

## Pick It Up

Stan Ridgway

A signal swings and the lights turn off  
And a missing man begins to cough  
And no one knows the lost ones from the found  
And lady luck, well, she can't explain  
To a hardened coin or a bill, the game  
It seems everything changes hands when it hits the ground

They said it's dog eat dog, cat eat mouse  
And mouse eat cheese and the cheese just smells  
The warning systems ring but help won't come.  
And all the calling cards and the walking sticks  
And the hidden punches and the coward's kicks  
Say we got a big mouthful now

Pick it up and put it in your pocket  
Or somebody else will  
Pick it up and put it in your pocket  
Or somebody else just will  
Repeat as necessary

Now the world's a road and for miles around  
On every inch of unclaimed ground, hide rewards for some but all the rest  
Spin a creepy wheel or they trip the stair  
While the new school boys just can't play fair  
In a place that leaves it's money in it's mess

Pick it up and put it in your pocket  
Or somebody else will  
Pick it up and put it in your pocket  
Or somebody else just will  
Repeat as necessary

Now an old man with a paper bag  
And a list so long on a dirty rag  
Checks each item that he will throw or keep  
But he'll never thank the coin that's bent  
Or a greenback bill that a stranger sent  
But he'll pick 'em just the same  
And then he'll thank the street

He turns and says it's dog eat dog  
And cat eat mouse  
And mouse eat cheese  
And the cheese just smells

Now I don't wanna seem to say  
That the time ahead won't be okay  
But the scale is loaded down  
With the weight of sixteen tons  
And the ones that have  
Tell the ones that don't  
To tell the ones that can't  
About the ones who won't  
And there's no place left here  
'round to run

Pick it up and put it in your pocket

Or somebody else will  
Pick it up and put it in your pocket  
Or somebody else just will  
Repeat as necessary