

I don't have the money to pay back the money  
That I borrowed to pay back the money that I borrowed to pay rent  
It's all been spent  
And I don't have a job because I'm going to school  
For the prerequisites to get into another school to get my degree  
So somebody will employ me

But I can still pretend that things are fine  
I can travel back to a simpler time  
'Cause when reality sucks there's a paradise  
In my mind, in my mind, in my mind, yeah, in my mind

Everything is perfect 'cause it's 1997  
And nothing bad has happened yet  
Nobody's sad in 1997  
And there's no such thing as fear and regret  
By 1998, it'll already be way too late  
Yeah, if I had my way I'd be livin' in 1997

I don't have a girlfriend 'cause my standards are way too high  
To date anybody whose standards are low enough to date me  
Like, how desperate is she?  
And I don't have kids 'cause I'm just not ready  
And I won't be ready 'til I'm old enough to regret not having them  
So I guess I'll just wait 'til then

But I don't have to sit here and complain  
I can just escape to somewhere sane  
I can avoid hard decisions with the Utopian visions  
In my brain, in my brain, in my brain, yeah in my brain

Nothing sucks at all because it's 1997  
And the whole wide world is still at peace  
Nobody died in 1997  
There's no wars, no murders, and no disease  
By 1998, we'll all have already sealed our fate  
But all our sins are forgiven in 1997

Maybe I've got a selective memory  
Perhaps I romanticize the past arbitrarily  
Maybe my nostalgia negates my objectivity  
Maybe Orbitz Soda was just okay  
And Savage Garden's career was a big mistake  
But if this is the best that history has, I'll take it  
I'll take it

1, 2, 3, 4!

There was no climate change in 1997  
And barely any national debt  
Three years 'til Y2K and four 'til 9/11  
We didn't know Tom Cruise was crazy yet  
By 1998, all we had left was darkness and hate  
The closest we'll ever get to heaven was 1997  
The closest we'll ever get to heaven... was 1997