

26-Hour Day

Jay Brannan

Once upon our time
in a land far gone
where hate crime's enforced by state crime
even though they say the land of the free was made for both you and me

Well, the girl next door might have cancer
and the hospital nearby's got the answer, but
she's never been there, can't afford healthcare
in the arms of the home of the brave, she's carried to her grave

Marionettes for presidents, strung out on wars
and we're not sure who's american anymore
division of church and state is my kind of separatism
spreading god's love through scare tactics is casual terrorism
and if abortion's murder, let's strip that right away, and
who gave women the right to vote anyway?

So many babies
brought into the world today
amongst so many maybes
like maybe they'll feel loved, be provided for, and have a place to stay
but instead of placing them in loving stable homes
that might not fill the conservative bill
they're tossed around the foster system like a hot potato
instead of making friends of dorothy
they're thrown to the tornado

Death warrants signed by murderers
who came to power through the back door
is this democracy or a monarchy
what do we hold elections for
you write your personal agenda on a post-it note
and leave the constitution lying on the bathroom floor

This is for the world trade center, for columbine
for oklahoma city and the lost and lonely friends of mine
for ireland, iran, iraq
and the suffering caused by the indian ocean's attack
for falun gong and the berlin wall
the homeless, the hungry, and slaves to drugs and alcohol
indian, australian, african slaves
native americans whose amber waves of grain
were melted down into white men's riches
victims of war and for salem's witches
for boys who were told to act more like boys
and girls who were told to only play with girl toys
the voiceless, forgotten, plagued by disease
god help us please, please, please

Maybe one day I'll stop alternating
between thirteen hours of eating and thirteen hours of sleeping
and do something about it with what i guess could have been a twenty-
six hour day