

# The White Tent the Raft

Jane Siberry

there's a red leaf  
that falls from a purple tree  
it falls it floats down  
one red leaf against a clear blue sky  
it floats down  
past the marbles in the clearing  
beneath the geese in flight  
to the darkening river  
in the autumn light  
where it touches down  
oh, like a great bird landing  
tears of autumn there's a white tent that sits  
in the middle of a raft  
that floats down  
floats down the middle of a river  
of a stream floating down  
and the tears streaming  
from the mind's eye  
streaming back beyond  
the white sheets that flap and fly  
oh, tears of wanting the white tent the raft  
the white tent the raft  
the white tent the raft  
fists and chests MANGO CLEARING:  
oh Mango in the clearing  
it's his leg or something  
waiting  
everything would be alright  
watching the trees  
then his toes  
then the trees  
deeper into the jungle  
and leaves him there  
we turn off the t.v.  
never forget that night  
never heard you  
couldn't sleep  
hotel window  
get up to those dark peaks

everything would be the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

fists and chests GREAT OVERCOAT CLEARING:

and when it's not our great overcoat

it's a grey and yellow dress

so beautiful the bees

they followed you through the mall

to the clearing in the wilderness

and you lay down and I picked you up

and I said you must never leave

your beautiful hands

like knitting needles

and I said- it's Jane, it's me she said -

when you go that's when you go

lighten up and pass the cup

fifty bucks and that's all you got?

yeah, I love you there's a white tent that sits

in the middle of a raft that floats down

floats down the middle of a river

of a stream floating down

and the tears streaming

from the mind's eye

streaming back beyond the white sheets

that flap and fly

oh, tears of hardness the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

fists and chests OVERKILL CLEARING:

found the snake in the clearing

and it tried to kill him of course

but then...only after it tried to get away

he said -

youse the meanest ugliest low-down

and he cursed and swore

gonna shoot the damn thing

(I'll never let nobody hurt you)

I watched from the raft

and I withdrew my scent

it's not hard to kill a snake

it's not hard

it's not hard to kill a snake

it's not that hard the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

fists and chestsANGRY CLEARING:

what do you mean I love you

stop saying I love you

I don't know what you mean anyway

I don't know what love is and...

you don't know what love is and...

it doesn't change anything anywayah...who cares

who gives a...

because all I see

is more hate

more fear

less light than before methe white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

fists and chestsBIRDS AT DAWN CLEARING:

get off my branch...

stick legs -they are not

this is my tree

it's getting lighter

I'm talking to you

turn down your radio

dawn is coming - run!every morning when the sun comes up

as loud as he can Get Up! Get Up!

yeah, I love you I love you a lot

lighten up and pass the cupthere's a thousand white tents

on a thousand rafts all floating down

there's a thousand fists

and a thousand chests

they come thundering down

and the tears streaming

from a thousand eyes

streaming back beyond the white sheets

that flap and fly

oh, tears of hungerthere's a white tent that blows

in the middle of a raft

that floats down down the middle

of a long and lonely dream

or is it lovely? can't always tell...

and the clearings pass

like blowing scarves

the slightly familiar

the slightly apart

and the river never runs dry

oh, tears of openthe white tent the raft

the white tent the raft

and one red leaf  
for my love...  
for your love...

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