

## The Mountain Goats

### "Source Decay"

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once a week  
i make the drive  
two hours east  
to check the austin post office box  
and i take the detour  
through our old neighborhood  
see all the chevy impalas  
in their front yards up on blocks  
and i park in an alley  
and i read through the post cards you continue to send  
where as indirectly as you can  
you ask what i remember  
i like these tortured deviced from my old best friend  
well i'll tell you what i know  
like i swore i always would  
i don't think it will do you any good

i remember the train headed south out of bangkok  
down toward the water.

i always get a late start  
when the sun's going down  
and the traffic's filling out  
and the glare is hard to take  
i wish the west texas highway was a mobius strip  
i could ride it out for ever  
when i feel my heart break  
i almost swear i hear it happen  
in fact clean and not hard  
i come in off the highway and i park in my front yard  
fall out of the car  
like a hostage from a plane  
think of you awhile  
start wishing it would rain

and i remember the train heading south out of bangkok  
down, down towards, the water.

come in to the house  
put on a pot of coffee  
walk the floors a little while

set your postcard on the table  
with all the others like it  
start sorting threw the pile  
check the pictures  
and the postmarks  
and the captions  
and the stamps  
for a sign of any pattern at all  
when i come up empty handed  
the feeling almost overwhelms me  
i let a few of my defenses fall  
and i smile a bitter smile  
it is not a pretty sight to see  
i think about a railroad platform back in 1983

and i remember the train heading south out of  
Bangkok  
down, down towards, the water  
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