

Lost In The Flood

Bruce Springsteen

The ragamuffin gunner is returnin' home like a hungry runaway
He walks through town all alone
He must be from the fort he hears the high school girls say
His countryside's burnin' with wolfman fairies dressed in drag
for homicide
The hit and run, plead sanctuary, `neath a holy stone they hide
They're breakin' beams and crosses with a spastic's reelin' per
fection
nuns run bald through Vatican halls pregnant, pleadin' immacula
te conception
And everybody's wrecked on Main Street from drinking unholy blo
od
Sticker smiles sweet as gunner breathes deep, his ankles caked
in mud
And I said "Hey, gunner man, that's quicksand, that's quicksand
that ain't mud
Have you thrown your senses to the war or did you lose them in
the flood?"

That pure American brother, dull-eyed and empty-faced
races Sundays in Jersey in a Chevy stock super eight
He rides `er low on the hip, on the side he's got Bound For Glo
ry in red, white and blue flash paint
He leans on the hood telling racing stories, the kids call him
Jimmy The Saint
Well the blaze and noise boy, he's gunnin' that bitch loaded to
blastin' point
He rides head first into a hurricane and disappears into a poin
t
And there's nothin' left but some blood where the body fell
That is, nothin' left that you could sell
just junk all across the horizon, a real highwayman's farewell
And he said "Hey kid, you think that's oil? Man, that ain't oil
that's blood"
I wonder what he was thinking when he hit that storm
Or was he just lost in the flood?
Eighth Avenue sailors in satin shirts whisper in the air
Some storefront incarnation of Maria, she's puttin' on me the s
tare
and Bronx's best apostle stands with his hand on his own hardwa
re
Everything stops, you hear five, quick shots, the cops come up
for air
And now the whiz-
bang gang from uptown, they're shootin' up the street
And that cat from the Bronx starts lettin' loose
but he gets blown right off his feet
And some kid comes blastin' round the corner but a cop puts him

right away
He lays on the street holding his leg screaming something in Spanish
Still breathing when I walked away
And somebody said "Hey man did you see that? His body hit the street with such a beautiful thud"
I wonder what the dude was sayin' or was he just lost in the flood?
Hey man, did you see that, those poor cats are sure messed up
I wonder what they were gettin' into, or were they just lost in the flood?