

# People's Faces

Kae Tempest

It's coming to pass, my country's coming apart  
The whole thing's becoming such a bumbling farce  
Was that a pivotal historical moment we just went stumbling past?  
Well, here we are, dancing in the rumbling dark  
So come a little closer, give me something to grasp  
Give me your beautiful, crumbling heart  
Another disaster, catharsis  
Another half-discarded mirage  
Another mask slips  
I face off with the physical  
My head's ringing from the love of the stars  
There is too much pretense here  
Too much depends on the fragile wages  
And extortionate rents here  
We're working every dread day that is given us  
Feeling like the person people meet really isn't us  
Like we're gonna buckle underneath the trouble  
Like any minute now, the struggle's going to finish us  
And then we smile at all our friends

It's hard, we got our heads down and our hackles up  
Our backs against the wall, I can feel you aching  
None of this was written in stone  
There is nothing we're forbidden to know  
And I can feel things changing  
Even when I'm weak and I'm breaking  
I'll stand weeping at the train station  
'Cause I can see your faces  
There is so much peace to be found in people's faces

I saw it roaring  
I felt it clawing at my clothes like a grieving friend  
It said there are no new beginnings  
Until everybody sees that the old ways need to end  
But it's hard to accept that we're all one and the same flesh  
Given the rampant divisions between oppressor and oppressed  
But we are, though  
More empathy, less greed, more respect  
All I've got to say has already been said  
I mean, you heard it from yourself  
When you were lying in your bed and couldn't sleep  
Thinking, "Couldn't we be doing this differently?"  
I'm listening to every little whisper in the distance singing hymns  
And I can, I can feel things changing

But it's so hard, we got our heads down and our hackles up  
Our backs against the wall, I can feel your heart racing  
None of this was written in stone  
The current's fast, but the river moves slow  
And I can feel things changing  
Even when I'm weak and I'm breakin'  
I stand weeping at the train station  
'Cause I can see your faces  
There is so much peace to be found in people's faces

It's not enough  
To imagine we'll be happy when we've got enough stuff

All this stuff is blocking us  
I'm neat with no chaser  
I'm all spirit, but I'm sinking  
'Cause the days are not days but strange symptoms  
And this age is our age  
But our age is rage sinking to beige  
And yes, our children are brave  
But their mission is vague  
Now I don't have the answers  
But there are still things to say  
I stare out at my city on another difficult day  
And I scream inwardly, "When will this change?"  
I'm beginning to fade  
But my sanity's saved 'cause I can see your faces  
My sanity's saved 'cause I can see your faces

It's hard, we got our heads down and our hackles up  
Our backs against the wall, I can feel your heart racing  
None of this was written in stone  
The current's fast but the river moves slow  
And I can feel things changing  
Even when I'm weak and I'm breaking  
I stand weeping at the train station  
'Cause I can see your faces  
I love people's faces