

Okkervil River

"A leaf"

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Jeremy Lee - at an ice-creamery on the evening of
October 10,
lost 55 dollars and 70 cents, was shot twice in the chest
and again in the head.
The police found him dead by the walk-in.
But he'd loved God so much, as he lay inside his bed,
he could feel Her sweep over his skin.
He could feel Her filling the air with the weight of Her
care, and didn't care what was waiting for him.
How he'd cry, cry so much, knowing that this was the
end,
and then feel like a leaf lifted by wind.
How I'd love him so much that I almost cave in every
time my hand touches the pen.

So lower your cameras and switch off the spot. You
shouldn't be proud of the footage you got,
because there won't be an end to the similar shots that
have happened, are happening, and can't be
prevented from endlessly happening again.
For all your pride and your comfort and speed of
ascent,
you're heading too soon to a similar end,
only coughing up blood in a hospital bed as your heart-
attack, cancer or car accident
breaks you down to a place in the ground for your kids
to come visit.
And if God loves us back, now we know, out and in, that
She must have no control over this world's events,
because no one deserves this much punishment.

But now it's late in the autumn and leaves line the
bend.
It's a beautiful day for the first snow to land,
so it's landing on me and on Jeremy Lee,
who left this world gracefully, broken.

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