

## Cheryl Wheeler

### "Paradise in Troubled Waters"

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Winter's voice had barely spoken  
(Everyone was bummed and broken  
Hangin' on to threads the way we do  
Shielding eyes from TV screens  
With African starvation scenes  
And photographs in magazines  
Of things that can't seem true.

Oh, paradise in troubled waters  
Situation grim  
And we the reckless sons and daughters  
Spread the luck so thin  
Oh, the gross results and chain reaction  
Too late understood  
Leave us in embarrassed silence  
Wishing that we could  
Make the difference, see the light  
Carry the flag, lead the fight  
Save the whales, save the seals  
Save the trees and birds and fields  
And save each other.

So we read the news with helpless eyes  
And look for ways to compromise  
But mostly we just do the best we can  
Is it just a part of what we are  
To want too much and go too far  
And contemplate with no regard  
What we don't understand.

Oh, paradise in troubled waters  
Situation grim  
And we the reckless sons and daughters  
Spread the luck so thin  
Oh, the gross results and chain reaction  
Too late understood  
Leave us in embarrassed silence  
Wishing that we could  
Make the difference, see the light  
Carry the flag, lead the fight  
Save the whales, save the seals

Save the trees and birds and fields  
And save each other.

Oh, paradise in troubled waters...

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