

Endgame by Rise Against (2011) lyric annotation

And on that day they'll tell you

That life hung on with no clue

The warning signs were all just missed or shattered down

So it goes

The kings all failed to tell us

The people in charge kept people in the dark about things going on in America. (via <https://genius.com/913947>)

The madmen failed to sell us

The people that are known as “crazy” would try to inform others of things they thought to be true, but no one believed them. The line talks about how the “madmen” were right all along but failed to convince everyone. (via <https://genius.com/913947>)

On what would then befall the only life we'd know

Were they burning signal fires to guide us to the fields?

Or building funeral pyres? The outcome of a final appeal

[Hook]

The city lines are down, the kerosene's run out

The fracturing of all we relied upon

The resources that created normal life are gone and it is now “the endgame”. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

Let's shed this unclean skin and start to feel again

Because all the shoulders on which to cry are gone

The country has “no one left to feel sorry for them anymore”, they can’t even feel sorry for themselves. The lines suggest we need to start over together and create a better life. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

[Verse 2]

The paranoia gripped us, the rain turned engines to rust

The panic set in like a cancer to our hearts

“The rain turned engines to rust” alludes to the idea of technology no longer being protected from natural forces. The panic and paranoia that is mentioned are showing what tore everyone apart from one another. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

Spreading through

We bet on finite genius or prayed for gods to save us

But there was no antidote, disease tore us apart

We left bodies in the fields

In the scenario this song is describing, there is a “massive slaughter among the population” and no room left to bury the bodies so they were left in fields. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

So numb that we forgot how to feel

The entire song is about the world ending and it’s a given that people would be beside themselves if everything they knew was coming to an end. The people have forgotten how to feel because they are drowning in panic and shock. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

[Hook]

[Verse 3]

He looked at the fields and then his hands

"All I need is what I have"

Then fell a tear of happiness

This line shows positivity in the fact that the destruction makes room for creativity of new life and ideas. (via <https://genius.com/917608>)

She watched the world crumble away

"Is this the end of yesterday?"

"Lord, I hope so." is all he said

All gone are the old guards

Gone are the cold, cold wars

Weightless we go forth

On wings of amnesty

Oh, we relied on now

[Hook]

No more, no more

No more, no more

No more, no more

The weight that we once felt is gone