

I've spent my life¹ in chasing² all my hopes and all my dreams³
 And none of them⁴ has turned out like it should
 Each new chance⁵ seems to promise that it will be the one⁶
 But they all come out less than⁷ what they could.

Except you.⁸ Except for you
 You're the one who made my life complete,
 and you're the one who made my dreams⁹ come true.

I've been working¹⁰ all my life for things that I believe
 and not a one^{11,12} is ever what it seems
 I try again to make it;¹³ I try harder than before¹⁴
 But none of them can give me what I need.¹⁵

Except you. Except for you.
 You're the one who made my life complete,
 and you're the one who made my dreams come true.

When¹⁶ storm and fire^{17,18,19} surround us²⁰
 When all our friends²¹ are gone
 When all is lost²² around me
 There's no reason to go on²³

Except you. Except for you.
 Together²⁴ we have made our lives complete,
 and together we have made our dreams come true.

Together we have made our lives complete,²⁵
 And, together we have made our dreams come true.

¹ This is a love song at the end of life's journey: talking about mature rather than new love.

² Chasing implies effort, but not necessarily with strategy.

³ Universal: we all have hopes and dreams.

⁴ Universal: we all also experience disappointment. Even moderate successes don't live up to the anticipation in our hopes and dreams.

⁵ Chance implies multiple opportunities appearing without necessarily a plan or strategy (and echoes chasing).

⁶ That "one" thing that will give happiness.

⁷ Less than may not imply failure, but clearly does not indicate success.

⁸ Who is "you?" In a love song, it is clearly the beloved; adjust your focus to gospel or inspirational, and "you" become Christ or the Lord.

⁹ Echoes the chased dreams in Verse 1.

¹⁰ Portends the note below that works are nothing.

¹¹ Echoes "none of them."

¹² One. A recurring theme.

¹³ Most songs don't dare use a semi-colon. I'm a writer, so I did anyway.

¹⁴ Works are nothing; *Sola Fide*.

¹⁵ The rhyme is close enough.

¹⁶ The bridge. Change in melody. Emphasizes the emotion and the melodic change signals a shift in focus.

¹⁷ Reminiscent of James Taylor's "Fire and Rain."

¹⁸ External threats.

¹⁹ The only imagery in the lyrics.

²⁰ The story makes it shift from "You" to "Us."

²¹ Perhaps a worse loss than storm and fire disaster. Have they deserted us? Or are they all dead?

²² Kipling's "If..." "And lose, and start again at your beginnings, And never breathe a word about your loss;" counsels against giving up.

²³ Total despair. Makes us long for the chorus we have already heard.

²⁴ Echoes the Bridge. More than that, Love (or Salvation) requires participation.

²⁵ Repeated for a conclusion.