

Jalen

Drivers out on the bridge
 Slowing down as they go through a lane shift
 Wires snap
 Concrete gives
 Metal twisting and
 Everything tumblingAt the end of the work day
 Stuck in traffic don't feel when the road sways
 Underneath
 Concrete gives
 Metal twisting and
 Everything tumblingTo their partners and kids
 Don't suspect anything till the bridge splits
 Wires snap
 Concrete gives
 Metal twisting and
 Everything tumbling
 DownWhere I sat I saw brake lights flash
 And I pictured them: all the people, their faces in free fall, the water beneath
 I pushed my palms against the table hard to see if it hurt
 Were it glass would I have shattered it?
 Could I battle every impulse to panic and then win
 Swim out through the metal twisting upward like a sculpture
 Or some terrible beast?People trapped in their cars
 Put both feet on the glass and then kick hard
 Water pours in
 Seatbelts twist
 River flowing and
 Everything going downPeople under the water line
 Workers sift through the wreckage of it find
 Seatbelts stuck
 Water fills up
 River flowing and
 Everything going downstreamOn the dining room wall I watched it
 Play in the reflection of the television
 The reversal in the mirror hung I could see it all
 How the dust clouds gather color as they billow out
 Shades change shifting in the night
 From the lights atop an ambulance
 Like a firework's flash then that otherworldly glow

In the smoke thrown in the aftermath blows
Almost frozen for a moment there
I could see it allEvery
Dust cloud
Shattered glass
Billow out
On the TV
Wires snap and the
Concrete gives
Metal twists up and onward
I can see it all
Every
Dust cloud
Shattered glass
Billow out
On the TV
Wires snap and the
Concrete gives in
Metal twists up and onward I watch
And I can see it allAll the wreckage
All the cars piled
In the river and
The rail yard
Metal twists
Wires snap
Concrete blocks split
Dangle from tie rods
And metal twists up
Wires sway
When a breeze blows
In the distant
Sirens glow
I can see it all
Where they look for survivors
Searchlights float
Change the color of smoke clouds
And shadows still fall
People under the water
People trapped in their cars kick and try to get out
People still with their seat belts on
Pets they had in the back and
Car seatsAnd I watch it on TV lying down here
On the floor in the dining room reversed in the mirror
Where I know I'm not dreaming now
But I know I've been sleeping

I just don't know since when
I only know that it's light outside
I only know that the rent is still late
When did they find out the concrete gave?
When did they learn that the wires snapped?

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