

# 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](http://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