; secondhand love
Secondhand love
Secondhand love

Heaven will remember me ‘cause God don’t make mistakes
I may be lonely and unseen but I am not forsaken
Heaven will remember me ‘cause God don’t make mistakes
I may be lonely and unseen but I am not forsaken
I am not forgotten
Still...

I’m still stuck in second place after all my hearts been through
I kinda win, I kinda lose; secondhand love
Secondhand love
Secondhand love
Secondhand love
Secondhand love

7. Cast A Stone (The Adultrous)

Aryn Calhoun, Kaden Slay, and Kristina Ray
2016

Scripture Reference:

JOHN 8:1-11

“8:3 *The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group* **4** *and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”* **6** *They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”* **8** *Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”* **11** *“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

Lyrics:

When early morning came
Footsteps trudged up the hill
A gathering of angry faces
Loathing hung on their lips

Who will be the first to cast a stone?

Thrown down into the dirt
Looking so used and loveless
Nobody makes a defense
Frozen with bated breath

Who will be the first to cast a stone?

Mercy steps in with
With fearless tenderness
Who is this man?
Unashamed to
Stand at my defense
What is this love that forgives like this?

He knelt down by me in the dirt
Leaving them stunned and speechless
They turn away in shame
Holding on tight to their secrets

Staying there by my side
Asking “Where’s your condemners?”
“No one remains here, Lord.”
“Then I don’t condemn you either.”

There was no one left to cast a stone
From now on, go and sin no more

Mercy stepped in with
With fearless tenderness
Who is this man?
Unashamed to
Stand at my defense
What is this love that forgives like this?
What is this love that forgives like this?

8. The In Between (Moses)

Paul Demer, Aryn Michelle Calhoun 2020

Scripture Reference:

The book of EXODUS

“33:12 Moses said to the LORD, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” 14 And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Lyrics:

I was born between two worlds
An outsider on the inside
I've been sheltered but torn apart
'Cause everywhere I go I'm the enemy

When I jump into the fight
and try to make it right
There's only bloodstains and questions left
behind

Would you find me in the in-between when
I'm lost and on my own?
Would you lead me when I'm wandering?
When I'm traveling weary roads?
Would you help me find a home?

Starting over, finally free
But it ain't easy, picking up the pieces
Would you give me another chance
I'm still tryna find the person I was meant to
be

If you'd open up my eyes
and just send me a sign
Then I'll jump out of the flame into the fire

Would you find me in the in-between when
I'm lost and on my own?
Would you lead me when I'm wandering?
When I'm traveling weary roads?
Would you help me find a home?

Give me the words
when I don't know what to say
Give me a heart when I'm feeling so afraid
Give me the grace to not get in the way
Give me some strength to face another day

Would you find me in the in-between when
I'm lost and on my own?
Would you lead me when I'm wandering?
When I'm traveling weary roads?

Would you find me in the in-between when
I'm lost and on my own?
Would you lead me when I'm wandering?
When I'm traveling weary roads?
Would you help me find a home?

Give me the words
when I don't know what to say
Give me a heart when I'm feeling so afraid
Give me the grace to not get in the way
Give me some strength to face another day

9. Pariah (Jesus)

Cedric Israel, Aryn Calhoun 2019

Scripture Reference:

GOSPELS (LUKE 9)

“21 And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” 23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

Lyrics:

They said he could walk on water,
And heal anyone who suffered
He was a prophet without honor
In his hometown

He broke bread and fed the thousands
Exposed the truth to those around him
He was a teacher who was not welcome
In the righteous crowd, righteous crowd

Wise man painted as a fool
The Word that broke the rules

Royalty treated like a criminal
Prince of peace overcoming wars of the
world
Son of God living like the least of us
He died a pariah, raised to life the Messiah

He made no sound while they accused him
Stayed down while they mocked and
bruised him
He was abandoned by those he trusted
and left to die, and left to die

One day they hailed him as a king
Then they nailed him to a tree

Royalty treated like a criminal
Prince of peace overcoming wars of the
world
Son of God living like the least of us
He died a pariah, raised to life the Messiah

Do you need a healer who knows your
pain?
Do you need a real friend who won't go
away?
Do you need a Savior who'll do what it
takes?
He knew the price to pay, but He did it
anyway

Royalty treated like a criminal
Prince of peace overcoming wars of the
world
Son of God living like the least of us
He died a pariah, raised to life
Raised to life, raised to life the Messiah

10. Shadow of Your Wings

(David)

Meesah Kuteyi, Jason Hundley, Aryn

Michelle Calhoun 2017

Scripture Reference:

PSALM 63

*"1 You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;*

*I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water...*

*6 On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the
night.*

*7 Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

*8 I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me."*

Lyrics:

I will cling to you in silence of the night
Because your loving kindness will sustain
me
When every final chance has passed me by
You're the only one that is remaining

When every well has been bled dry
Lord I am thirsty, Lord I am thirsty
When every cup is on its side
Lord won't fill me, I need you to fill me

Open your spring
Pouring out your mercy over me
'Cause all that I need
Is here within shadow of your wings
Lord I find you
And I will stay within the shadow of your
wings

I am leaning in so I will not ignore
Every single promise that you're keeping
And with every final taste I still want more
In overwhelming peace I'm drinking deeply

When every well has been bled dry
Lord I am thirsty, Lord I am thirsty
When every cup is on its side
Lord won't fill me, I need you to fill me

Open your spring
Pouring out your mercy over me
'Cause all that I need
Is here within shadow of your wings
Lord I find you
And I will stay within the shadow of your
wings

When every well has been bled dry
Lord I am thirsty, Lord I am thirsty
When every cup is on its side
Lord won't fill me, I need you to fill me