

20200909 Episode SD

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

death, system, extinctions, credit card numbers, sodium benzoate, die, recess, kid, ruin, future, slow, change, pet ferret, coming, musky, financial system, unfamiliar, terror, national endowment, dreamt



00:06

I'm Tracy k Smith, and this is the slow down.



00:18

We've all pondered the mystery of death at one time or another. When I was nine, our family's pet ferret escaped through a hole in our backyard fence, and was never found. Otto, a sweet, smart, playful, musky smelling friend.



00:39

I remember one day at recess soon after the loss, sitting down on some outdoor steps, and weeping, powerless to stifle my distress. He was dead, or lost in the unfamiliar streets, he would die out there, wherever he was,



00:59

even if he lived. If another family found him and took him in, he was gone to us.



01:07

That was one of my first encounters with mortality.



01:12

When I was younger, it wasn't strange or intrusive to ask another kid. Do you believe in God?



01:21

I think such a question was another way of asking. What do you think happens when we die? When I was 20, I dreamt that I was being led to my death, in the final moment of voice from out of nowhere said remember the words of your father, think only about the ascent.



01:44

16 years later, when my siblings and I were going through my father's papers, following his death, we found an envoy lobe full of passwords and credit card numbers on which he'd written kids. You'll need this after I've taken the big flight.



02:03

I don't understand why people joke that death means either sitting around bored, or nothingness complete obliteration.



02:15

I prefer the idea that the universe which we can move through freely after death, has plenty of ways to keep us purposefully busy, busy in the knowledge of all that is.



02:31

Today's poem is you will never get death out of your system by Dana 11.



02:39

How old is the earth? I asked my machine. And it said, five great extinctions, one in process. Four and a half billion years. It has always been very busy on Earth, so much coming and going. The terror and the hope ribboning through that death. Like a stray dog you kick out of the yard who keeps coming back. It's sent a freedom and ruin.



03:11

Some people love death so much. They want to give it to everyone. Some are more selective. Some people don't know they're alive.



03:23

metabolic system, financial system, political system, ecosystem systems management, running around trying to put out fires, sodium nitrate, sodium benzoate butylated hydroxyanisole to keep the food from rotting plastic surgery, Botox viagra Cryo Chamber, voting backwards into what has already died. Voting zombie in the name of change, and everywhere in fortune cookies, the miraculous fate of a joke future where death is the trick candle on the victory cake.



04:11

Some truths are hard to accept, especially when they won't budge beyond a couplet. Especially when they won't tell you if they mean you. Well, if they Herald freedom, or ruin,



04:25

you, you and death lovers who just can't quit. That's how we make the future. The terror and the hope of that as change goes viral.



04:41

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