

# Fever Grass

Billy Woods

House of Hunger, cold stove  
It's madness in the cupboards  
It's no table manners at ya cousin's  
It's humming microwave ovens  
It's Auntie bent-backed from the juggling (Two jobs)  
Mom would send me over there with something  
Mumbling about that deadbeat husband  
Cause was in the back, bent, tryna get nine out a onion  
Tryna get that baker's dozen  
Inexorable, you can't stop what's coming (that's vanity)  
I don't give a fuck how deep them troops is dug in  
Deng Xiaoping, dead dogs dangle from lamppost  
Long tongues  
Win or lose, the Maoists is still glum  
Rain blood, we still lit like wet blunts

Cut the power, I'll thrive in the dark  
With survivors killers and cowards 'cause they ain't got no heart  
No hours, every day is a tally mark  
Cut the power, I'll thrive in the dark  
The survivors killers and cowards 'cause they ain't got no heart  
No hours, every day is a tally mark  
Cut the power, I'll thrive in the dark  
The survivors killers and cowards 'cause we ain't got no heart  
No hours, every day is a tally mark  
We hid while they went in the Ark, two by two  
When he was gone we danced under the moon

My grandfather built God a house in the jungle, laid erry brick  
Mixed cement out of pain and sweat  
Love, self-loathing, fear of the pit  
That pitch black, "repent"  
From pulpit, men hurled threats, women's bowed heads  
Sunday it's sun-up to sunset  
Out the window, hummingbirds sip from long-neck flowers  
Sway like women's hips under thin shift under church dress  
My great grandmother was a witch  
But they came for poultice when they was sick  
They came when baby was late or too early to save, but the mother lived  
Sugarcane stripped with machete  
Sticky full lips, the meeting ground marked by white flags on crooked sticks  
Tangled fever grass, green mangoes peeled with teeth  
Tambourine jangle, goatskin drums, ramble down mountainsides so steep, so green  
Rain tattoo tin roof, breadfruit heavy in the trees  
Stands of bamboo where rootsmen crop they weed