Michael McGuire "The Last Days"

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ELECTRIC BABYLON

PREFACE

Some when (perhaps the present has already planned its future), We

step into the life of a young man who is perplexed at what he sees as a

world fashioned for the art of self destruction. There are rumors, there

is death predominantly in the guise of what has become known as the

chirp because of the high pitched wheezing that accompanies the

illness. No one knows. Authority declines comment.

Meanwhile most of

the populous carries on business as usual although there are sporadic

protests and riots in which the participants call for the immediate shut

down of all industry and transportation and anything else deemed

harmful to the environment. The people who take part in these riots

have come to be called poets because of their seemingly quixotic

ideals. Another group (unofficially led by a radio personality named

Russ Lawler) called the red church is militantly opposed to any

interference with what seems to be happening because they see it as

godÂ's will. Pulled this way and that by gravity and thought we watch

the worldÂ's will bend our heroÂ's will into the grotesque shape of guilt,

fear and doubt as he struggles to find the sense in living a life that is

killing us.

The last song is taken from the pages of a scientistÂ's journal who was

working to help solve the environmental problems man has created.

THE LAST DAYS

May nineteenth, the sky looks like hell turned upsidedown, I guess

the only invention man neglected was his salvation, but this thing

happened so slow we didnÂ't see it coming, yes it started so long ago

when man found religion and lost god, the instant man fancied himself

created rather than creator he tossed responsibility, itÂ's ironic the red

church essentially had this same idea, but somehow this never struck

me so much as dying for dignity as for spite, man just never noticed

the wake of destruction caused by his marvelous creation.

June eleventh, I saw a man on the street today babbling itÂ's happening

itÂ's happening over and over, he walked up to me and looked me in the

eyes and said I keep having these dreams and IÂ'm not in them, he said

he must find Sophia and walked away he had the chirp bad he was

beyond help, IÂ've never seen the the chirp affect someoneÂ's mental

health but perhaps it was this world that did that, but then; to sad to

ponder cause and effect, the world of possibilities $couldn\hat{A}'t$ help but

fascinate but the possible always exploits the actual, and then money

became the standard measuring unit for anything and everything, and

the whole thing became a game of trust based on mutual distrust.

June nineteenth, the government issued an order today no one is to go

outside without their sunsuit or air mask, this may have helped about

two years ago but not now, besides the planet itself is dying and we

cant wrap it in a sunsuit, but the serpent will feed on its tail until

dinner is over, everyone I work with is agreed there is no way to reverse

the situation yet we work on it everyday, I guess itÂ's just some kind of

desperation or just another manifestation of the mania

for

possibilities, hope would be a superfluous ingredient in this recipe for

doom, I wonder why I even write this but I guess even Mozart will be

trash now.

July fourteenth, I find myself more withdrawn into myself in a way I

never have before, for the first time I really realize the value of my life

as a distinction from rather than a part of everything, I \hat{A} guess \hat{A}

always viewed myself as what I do not what I am, itÂ's ironic though

now I feel more a part of everything in a much more profound way, my

existence is everything and only me at the same time, now it seems

that life is the mystical experience and death just seems; easy, for

some reason I keep thinking back to the man I saw on the street a few

weeks back, there was something more than insanity in his eyes;

understanding maybe?

July twenty-fourth, things seem a prelude to chaos radio and t.v. are

barely functioning, the machine is breaking down food is getting scarce

suicide is a common antidote, John and Ann both died this week now

thereÂ's no work to do and no way to do it, if anybody ever reads this

donÂ't pity me scorn me, we didnÂ't have the luxury of foresight just the

excuse of hindsight but it was never to late until it was, I think IÂ'm

getting the chirp but I feel more sorry for the dead trees than I do

myself, itÂ's funny I still cant believe something like this could happen

even now while it is happening, life seems god given and indestructible

but than so did the sky.

August ninth, I had a dream last night vivid incredible and heart

wrenching, an angel appeared out of a fiery sky she slowly descended

to stand before me, white gown and gentle face but armor across her

chest and a sword on her side. I asked was she the

angel of death she said no she was the angel of mercy, and shall we receive mercy with a sword? yes it is all that is left, I asked had we really lived off the pulp of forbidden fruit, she answered it needs be that these offenseÂ's come but woe to the man by whom the offense cometh, and is life now no more than a dream is to the morningÂ's wide eyed stare, the dirt will receive your dry seed but eternityÂ's rain will always bring the blossom.

August twenty-seventh, I am dying, I am dying, I am aug 93

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