

# God Bless Ohio

Sun Kil Moon

There you were, a little kid in the yard  
I was a friend and a brother  
There's an old picture of us playing cards  
And at night we threw corn at houses  
It was meant for feeding hogs  
Later in life, I was playing Jimmy Fallon  
You were getting chased by police through cornfields  
And mauled by canine dogs  
And when I go back and visit  
It's like a ghost town  
We travel around, and around, and around  
Past the perpetually vacant Sexton house  
Past the abandoned Molly Stark Hospital

And I think about  
The old Mansfield prison where Shawshank Redemption was filmed  
And I think about  
The Alcoholic's Anonymous guys I knew in my teens who had been in and out  
Past the old steel mill  
I think about my grandpa  
And that horrible nursing home  
And the ugly tattoo on his sagging dying arm  
I said fuck that, Dad  
Whatever that is I'm never ever ever going to get one  
My Dad is one of two left of his nine siblings  
And when he's gone I'm gonna lay down in my bed and I'm never gonna wanna get out again  
(I'm never gonna get out again)  
I'm gonna be strong when I can  
Cause if my little brother goes before me  
Don't want to swim out into the sea and never come back

God bless Ohio  
God bless every man  
Woman and child  
God bless every bag of bones, six feet under the snow  
God bless O  
God bless O  
God bless Ohio

Just saw the news on my television in New York  
Pike County, Ohio Massacre  
If it ain't families getting shot then it's one thing or the other  
Guy letting his pet lions loose in the street and putting a gun in his mouth  
Young girls held as slaves in a basement by a guy  
Until a neighbor ratted him out  
Craigslister killers luring people by offering them work on a farm  
Killed and buried their bodies out by Belden Village Mall  
Stole their cars and credit cards

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Woman and child  
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God bless O  
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Oh, as sadness lingers  
And the rain clouds above  
Well, sadness lingers and the lightning storms  
Rain floods

Oh, as sadness lingers  
And the graffiti underneath the bridge  
Well, sadness lingers and the old dilapidated barns  
And the doors coming off their hinges

And in the empty downtown parking lots  
And the lonely alleyways  
And the foreclosed homes that once had kiddie pools in the yards  
And cars parked in the driveway

Oh, but the beautiful things from Ohio  
My mother, my mother, my mother, my mother  
And my walks along the path of the Tuscarawas Street  
(Of the Tuscarawas Street)

The beautiful children of my sister  
And the blue herons gliding across the pond  
(Blue herons gliding across the pond)  
The black squirrels nibbling on acorns  
The fireflies flickering on the summer lawn  
(On the summer lawn)  
Domino's pizza brings me back to when I was younger  
When I was younger, when I was younger, when I was younger, when I was younger  
er  
These kids I hear outside my window  
I was one of them, I was one of them, I was one of them, I was one of them  
Now I'm the old man in the chair  
Deep in thought in the living room  
I'm that old man now and I'm grateful that I got this far  
And that I've become him  
And when I go back, we drive around  
We drive around, we drive around, we drive around, we drive around  
(We drive around)  
The old supermarket we used to go hide behind  
Is closed down  
(Is closed down)  
I was raised on groceries my mom brought home from their spring, summer, fall,  
l, winter  
(Spring, summer, fall, winter)  
Velveeta cheese and Wonder Bread and chocolate milk, and Salisbury steak TV  
dinners  
(Salisbury steak TV dinners)  
She squirreled away a few bucks along the way because she loved you and me  
(She loved you and me)  
So she could make sure we had a few gifts each year under the Christmas tree  
(Under the Christmas tree)  
At the risk of pissing my dad off very, very, very badly  
She socked that money away from those grocery store trips without him knowing  
g  
For you and me

What saved me from the dark clouds hanging over Ohio?  
What's chasing the dream, baby?  
Who would have known  
That the pursuit of love and music would have even bought me a home  
Or'd have take me to Tokyo, to Tel Aviv, to Athens, to Reykjavík, and Rome

