Filthy and anonymous in Jackson, a dozen keys to nowhere in his hand

Black madonna, won't you change his luck and find him fifty grand?

'Cause he's tore down, months from nowhere, with the day-to-day out of his hands

One key fit the door to their apartment, another fit the busine ss he let die

A stray dog whines as the August rains turn naked ground to mud

And he's tore down, feelin' nothin' but the thirdrate spirits in his blood

He's livin' for a ticket on the whiskey train

The saddest thing's to see him venerate that ball and chain Roadhouse corn done cut his strings to somewhere, paper rich do ne met a ball of fire

Black dog cloud done filled his head and drained him like a vam pire

Now he's tore down flat in Jackson with a daily gig in the back drop choir

He's livin' for a ticket on the whiskey train

The saddest thing's to see him venerate that ball and chain A thick late August field of pigweed dances, a T.V. from the fillin' station's heard

He's holdin' up the wall, the moment says it all without a word

Well, he's tore down, world stopped movin' when 'halfway to the label' claimed it cured