

## Mary Gauthier

# "Prayer Without Words"

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Packing vagabond visions and a dream drenched  
hunger for a home  
Swaddled in road dirt, blood stained blankets and  
poems  
On a stormy suitcase Sunday, I awakened to the  
scream of the birds  
They held their high notes and offered prayer without  
words

Sinking in asphalt, speechlessness and what coulda  
been  
Surrounded by strangers, scarred stars, stoned broken  
men  
Riding the narcotic night 'til she swerved and smashed  
into the curb  
Morning spilled from the wreckage and offered prayer  
without words

Chains on the mast pull the past, nothin' lasts but  
nothin' ever ends  
I leave town, break new ground, break down, leave  
town again  
Trapped in the circle, anchored to the weight of the  
world  
Under shooting stars that sink the skies and offer  
prayer without words

Justice rides with jaundiced eyes, jaded judges bleed  
the broken bench  
Liberty's a homicide, she been flogged to death  
With money's monkey wrench  
Desperado apostates set fire to every holy word we've  
heard  
Silence billows from the burning books and offers  
prayer without words

Surrender, that sweet cleaning girl  
She folds white flags in Hallelujah Square  
She can't remember where she's been one day I'm  
gonna join her there  
Unpack my battered traveling case  
Hang out a sign that says, 'Do Not Disturb'

Dissolve into the dream and sleep that offers prayer  
without words

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