

# My Sister's Tiny Hands

Andrew Bird

We came in this world together  
Legs wrapped around each other  
My cheek against my sister's  
We were born like tangled vine

We lived along the river  
Where the black clouds never lingered  
The sunlight spread like honey  
Through my sister's tiny hands

But while picking sour apples  
In the wild waving grasses  
Sister stumbled in the briar  
And was bitten by a snake

Every creature casts a shadow  
Under the sun's golden fingers  
And as the sun sinks past the waving grass  
Some shadows are dragged along

Alone, I took to drinking  
Bottles of cheap whiskey  
And staggering through the back woods  
Killing snakes with a sharpened stick

But still I heard her laughing  
In those wild waving grasses  
Still her tiny hands went splashing  
At the river's sparkling shore

So I took my rusty gas can  
And an old iron shovel  
I set the woods to blaze  
And choked the river up with stones

Every creature casts a shadow  
Under the sun's golden fingers  
And as the sun sinks past the waving grass  
Some shadows are dragged along