

## The World Inside the Crystal

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1997 Pegasus Award<sup>1</sup> winner: Best Science Song.<sup>2</sup> Kathy Mar's performance on mp3.com<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*

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*

<sup>1</sup><<http://electricpenguin.com/ovff/pegasus.html>>

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

<sup>3</sup><[http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/22/kathy\\_mar.html](http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/22/kathy_mar.html)>