

**THE JUNKMAN'S PILE MOVES TOWARD THE MUNITIONS FACTORY**



**NICK STONE**

A ~~aa~~ ~~aa~~ <sup>ya</sup> ~~aa~~ ~~aa~~ ~~aa~~ ~~aa~~ ~~aa~~  
 Aaaa ~~aa~~  
 bb ~~ccc~~ ~~ccc~~ <sup>cut</sup> ~~ccc~~ ~~ccc~~  
 d d d d ~~yy~~  
 e ~~eee~~ ~~eee~~ ~~eee~~ e e e  
 f f f f  
 g ~~gg~~ ~~gg~~ ~~gg~~ ~~gg~~ @ G G  
 H R R K K h h h  
 I i i i I I I I  
 j ~~kk~~ K K ~~ll~~ L I I L L L L  
 M m M a m @ m M  
 N n n n r r n n  
 o ~~oooo~~ o ~~pp~~ p ~~pp~~ p  
 q  
 R R R ~~rr~~ ~~rr~~ r r r r r R  
 S S S S <sup>some</sup> ~~uu~~ <sup>some other letters</sup>  
 T t t t t ~~uu~~ u u u u u V V V  
 w x ~~yy~~ Y Y ~~yy~~ ~~yy~~ ~~yy~~

POVERTY

1

being raw is sexy  
being rough  
hardened and tough  
being a thug is sexy

but not being poor  
no, never that  
don't even think about it

poverty is banal  
it doesn't catch the eye  
like diamonds and gold  
it isn't seducing me  
it has nothing to sell

10

nothing at all

so don't even think about it

let jay z & horatio alger & general electric  
blow your mind and take your money

don't even think about it

money talks  
and money walks  
and money keeps us entertained

20

it never kept us civilized  
it's always been a game

made in china  
made in vietnam  
made in usa  
look at your hands

## OIL NINJAS

is there safety in these numbers?

## C'EST CHEESE

30

a juicy double entendre  
is that all you've got?  
financial backing  
luxurious production  
is that all you've got?  
knowing all the right people  
taking your advantage  
is that all you've got?

memory, yeah

reptiles  
empire  
is that all you've got?  
20th century wounds still bleeding  
is that all you've got?  
suicide notebook  
insect nest  
schizoid with stress  
is that all you've got?

40

paranoid  
seeing visions 50  
is that all you've got?  
blue eyes talks to blue eyes  
is that all you've got?  
the stock exchange  
cocaine exhaust  
an oil slick in a parking lot  
is that all you've got?

that's what i thought

tennessee might tell you a story  
but DALLAS GON KILL YOU 60

while the drums address the classes

BELLADONNA

kill the family, save the son

my generation's  
mark david chapman

belladonna

young pennyroyal  
hopped up  
over the wall  
tired of rehab 70  
trying to leave her

he didn't head to LA  
where she liked to stay  
at the peninsula  
pharmaceutical ether

all the lies  
the obvious forgery  
the different handwriting on the note  
even the blind could see  
the highwaymen at work  
canceling his credit cards  
blue eyed royalty

80

## STOCKHOLM SYNDROME

belladonna

september 1993  
i lay down on the carpet  
and fell asleep with headphones on  
in the squall  
like a storm of narcotics  
all pain forgotten

90

nursing his stomach, he took a sip of her tea  
ended up on the greenhouse floor

name dropping liza thorn  
in 2014  
and liza's only a little bit older than me

belladonna

## THE GREAT SEC FINE IN THE SKY

the news is breaking  
the storm is breaking  
my head is aching 100

## ASTRO TURF

these days the odds are looking even  
find myself wishing for rain

the only excitement that gets your blood moving  
are the chiefs the braves and the redskins

surrounded by electricity  
air crackling with electricity

they generated more electricity than you could  
ever dream of  
harnessed more power than you've ever seen  
i laugh at your new century 110

## SEVEN BELLS

live my life  
in urls  
http  
promptly  
at seven bells

are we still connected?

would you even recognize me  
in real life

where were you when i needed help?  
was your nose against the mirror

120

i'm just swinging on a string again

why would i want to buy a guitar  
that turns to ash  
once a little time has passed

I CAN'T WAIT FOR TOMORROW

falsified  
calcified  
divided in half  
by a thousand eyes

130

trust my friends  
worth the wait  
made an exception  
to my fate

fuck your new york school  
i do what i want when i  
feel like it

my work is my work and you're never gonna see it  
coming



SON OF OBITUARY

140

fuck you

fuck your trap

can't catch me, i'm the  
gingerbread man

SUGARPLUM FAIRY  
SUGARPLUM FAIRY  
MARK DAVID CHAPMAN??  
I'MA KEEP RUNNIN

dear god,  
are you seriously telling me to go brand myself 150

NIKE  
impossible victory, the world is my factory  
you all work for me

NIKE  
and on my tomb it will read  
i sang about fields of green, countries and leaders

your culture looks good  
i hope something grows soon  
now i'm going to need another sample

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL 160  
DRUM CORPS

i waited so long  
for death from above  
i'm not waiting anymore  
i'm down here making love

#### MISS TENNESSEE

you look so poor  
what's mine is yours  
in twos and fours  
and bars of sweet sixteen 170

gold bars from my arms to yours

here  
listen here, listen here

when you drive  
do at least about eighty-five  
and when you arrive  
i'll be singing that song  
for you again

#### 60s IDEALIZM

she is a flower child 180  
in a rich man's garden  
i spend my time sitting on the fence

in the outlying estates  
the sun is going down

i watch them light the lamps  
the roses turn blue and white  
in the moonlight

MS. AMERICA

when i'm sad  
i can talk to america

her arms like trees  
are holding me

190

her fields of blonde  
in the illinois blue

sugar in her hands  
cotton on her back  
tobacco in her pocket  
gold around her neck

TALLEST PRETTIEST

her name is love

MY LITTLE PYRAMID

looking into the void  
i saw advertising  
i heard you laughing

200

looking into the future  
i see our children swimming  
in unfortunate decisions

i lost most of my twenties  
will i hold on to my fifties  
still trying to erect my little pyramid  
make my children innumerable like stars

PAINTERS

210

bob ross, thomas kincade, michelangelo, and  
me.

## NOTES ON ‘THE JUNKMAN’S PILE MOVES TOWARD THE MUNITIONS FACTORY’

The title of this volume was taken from the heading of a magazine article about scrap metal and the war effort in a 1937 issue of LIFE magazine.

The cover is a detail from a group photo on the back of the Grateful Dead’s 1969 album “Aoxomoxoa.” Courtney Love has claimed that this is a picture of herself, although numerous sources have confirmed that it is actually Stacy Kreutzmann, the daughter of the band’s drummer.

The image on the first page is a piece of paper found in Courtney Love’s possession by Love’s lawyer, Rosemary Carroll, suggesting that its author was practicing how to mimic and reproduce the handwriting of her husband, Kurt Cobain.

This volume can be read as a single work or as discrete, individual poems. The interjected lines in all capitals may be read as titles indicating section breaks, or as phrases punctuating the overall continuity and capitalized only for emphasis.

Notes are provided by line number.

N.S.  
February 2016

7. Cf. Nas in “Book of Rhymes”: “This can’t be my book of rhymes, writing this bullshit / Nah, never that.”

16. Jay-Z and Horatio Alger are two heroes of the great American rags-to-riches myth. General Electric provides entertainment through the media outlets it owns such as television network NBC, but is also a major defense contractor, which makes it fun to exploit the fact that it sounds like the name of a general in the army.

24. The sweatshops and child labor surrounding the manufacture of our cellphones and clothing are rarely on our minds when we wake up and check our email or decide what to wear; we have grown accustomed to a perpetual low-grade amnesia.

27. Military muscle and invisible (‘ninja’) economic maneuvering ensure profits from defense contracts and the plunder of Middle Eastern countries, but do these profits ultimately guarantee “security”?

30. Like ‘oil ninjas,’ ‘c’est cheese’ was a phrase that was written down as a possible song or band name and ended up as a title (or element) of this work instead. The following lines begin to interrogate the environment surrounding Kurt Cobain in the years and months leading up to his death, asking what the world has to offer, then or now.

38. Borrowed from the chorus of Nirvana's "Come As You Are." Cobain was conscious of the echo chamber of empty, recycled spectacle that passed for pop culture in his time; in "Pen Cap Chew," he sings: "This decade is the age of re-hashing."

52. I was obsessed for many years with the ubiquity of blue-eyed actors and actresses. The phrase "blue eyes talks to blue eyes" has become a personal shorthand for the homogeneity and predictability of popular media. Also, Cobain and Love both have blue eyes.

59. I always admired the Julian Casablancas line "Oh, Tennessee, what did you write?" and wanted to reply in kind. Tennessee being both a state and a playwright's name gives the line a great double meaning.

60. Drawing a parallel between John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas and Cobain's similarly suspicious shooting death.

61. A mysterious line that I could not get out of my head. Possibly an interpolation of "Music / mix the bourgeoisie and the rebel" from Madonna's "Music."

62. Courtney Love idolized Stevie Nicks; the title of (and first song on) Nicks's 1981 solo album is "Belladonna." Here I use the name to symbolize Love's poisonous nature.

63. A line from “Jennifer’s Body” by Hole, written by Love.

64. Mark David Chapman was the gunman who murdered John Lennon in 1981.

67. Referencing Cobain’s song “Pennyroyal Tea” and playing on the phrase “hopped up” – usually followed by a drug reference such as “on goofballs” – to refer instead to Cobain’s departure from rehab in 1994 by jumping over a wall.

72. After running away from rehab, Cobain didn’t go to see his wife at the fancy Peninsula hotel in Los Angeles where she was staying, flying immediately to Washington instead.

81. The timing of Love’s cancellation of her husband’s credit cards suggests sinister machinations.

83. Cobain’s dark, knotty love for his wife seems like a classic case of Stockholm Syndrome: the incarcerated man falling in love with his jailer.

85. When Nirvana’s “In Utero” was released I bought it on CD after school, took it home, and put it on headphones on the stereo in the living room, incredibly excited to listen to it for the first time. Lying on the floor, I somehow fell asleep during the second song (one of the loudest on the album) and didn’t wake up until the



final song, “All Apologies,” as if the music had sent me directly into a dream.

91. Cobain complained of persistent stomach problems. His body was discovered in a guest room above a greenhouse.

93. I was alarmed to see Courtney Love name-drop Liza Thorn, once part of a druggy, early-2000s San Francisco scene that I observed from its periphery, in a 2014 interview. Watching the strange, swift arc of people like Liza and realizing they’re about the same age as yourself can leave you rattled and wondering: am I supposed to be moving that fast?

97. A play on Pink Floyd’s “The Great Gig in the Sky.” These lines reflect my frustration at the laughable absence of repercussions or consequences for perpetrators of so-called white collar crimes such as the banking collapse, mortgage crisis, etc.

102. As a teenager my favorite lyric from the Mister T Experience was “the odds are pretty good, but the goods are pretty odd.”

105. The ghosts of the ancient ballgames of Mesoamerican and Native American peoples are visible in the anachronistic team names of our comparatively banal contemporary versions.

108. Some have argued (fascinatingly, but with varying degrees of actual science) that the pyramids functioned as conductors of electric energy.

111. This anachronistic naval method of marking time is used to highlight the movement between the ancient and the modern here as I begin to describe a life in which the majority of my time is spent in front of a computer screen.

121. It is always nice to find an image suggestive of both narcissism and cocaine use as the two typically go together anyway.

122. Implying both a pendulum-like movement in life and the act of wailin' on the guitar.

123. On the importance of lasting relationships, even with things.

126. On the frustrations of trying to be creative and independent.

140. After the examples of Lennon and Cobain, clearly one can become paranoid and furious in the defense of one's passions.

145. At the beginning of the recording session for

the Beatles' "A Day in the Life," John Lennon counts the song in by quietly chanting "sugar-plum fai-ry, sugar-plum fai-ry" in lieu of "one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four."

149. I find it loathsome that my generation is assumed to have accepted the necessity of approaching life as a personal brand.

151. My name, Nicholas, is derived from the Greek word 'nike,' meaning victory; to brand myself is to walk in the shadows of a giant that has already claimed this word and its attending glory.

156. My interpolation of the epigram written by Virgil for his own tombstone.

162. "Death from above" is a phrase commonly associated in the American military with planes and helicopters bearing bombs, gunners, etc.

169. The numbers two, four, and sixteen all refer to musical tempo and notation, as Miss Tennessee is serenaded with gold 'bars' of music.

172. Borrowed from Roxy Music's "The Space Between."