

# First Reactions After Falling Through the Ice

## La Dispute

I knew it was far too late to walk out on the lake then  
Halfway to the middle thawed I wasn't doing all that great  
    Had I cut my hair short?  
    Had I grown my beard out long?  
    Had I gone to school or...?  
Why do all my plans fall through?  
    There's a leak in the basement  
    Stupid permanent estrangement  
    Casement windows need glazing  
    Hinges and arms need be replaced  
All the way at the edge I said I think  
    That we should head back  
    What if now the ice cracked?  
    Think I felt it bend  
    We took opposite steps  
    Tried to even the stress  
    Picked a safe direction but  
You never know the way the ice thins  
    Half-asleep in dreams where  
    Ceilings start collapsing  
    Free fall through the roof beams  
    Get startled back awake  
    Before you hit the pavement  
    Floor of the foundation  
    Water in the basement  
    Bodies in the lake  
Don't panic I could hear you saying as I fell through  
Blackness complete down waiting till my feet touched ground  
    At the bottom they finally did  
    First reaction was this is it  
Next thought was just stay calm kick up  
    And save your phone  
    Because I wanted to tell you  
    Because I thought you should know  
    Because I thought it might scare you  
    To see me under the ice  
Make you remember you cared for me  
    What would you do if I died?  
    Would you fly out for my funeral?

Get too drunk at my wake?  
Would you make a scene then?  
Climb in and try to resuscitate me?  
I was on the ice and I was underwater  
I was getting pulled out, I was in my wet clothes  
Stumble on the walk back, someone stoked the fire at camp  
I was by the flames trying to get my body warm  
I was standing naked checking to see if my phone still worked  
I will cut my hair short  
Trust me, I will  
I will let my beard go  
Trust me, I will  
I will never tempt fate  
Not once, I swear  
I will never trust ice  
I will never trust a thing

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