

## The Old Part Of Town

James McMurtry

Last night I wandered punch drunk & enraptured  
Out on the beltway where the business is done  
As I lay on the asphalt 'neath the glow of light boxes  
I heard somebody say 'bet I know where he's from'

When the town is so quiet you can hear the bell tower tickin'  
Out on the beltway they're sellin' the chicken  
Where the tempers are short & the hours are long  
Darlin', won't you meet me in the old part of town?

Old part of town  
You can still hear the footsteps of the old mystery  
Old part of town  
You can still feel the heartbeat of our whole history  
When the heat on the street is wearin' you down  
Darlin', won't you meet me in the old part of town?

Saw two red high heel shoes split up around midnight  
They said they'd meet later by the fountain at Third  
Four tires came screeching from different directions  
& picked 'em both up 'fore they stepped off the curb

'Cause in the hours past midnight they stop keeping tabs

The carnival quarters are vacant & sad  
But darlin' I think there's still a time to be had  
In the old part of town where your mom met your dad  
Darlin' won't you meet me in the old part of town?

Saw a newspaper with big headlines  
That seemed to stare right through ya  
Jump off a boxcar and blow into town  
Pick a fight with two beer cans and a torn candy wrapper  
The broom sweeping up the alley swore she never heard a sound

Meanwhile back on the beltway the cars are waiting in lines  
Stars are blocked out by the shine of the signs  
You might want to say 'It's a sign of the times'  
But darlin' won't you meet me in the old part of town  
Darlin', won't you meet me in the old part of town?