

Patti Smith

"Death Singing"

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In the straw colored light
In light rapidly changing
On a life rapidly fading
Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?

With a throat smooth as a lamb
Yet dry as a branch not snapping
He throws back his head
And he does not sing a thing mournful

Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
In the straw colored light

He sings a black embrace
And white opals swimming
In a child's leather purse
Have you seen death swimming?
Have you seen death swimming?

With a throat smooth as a lamb
Yet dry as a branch not snapping
He throws back his head
And he does not sing a thing mournful

Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
In the straw colored light

Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
In the straw colored light

He sings of youth enraged
And the burning of Atlanta
And these viral times
And may ribbons streaming
And the straw colored curls are turning

A mother's vain delight
And woe to the sun
And woe to the dawn
And woe to the young
Another hearse is drawn

Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
Have you seen death singin'?
In the straw colored light

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