

Lems Kristin

"Cuyahoga River"

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I've lived upon this river shore since I was very small
I've watched the seasons turning and I've watched the
trees grow tall

I've seen the factories coming, they cluster on the
shore

They dump their waste into our lake, and every day
there's more

Chorus:

Oh lovely waters that have carried my canoe

Cuyahoga River, what have they done to you?

Once we would go fishing in rowboats every dawn

Now all we see is tanker ships, and all the fish are gone

We could see trout swimming full twenty feet below

But now the water's turned to ink no matter where we
row

Our river it was clean and clear, we'd swim there
everyday

Now it's far too dangerous, a fence keeps us away

The sun upon the water shone sparkling and royal
But now we see a rainbow from reflections in the oil
Late last Friday I drove home, smelled fire in the air
Couldn't tell the origin, the smoke was everywhere
A sheet of flame rose through the clouds, it cut them
like a knife

I saw the river up in flame and giving up it's life
Now the ashes settle on a charred and cindered lake
Staying by this shoreline is a terrible mistake
But the Cuyahoga's seen me grow, and now I've seen it
die

Figure I'll stay by it, though I cannot tell you why
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