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 vinesAnd we lived along the river Where the black clouds never linger And the sunlight spread like honey Through my sister's tiny handsBut while picking sour apples In the wild waving grasses Sister stumbled in the brier And was bitten by a snakeEvery creature casts a shadow Under the sun's golden fingers And as the sun sinks past the waving grass Some shadows are dragged alongSo alone I took to drinking Bottles of cheap whiskey And I staggered through the backwoods Killing snakes with a sharpened stickOh but still I heard her laughing In the wild waving grasses Still her tiny hands went splashing At the river's sparkling shoreSo I took my rusty gas can And an old iron shovel And I set the woods to blaze And choked the river up with stonesEvery creature casts a shadow Under the sun's golden fingers And as the sun sinks past the waving grass

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