So Happy Birthday

Laurie Anderson

JOE: In our country, you're free and so you're born and so they say, "You're free," so happy birthday. And even if you were born to lose--even if you were a complete wreck when you were born--you might still grow up to be president ... because you're free.

GERALDINE: Today, you might be an average citizen ... a civilian ... a pedestrian ... But tomorrow you might be elected to some unexpected office--or sell your novel and suddenly become famous. Or you could get run over by a truck and your picture could get into the papers _that_ way. Because you're free and anything might happen ... so happy birthday.

JOE: Gee! All those lights and all those screens! The New York Experience is mind-boggling. I don't think I've ever seen that many screens and I'll probably come again ... It was really amazing, mind-boggling.

GERALDINE: You're walking and you don't always realize it but you're always falling at the same time. With each step you fall forward. Over and over, you're falling and then catching yourself from falling ... And this is how you can be walking and falling at the same time.

JOE: Look! Over there! It's a real dog ... and it's really talking

GERALDINE: I wanted you and I was looking for you ... but I couldn't find you. I wanted you and I was looking for you all day ... but I couldn't find you.

JOE: Well, I paid my money, and I've got this funny feeling that somehow--you know--it's not what I paid my money for. I mean I _paid_ my money and I just don't think this is what I paid my money--you know--what I paid my money for.

GERALDINE: No one has ever looked at me like this before ... no one has ever _stared_ at me for so long like this ... This is the first time anyone has ever looked at me like this ... stared at me like this for such a long time ... for so long.

JOE: Well, he didn't know what to do so he just decided to watch the government and see what the government was doing and then kind of scale it down to size--and run his life that way.

GERALDINE: She said the hardest thing to teach her three-year-old kid was what was alive and what wasn't. The phone rings and she holds it out to her kid and says, "It's Grandma. Talk to Gr

andma." But she's holding a piece of plastic. And the kid says to herself: "Wait a minute. Is the phone alive? Is the TV alive ? What about that radio? What is alive in this room and what do esn't have life?" Unfortunately, she doesn't know how to ask th ese questions.

JOE: We were in a large room. Full of people. All kinds. And th ey had arrived at the same time. And they were all free and the y were all asking themselves the same question: What is behind that curtain? They were all free. And they were all wondering w hat would happen next.

GERALDINE: This is the time and this is the record of the time.

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