

Rasputina, In Old Yellowcake

Smoke rises from the ice factory on the edge,
On the edge of a city that exist in perpetual gloom.
I snatch a note from the basket of a passing bicycle -
It says, "Go to the flour factory. There's something waiting there for you."

Under the window, covered by curtains,
All lacy and splattered with blood,
We find crutches in the corner and bullets on the shelves,
Which I dismiss at once as being equivalent, irrelevant, in and of themselves.

Underneath a staircase is a mast which flies a flag.
Despite dankness beyond imagining, it floats on to a higher hole.
In tunnels gouged beneath the basement rooms are, unmistakably,
Sets of bloody handprints on a crumbling wall.

Oh won't you be there with me for it, tonight?
In this hut-to-hut witch hunt, down the tunnels of Old Yellowcake,
When all the souls in a city go drowning by starlight,
Where each choice you make is a fierce firefight or a new mistake?

Inside of a room is a cage, is a cage.
It's made out of chain and class.
It's about forty feet high and three feet wide,
And it was built to last.
It's against a brick wall
In an old muddy corner of a basement tunnel room.
There's a man in the cage in the old, muddy corner.
He's asleep, but he'll wake up soon.

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