

# First Snowfall

## Over the Rhine

The Christmas decorations  
Look ragged and rusty  
A little sooty with coal dust  
Santa's missing an eyeThe neon sign flickers  
On the cinder block tavern  
By the Salvation Army  
And the plumbers supplyThe old downtown mission  
Has John 3:16 painted  
In all capital letters  
Above cans full of trashBut the paint is all peeling  
Broken glass on the sidewalk  
Glitters like chandeliers  
Somebody smashedAnd my soul feels as empty  
As a brown paper bag  
The drained bottle inside it  
Bought with bummed change40 ounces of liquor  
For 30 pieces of silver  
And your temporary suicide  
Has all been arrangedIt's like an angel starts singing  
An old gospel song  
In that part of town where  
No angel belongsBut what is this music  
That falls on my ear  
It's the very first snowfall  
Of a very long yearI'm so far from home  
And all that's familiar  
Every prodigal knows  
How this story goesWas I just runnin' from what's  
Too dark to mention  
Or were angels escorting me  
God only knowsSo help me Maria  
We heard the same call  
Our hearts felt as free  
As a dove newly flownWhen a big city beckons  
Ah you just can't imagine  
You're left with no choice  
Yeah, you just have to goIt's like an angel starts singing  
An old gospel song  
In that part of town where

No angel belongsBut what is this music  
That falls on deaf ears  
It's the very first snowfall  
Of a very long yearThere's two stray dogs runnin'  
In Newport, Kentucky  
They've got a secret  
No one else knowsThis old dirty city  
Is cleansed of its sin  
We're all light-hearted lovers  
We're all beautiful beggars  
We're all innocent children  
As soon as it snowsIt's like an angel starts singing  
An old gospel song  
In that part of town where  
No angel belongsBut what is this music  
Are these God's silent tears?  
It's the very first snowfall  
Of a very long year

Songwriters

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