

## Let Me Die a Young Man's Death

*After Roger McGough*

Let me die a young man's death  
with honor & not a goner-  
for-lack-of-a-Heimlich death  
& hope to heaven no 7-Eleven/  
Speedway stick-up or hiccup death

When I'm 78  
may my misadventures  
not include loose dentures  
may I die by the hand  
of the lunatic fringe  
& not by some ghastly drip syringe

Or when I'm 95  
world enough and time permitting  
may I be sitting  
pretty in the backseat of that red Camaro  
my mistress likes  
when the lightning strikes

Or when I'm 109  
& Social Security's a relic  
may some smart aleck  
not backhand me in a boogie bar  
& knock me clean off the stool  
because I drool

Let me die a young man's death  
not a gruesome open casket  
but to hell in a hand basket death  
not an actuarial burial  
coming to terms with worms death