

## '73 It Could Have Been Paradise

The Magnetic Fields

We lived in Paia  
Hippie central, I could hop to the beach  
Sometimes we would hitchhike  
Miles to school, school being a figure of speech  
Where we sang (kahuli aku, kahuli mai)

We lived on a zendo  
In the forest, silence for days on end  
Caught up on my reading  
Huckleberry Finn was my only friend

It could have been paradise  
But for the horrible bugs  
I could have gone to a real school  
But for the murderous thugs  
In the forest of paradise  
We gathered magic mushrooms  
But mostly I sat around  
In rooms as quiet as tombs  
It was heaven

My mother took up with  
A trumpeter, red-bearded, pork pie hat  
Found a lyric of mine  
He took it home and set music to that  
To impress my mother  
He stole my song. Better back off, mister  
Fast forward two decades  
Same thing happened but with Shakespeare's sister

Why should it be paradise?  
That's just a place people go  
It was home for a little while  
But you can give me the snow  
Give me the snow

My friend Shell was named for  
A shell on the beach. She spoke pidgin English  
Everyday I swam out  
Onto the reef, catching exotic fish

It could have been paradise  
With one good reason to stay  
If it had been paradise  
Guess we'd still be there today  
Singing away