

Poor Bailey

"Old Scagg Slough"

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Well the waters can be dangerous growing up in these
parts
Levees made of rebar, glass shards, and broken
hearts
The paper mill, the brick kiln, the vacant factories
Once dumped their waste into the river now the water's
all dirty
Well, kids come and go, some make it, some crawl off
to die
Down on the river bank coming in and out with the tide
Come settle down, darling, let me tell you 'bout the
time

It was just two years ago when I was seventeen
I went for a swim late one evening
My parents warned me not to go out alone
But I went any way yeah what the hell do they know?
'Twas the night I nearly drowned out, out in Old Scagg
Slough
Well you don't have to listen but whatever you do
Don't think it can't happen to you

Well the surface seemed calm, the current seemed
weak
As the waters got darker and the channel got deep
The tule fog rolled in and killed the last sight of light
The sun sunk behind the hills and the day became
night
That's when I decided it was time I'd best head for
home
But just then the current picked up and I felt some sort
of undertow
Well I had no choice but to go with the flow

I thought, "I better not panic, I better keep my cool
Maybe I could wait it out and then regain control
I'm one helluva swimmer, besides, I'm too young to die
I'll find a way out further downstream if I have to wait
all night"
Little did I know I was just adding to the mess
But I thought I'd be alright, I thought I knew what to

expect
But nothing coulda prepared me for what happened
next.

Oh, I, I got caught in a whirlpool, I didn't know what to
do
Everything started spinning, I got all confused
As I spun and plundered in the depths of my disease
Me, my mind, and I, the worst of enemies
It felt just like my life was going down the drain
And then I hit the bottom; it was as bad as it could be
I sunk in to the mud, left to rest in my misery

Oh I thought I was a goner, I thought I never stood a
chance
But somehow I escaped and made it back to the
surface
Everything was much clearer than it ever was before
I splashed around and then caught my breath and
swam back to shore
Well two summers have passed since that night out on
Old Scagg Slough
There's a lot of things I miss but one thing I know for
sure
I ain't going swimming out in Old Scagg Slough no
more
I ain't going swimming out in Old Scagg Slough no
more

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