

Grandmaster Flash - The Message Lyrics

It's like a jungle sometimes it makes me wonder
 How I keep from going under
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 How I keep from going under

Broken glass everywhere
 People pissing on the stairs, you know they just don't care
 I can't take the smell, I can't take the noise no more
 Got no money to move out, I guess I got no choice
 Rats in the front room, roaches in the back
 Junkie's in the alley with a baseball bat
 I tried to get away, but I couldn't get far
 'Cause a man with a tow-truck repossessed my car

Chorus:

Don't push me cause I'm close to the edge
 I'm trying not to lose my head, ah huh-huh-huh
 [2nd and 5th: ah huh-huh-huh]
 [4th: say what?]
 It's like a jungle sometimes it makes me wonder
 How I keep from going under
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 How I keep from going under

Standing on the front stoop, hangin' out the window
 Watching all the cars go by, roaring as the breezes blow
 Crazy lady livin' in a bag
 Eatin' out of garbage pails, she used to be a fag-hag
 Said she danced the tango, skipped the light fandango
 The Zircon Princess seemed to lost her senses
 Down at the peepshow, watching all the creeps
 So she can tell the stories to the girls back home
 She went to the city and got Social Security
 She had to get a pimp, she couldn't make it on her own

[2nd Chorus]

My brother's doing bad on my mother's TV
 Says she watches too much, it's just not healthy
 "All My Children" in the daytime, "Dallas" at night
 Can't even see the game or the Sugar Ray fight
 The bill collectors they ring my phone
 And scare my wife when I'm not home
 Got a bum education, double-digit inflation
 Can't take the train to the job, there's a strike at the station
 Neon King Kong standin' on my back
 Can't stop to turn around, broke my sacroiliac
 A mid-range migraine, cancered membrane
 Sometimes I think I'm going insane, I swear I might hijack a plane

[3rd Chorus]

My son said: "Daddy, I don't wanna go to school"

Cause the teacher's a jerk, he must think I'm a fool
 And all the kids smoke reefer, I think it'd be cheaper
 If I just got a job, learned to be a street sweeper
 I'd dance to the beat, shuffle my feet
 Wear a shirt and tie and run with the creeps
 Cause it's all about money, ain't a damn thing funny
 You got to have a con in this land of milk and honey"
 They pushed that girl in front of the train
 Took her to the doctor, sewed her arm on again
 Stabbed that man right in his heart
 Gave him a transplant for a brand new start
 I can't walk through the park, cause it's crazy after dark
 Keep my hand on my gun, cause they got me on the run
 I feel like a outlaw, broke my last glass jaw
 Hear them say: "You want some more?" livin' on a seesaw

[4th Chorus]

 A child is born with no state of mind
 Blind to the ways of mankind
 God is smiling on you but he's frowning too
 Because only God knows what you'll go through
 You'll grow in the ghetto, living second rate
 And your eyes will sing a song of deep hate
 The places you play and where you stay
 Looks like one great big alley way
 You'll admire all the number book takers
 Thugs, pimps, pushers and the big money makers
 Driving big cars, spending twenties and tens
 And you wanna grow up to be just like them, huh,
 Smugglers, scramblers, burglars, gamblers
 Pickpockets, peddlers even panhandlers
 You say: "I'm cool, I'm no fool!"
 But then you wind up dropping out of high school
 Now you're unemployed, all non-void
 Walking 'round like you're Pretty Boy Floyd
 Turned stickup kid, look what you've done did
 Got sent up for a eight year bid
 Now your manhood is took and you're a Maytag
 Spent the next two years as a undercover fag
 Being used and abused to serve like hell
 'Til one day you was found hung dead in your cell
 It was plain to see that your life was lost
 You was cold and your body swung back and forth
 But now your eyes sing the sad, sad song
 Of how you lived so fast and died so young

[5th Chorus]

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