

# Canola Fields

James McMurtry

I was thinking 'bout you, crossing Southern Alberta  
Canola fields on a July day  
Are about the same chartreuse as that sixty-nine bug  
You used to drive around San Jose

You never knew where my old white Lincoln might take you  
Party on wheels with suicide doors  
Bring the kids and the dogs and your grandma too  
We always had room for more  
Til that white-knuckle ride back from Santa Cruz  
Second-best surfer on the central coast  
Had you wrapped up all the way back to Los Gatos  
And I could've cut his throat  
And it wasn't like we were an item to start with  
It had no basis in fact  
But the whiskey could push me to sudden extremes  
I don't want to think about that, I don't want to think about that

Take my hand Marie  
Take a death grip on some part of me  
Keep me from drifting far out to sea  
Or I'll be lost out there

We all drifted away with the days getting shorter  
Seeking our place in the greater scheme  
Kids and careers and a vague sense of order  
Busting apart at the seams  
I heard you switched coasts, moved in with your sister  
I doubt you'd have called it familial bliss  
We met up in Brooklyn before it went hipster  
You carried your keys in your fist  
In a way back corner of a cross-town bus  
We were hiding out under my hat  
Cashing in on a thirty-year crush  
You can't be young and do that  
You can't be young and do that

Take my hand Marie  
Take a death grip on some part of me  
Keep me from drifting far out to sea  
Or I'll be lost out there  
I'll be lost out there

I was thinking 'bout you crossing Southern Alberta  
Canola fields at harvest time  
Look like tumbleweeds all raked up into rows  
Brown rusty contour lines  
And there's not much moving on the romance radar  
Not that I'm craving it all that much  
But I still need to feel every once in a while  
The warmth of a smile and a touch  
And in a way back corner of a cross-town bus  
We were hiding out under my hat  
Cashing in on a thirty-year crush  
You can't be young and do that  
You can't be young and do that  
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