

# JOE GRUSHECKY – AMERICAN BABYLON

## DARK AND BLOODY GROUND

This land was ours far as the eye could see  
We took it from the Cherokee with a scalping knife  
And a white man's disease  
When the smallpox ravaged their towns  
We came in and burnt them down  
And took this dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
I took a prisoner 'cause I needed a wife  
I broke her will she gave me a son I spared her life  
It was a fate much worse than death  
Yeah we were kissed by the devil's breath  
Set down on this dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
We'll lay our bodies down  
Put 'em six feet in the ground  
And when the long cold winter ends  
Oh the sun comes shinin' in  
The crops will grow again  
In this dark and bloody ground  
They gave me three hundred dollars  
Put a pen in my hand  
I was drunk on corn liquor  
I signed the rights away to my land  
The coal company tore my homestead down  
Ripped the black gold from the ground  
Left a hole in this dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
If Jesus was born in Kentucky  
They'd make him pay for his nails  
Worse yet he'd have to work off his debt  
Down here in this hell  
Where they pay you off in company scrip  
And your life it don't mean shit  
Just a piece of this dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
This dark and bloody ground  
I will lay my body down  
Put me six feet in the ground  
And when the long cold winter ends  
The sun comes shinin' in  
And the crops will grow again

## **CHAIN SMOKIN'**

I'm chain smokin'  
I'm tokin'  
Heart's broken  
Chain smokin'  
I'm chain smokin'  
Words spoken  
Vows broken  
Chain smokin'  
Since you went away, chain smokin'  
Since you went away, chain smokin'  
Since you went away  
I can stay out however late I want  
I can watch all my favourite programs on TV  
And I don't have to put up with your silly little laugh  
Oh I wish to god that you were here to bother me  
Instead I'm chain smokin'  
Chain smokin'  
Chain smokin'  
Since you went away  
I'm chain smokin'  
Since you went away  
I'm chain smokin'  
Since you went away  
I can stay out however late I want  
I can watch all my favourite programs on TV  
And I don't have to put up with your silly little laugh  
But I wish to god that you were here to bother me  
Instead I'm chain smokin'  
I'm tokin'  
My heart's broken  
Chain smokin'  
Since you went away  
Chain smokin'  
Since you went away

## **NEVER BE ENOUGH TIME**

Well your mama didn't like me  
So we just ran away  
Got a little apartment in a hotel  
Down in Brownsville way  
I used to sit in the kitchen and play guitar  
When night turned to day  
We always thought we had something  
No one could ever take away  
But the time run out  
And the payment's due  
There'll never be enough time to forget about you  
Well there'll never be enough time to forget about you

We used to lie in bed all day  
And plot our destination  
And talk about why you like the miracles  
And I dug the temptations  
But all those good times that we had  
Just turned into frustration  
When we made our final move  
There were no hesitation  
Because the time run out  
And the payment's due  
There'll never be enough time to forget about you  
Well there'll never be enough time to forget about you

Never be enough time  
The time run out  
And the payment's due  
There'll never be enough time to forget about you

Never be enough time to forget about you  
Never be enough time to forget about you  
Never be enough time to forget about you  
Never be enough time to forget about you  
Never be enough time  
Never be enough time

## **AMERICAN BABYLON**

A kid stole my car the other day  
Broke in and drove it away  
Took it for a joy ride and when he was done  
Held up a liquor store with a great big gun  
He said "I didn't do nothing wrong  
It's just the way we live around here"  
In American Babylon puttin' my protection on  
Got everything I need, drugs, money, sex and greed  
In American Babylon puttin' my blindfold on  
In American Babylon  
Well she ran out of money, she ran out of hope  
She left the kids at home, went out to score some dope  
The cops caught her selling it down on Broadway  
The county came in and took the kids away  
She said "they're better off without me"  
In American Babylon puttin' my protection on  
Got everything I need, drugs, money, sex and greed  
In American Babylon puttin' my blindfold on  
I can't tell right from wrong  
In American Babylon  
Who cares about the kids? (I don't)  
Or what goes in their heads? (I don't)  
Or if the poor are fed? (I don't)  
Or if your neighbor's dead? (I don't)  
I said do you really care? (I don't)  
I said do you really care? (I don't)  
I said do you really care? (I don't)  
American Babylon puttin' my protection on  
I got everything I need, drugs, money, sex and greed  
In American Babylon I put my blindfold on  
And I can't tell right from wrong  
In American Babylon

## LABOR OF LOVE

Lying here beside you  
On this wonderful night  
If I had but just one wish  
I'd hold back the morning light  
And I thank my lucky stars  
For a night like this  
We were bound to be together babe  
I felt it all in your first kiss

It's a labour of love  
I'm doin' it because I want to baby  
It's a labour of love  
I can feel it when you touch me baby  
It's like a precious gift  
Sent from up above  
This labour of love  
Labor of love

Now if I were a rich man  
If I were a king  
If I could have anything I want  
I would take you for my queen  
Now good things don't come easy  
Sometimes there's hell to pay  
If I had to do it all again  
I would never change a single thing

It's a labour of love  
I'm doin' it because I want to baby  
It's a labour of love  
I can feel it when you touch me baby  
It's like a precious gift  
Sent from up above  
This labour of love  
This labour of love

And I thank my lucky stars  
For a night like this  
We were bound to be together baby  
I felt it all in your first kiss

It's a labour of love  
I'm doin' it because I want to baby  
It's a labour of love  
I can feel it when you touch me baby  
It's like a precious gift  
Sent from up above  
This labour of love  
It's a labour of love

It's a labour of love  
It's a labour of love  
It's the power of  
It's the glory of

It's a labour of love  
A labour of love

It's the power of  
It's the glory of  
It's a labour of love  
A labour of love

It's the power of  
It's the glory of  
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A labour of love

It's the power of  
It's the glory of  
It's a labour of love  
A labour of love

## WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR

What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Did you carry a great big gun?  
Did you go to the jungle?  
Did you stay in school?  
Were you a fortunate son?  
Did you ever see Jimi or Janis?  
Did you go to Woodstock, too?  
What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Daddy tell me what did you do

What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Were you just like Oliver North?  
Did you have a football injury to milk for all it was worth?  
Did you see the Beatles on the Sullivan Show?  
Did you watch them walk on the moon?  
What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Daddy tell me what did you do

Well, I know it was so long ago  
And your memory fades away  
But were you in Ohio on that day in May?  
Did you dance to the music like Sly and the Family Stone?  
What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Did you go or stay at home?

What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Did you join the National Guard?  
Did you give 'em hell like Vice President Quayle?  
Did you burn your draft card?  
Did you write any good protest songs?  
Did you smoke marijuana, too?  
What did you do in the war now Daddy?  
Daddy tell me what did you do  
Oh, what did you do Daddy?

## **HOMESTEAD**

I was born in the corn fields of Kentucky  
I moved north in '73  
The war was still going strong so I found a job  
Rolling steel in a foundry in Homestead

I worked beside a guy named Grzbowski  
Who taught me how to keep safe  
He said "there's many a man who lost the fingers from their hands"  
You could wind up crippled or dead in Homestead

And the steel glowed in the white hot chambers  
The furnace spit fire and smoke  
And the sunlight came through the cracks in the roof  
The dust was so thick you could choke

I heard all the old stories about the twelve hour shifts in the mill  
And the union brothers the Pinkertons tried hard to kill  
Heard about Frick and Carnegie the day the river ran red  
How the union caved in, in Homestead

It was more than a job it was my family  
I got married, settled down, bought a home  
And in the bars down the street, in the late summer heat  
You never had to feel alone

I got work tearin' those old mills down  
Until there's nothing left but the sweat and blood in the ground  
At night we tuck our little babies in bed  
We still pray to the red, white and blue in Homestead  
I'm still livin' in Homestead

## COMIN' DOWN MARIA

Is this just a game we're playing, yeah  
Gettin' old answers, you went on prayin'  
Sometimes I think I'm too dumb to learn  
Keep playin' with fire, keep getting burned  
But spent my whole life waitin'  
For someone just like you  
The time is right, I'm not hesitatin'  
Well, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do  
Well I'm

Comin' down, Maria  
A-comin' down, my angel eyes  
Well I'm comin' down, Maria  
I just got to see you tonight  
(See you tonight)  
(Oh, oh, oh)

You can change your plans  
You can call your friend back  
You won't mind when we're out alone  
A little white lie never hurt nobody  
Tell 'em you're sick and you're stayin' home  
I know I shouldn't be calling but it seems like the right thing to do  
I can't help it, I am fallen, well I'll hang up if you want me to  
And I'm

Comin' down, Maria  
Comin' down, my angel eyes  
Well I'm comin' down, Maria  
I just got to see you tonight  
(Oh, oh, oh, oh)  
I just got to see you  
(Oh, oh)  
(See you)  
'Cause it's no disgrace  
(No disgrace)  
If we should both fall from grace (oh, listen)  
So listen to my lover's prayer (whoah)  
Will you tell me you'll be waitin' there  
When I'm

Comin' down, Maria  
Comin' down, my angel eyes  
Comin' down, Maria  
I just got to see you tonight  
Well, I'm coming down, Maria  
Comin' down, my angel eyes  
Well I'm comin' down, Maria  
I just got to see you tonight  
Got to see you tonight  
(Oh, oh, oh)  
Got to see, got to see you

(Oh, oh, oh)  
I just got to see you  
(Oh, oh, oh, oh)  
I just got to see you (see you tonight)  
Just got to see you  
(I just, I)  
I just got to  
I just got to see you  
(See you tonight)  
I just got to see you  
(Yeah)  
My, my, I just got to see you



## **NO STRINGS ATTACHED**

So good to see you again  
Do you like how much I missed you?  
Don't sit so far away, my friend  
Don't worry; I won't try to kiss you  
Here's to our bizarre relationship  
Another drink, I might start to slip

If you come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
You won't owe my anything  
There will be no questions asked  
I just want to be near you  
I just want to hear you laugh  
If you come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
No strings attached

I know I treated you badly  
I realize that was my disgrace  
Perhaps I loved you too madly  
Now I know that you need some space  
I won't try to smother you  
Well, that's one thing that I would never do

So you can come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
You won't owe me anything  
There will be no questions asked  
I just want to be near you  
I just want to hear you laugh  
If you come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
No strings attached

I know you're a big girl now and you've got responsibilities  
But the real truth of it is, I know you can't forget about me

I won't try to smother you  
Well, that's one thing that I would never do

So if you come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
You won't owe me anything  
There will be no questions asked  
I just want to be near you  
I just want to hear you laugh  
If you come around here tonight,  
There'll be no strings attached  
No strings attached

No strings attached  
No strings attached  
Yeah, you don't owe me anything  
You don't owe me anything  
Yeah, you don't owe me, you don't owe me anything  
You don't owe me anything  
You don't owe me anything  
There'll be no strings attached  
There won't be no  
There won't be no strings attached

## **BILLY'S WALTZ**

Left her on a mountain, way up on a hill  
I promised I'd come back to get her  
But I know I never will

Well, I was full of good intentions  
But intentions often change  
Way up on that mountain  
All it ever does is rain  
All it ever does is rain  
All it ever does is rain  
Way up on that mountain  
All it ever does is rain

Well my daddy was a miner working twelve-hour shifts a day  
On the night there weren't enough to eat I would hear him pray  
He'd say, "Help me Sweet Lord Jesus,  
Don't let the kids go hungry again"  
Way up on this mountain  
All it ever does is rain  
All it ever does is rain  
All it ever does is rain  
Way up on this mountain  
All it ever does is rain

## **ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE**

Daddy got a tattoo that says,  
"Born to lose"  
Got a motorcycle jacket  
Old blue suede shoes  
Thinks time won't catch him if he don't stand still  
Mama tells her son, "our life is so insane  
Daddy drops in to say hello and then he's gone again.  
We're only left with time to kill."

You can run but you can't hide  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive

One evening when the sun is setting red in the sky  
Daddy strapped on his boots and took his bike out for a ride  
Hit the open highway with no thoughts of going home  
After a while she grew tired of waiting and stopped expecting anything  
She's forgotten how to smile and how to sing  
She could never stand to be alone  
She can run but she can't hide  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive

You can run but you can't hide  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive

He starts hanging with the tough guys  
Because he thinks they're cool  
Starts smoking and drinking and cutting school  
Mama says, "He won't listen anymore  
And I don't know what to do  
Since his Daddy left he hasn't been the same  
He's a good boy, he's just angry  
He needs someone to blame  
I wonder if the old man knows what he's putting us through."  
Well he can run but he can never hide  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive  
Somewhere there's only lovers left alive