## John Ralston "A Marigny XMas"

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I've been riding the streetcar all night Beneath electricity's light We used to do this on nights When the money was tight Now all I've got is a ghost of a dream

Close my eyes to see
Bite my lip to speak
I've been drunk in the Marigny every night
Since my lover left New Orleans

Her records are glued to my walls Her books collect dust on the shelf With her cheap jewelry and her letters to me I lay tangled in her sheets

Close my eyes to see Bite my lip to speak I've been drunk in the Marigny every night Since my lover left New Orleans

It's snowing in some Northern town
Where she went so she wouldn't be found
She called me up on Christmas Eve
She didn't say a word
I could barely hear her breathe

She closed her eyes to see
She bit her lip to speak
She's been running from something she couldn't
describe
On the night she could not sleep

Happy Christmas Eve Come back now to me I've been drunk in the Marigny every night Since my lover left New Orleans

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