

Back to the Wall

Steve Earle

Well sometimes in the evenings I start to get that feeling
Like I'm empty inside
I know I'm doin' good now but tonight I'm headed downtown
Down by the riverside

I sit underneath the freeway with an old friend from the old da
ys
And a bottle of wine
Well he used to call me "big time", and he knew someday that I'
d shine
Said he'd seen all the signs
He said . .

"keep yourself to yourself
Keep your bedroll dry
And boy you never can tell
What the shadows hide
Keep ene eve on the ground
Pick up whatever you find
'cause you've got no place to fall
When your back's to the wall"

He's gettin' old and it's showin' when I asked him how it's goi
n'
He said "i've seen better I guess
I've been rained on, I've been frozen, but this here's the life
I've chosen
If it just wasn't for the loneliness"

Now this river suits me to a t. but if you're trying to raise a
family
It ain't no place to be
There's a kid down by the dump there, ought to be in grade scho
ol somewhere
Now he hangs out with me
And I told him . . ."

Well we finished off the bottle and I told him, "joe I think I o
ught to
Be headed uptown"
Well it was late, and I'd been drinkin', drivin' home I got to
thinkin'
'bout what's been going down

Cause they're nervous down on wall street, but they're trying t
o keep it upbeat
Or maybe they just don't care
But down at the river eyes are burnin' cause they feel the tabl

es turnin'

So if you wind up down there . . .