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This Evening with No One

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This Evening with No One

this evening
with no one on the streets
but me waiting
to rise to the surface
and breathe again
you knelt down helpless
offered me your serenade
for a nickel and
some aspirin.
i fell into your eyes of endless coffee
heat and hurt
from when you were a boy
shoulders and easy
warmth for closed eyes
asleep, their hollow dreams
a dark mirror for the needs
of a night like this—
all a gift in a song
that let me rest.
i wanted to give you
anything i didn't have
a nickel
so i gave you two bottles
of aspirin
and dug out my soul with a spoon
to keep you warm
on a night like this.

Jessica Printz
WC '92