

# The Ballard of J. Drummer

The Fall

In year one-nine-nine-six-o-  
one (the last numeral was upside down),  
Johnny Drummer came to the outskirts of town.  
People came out and shouted at him. Some people came out and sh  
outed at  
him, "Say, show us your sticks." Then they went back to their c  
omputer  
tricks.  
He'd hit a town with no life, to begin, where they forgot the f  
acts. Two  
sticks make up a cross. Why is it always this way? Why do they  
always  
have to  
say, "Hey, Johnny, get out of the way."  
He looked in the mirror and said, "I am not him." He stood outs  
ide a bar  
and raised the nerve to go in. The window hosted at least 45 me  
n.  
Wondered  
which one was waiting for him. And the boy at the machine meant  
him no  
harm, but to him the boy was staring again at him. The rhythm o  
ver in  
his  
head again.  
Men, boys and girls! Don't ever follow the path of being hard a  
nd tough  
when your heart is soft.