

# Hudsonville MI 1956

## La Dispute

There are bridges over rivers  
There are moments of collapse  
There are drivers with their feet on the glass  
You can kick but you can't get out  
There is history in the rooms of the house After dinner  
Do the dishes  
Mother hums  
The coffeemaker hisses on the stove  
The steam a crescendo  
The radio emergency bulletins and  
Everywhere wind You took the train down to Terra Haute, Indiana  
Visit family, your childhood home  
Give your mother her grandkid and father a kiss  
Put your luggage in your bedroom in the kitchen sit  
With your husband still up in Hudsonville  
Until the weekend when his shift ends at the furniture mill  
Running water for the dishes and the coffee on the stove  
Heard a warning from the corner on the radio  
And the glass starts to rattle in the window frames So you went underground  
Took the staircase down  
To the cellar full of hunting equipment  
Held your baby in your arms  
Read the labels on mason jars  
Try not to think about your husband in Michigan Stay calm  
Keep the radio loud  
Take care  
Wind howls  
Father piles blankets in the corner by the furnace  
Mother lights candles  
It's a miracle the baby doesn't cry Back home doing yard work outside  
Husband being stubborn under dark skies  
Saw the fence by the neighbor's shed split  
Saw the kitchen windows start to bend in So you went down to the back steps then to the basement  
There were bookshelf plans on the workbench  
And a flashlight shining bright all night try not to think about your son and your wife  
And the lightning that scattered the night sky  
And the wind bursts that tore up the power lines  
At the workbench in the basement  
Where you sat and tried to wait out the night

You called for three straight days  
Still with your family back home  
Up in Hudsonville the worst of the storms touched ground  
And the phone lines were down  
Turn the radio up  
There's a woman who got thrown from her car into a barbed wire fence  
She was 6-months pregnant  
Both her and the baby lived  
You tried but the line or...I remember those nights  
I couldn't get through to you when quiet storms came rattled the window panes  
Couldn't keep a thing the same way when the storm blew in and the furniture rearranged  
I can see lightning there and a funnel cloud  
And her mother said "I swear I saw lightning in your eyes  
When that call got through to the other side." Stay calm  
Keep the radio loud  
Stay down  
There are bridges over rivers  
Sirens in the distant  
Wind howls  
Keep down  
Then  
After dinner do the dishes  
Mother hums  
Wires snap  
Metal gets twisted  
There's the rattle of the window glass  
Bending in  
Take the children down  
Terra Haute  
Coffee  
Thanksgiving  
Stay calm  
Keep down  
At the workbench  
Stay  
And the coffeemaker hisses  
Stay calm  
Keep down  
Turn the radio  
There are  
There are moments of collapse

Songwriters

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