



## **JAMES McMURTRY – *JUST US KIDS***

### **Track by Track**

#### **“Bayous Tortous”**

On I-10, somewhere around the Louisiana/Texas line, I used to see an exit for Turtle Bayou Turn Around. It seemed like a song title to me. C.C. Adcock said I should use the Cajun French “Bayous Tortous.” I relented after I found out that Cindy Cashdollar already had an instrumental titled “Turtle Bayou Turn Around.” I’m betting Cindy saw the same road sign.

#### **“Just Us Kids”**

It’s a damn short movie. Can’t say much else.

#### **“God Bless America (pat mAcdonald must die)”**

We had already recorded a song we called “Leonard Cohen must die,” so named because it reminded us of Leonard Cohen. This song reminded us of Pat. It’s in his weird-ass low C tuning, and it’s pretty in your face. The story comes from a friend of mine who left the army after 22 years. He was dressed down for failing to be nice to ridiculously high-paid civilian contractors who had been sexually harassing a female soldier under his command in Iraq. He said he’d been in multi-national operations and multi-service operations, but that Iraq was his only truly mercenary operation.

#### **“Cheney’s Toy”**

My take on Bush.

#### **“Freeway View”**

We just tried to stay out of Mac’s way on this one.

#### **“Hurricane Party”**

Not really about Katrina. I just used some of the imagery.

#### **“Ruby and Carlos”**

Our sound man and second set guitarist, Tim Holt, coined the term “Mason Dumb Ass Line” on one of our tours. I had to make use of it somehow.

#### **“Brief Intermission”**

The first piece we recorded for this project. I meant to put words to it, but I never found them.

**"Fire Line Road"**

One day I felt too tired to separate the pennies from the trash. Wrote down the sentiment, started this song.

**"The Governor"**

No comment.

**"Ruins of the Realm"**

A friend of mine had a twelve-string octave guitar made for me. This song fell out of it. Thanks, Clayton.

**"You'd a'Thought (Leonard Cohen Must Die)"**

I think Harmoni's vocal is the only overdub on this track. Might've been a punch in or two. nothing drastic.

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