

## 26-Hour Day

Jay Brannan

Once upon our time  
in a land far gone  
where hate crime's enforced by state crime  
even though they say the land of the free was made for both you and me

Well, the girl next door might have cancer  
and the hospital nearby's got the answer, but  
she's never been there, can't afford healthcare  
in the arms of the home of the brave, she's carried to her grave

Marionettes for presidents, strung out on wars  
and we're not sure who's american anymore  
division of church and state is my kind of separatism  
spreading god's love through scare tactics is casual terrorism  
and if abortion's murder, let's strip that right away, and  
who gave women the right to vote anyway?

So many babies  
brought into the world today  
amongst so many maybes  
like maybe they'll feel loved, be provided for, and have a place to stay  
but instead of placing them in loving stable homes  
that might not fill the conservative bill  
they're tossed around the foster system like a hot potato  
instead of making friends of dorothy  
they're thrown to the tornado

Death warrants signed by murderers  
who came to power through the back door  
is this democracy or a monarchy  
what do we hold elections for  
you write your personal agenda on a post-it note  
and leave the constitution lying on the bathroom floor

This is for the world trade center, for columbine  
for oklahoma city and the lost and lonely friends of mine  
for ireland, iran, iraq  
and the suffering caused by the indian ocean's attack  
for falun gong and the berlin wall  
the homeless, the hungry, and slaves to drugs and alcohol  
indian, australian, african slaves  
native americans whose amber waves of grain  
were melted down into white men's riches  
victims of war and for salem's witches  
for boys who were told to act more like boys  
and girls who were told to only play with girl toys  
the voiceless, forgotten, plagued by disease  
god help us please, please, please

Maybe one day I'll stop alternating  
between thirteen hours of eating and thirteen hours of sleeping  
and do something about it with what i guess could have been a twenty-  
six hour day