

Reed Lou

"Romeo Had Juliette"

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Caught between the twisted stars the plotted lines the
faulty map
that brought Columbus to New York
Betwixt between the East and west he calls on her
wearing a leather vest
the earth squeals and shudders to a halt
A diamond crucifix in his ear is used to help ward off
the Fear
that he has left his soul in someone's rented car
Inside his pants he hides a mop to clean the mess that
he has dropped
into the life of lithesome Juliette Bell
And Romeo wanted Juliette
And Juliette wanted Romeo
Romeo Rodriguez squares his shoulders and curses
Jesus
runs a comb through his black pony-tail
He's thinking of his lonely room
the sink that by his bed gives off a stink
Then smells her perfume in his eyes
and her voice was like a bell
Outside the streets were steaming the crack dealers
were dreaming
of an Uzi someone had just scored
I betcha I could hit that light with my one good arm
behind my back
says little Joey Diaz
Brother give me another tote those downtown hoods
are no damn good
those Italians need a lesson to be taught
This cop who died in Harlem you think they'd get the
warnin'
I was dancing when his brains ran out on the street
And Romeo had Juliette
And Juliette had her Romeo
I'll take Manhattan in a garbage bag with Latin written
on it that says
"It's hard to give a shit these days"
Manhattan's sinking like a rock, into the filthy Hudson
what a shock
they wrote a book about it, they said it was like ancient
Rome

The perfume burned his eyes holding tightly to her
thighs
and something flickered for a minute and then it
vanished and was gone

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