



Paul Burnell

What Bliss

Narrator and Spring Drum

2007

QB

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Composed 2007

For narrator and spring drum/thunder tube

Optional - another 3 players with spring drums or similar

Duration 1:30 approx.

The Spring Drum, or Thunder Tube, is a percussion instrument comprising an elongated tube covered in a plastic skin at one end, to which is affixed a long flexible metal spring. When shaken, the sound produced is similar to the sound of thunder.

The piece was originally titled 'Happy Ending' but was retitled when included on the 2023 album 'So (Not) To Speak'.

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for narrator *and spring drum/thunder tube*
optional - another 3 players with spring drums or similar

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[ad lib. scratch spring when not speaking - start at top of spring and work down ready for verse 2]

At the end, there will be a tingling
A feeling that something's not right
A feeling there's something that hides from the light
A feeling there's something that's just out of sight
A feeling there's something you can't even fight.

An arrow of darkness released in slow motion
You will sense it approaching
[flick end of spring to produce a sudden boom]
You will wait for the sting on your skin
[stop vibration with audible 'grasp' of spring, then flick again]
You will wait for the pox to seep in
[as above]
You will wait for the terminal pain to begin.
[as above]

[shake spring drum - and continue until stop indicated below]
The poison develops inside you with ease
Consuming your fears
Multiplying your tears *[opt: add another spring drum player]*
Devouring years *[opt: add another spring drum player]*
Deafening ears *[opt: add another spring drum player]*
But then, again
But then
But
[stop shaking by suddenly grasping wire]
If the arrow should miss
What bliss.