

## La Rossa

Van der Graaf Generator

Lacking sleep and food and vision,  
here I am again, encamped upon your floor,  
craving sanctuary and nourishment,  
encouragement and sanctity and more.  
The streets seemed very crowded,  
I put on my bravest guise -  
I know you know that I am acting,  
I can see it in your eyes.  
In the harsh light of freedom I know  
that I cannot deny that I have wasted time,  
have frittered it away in idle boasts  
of my freedom and fidelity  
when simpler words would have profited me most...  
...it isn't enough in the end,  
when I'm looking for hope.  
Though the organ monkey screams  
as the pipes begin to spit  
still he'll go through the dance routines  
just as long as he thinks they'll fit,  
just as long as he knows that it's dance,  
smile - or quit.

Like the monkey I dance to a strange tune:  
when all of these years I've longed to lie with you,  
I've bogged myself down in the web of talk,  
quack philosophy and sophistry -  
at physciality I've always balked,  
like the man in the chair who believes it's  
beyond him to walk.  
I've been hiding behind words,  
fearing a deeper flame exists,  
faintly aware of the passage  
of opportunities I have missed.

But the nearness and the smell of you,  
La Rossa from head to toe....  
I don't know what I'm telling you,  
but I think you ought to know:  
soon the dam wall will break,  
soon the water will flow.  
Though the organ-monkey groans  
as the organ-grinder plays  
he's hoping, at the most,  
for an end to his dancing days...  
still he hops up and down on his perch  
in the usual jerky way.  
Though this might mean an end to all friendship,  
there's something I'm working up to say.

Think of me what you will:  
I know that you think you feel my pain -  
no matter if that's just the surface.  
If we made love now would that change all that ahs gone before?  
Of course it would, there's no way  
it could ever be the same...  
one more line crossed,  
one more mystery explained.

Now I need more than just words,  
though the options are plain  
that lead from all momentary action.  
If we make love now it will change all  
that is yet to be...  
never could we agree in the same way again.  
One more world lost, one more heaven gained.

La Rossa, you know me,  
you read me as though I am glass;  
though I know it  
there's no way in which I can pass -  
though it means that you'll finish my story  
at last I'd trade all the clever talk,  
the joking, the smoking and the quips, all the midnight conversations, all the  
friendship,  
all the words and all the trips  
for the warmth of your body,  
the more vivid touch of your lips.

All bridges burning behind me,  
all safety beyond reach:  
the monkey feels his chains out blindly,  
only to find himself released.  
Take me, take me now and hold me deep  
inside your ocean body,  
wash me as some flotsam to the shore,  
there leave me lying evermore!  
Drown me, drown me now and hold me down  
before your naked hunger,  
burn me at the altar of the night--  
give me life!