

# Countdown

## Rush

Dedicated with thanks to astronauts young and crippen and all the people of nasa for their  
Inspiration and cooperationLit up with anticipation  
We arrive at the launching site  
The sky is still dark, nearing dawn  
On the florida coastlineCircling choppers slash the night  
With roving searchlight beams  
This magic day when super-science  
Mingles with the bright stuff of dreamsFloodlit in the hazy distance  
The star of this unearthly show  
Venting vapours, like the breath  
Of a sleeping white dragonCrackling speakers, voices tense  
Resume the final count  
All systems check, t minus nine  
As the sun and the drama start to mountThe air is charged --- a humid, motionless mass  
The crowds and the cameras  
The cars full of spectators pass  
Excitement so thick --- you could cut it with a knife  
Technology --- high, on the leading edge of lifeThe earth beneath us starts to tremble  
With the spreading of a low black cloud  
A thunderous roar shakes the air  
Like the whole world explodingScorching blast of golden fire  
As it slowly leaves the ground  
Tears away with a mighty force  
The air is shattered by the awesome soundLike a pillar of cloud, the smoke lingers  
High in the air  
In fascination --- with the eyes of the world  
We stare

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