



King of Anything
Sara Bareilles

The Best Thing
for You
Irving
Berlin

Broken
Past

European
Imperialism
in Africa

You'll Be Back
from Hamilton

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King of Anything

Sara Bareilles

Keep drinking coffee,
Stare me down across the table
While I look outside
So many things I'd say
If only I were able
But I just keep quiet and count the cars that pass by

You've got opinions, man
We're all entitled to 'em
But I never asked
So let me thank you for your time,
And try not to waste anymore of mine
And get out of here fast

I hate to break it to you babe,
But I'm not drowning
There's no one here to save

Who cares if you disagree?
You are not me
Who made you king of anything?
So you dare tell me who to be?
Who died and made you king of anything?

You sound so innocent
All full of good intent
Swear you know best
But you expect me to
Jump up on board with you
And ride off into your delusional sunset

I'm not the one who's lost
With no direction, oh
But you'll never see
You're so busy making maps
With my name on them in all caps
You got the talking down,
Just not the listening

And who cares if you disagree?
You are not me
Who made you king of anything?
So you dare tell me who to be?
Who died and made you king of anything?

This song perfectly represents the African perspective on the issue of European imperialism. It asks, "Who made you king of anything? Why do think you're automatically in charge of us? Where did you get the idea that you know all the secrets to life?" It is a song of imprisonment, but also defiance.

Slaves were treated terribly, but they couldn't say anything about it. No one would listen to them, and speaking up would only lead to punishment.

Europeans thought the people of Africa needed their help, but (surprise, surprise) they were actually fine on their own.

The main point of the song: Why were the Europeans so conceited?

The Europeans sincerely thought they were being generous and helpful. They were sure they had been given great knowledge and wisdom with which to save the world.

Needless to say, European imperialists did not have the right idea about how the world worked or their purpose in it. But they were quite sure they did, and would not be convinced otherwise.

2

The Best Thing for You Irving Berlin

I only want
What's the best thing for you
And the best thing for you
Would be me

I've been convinced
After thinking it through
That the best thing for you
Would be me

Every day
To myself I say
Point the way
What will it be?

I ask myself
What's the best thing for you
And myself and I
Seem to agree
That the best thing for you
Would be me

Every day
To myself I say
Point the way
What will it be?

I ask myself
What's the best thing for you
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One perspective on the issue held that imperialists were being generous and helpful in their colonization of Africa.

Europeans were sure they were the pinnacle of humanity and that everyone else needed their help.

Therefore, it was widely believed that they were the perfect candidates to help everyone else achieve greatness, and that, in fact, it was their duty.

Of course, being such a common belief, this idea went unchallenged.

This song represents the innocent perspective that, by colonizing Africa, Europeans were doing a favor for humanity. Some imperialists truly thought they were helping the African "savages" become more human by forcing them to adopt European traditions, as shown by the theme of this song.

3

You'll Be Back (from *Hamilton*)

Lin-Manuel Miranda

You say

The price of my love's not a price that you're willing to pay

You cry

In your tea which you hurl in the sea when you see me go by

Why so sad?

Remember we made an arrangement when you went away

Now you're making me mad

Remember, despite our estrangement, I'm your man

You'll be back, soon you'll see

You'll remember you belong to me

You'll be back, time will tell

You'll remember that I served you well

Oceans rise, empires fall

We have seen each other through it all

And when push comes to shove

I will send a fully armed battalion to remind you of my love

Da da da (etc.)

You say our love is draining and you can't go on

You'll be the one complaining when I am gone

And no, don't change the subject

Cuz you're my favorite subject

My sweet, submissive subject

My loyal, royal subject

Forever and ever and ever and ever and ever

You'll be back like before

I will fight the fight and win the war

For your love, for your praise

And I'll love you till my dying days

When you're gone, I'll go mad

So don't throw away this thing we had

Cuz when push comes to shove

I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love

Da da da (etc.)

Imperialists' idea of "love," however gracious it may have seemed to them, came with a high price for colonized or captured Africans.

Some Europeans' opinions reflected Polly's at the start of *Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper. Standing at a slave sale, Polly wonders why the Africans seem so bereft about their capture. *Surely, she thinks, this must be better than living like savages in the jungle.*

Even in the midst of being kind to humanity, Europeans tended to treat the Africans horribly.

A somewhat harsher and more possessive European perspective is represented in this song. Still, the core idea that Africans should be grateful to have their guidance remains.

This is another parallel to *Copper Sun*: In the opening scene, an entire African village is ruthlessly killed, except for the young adults who can be taken as slaves.