

# Under the Stinking Beast

Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 2014

Music: Cat Faber, "Under the Gripping Beast"

Inspired by Roberta Rogow's "Manatas" novels

A book down in a garbage dump, bound in leather hide,  
A stinking beast is gripping it, with knowledge vast inside.  
This creature has a power, what it is please don't inquire,  
And if I try to grab the book, my fate may well be dire.

Chorus:

Under the stinking beast is all the price I'll pay,  
But we'll lose the precious text unless we get the book away.  
For how it may defend it there can be no balm or salve,  
But at this very moment it's a text that I must have.

I stood before the creature; it looked up with surprise  
But did not run or tremble, only stared back at my eyes.  
It stamped its feet in warning, as if to say "Go back!"  
My friends called out to tell me I should flee from its attack.

Chorus

As I stood, my breathing raced but I would never quail,  
The creature warned me once again by raising up its tail.  
I bent to seize the volume and my eyes were fever-bright,  
Whatever might now happen, I would have the book that night.

Chorus

I've paid the dreadful penalty but I have passed the test.  
The book is now in safety though the creature did its best.  
My friends stay back by furlongs, it's smell they can't ignore,  
But I've won Leon's vict'ry though I sleep outside the door.

Chorus