

LIFE'S PLAN

I planned out my entire life ...
when I was 10 years old.

Maybe I was a bit young,
But it made sense,
In light of everything I knew at the time.

In retrospect, that was the problem ...
Everything I knew at the time
Didn't amount to much.

But, I'm not going to sell my 10-year-old self short.
... I knew a bit of Latin
... was an alter boy
... sang in the choir – and was pretty good
... prayed a lot
... played a lot of soccer, a bit of basketball
... wrote poetry – yeah, even then it was bad,
But I wrote it anyway
Especially in vocabulary class
When you had to use each word in a complete sentence.

I revised the plan fairly extensively by, say, 17, 18, 19.
Puberty was a huge shock.
But that was just the beginning.
I got through High School OK – although it was touch and go
Kennedy was killed, then King, then another Kennedy
Christ – it scared the crap out of me.

Then college: Girls were no longer a curiosity.
They were a bloody obsession.
All those fish in the sea and me, with a forever empty net.
The draft.
Viet Nam.
Things had taken a serious turn for the worse.

By 23 or 24, I had revised the plan fairly extensively, again – maybe twice.
Again at 26 or 27 ... and at 28 ... and 30 ... and 35.
35 – oh, jaysus – Cate was born.

I pretty much gave up revising the plan then.
Things had become much more basic ...
 Much more day-to-day
 Make do
 Survive
 Save for college

Oh, I didn't forget about plans or planning.
 Just didn't have the energy,
 You know –
 To buy into them right then.

And that's pretty much the way it was until ...
Well, not "until" anything ...

That's pretty much the way it is ...

Life's plan. Yeah. Life's plan now is pretty much just get through it.
 Try not to hurt anyone.
 Try to help anyone, if I can.
 Avoid assholes.
 Hopefully not ever be one.
 Sing, when I can.
 Write.
 Bad poetry.
 Shitty plays.
 Whatever comes to mind.

Yeah, that's pretty much life's plan now.
And, at this age, I don't think I'll be revising it any time soon.