

# All Together Now PDF (Limited Copy)

Alan Doyle



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## **All Together Now Summary**

Unity in friendship, music, and shared experiences.

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## About the book

In "All Together Now," Alan Doyle weaves a heartfelt tapestry of music, family, and the unbreakable bonds that tie us together, drawing readers into his vibrant world where the power of song serves as a poignant reminder of connection and resilience. Through evocative anecdotes and lyrical reflections, Doyle shares his journey from the bustling streets of Petty Harbour to the heights of international fame with Great Big Sea, celebrating the spirit of community that has anchored him through life's melodies and challenges. This memoir invites readers to embrace their own stories of togetherness and belonging, encouraging them to find joy in the shared experiences that make life truly harmonious. Let the rhythm of Doyle's words inspire you to discover the music within your own life and the connections that make it meaningful.

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## About the author

Alan Doyle is a multifaceted Canadian artist renowned not only for his successful music career as the frontman of the acclaimed band Great Big Sea, but also for his work as a writer, actor, and producer. Born in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador, Doyle has captivated audiences with his charismatic stage presence and storytelling prowess, both in music and literature. His debut book, "Where I Belong," received widespread praise, establishing him as a talented author who weaves personal narratives with a sense of place and cultural identity. With "All Together Now," Doyle continues to explore themes of community and belonging, drawing upon his rich experiences in the music industry and his deep roots in Newfoundland. His ability to connect with readers through heartfelt anecdotes makes him a compelling voice in contemporary Canadian literature.

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## Chapter 1 Summary:

In July 2000, Alan Doyle and his band, Great Big Sea, experienced a surreal and thrilling moment as they performed in Central Park, New York City, on Canada Day. This gig marked a significant opportunity for the band to connect with the expatriate Canadian community in the United States, showcasing their music to an audience that could bolster their career. Alan, who had long been captivated by Manhattan and its iconic park, felt a sense of wonder as he prepared to take the stage.

Great Big Sea was opening for The Tragically Hip, Canada's renowned rock band. Alan's excitement was palpable as he met the members of The Hip, especially their towering lead singer, Gord Downie, who greeted him warmly despite the intimidating aura he exuded. This encounter solidified Alan's sense of belonging in the music industry, as he perceived the event as a milestone for his career.

The day was not without its challenges, particularly when Alan and his bandmates encountered Jeff Healey, a legendary guitarist known for his role in the film "Road House." Their interaction turned into a comedic yet awkward moment when Darrell, one of Alan's bandmates, inadvertently led Jeff to the bathroom. This humorous debacle highlighted the surreal nature of their day, as the band found themselves stumbling over social cues with their musical idols.





As memories of the concert unfolded, Alan also reminisced about his Uncle Reg, a larger-than-life figure whose colorful personality and tendency to embellish stories enchanted the young Alan and his brother, Bernie. Reg's tales, filled with adventure and bravado, painted him as an indestructible character, despite fate's attempts to challenge him.

Reg's life was marked by a series of unfortunate accidents—from losing fingers in a sawmill accident to a harrowing encounter with a chainsaw—yet he bore these with humor and resilience. Each mishap became a part of his legend, further contributing to the admiration Alan and Bernie felt for him. Reg possessed a unique ability to turn life's adversities into absurd stories, which resonated with the boys and shaped Alan's understanding of enduring hardship while holding onto joy.

The narrative navigates between Alan's formative experiences in the music world and his familial ties, emphasizing the contrasting realms of celebrity encounters and cherished childhood memories. The intertwining of these stories paints a vivid picture of growth, resilience, and the significance of relationships that shape one's identity in the face of life's unpredictability. Through laughter, challenges, and personal legends, Alan Doyle encapsulates the essence of community and the enduring spirit of those who inspire us.





## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The power of resilience and humor in facing life's challenges.

**Critical Interpretation:** As you reflect on the stories woven together in Alan Doyle's narrative, let the resilience displayed by his Uncle Reg inspire you to embrace life's unpredictable nature. No matter how daunting the challenges may seem, like Reg's humorous encounters with hardship, you can learn to find levity even in struggle. Allow laughter to be your companion in tough times, crafting your own unique tales that highlight your strength and adaptability. This perspective not only strengthens your character but also connects you deeply with those around you, creating a sense of community and shared experience that enriches your journey.



## Chapter 2 Summary:

Over the years, the author has amassed a plethora of distinctly Canadian experiences, with each moment illuminating a unique facet of life in Canada. Among these moments, one story stands out—the Grey Cup final on November 25, 2007, in Toronto, an event that encapsulates the essence of being Canadian. It was an occasion marked by celebration, with performances from notable artists like Lenny Kravitz and the Barenaked Ladies. The author was able to attend with his lifelong friends Perry and Greg, both of whom have played significant roles in his life and career.

1. The excitement of the Grey Cup game was palpable, especially when the Saskatchewan Roughriders emerged victorious. In a spur-of-the-moment decision, emboldened by a few drinks and the electric atmosphere, the author proposed they venture onto the field to celebrate and hoist the trophy. Perry was initially skeptical, while Greg expressed concern, but with a determined nod from Perry, they all set forth on their daring escapade.

2. The trio utilized their “ENTERTAINMENT” passes to navigate towards the field, demonstrating the power of confidence in the face of authority. In their journey down the staff elevator, they encountered security, but the author’s quick thinking and assertive approach allowed them to slip past scrutiny, mingling with reporters and families, spiriting themselves closer to the action.



3. The thrill peaked as they approached the field, where revelry among Roughrider players was in full swing. A jubilant player handed the Grey Cup to the author, prompting an instinctive response—he kissed the trophy passionately, embodying the heartfelt joy of the moment. This unexpected yet delightful encounter not only solidified their presence on the field but also highlighted the rich camaraderie and celebratory spirit filling the air.

4. As the boys made their escape from the scene, aware of the increasing risk of being discovered, they reaffirmed their bond over a night filled with the quintessential “lads’ night out.” The following morning greeted them with the familiar aftereffects of indulgence, leading to humorous encounters with the Trailer Park Boys, alluding to shared experiences of debauchery.

5. The day took a serendipitous turn as the author and Great Big Sea performed at a charity concert featuring legendary Anne Murray. The surreal opportunity to sing alongside her instilled a sense of pride and excitement, especially considering her monumental status in Canadian music history.

6. The concert experience was a culmination of emotions; the author performed not only for the audience but in reverence to his roots and the significance of being part of such an artistic lineage. The moment of singing “Could I Have This Dance” with Anne Murray was transcendent—an intersection of fame and personal legacy that filled him with joy.



7. Following another jaunt through the night, the author reflected on the oddities of their escapades filled with local culture. This reflection led to a philosophical discussion on shared experiences, the commonality that binds people through laughter, struggles, and the casual moments spent in spaces like Tim Hortons.

8. The narrative juxtaposes religious musings that have stayed with the author since childhood, particularly centered around a unique biblical character—the man with the vinegar sponge. This ongoing fascination introduces a deeper layer to his perspective, and is characteristically woven into the portrayal of Newfoundland’s cultural and religious backdrop.

9. The musings intertwine with fond memories of pubs, revealing a trace of nostalgia as the author recalls his early experiences in Newfoundland culture, concluding with a reflection on the spirit that brings communities together—a theme manifested through music, camaraderie, and shared rites of passage.

In summary, the chapter constructs a vivid tapestry of life’s exhilarating and poignant moments, celebrating Canadian culture through a personal lens. The intersections of sports, music, friendship, and faith create a rich narrative that resonates with the uniqueness of being Canadian, embracing the delightful unpredictability of life.



## Chapter 3:

Standing at the edge of the Thames beneath Westminster Bridge, Alan Doyle confronts a seasoned conman who has deftly swindled him out of his last twenty pounds. This tense exchange is filled with the energy of a bustling lunchtime crowd, amplifying Alan's urgency as he demands his money back, threatening to take the man's beloved bird as collateral. The year is 1989, and this marks the beginning of Alan's adventures outside of Newfoundland, a transformative journey that introduces him to the sights, sounds, and complexities of urban life in London.

Alan's journey began when he boarded a plane to visit his brother Bernie, who was studying in Harlow, just outside the grand city of London. This flight was not just a physical departure from his tranquil home; it represented a rite of passage, a chance to explore a world beyond his familiar surroundings. The excitement of his first-ever flight and the prospect of city exploration were heightened as he arrived at Heathrow Airport. In stark contrast to the small-town familiarity of Petty Harbour, Alan's new reality was the sprawling metropolis of London, which was alive with energy and

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## Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "All Together Now" by Alan Doyle, the deep bond between the narrator and his brother Bernie is highlighted, showcasing the unique dynamics of their upbringing in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland. Despite the age difference, Bernie often looks younger than his brother, leading to humorous comments from both sides. Their close relationship, marked by both warm moments and typical sibling squabbles, was primarily crafted through a variety of hard labor projects assigned by their father, who held a strong aversion to idleness.

1. **Work Ethic:** The father instilled a sense of diligence in both boys, encouraging them to embrace work as opposed to laziness. This philosophy reflected an essential rule in their household: the only unforgivable act was doing nothing. Consequently, weekends would be filled with tasks, ranging from carrying firewood to more complicated chores.

2. **Absurd Labor Projects:** An amusing recollection involved the boys begrudgingly moving wood repeatedly without any logical sequence, which served as an allegory for the seemingly pointless nature of their father's chores. These experiences brought them together, forging a deeper bond over the repetitive, strenuous tasks.

3. **Building a Basement:** They unexpectedly face the daunting challenge





of digging a basement under their house, which had been constructed without one. Their father's enthusiasm for the project was matched only by the boys' disbelief at the absurdity of digging a basement after the house was already built. The chapter details their laborious experience of tackling massive boulders and navigating through unexpected obstacles, ultimately showcasing the humorous yet challenging journey of familial togetherness.

**4. Challenges and Overcoming Obstacles:** Despite the physical toil and the humorous setbacks, such as encountering a startled mink, the boys developed persistence and teamwork as they attacked the monumental job. The vivid descriptions of their labor highlight their resilience, creativity in hauling rocks out of the basement, and the unexpected fun that comes with overcoming challenges together.

**5. Significance of the New Space:** After weeks of grueling labor, the basement finally transformed from a muddy cavity into an envisioned room. This space represents not just a physical presence but a metaphor for growth, as it symbolizes both the hard work they put into transforming their lives and the collective memories built there as a family.

The chapter wraps with a transition to tales from the narrator's life as a musician, emphasizing the friendships established on a journey that intertwines with past experiences, including humorous incidents with Scottish friends and their shared love for music and camaraderie as they



navigate through life's adventures on the road.

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# Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Work Ethic

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine waking up each day with a purpose—that sense of urgency echoing from your childhood, instilled by a father who believed idleness was the only true sin. As you look back on your own upbringing, you might find memories of hard work and the satisfaction that follows. The lesson from this chapter resonates deeply: embracing work, no matter how mundane or absurd it may seem, carves a pathway toward growth and accomplishment. Each task completed, each challenge embraced, acts as a building block in your personal development, connecting you with those you share the journey with. Like the narrator and Bernie, you may remember that it's often through the struggles and laughter shared in the trenches of hard labor that the strongest bonds are formed, inspiring you to tackle your own challenges with enthusiasm and a spirit of togetherness.



## Chapter 5 Summary:

In the fall of 2018, the author embarked on an expedition with Adventure Canada, joining an adventure tourism group aboard a ship for a ten-day journey around Newfoundland. As a member of the Cultural Resource team, he had the unique opportunity to engage in both performance and hands-on tasks, such as loading luggage and managing lifeboats. From the moment he set sail from St. John's, he felt a profound connection to the maritime history that shaped the region.

Upon arrival in Bonavista, he was enchanted by the waterfront, which was vibrant with life as the town thrived post-cod moratorium. The author's ride in a Zodiac to shore revealed serene waters, enhancing the magic of the experience. His excursion to Elliston, famous for its root cellars—ingenious subterranean storages crucial for winter sustenance—offered him insights into sustainable practices of the past. The preserved history of the town, a puffin colony, and the Sealers Museum highlighted the vital role sealing played in community survival.

The journey continued to Little Bay Islands, once bustling with fishing activity, where two local hosts shared childhood memories of a vanished era. The visit reminded him of the fragility of rural communities, urging a sense of urgency to experience their unique heritage.



St. Anthony marked another stop, filled with the beauty of its harbor and the historical significance of Grenfell's contributions to medicine. The quest for L'Anse aux Meadows resonated deeply; it was thrilling to stand at a site proving Norse exploration predated Columbus. This fulfilled a dream for the author and underscored the rich narrative woven into Newfoundland's past.

In stark contrast, the northernmost tip of the island offered a personal revelation, as he finally glimpsed the Canadian mainland from Newfoundland, crystallizing his identity as a first-generation Canadian.

After sailing to Labrador and exploring UNESCO-designated Red Bay's whaling history, they anchored at Woody Point in Gros Morne National Park. Here, he led a hike in the stunning Tablelands, further augmenting the week's awe-inspiring encounters with nature.

A standout experience occurred in La Poile Bay, where the crew engaged in an invigorating exploration of untouched wilderness, reinforcing the sense of adventure and solitude. The next stop, Francois, a unique carless settlement, allowed him to witness life in a bygone era without modern conveniences, inspiring admiration for the resilience of its residents.

As the expedition neared its end, they visited a vibrant Native reserve at Conne River, celebrating the cultural richness and achievements of its community. At this point, he participated in a spirited drum circle, forging



connections and celebrating shared experiences.

The final leg of the journey led them to the French territory of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, where the blend of French culture in an otherwise North American setting fascinated him. The unique characteristics of the islands contrasted sharply with nearby Newfoundland, enriching his understanding of cultural diversity.

Throughout this journey, he forged deep connections to the landscape, history, and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, concluding with a poignant return to St. John's, where his family awaited. The entire experience awakened a newfound appreciation for his homeland and its intricate relationship with the land and sea.

This ten-day journey underscored several key realizations:

1. The beauty of Newfoundland is even more profound than anticipated, revealing the vastness of its landscapes and histories.
2. The deep-rooted connection between people and the land creates a unique cultural identity that shapes life in Newfoundland and Labrador.
3. As he reflected on the communities visited, he recognized their fragility and vibrant history, urging an appreciation for the individuals who inhabit and contribute to these locales.
4. Lastly, the adventure nurtured a stronger bond with his roots, solidified by the experiences and the love for home, bringing to light a sense of belonging



and pride in his identity as a Newfoundlander.

Reaching the harbor was not just a physical return, but a culmination of personal growth and exploration. The glimpse of his family on the shore transformed the moment into one of joyful anticipation, highlighting the emotional resonance of homecoming. As the ship docked, he realized that even amidst adventure, the true treasure lies in the connections made and the love shared in the journey of life.

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## Chapter 6:

In "All Together Now," Alan Doyle reveals his scattered nature, offering a humorous and poignant reflection on life experiences filled with engaging anecdotes and candid insights. The chapter opens with Doyle's self-deprecating acknowledgment of his scatterbrain tendencies, sharing how his daily life involves a constant struggle with distractions and organizational chaos. His wife, Joanne, and colleagues act as reminders, anchoring him to reality. This theme of distraction and chaos is woven through his life, paradoxically enhanced by the cherished interactions with his elderly neighbors—a rite of passage that reveals the comforting rhythm of communal life.

The heart of the story captures the endearing exchanges with Mr. Murray and Mr. Bowering, two elderly gentlemen who embody the spirit of memory and storytelling on the street where Doyle lives. The deep-seated relationships shine through their morning greetings and historical anecdotes, painting a warm picture of neighborhood camaraderie. However, following the poignant news of Mr. Murray's passing, a miscommunication arises due

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## Chapter 7 Summary:

In an unexpected yet thrilling turn of events, Alan Doyle, known for his music with Great Big Sea, receives a phone call from his friend Russell Crowe, who invites him to audition for a role in Ridley Scott's Robin Hood film, specifically as the musician Allan A'Dayle. Instantly, Doyle's life takes a Hollywood twist as he races to purchase a lute and prepares for a table read. His journey is colored by a mixture of excitement and nerves, leading him to remember past moments when he first encountered Crowe.

Years prior, Doyle fantasized about meeting Crowe after hearing that the actor was a fan of his music. The connection solidifies when they finally meet backstage at an NHL awards show, where to Doyle's surprise, Crowe recognizes him and expresses his admiration. This moment opens the door for collaboration, leading to songwriting sessions between the two and further deepening their friendship.

Fast forward to the Robin Hood auditions, where Doyle's nerves are palpable as he sits among seasoned actors, yet he manages to secure his role. His experience on set is nothing short of overwhelming, especially when he realizes the iconic actors he's working alongside, including Scott Grimes and Kevin Durand. Doyle describes the set and the intricacies of his character, providing a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes magic of filmmaking.



As filming begins, Doyle faces the inevitable mistakes that come with being a newcomer in a complex industry. Whether it's fumbling with arrows during dramatic scenes or grappling with dialogue delivery, his struggles are met with support from his co-stars, who graciously guide him through the learning curve. Their camaraderie reinforces the idea of teamwork in creative work, of learning and growing together amidst challenges.

Amidst humorous moments and heartwarming camaraderie, Doyle shines in his strengths: songwriting. His ability to compose on the spot leads to the creation of a catchy tune called "Large Breasted Woman," which becomes a fan favorite. This spontaneity captures the essence of Doyle's artistic spirit and adaptability in a new environment.

Doyle reflects on his journey through music, emphasizing the importance of humility blended with confidence in performance. He shares anecdotes that illustrate the lessons learned through years of live performances, from local gigs to major festivals. The mix of humility and bravado becomes central to his approach as he navigates the unpredictability of live shows, sharing insights that resonate with any artist's experience.

Ultimately, the chapter celebrates the richness of collaboration in the arts and the inherent messiness that accompanies the path to creativity and success. Doyle's narrative is both humorous and introspective, marking not



just a personal journey but an appreciation for the connections and community that music can foster. As he concludes, he expresses a longing for the communal experience of live performances, as well as gratitude towards those who have supported him throughout his career, underscoring the significance of shared moments in the world of entertainment.

Alan Doyle's story serves as an inspiring testament to resilience and the power of believing in oneself while navigating through the challenges of following one's passion in the arts.

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# Best Quotes from All Together Now by Alan Doyle with Page Numbers

## Chapter 1 | Quotes from pages 11-24

1. I found the very thought of it baffling. I would have to see it for myself, I supposed.
2. As well as a wanderlust dream come true, that day in the park was an incredible opportunity for our band's introduction in the United States.
3. If we were ever to tour successfully and make a cent in America, we'd need every single one of these Canucks on our side.
4. It's a walk in the park.
5. I was shaking Gord Downie's hand. Backstage. In Central Park. New York City. Holy Shite!
6. This was going even better than the meeting with The Hip guys. Home run.
7. Darrell, being closest to Jeff, offered his arm as the Guitar God offered his hand.
8. It was a true sign that we had made it. Part of the way, at least.
9. Fate could not beat him, it did the only thing it could. It started removing him. Bit by bit.
10. Or I suppose I could be just rebuilding meself somewhere else.

## Chapter 2 | Quotes from pages 25-38

1. 'Let's go down on the field.'
2. 'We're gonna get shot,' Greg whisper-yelled. 'Just keep walking.'
3. 'Yeah, man, congrats! Way to go!'



4. I embraced and kissed that Cup like it was my fiancée.
5. My heart filled with pride.
6. What's more Canadian than that?
7. You laid your hands on the Grey Cup and Anne Murray in less than twenty-four hours.
8. The bar at the Duke is altar enough for me.
9. I joyfully watched Anne's set...Holy shite—I am going to sing live onstage with Anne Friggin' Murray.
10. There's so much to celebrate in life, and it's those little moments with friends that make it all worthwhile.

### **Chapter 3 | Quotes from pages 39-48**

1. This trip was my coming-of-age party.
2. I came here to prove I was a smart and worldly person, not to be shown that I could be taken by this scammer.
3. I finally defeated the bad guy.
4. Nothing now, Bernie. Nothing now.
5. I had just flown on a plane for the first time and sat on a subway for the first time.
6. I was here to come of age and getting the crash course.
7. The first time I ever saw traffic.
8. I was almost twenty years old, but in a big city at rush hour for the first time.
9. It remains a popular busking location.
10. We've done a lot together over the years. Me following him. Him following me. And both of us just trying to figure it all out together.







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## Chapter 4 | Quotes from pages 49-66

1. The only thing you can't do is nothing.
2. It might be hard. But not impossible.
3. He was terrified of them becoming lazy.
4. Our bond was forged cutting wood and digging holes.
5. When one man tore down a shed, another man got old naily lumber to burn in the fire.
6. It was a room that we had carved from a space that had not even existed before.
7. Much of that same pile of wood would shortly be unpiled and split into smaller splits to light the fire.
8. This is the most poorly planned job ever.
9. It was a room with mud floors and walls made of concrete and rock.
10. We were going to dig a basement under a house that had already been built.

## Chapter 5 | Quotes from pages 67-86

1. "Believe it or not, I was extremely excited for both types of duties."
2. "This place was settled by sailors and I have always wanted to join the history of people who left St. John's for a journey by the original route in and out of town."
3. "There was not so much as a breath of wind and the water was as calm as a clock."
4. "It is tough to look at a root cellar and not think, 'Why did we ever stop doing that?'"
5. "You could very well be the first person to ever stand in the spot that you are standing right now."
6. "It was a living museum to the strength and determination of the folks who settled on



a rock in the middle of the ocean."

7. "With hardly a tree to be seen, it was tough not to wonder how any year-round inhabitation ever happened here."

8. "I concluded that I live in a very special place. One with a complicated and deep relationship to the land and sea far greater than I would have imagined."

9. "We are in it and of it in a way that is unique to here. We walk on it and it feels us."

10. "A wife and a son waving you into St. John's in all its morning glory. I am the luckiest person I have ever heard of."

## **Chapter 6 | Quotes from pages 87-109**

1. If I do one thing in my life, I will strive to be as good a parent to my son as Mom and Dad have been to the four of us.

2. Still alive, b'y. Still alive.

3. You should say when you're Buddy.

4. The privileges of an adult beverage would be taken away if I let my work and behaviour slip.

5. I was aware at a very young age that people might like you just a little bit more if you sang to them.

6. An unlikely song can save you, though.

7. Do your work, behave yourself, and you'll be treated like a grown-up.

8. I wanted to sing for them as badly or more as they wanted me to sing for them.

9. I was used to the popularity and longer leash that the Doyles had in Petty Harbour.



10. My nan loves your band.

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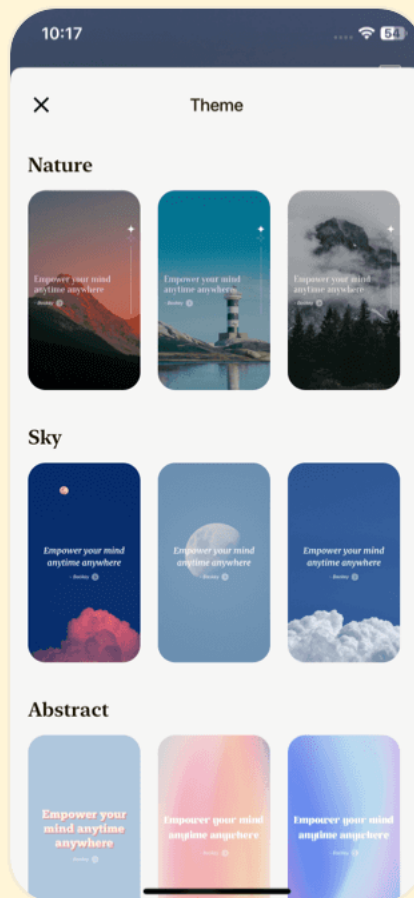
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## Chapter 7 | Quotes from pages 110-132

1. "The only thing worse than being on the road is not being on the road."
2. "A crowd needs a band almost as bad as a band needs a crowd."
3. "I remain a dedicated student to it all, but here's what I've concluded so far: Fronting a band each night is a cocktail of humility and confidence. Gratitude and swagger. Modesty and bravado. Bashfulness and balls."
4. "It's not the first time and won't be the last time I say it, or shout to the heavens: A crowd needs a band almost as bad as a band needs a crowd."
5. "A song saves the day. Funny how often that happens."
6. "You did all there was to do. You saw it through to the end."
7. "I am as grateful as ever that you would give me your night, or afternoon, or morning."
8. "You don't always get the blend right, but when you do, it is the best drink in the world."
9. "I walk onstage and see the audience checking out what the stage looks like and they're happy to see the members of the band haven't changed or are curious about seeing a new member."
10. "With each verse and chorus the energy grew almost as fast as the realization that we were all doing something very cool together that we could never do alone."

# All Together Now Discussion Questions

## Chapter 1 | | Q&A

### 1.Question:

**What event did Great Big Sea perform at on Canada Day 2000, and why was it significant?**

Great Big Sea performed in Central Park, New York City, on Canada Day 2000. This event was significant for the band as it marked a major opportunity to introduce themselves to the United States, particularly to a large audience of Canadian expatriates celebrating their national identity. It was a chance to impress a new fanbase and potentially pave the way for future success in America, which was crucial for their touring and financial prospects.

### 2.Question:

**How did Alan Doyle describe his childhood perception of Manhattan compared to Central Park?**

Alan Doyle expressed a fascination with Manhattan and Central Park during his childhood, noting that he had only seen straight roads in maps and movies. Growing up in Petty Harbour, where the roads were more curvilinear and shaped by nature, he found the geometrical precision of Manhattan's grid—complete with towering skyscrapers—both absurd and tantalizing. The existence of Central Park, a vast green space amid such concrete, baffled him, and he felt compelled to see it for himself.

### 3.Question:

**What were Alan Doyle's first impressions of the band The Tragically Hip and their**

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lead singer Gord Downie?

Upon meeting The Tragically Hip, Alan Doyle found their crew to be very kind and accommodating despite his excitement over their presence. He particularly noted Gord Downie, the lead singer, as an imposing figure due to his height and rock star aura, which made a significant impression on him. Their brief interaction left Doyle starstruck, and he felt successful in not over-geeking out while also expressing admiration for Downie.

#### 4.Question:

**Describe the awkward encounter Alan Doyle had with Jeff Healey backstage. What did this reveal about Doyle's character?**

Alan Doyle's encounter with Jeff Healey backstage became unexpectedly awkward when Healey, who was visually impaired, asked for assistance to find the bathroom. Darrell, his bandmate, led Healey, but in a moment of panic, Doyle accidentally switched the bathroom light on and off, creating an unnecessary distraction. This situation revealed Doyle's character as someone who was earnest yet inexperienced, highlighting his anxiousness and inability to handle celebrity encounters gracefully at that moment.

#### 5.Question:

**What story does Alan Doyle share about his Uncle Reg, and how does this relate to the themes of resilience and storytelling?**

Alan Doyle recounts colorful and exaggerated tales about his Uncle Reg, who was known for his resilience and larger-than-life stories. Reg's numerous injuries from accidents, including losing fingers in a sawmill



accident and suffering from various health issues, contributed to his mythical reputation within the family. Despite his physical setbacks, Reg maintained a tough, indomitable spirit, showcasing resilience in the face of adversity. This fondness for storytelling reflects the broader themes of Newfoundland culture, where storytelling serves as a means of connecting with history and celebrating the human spirit.

## **Chapter 2 | | Q&A**

### **1.Question:**

**What significant event does the author recount in his experience on November 25, 2007?**

On November 25, 2007, Alan Doyle recounts attending the Grey Cup final in Toronto, where he enjoyed a celebratory atmosphere featuring performances from various artists, including Lenny Kravitz and the Barenaked Ladies. It was a moment marked not only by the football game but also by a nostalgic reunion with his friends, Perry and Greg.

### **2.Question:**

**How did Alan and his friends gain access to the field level during the Grey Cup celebration?**

Alan and his friends gained access to the field level by confidently using their laminated 'ENTERTAINMENT' passes, despite them not being legitimate for field access. Alan utilized his experience with similar situations, showing confidence, and he encouraged his friends to do the same by walking confidently and flashing the passes to security, ultimately persuading them to let them through.

### **3.Question:**

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What humorous interactions did Alan have with the Saskatchewan Roughriders' players on the field?

As Alan and his friends celebrated on the field, a Saskatchewan Roughriders player handed Alan the Grey Cup and asked him to kiss it. Alan embraced this unexpected moment by kissing the trophy passionately as if it were his fiancée. This playful interaction highlighted both the excitement of the moment and the camaraderie present in the celebration.

#### **4.Question:**

**What unexpected opportunity did Alan receive the day after the Grey Cup final?**

The day after the Grey Cup final, Alan received the incredible opportunity to perform with legendary Canadian singer Anne Murray at a charity concert. He was asked to sing her hit 'Could I Have This Dance' alongside her during the finale, making it a momentous occasion for him given his long admiration for her music.

#### **5.Question:**

**How does Alan reflect on Canadian culture and his personal experiences throughout Chapter 2?**

Throughout Chapter 2, Alan reflects on uniquely Canadian moments, such as the Grey Cup victory and various cultural icons, illustrating his deep-rooted connection to Canada and his personal history. He highlights themes of friendship, nostalgia, and pride in Canadian identity, especially through shared experiences with his childhood friends in memorable settings.



like the Grey Cup and the concert with Anne Murray.

## **Chapter 3 | | Q&A**

### **1.Question:**

**What incident leads Alan to confront the Frenchman under Westminster Bridge?**

While in London with his brother Bernie, Alan is scammed out of his last twenty-pound note by a Frenchman who offers to take a picture with a small bird. The man takes Alan's money, claiming he will send the photos later. Realizing he has been tricked, Alan confronts the man, threatening to take the bird if his money is not returned.

### **2.Question:**

**How does Alan describe his first impressions of London after arriving?**

Alan is overwhelmed by the sheer size and diversity of London compared to his hometown, Petty Harbour. He is amazed by the multitude of people, the different races and cultures, and the bustling atmosphere. His excitement is palpable as he experiences the subway for the first time and sees British taxis, fields with cows, and more people than he had ever encountered in his life.

### **3.Question:**

**What are some of the 'firsts' Alan describes during his trip to London and Dublin?**

Alan experiences numerous firsts on his trip including: taking a plane for the first time, riding a subway, seeing traffic, tasting different foods (like curry and his first pint of Guinness), and navigating the bustling streets of a major city. He also experiences his first kiss from a stranger and attends an ancient monastery in Ireland, which contributes to his coming-of-age journey.

### **4.Question:**

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What is the significance of the bird and the photos promised by the Frenchman? The bird symbolizes Alan's naivety as a young traveler who is caught up in the excitement of new experiences. The photos represent his momentary lapse in judgment, leading to embarrassment when he later receives the actual photos sent by the trickster. This incident serves as a lesson for Alan about deception and street smarts in a foreign city.

### 5.Question:

**How does chapter 3 conclude and what reflection does Alan share about his future visits to London?**

The chapter concludes with Alan receiving the actual pictures of himself with the bird, which brings him shame as it reminds him of being scammed. He reflects that he has revisited London often since then and enjoys the same spot under Westminster Bridge, now more aware and experienced. His bond with Bernie remains strong as they recall their adventures together, hinting at their continued journey of life and discovery.





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## Chapter 4 | | Q&A

### 1.Question:

#### **How do Alan and Bernie view their relationship as brothers?**

Alan and Bernie share a strong bond that is described as a close sibling relationship. Despite their occasional spats, they get along well and have a tremendous amount of shared experiences from their childhood in Petty Harbour. Their relationship is defined by their mutual recollections of working together under their father's commands, which created a unique camaraderie. Bernie humorously highlights that while he is older, he appears younger, which adds a playful dynamic to their relationship.

### 2.Question:

#### **What was their father's approach to work and how did it affect Alan and Bernie?**

Their father was depicted as someone who believed in hard work and productivity, fearing laziness in his children. He would wake them up early on weekends to engage in various chores, often with little regard to the sensibility of the tasks. Alan and Bernie often questioned these assignments, especially repetitive and seemingly pointless tasks like moving and restacking wood. This instilled in them a work ethic but also led to frustrations and humorous complaints about their father's labor practices.

### 3.Question:

#### **What was the significance of the basement project in the story?**

The basement project represented a rite of passage for Alan and Bernie. It was a significant physical and emotional journey that took several weeks, during which they had to dig out a space beneath their house. This project tested their perseverance and





teamwork, fostering a deeper bond between them. The process of transforming an unused space into a functional room symbolized their growth and the culmination of their childhood labor under their father's guidance.

#### 4.Question:

**How does the author blend humor with the hardships faced during the basement project?**

Alan Doyle skillfully uses humor throughout the narrative to address the tough and backbreaking work involved in the basement project. He makes light of their discomforts and frustrations, such as the absurdity of being tasked with carrying firewood back and forth or lamenting over a 'friendship' with every piece of wood they handled. This humor not only provides levity but also emphasizes the camaraderie between Alan and Bernie, making even difficult experiences seem relatable and entertaining.

#### 5.Question:

**What does the final completion of the basement symbolize for Alan?**

The completion of the basement transforms from a grueling construction project into a symbol of achievement and togetherness for Alan, Bernie, and their family. Alan views the freshly dug-out space as more than just a room; it becomes a place of potential filled with memories and future family activities. It represents the fruit of their labor and symbolizes maturity and the creation of a shared family legacy, illustrating the depth of their experiences and the importance of family ties.





**1.Question:**

**What motivated Alan Doyle to join the Adventure Canada expedition in 2018?**

Alan Doyle was motivated to join the Adventure Canada expedition due to his excitement for both performing and experiencing the adventure tourism aspect. He was invited as a member of the Cultural Resource team, where he would not only sing and read from his books but also participate actively in crew duties, such as preparing life jackets and washing rubber boots. His enthusiasm for being part of the crew's work was evident, indicating his eagerness to embrace both sides of the experience.

**2.Question:**

**How did Alan Doyle describe his feelings while departing St. John's?**

As Alan departed St. John's, he experienced a deep sense of joy mixed with nostalgia. He had long dreamed of leaving the city by sea, which had historical significance for sailors. Alan felt a connection to the past, imagining sailors who waved farewell to their loved ones from the shores. He shared a poignant moment with his wife and son, waving from Signal Hill as the ship set sail, which deepened his excitement for the homecoming he would experience after the journey.

**3.Question:**

**What notable locations and experiences did Alan encounter during the expedition?**

Throughout the expedition, Alan Doyle encountered several notable locations. He visited Bonavista, which had survived the cod moratorium, showcasing a bustling community and a busy fish plant. Alan also highlighted the Root Cellar capital of



Elliston, known for its historical buildings and the Sealers Museum, illustrating the tough life that early settlers endured. His experiences included exploring Little Bay Islands and St. Anthony, where he learned about local history and connections to the land. Furthermore, he visited L'Anse aux Meadows, a significant Norse site, which validated historical records indicating early European presence in North America.

#### **4.Question:**

**What profound realizations did Alan Doyle have during the trip related to Newfoundland and Labrador?**

Alan Doyle had several realizations about Newfoundland and Labrador that deepened his appreciation for the place he called home. He recognized the immense beauty of the landscape, which surprised him despite his familiarity with the region. He came to understand the significant historical role Newfoundland and Labrador played in the globe's history, noting that there was still much for him to learn. Additionally, he felt a profound connection with the land and its people, appreciating how intertwined they are, symbolically stating that the land and its residents are bound together in a unique relationship that forms a part of each other.

#### **5.Question:**

**What feelings did Alan Doyle have upon returning to St. John's and how did he express his gratitude?**

Upon returning to St. John's, Alan Doyle expressed overwhelming joy and gratitude. As he approached the harbor, he was filled with excitement to reunite with his wife and son, who were there to greet him. The moment he



saw them filled him with a sense of belonging, encapsulated in his simple declaration of 'Home.' The celebratory atmosphere of passengers and crew enhanced his experience, culminating in a heartfelt moment where he reflected on everything he had learned during the trip. He described the emotions of the reunion and the significance of being back in a place he cherished.

## **Chapter 6 | | Q&A**

### **1.Question:**

**What does the author reveal about his own personality in the beginning of Chapter 6?**

The author admits to being a scatterbrain, easily distracted and relying heavily on reminders from others to keep his schedule in check. He describes his chaotic approach to organization, noting that without lists and reminders, he and his son might forget even simple tasks, like buying milk.

### **2.Question:**

**How does the author describe his interactions with Mr. Murray and Mr. Bowering?**

The author fondly recalls regular conversations with his elderly neighbors, Mr. Murray and Mr. Bowering, who have lived on the same street their entire lives. He appreciates their historical knowledge and engaging storytelling, often greeting them with a playful acknowledgment of their longevity and sharing fond memories of their conversations about local history.

### **3.Question:**

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What significant event does the author recount happening while he was on tour? While on tour in Winnipeg, he receives an email informing him of Mr. Murray's death. In a rush, he mistakenly conveys to his wife that Mr. Bowering had passed away, not realizing there was confusion. This sets off a series of misunderstandings that highlight the author's scatterbrained nature and inability to multitask effectively.

#### **4.Question:**

**What is the humorous twist involving Mr. Bowering after Mr. Murray's passing?**

Following the news of Mr. Murray's death, a surreal moment occurs where Mr. Bowering drives by in his red convertible, seemingly very much alive, despite the earlier confusion about his well-being. This adds an element of humor and disbelief to the story, showcasing the oddities of life and death in close-knit communities.

#### **5.Question:**

**How does the author reflect on the concept of being a parent in contrast to his own childhood?**

The author reflects on the stark differences between his upbringing in a modest fishing village and the life his son leads in a well-off, urban environment. He recognizes the challenges of modern parenting, such as the over-scheduling of children's activities and the pressures of being a famous musician, leading to a unique but sometimes awkward parenting experience.





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## Chapter 7 | | Q&A

### 1.Question:

#### **How did Alan Doyle get involved in the casting of the Robin Hood film?**

Alan Doyle received a call from Russell Crowe, who asked if he could play the lute because there was a role in the film 'Robin Hood' that required a musician. Russell had a part for him as Allan A'Dayle, a character who needed to be an Irish-sounding bloke who could play the lute and write and sing songs on the spot. This unexpected invitation led Doyle to travel to LA for a table read, and eventually, he got the part.

### 2.Question:

#### **What was Alan Doyle's initial reaction to Russell Crowe expressing interest in his music?**

Initially, Alan Doyle was shocked and thrilled to hear that Russell Crowe was a fan of his songwriting. This admiration from a world-renowned actor was unexpected and made Doyle's heart race with excitement. He was particularly touched by the idea that someone as significant as Crowe might appreciate a song he wrote about a personal experience, turning a long-held wish of meeting Crowe into a reality.

### 3.Question:

#### **What experiences did Alan Doyle share about his nerves and learning process on the film set?**

Alan Doyle expressed significant nerves when he first arrived on set for filming. He had moments of self-doubt, particularly when he botched his first lines and struggled with handling props effectively during action scenes. However, he found support and



patience from his co-stars, especially Russell and Scott Grimes, who helped him navigate his rookie mistakes and encouraged him throughout the filming process.

#### **4.Question:**

**How did Alan Doyle's background in music and performance help him during filming?**

Doyle's extensive experience in music and live performance provided him with the confidence needed to handle the character of Allan A'Dayle. His prior training in engaging audiences and writing songs came in handy when the filmmakers requested he provide original content for certain scenes, including writing a funny song to be sung in the film. This prepared him for the improvisational aspects of acting and the creative demands of the role.

#### **5.Question:**

**What key themes does Alan Doyle explore in his reflections about performing and engaging with an audience?**

In his reflections, Alan Doyle discusses the balance of humility and confidence required for successful performance. He emphasizes the importance of connecting with the audience and the shared experience that comes from live performance. Doyle illustrates how audience engagement serves to enhance the experience for both performer and listener, suggesting that music and performance create a communal experience that transcends individual talents.