

# Amused to Death

## Roger Waters

Doctor Doctor what is wrong with me  
This supermarket life is getting long  
What is the heart life of a colour TV  
What is the shelf life of a teenage queen  
Ooh western woman  
Ooh western girl  
News hound sniffs the air  
When Jessica Hahn goes down  
He latches on to that symbol of detachment  
Attracted by the peeling away of feeling  
The celebrity of the abused shell the belle  
Ooh western woman  
Ooh western girl  
And the children of Melrose  
Strut their stuff  
Is absolute zero cold enough  
And out in the valley warm and clean  
The little ones sit by their TV screens  
No thoughts to think  
No tears to cry  
All sucked dry  
Down to the very last breath  
Bartender what is wrong with me?  
Why am I so out of breath?  
The captain said excuse me ma'am  
This species has amused itself to death  
Amused itself to death  
Amused itself to death  
We watched the tragedy unfold  
We did as we were told  
We bought and sold  
It was the greatest show on earth  
But then it was over  
We ohhed and aahed  
We drove our racing cars  
We ate our last few jars of caviar  
And somewhere out there in the stars  
A keen-eyed look-out  
Spied a flickering light

Our last hurrah  
Our last hurrah  
And when they found our shadows  
Grouped around the TV sets  
They ran down every lead  
They repeated every test  
They checked out all the data on their lists  
And then the alien anthropologists  
Admitted they were still perplexed  
But on eliminating every other reason  
For our sad demise  
They logged the explanation left  
This species has amused itself to death  
No tears to cry, no feelings left  
This species has amused itself to death

(switch channels)[Alf Razzell:] "Years later, I saw Bill Hubbard's name on the memorial to the missing at Aras.

And I...when I saw his name I was absolutely transfixed; it was as though he...he was now a human being instead of some sort of nightmarish memory of how I had to leave him, all those years ago. And I felt relieved, and ever since then I've felt happier about it, because always before, whenever I thought of him, I said to myself, 'Was there something else that I could have done?' [background: "I'd rather die, I'd rather die..."] And that always sort of worried me. And having seen him, and his name in the register - as you know in the memorials there's a little safe, there's a register in there with every name - and seeing his name and his name on the memorial; it sort of lightened my...heart, if you like."

[woman:] "When was it that you saw his name on the memorial?"

[Alf:] "Ah, when I was eighty-seven, that would be the year, ninete...eighty-four, nineteen eighty-four."

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