

## The World Inside the Crystal

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1997 Pegasus Award<sup>2</sup> winner: Best Science Song.<sup>3</sup>

Here is where the mild-mannered hacker takes off his disguise and stands revealed as a wizard of great power—because, you see, there *is* a world where magic really works. . .

Am C  
Beside the world we live in  
G C Em  
Apart from day and night  
Am  
Is a world ablaze with wonder  
Em Am  
Of magic and delight  
Like a magic crystal mirror,  
My computer lets me know  
Of the other world within it  
Where my body cannot go.

Dm  
You can only see the shadows  
Am G Am  
Of electrons on a screen  
Dm Am  
From the world inside the crystal  
Em Am  
That no human eye has seen.

The computer is a gateway  
To a world where magic rules  
Where the only law is logic  
Webs of words the only tools

Where we play with words and symbols  
And creation is the game  
For our symbols have the power  
To become the things they name.

*refrain*

Now you who do not know this world  
Its dangers or its joys  
You take the things we build there  
And you use them as your toys.  
You trust them with your fortunes,  
Or let them guard your lives.  
From the chaos of creation  
Just their final form survives.

*refrain*

*instrumental break: verse+refrain*

Call us hackers, call us wizards,  
With derision or respect,  
Still our souls are marked by something  
That your labels can't affect.

Though our words are touched by strangeness  
There is little we can say.  
You would only hear the echo  
Of a music far away.

*refrain*

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<sup>2</sup><<http://electricpenguin.com/ovff/pegasus.html>>

<sup>3</sup><<http://electricpenguin.com/ovff/oldpeg.html>>