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## **Piano Magic** "The Drowning Of St Christopher"

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There's no heart in the men who run these mountain bars All love extinguished by location and cold fronts Dogs in the parking lot surround the car for scraps of affection For eyes not glazed over like black ice Thousands of kilometres of roughage and terracotta roofs Horizons replaced by horizons We run the belly of rainclouds between madrid and valencia With the radio tuned into the weather we don't have St christopher drowns crossing the river Firs blown onto the windscreen disperse like a pack of tiny black birds Service stations are watched over from the hills by shepherds Who spend all their days flooded by thought A deafening meditation The cowbells, like bloody church alarms Smashing the silence of grass, of the air I am interviewed in a sleepy bar by a girl who wants me to explain "The warmth of nostalgia," incensed that i "glamourise sadness" And after seven hours on the road I have lost all defences - they are roadkill, torn up, gutted At night, tiny red beacons crown lonely antennas Everywhere is shepherded in the absence of gods Cities spoil everything That there is somewhere to go and something to do When the partition between sleep And awake in the back of the van features such happy accidents Hazed dreams in an unfocused super 8mm On rainy nights, we are docked in the harbour of circular ballrooms Playing to the shadows, playing to revolving mirrorballs Our harbours are in brandy glasses Our music is swilled In hostels, fourth floor, bare rooms but for a bed and a

sink We stare vacant at sleeping guitars Wndering how many fucks and violence And drugs have intervalled us staring at sleeping guitars And the taps can't be turned off And there's suspect movement on the stairwell Small pictures of boats in storms Watches and money in our shoes We wake up and the building is still there And we're still in it, like miserable captains

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