

# St. Lawrence River

## David Usher

Smells on the air, see there it's crushing the final impression  
The stains on the paper where words fell like water  
Unearth all the changes that never did matter  
    I think it's beginning to freeze here  
    Caught in the rage and the fire of things  
    All the brightness that burns me  
    Fumbling through like a child in the dark  
When the nakedness comes I am shocked by the color  
    The glorious weight of your skin  
Comes alive and I never thought we'd make it back so soon  
    Might be nice but I knew you'd be your own destroyer  
    Comes a time and I always thought I'd make it up to you  
Here please forgive me, could we escape? All the bitterness  
    Piled upon bitterness, held in the face of the things  
    That I don't understand, intellectualize over and over  
This helplessness suits us, funny how quiet has slipped to our corners  
    Worn all our edges away you are watching, breathing  
    And baiting, wanting and warming, and cautiously waiting  
    For some simple signal to creep 'cross your conscience  
    Uncover redemption and oh, did I mention?  
    I carried you down to the St. Lawrence River  
The banks running dirty, the water's beginning to freeze here  
    Solid by morning and I'll freeze here, winter by morning  
Comes alive and I never thought you'd get me back so soon  
    Might be nice but it's only if my own destroyer  
    Comes alive and I always knew I'd make it up to you  
    Saw on your face such a curious grin  
As I let go your hand, I was desperate to hold you again  
    But you're sinkin' so deep in the water  
Outsmarted myself and so easily gave up what I wanted  
    Solid by morning, what I wanted, winter by morning  
Comes alive and I never thought you'd make it up so soon  
    Might be nice but I always knew you're my destroyer  
    Comes a time and I always thought I'd make it up to you  
    Solid by morning and I'll freeze here, winter by morning