

# Carlisle's Haul

James McMurtry

Old Carlisle needs some money  
He's running a seine out off the point  
We'll all go help him though  
Commercial season's closed  
We might all wind up in the joint

There's bright lights out on the sand bar  
Hear the donkey motor whine  
the donkey man minds his business  
And I know to be minding mind  
I learned from the best

Hear them crabbers cuss the weather  
And they cuss the government too  
Nowadays crabbin' and fishin'  
hanging on to a pot to piss in  
Is just about the best a man can do

It's hard not to cry and cuss  
when this old world is just bigger than us  
And all we got is pride and trust in our kind

Old Carlisle and Uncle Freddy  
Don't you know they've seen some times  
They remember gas light  
oyster war machine gun fights  
I wished I'd known them in their prime

Now they stare out past the lights  
to the darkness on the water  
I don't think they're liking what they see  
Long before that seine can make a circle  
They'll know what the outcome's gonna be

They learned from the best  
They learned from the best

So, haul that seine up in the long boat  
We get to keep whatever's gilled  
We'll take a bag of bunkers home  
For crab bait and blue fish chum  
a string of croaker for the Sunday meal  
String of croaker makes a meal

It's hard not to cry and cuss  
when this old world is just bigger than us  
And all we got is pride and trust in our kind

Staring down that long, steep slope  
We gather round and we hold out hope  
Because at the end of the rope  
There's a little more rope most times

Uncle Freddy said we did a good job  
He's sending us home with a nine pound blue  
But I don't see a truckload for the market  
What's old Carlisle gonna do?

'Cept hall them lights off the sandbar  
Shut the donkey motor down  
Tow them longboats up the river  
Let's all get on back to town  
Let's all get on back to town before the warden comes

He knows better than get here before dawn  
He's got that green uniform  
and the kids think he's a jerk  
but you know he's somebody's cousin  
And we can't have a hometown boy out of work

[Chorus]