

# Falling Down Laughing

Jim Carroll

He was feeling invulnerable  
That was foolish but wonderful  
But of course the first one was always free  
He's got one wrist in heaven, one ankle in hell  
Somebody pushed or he just fell  
He's riding the subway watching the lights play  
Red yellow green he's always somewhere in between  
The station he wants, the station he needs,  
And the station where the chickenhawks come to feedRefrain:  
Since the worm turned he's learned  
This apple's a blood-filled tear  
And he falls down laughing, he falls down laughing  
He falls down and he disappearsFirst he tried to be pure now he just wants a cure  
He's wasted, his skin's sore, he's flat-out poor  
When you live in doubt that's when your luck runs out  
He's on the roof alone, outside the zone  
Now he's on the street again when he calls him then  
Billy just cannot resist  
Now he's an orphan sleeping with the coffins  
Just like oliver twistWell since the worm turned . . . Billy's tired of the lies, he's turning every fire  
Looking for his own past  
He's limping in the water searching for the quarter  
Inch of clarity  
His future is raining blood like stars  
He's fallen so far behind  
He might as well be blindWatching late-night film noir inside of stolen cars  
His tongue stuck frozen to the monkey bars  
His ladder lost it's rungs, billy speaks in tongues  
Every time he's in the clear his past looks back and sneersBut since the worm turned . . .

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