

# Land of the Living

Lucy Kaplansky

Late afternoon back in New York town  
Waking up as the wheels touch down  
Pick up my guitar and walk away  
Wish I was going home to stay  
Line of taxis, I wait my turn  
Tar and asphalt, exhaust and fumes  
Beside the road on a patch of ground  
Taxi drivers are kneeling down  
Beneath the concrete sky I watch them pray  
While the people of the world hurry on their way  
I think they're praying for us all today  
And the stories that fell from the sky that day  
This is the land of the living  
This is the land that's mine  
She still watches over Manhattan  
She's still holding onto that torch for life  
Back home fire's still burning, I can see it in the air  
Pictures of faces posted everywhere  
They say, "Hazel eyes, chestnut hair  
Mother of two, missing down there"  
I pass the firemen on duty tonight  
Carpets of flowers in candlelight  
And thank you in a child's scrawl  
Taped to the Third Street firehouse wall  
There's shadows of the lost on the faces I see  
Brothers and strangers on this island of grief  
There's death in the air but there's life on this street  
There's life on this street  
This is the land of the living  
This is the land that's mine  
She still watches over Manhattan  
She's still holding onto that torch for life  
Then I got in a taxi, said, "Hudson Street, please"  
He started the meter and he looked at me  
I glanced at his name on the back of his seat  
And I looked out the window at the ghost filled streets  
I noticed cuts on his hand and his face  
And I said, "You're bleeding, are you okay?"  
He said, "I'm not so good, got beat up today  
And I'm not one of them no matter what they say"  
"I'm just worried about my family  
My wife's in the house and she's scared to leave"  
And I didn't know what to say, I didn't know what to say  
But I said a prayer for him anyway  
This is the land of the living  
This is the land that's mine  
She still watches over Manhattan  
She's still holding onto that torch for life

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