Jungleland

Bruce Springsteen

The rangers had a homecoming in Harlem, late last night And the magic rat drove his sleek machine, over Jersey state line

Barefoot girl, sitting on the hood of a Dodge

Drinking warm beer in soft summer rain

The rat pulls into town, rolls up his pants

Together they take a stab at romance and disappear

Down Flamingo laneWell, the maximum lawman run down Flamingo

Chasing the rat and the barefoot girl

The kids round here look just like shadows

Always quiet, holding hands

From the churches to the jails

Tonight all is silence in the world

As we take our stand

Down in jungle landThe midnight gang's assembled

And picked a rendezvous for the night

They'll meet 'neath that giant Exxon sign

That brings this fair city light

Man, there's an opera out on the turnpike

There's a ballet being fought out in the alley

Until the local cops, cherry top, rips this holy night The street's alive as secret debts are paid

Contacts made, they vanished unseen

Kids flash guitars just like switch blades

Hustling for the record machineThe hungry and the hunted

Explode into rock 'n' roll bands

Their faced off against each other out in the street

Down in jungle landIn the parking lot, the visionaries

Dressed in the latest rage

Inside the backstreet girls are dancing

To the records that the D.J. plays

Lonely hearted lovers struggle in dark corners

Desperate as the night moves on

And just one look and a whisper, they're goneBeneath the city, two hearts beat

Soul engines running through a night so tender

In a bedroom locked, in whispers of soft refusal

And then, surrender in the tunnels uptown

The rat's own dream guns him down

As shots echo down them hallways in the night

No one watches when the ambulance pulls away

Or as the girl shuts out the bedroom lightOutside the street's on fire, in a real death waltz

Between what's flesh and what's fantasy
And then the poets down here, don't write nothing at all
They just stand back and let it all beAnd in the quick of the night
They reach for their moment
And try to make an honest stand
But they wind up wounded, not even dead
Tonight in jungle land

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