

## **Kevin Devine**

# **"Country Sky Glow"**

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You carry the beach in your way-too-short hair  
That you shaved off last week cause you freaked and  
got scared  
That when it's longer, you remind me of her

So you offered it up with what passed for authority  
Some strict sort of challenge you directed straight at  
me  
You said, "Forget her, I don't care what you two were"

But it's a trick on your ego  
A two-step off tempo  
A solid gold bracelet  
Under lights, in a window  
In some shopping mall where I never go

You play coy and count tiles, drag your toes through  
the water  
Raise your eyes, bite your lip, and my mind's in the  
gutter  
You move at me and take my face in your hands

I feel light bulbs explode in a fire-cracked thunder  
Sense the slow seismic shift of the sprawling cloud  
cover  
But when we're finished I feel awful again

So it's the same sorry story  
Just the cast changes nightly

And it skips like a record but it glows like a movie  
Or the country sky that I never see

The shake in your voice makes me feel empty and ugly  
All scattered anger like a windstorm, howling violently  
And I wanna fade out and wake up somewhere else  
Where no face is familiar and I'm left by myself  
To keep plugging away on my own wasted time  
To eat badly and spend all my money and write  
To not feel too guilty to be tired at night  
Since I'm not fixing things here, I'll leave them behind  
So you make your decision

I'm through making mine

Now I walk where the street swallows light like it's water  
I see the slant of your smirk on every kid at the corner  
But if you called, I'd never know what to say  
So I just hope you never will  
Things are easier that way

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