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Hold Steady, The "Sweet Payne"

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Payne Avenue lives up to its name Some nights it's painful and strange The whole city seemed sane in the day But some nights it seems distressed and deranged

The east side is where we met with those guys That said they'd get us high but then changed Now they're down in the basement And they're bashing out his brains Kids are getting cut up with the motorcycle chains

And St. Paul had it all when we called And they were maxing out on medicine A shaved head and the blood on the bed And those guys you recognize, they got the same tattoos as Gideon

Strong stuff and she had more than enough And she was slumping over smiling and sailing off with cherubim

The cityscape skins are kinda kicking it again They're gonna show these kids some discipline

Gideon's been living up in Bay City, Michigan And he's been workng at the Michelin He got messed up with some messed up magicians

We got so high some nights Michigan looked just like a mitten Some nights we got fried Strung out on residuals and visuals and laser shows

Reach into the speaker and try to hold on to the quarter notes

I always dream about a unified scene I always dream about a unified scene There's James King and King James and James Dean At a table in the corner of my unified scene

They want a double order of love and respect They said they just got back from up in Hostile, Massachussetts And girl, I've seen your friend, she looks nothing like Jada Pinkett I think you got something in those cigarettes

Gideon was living up in South Minneapolis He was the cowboy on the crosstown bus And all the little phillies at the Yukon Club Are gunning for the goldrush

We got tangled in electrical fences We got wrapped up in the indian fringes All the little phillies at the Yukon Club Are gunning for the goldrush Yeah, they just can't get enough

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