## Angus Stone "Self Evident"

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(inspired by the WTC disaster)

Yes,

Us people are just poems

We're 90% metaphor

With a leanness of meaning

Approaching hyper-distillation

And once upon a time

We were moonshine

Rushing down the throat of a giraffe

Yes, rushing down the long hallway

Despite what the p.a. announcement says

Yes, rushing down the long stairs

With the whiskey of eternity

Fermented and distilled

To eighteen minutes

Burning down our throats

Down the hall

Down the stairs

In a building so tall

That it will always be there

Yes, it's part of a pair

There on the bow of Noah's ark

The most prestigious couple

Just kickin back parked

Against a perfectly blue sky

On a morning beatific

In it's Indian summer breeze

On the day that America

Fell to it's knees

After strutting around for a century

Without saying thank you

Or please

And the shock was subsonic
And the smoke was deafening
Between the setup and the punch line
Cuz we were all on time for work that day
We all boarded that plane for to fly
And then while the fires were raging
We all climbed up on the windowsill

And then we all held hands And jumped into the sky

And every borough looked up when it heard the first blast

And then every dumb action movie was summarily surpassed

And the exodus uptown by foot and motorcar

Looked more like war than anything I've seen so far

So far

So far

So fierce and ingenious

A poetic specter so far gone

That every jackass newscaster was struck dumb and stumbling

Over 'oh my god' and 'this is unbelievable' and on and on

And I'll tell you what, while we're at it

You can keep the pentagon

Keep the propaganda

Keep each and every TV

That's been trying to convince me

To participate

In some prep school punk's plan to perpetuate retribution

Perpetuate retribution

Even as the blue toxic smoke of our lesson in retribution

Is still hanging in the air

And there's ash on our shoes

And there's ash in our hair

And there's a fine silt on every mantle

From hell's kitchen to Brooklyn

And the streets are full of stories

Sudden twists and near misses

And soon every open bar is crammed to the rafters

With tales of narrowly averted disasters

And the whiskey is flowin

Like never before

As all over the country

Folks just shake their heads

And pour

So here's a toast to all the folks who live in Palestine Afghanistan

Iraq

El Salvador

Here's a toast to the folks living on the pine ridge reservation

Under the stone cold gaze of mt. Rushmore

Here's a toast to all those nurses and doctors Who daily provide women with a choice Who stand down a threat the size of Oklahoma City Just to listen to a young woman's voice

Here's a toast to all the folks on death row right now Awaiting the executioner's guillotine Who are shackled there with dread and can only escape into their heads To find peace in the form of a dream

Cuz take away our playstations
And we are a third world nation
Under the thumb of some blue blood royal son
Who stole the oval office and that phony election
I mean
It don't take a weatherman
To look around and see the weather
Jeb said he'd deliver Florida, folks
And boy did he ever

And we hold these truths to be self evident:
#1 George W. Bush is not president
#2 America is not a true democracy
#3 the media is not fooling me
Cuz I am a poem heeding hyper-distillation
I've got no room for a lie so verbose
I'm looking out over my whole human family
And I'm raising my glass in a toast

Here's to our last drink of fossil fuels Let us vow to get off of this sauce Shoo away the swarms of commuter planes And find that train ticket we lost Cuz once upon a time the line followed the river And peeked into all the backyards And the laundry was waving The graffiti was teasing us From brick walls and bridges We were rolling over ridges Through valleys Under stars I dream of touring like Duke Ellington In my own railroad car I dream of waiting on the tall blonde wooden benches In a grand station aglow with grace And then standing out on the platform And feeling the air on my face

Give back the night it's distant whistle
Give the darkness back it's soul
Give the big oil companies the finger finally
And relearn how to rock-n-roll
Yes, the lessons are all around us and a change is
waiting there
So it's time to pick through the rubble, clean the streets
And clear the air
Get our government to pull it's big dick out of the sand
Of someone else's desert
Put it back in it's pants
And quit the hypocritical chants of
Freedom forever

Cuz when one lone phone rang
In two thousand and one
At ten after nine
On nine one one
Which is the number we all called
When that lone phone rang right off the wall
Right off our desk and down the long hall
Down the long stairs
In a building so tall
That the whole world turned
Just to watch it fall

And while we're at it
Remember the first time around?
The bomb?
The Ryder truck?
The parking garage?
The princess that didn't even feel the pea?
Remember joking around in our apartment on avenue
D?

Can you imagine how many paper coffee cups would have to change their design Following a fantastical reversal of the New York skyline?!

It was a joke, of course
It was a joke
At the time
And that was just a few years ago
So let the record show
That the FBI was all over that case
That the plot was obvious and in everybody's face
And scoping that scene
Religiously
The CIA
Or is it KGB?

Committing countless crimes against humanity

With this kind of eventuality

As it's excuse

For abuse after expensive abuse

And it didn't have a clue

Look, another window to see through

Way up here

On the 104th floor

Look

Another key

Another door

10% literal

90% metaphor

3000 some poems disguised as people

On an almost too perfect day

Must be more than poems

In some asshole's passion play

So now it's your job

And it's my job

To make it that way

To make sure they didn't die in vain

Sshhhhhh....

Baby listen

Hear the train?

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