

## Eyes Out For You

Joe Henry

A fence is stretched across my brow  
A divided country: then and now,  
And you the border guard  
My caravan waved off the track  
With dusty miners hid in back,  
Their faces glowing hard ...  
Bruised and black and hunkered down,  
From sparkling fuses underground,  
And digging the way through  
To surface on some other side  
With time to burn, a past to hide,  
And one eye out for you

With letters cut from magazines  
I hide my hand and speak between  
The truth and what I need  
I lift the face of something strong,  
To mask the shadow growing long  
And blur what it concedes...  
I've found myself out on a range  
Found the mirror staring strange,  
Demanding what I knew  
Of tell-tale stripes across my back  
The eyes I keep - each blue and black,  
And both of them out for you

Now I've crossed into some northern town  
Where winds rise up and stars come down  
And no one knows my name  
I stitch a coat from what I find  
And weave a story in my mind  
With nothing such as blame ...  
I scrawl out pages, watch them burn  
The jumpy horses nod in turn,  
The way I need them to  
Before I run them to the fields  
As buildings blaze and dot the hills  
Like all eyes out for you