

Great Gig in the Sky

Roger Waters

Dear Mr. Waters

Don asked me to let you know that he is in hospital now
And has been diagnosed with a cancer in his sinus
He also asked me to tell everyone that he is not answering any letters
Best to you
Don's assistant, Kendel

And then I wrote to Kendel

Dear Kendel

The other night in Zagreb

At the end of the show

When I sometimes wax political

I suddenly found myself telling ten thousand Croats Don's One Road story

I had no idea if they would get it

When I got to the line "There is only one road in Yugoslavia"

They burst into loud and genuine laughter

I told them the rest of the story in brief, including Kirby's cancer, and reached the end

There is only one road

I stayed in touch with Kendel

She lived a couple of hundred yards down the road from the farm house

Somehow Don's plan for the Eagle Farm to stay in the family

Never worked out and it went on the market

Eventually, an estate sale was organised and Kendel kept me informed

It's a long drive

It was still light when we got there

So we went to the farm and sat on the porch

And chatted to a few people who were gathered there

Some ladies intent on protecting Don's legacy

Determined to at least buy his red chair

And some other important stuff

I told Kendel that if it was okay with the estate

I would like a couple of bale hooks and some baling twine from the barn

She organised that

Thank you, sweet Kendel

Tears burn my eyes, my new old friend

My bale hooks and twine arrived a few months later

With a colour photograph of Don with Kendel

They live

Hooks, twine, and pic

Slap-bang in the middle of some beautiful shelves we have on the landing

In pride of place alongside some mummified dragonflies

And old robins' eggs

Treasured

Forever catching the rays of the dying sun

At that gin rumminy time of the afternoon that I love

Well, R.I.P., Donald Hall

And now I've arrived at the bit I was looking for

The Crossroads