

## **Robyn Hitchcock**

### **"Idonia"**

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When I saw you on the market, standing by the phone  
With your hair as dark as this, how could you be alone  
All the ghosts in love with you, they craned their sorry  
necks  
Like a Viennese machine that's just discovered sex  
When I saw you on the bridge, you had to look away  
If I thought to follow you, I'd just get in the way  
Reaching for eternity, reaching for a chair  
Reaching for the woman who is never even there, boys  
Never even there  
When I saw your fingers folded round your albatross  
Staring through the kitchen wall at everything you've  
lost  
Losing comes so easily when you acquire the taste  
Life is long and life is lost and life is such a waste, boys  
Life is just a waste  
See the wrinkles in my hand, I am the lizard's son  
Waiting for the alchemist to touch me with the sun  
When I saw your photograph, I knew we'd never meet  
You were called Idonia, and I stayed in the street, boys  
I stayed in the street  
When I saw your eyes were closed, that was the best  
thing yet  
Then you drove a caravan across this flimsy set  
Crushed beneath your wheels still, my heart goes  
beating on  
Beating for Idonia and everything she's done, boy  
Everything she's done  
When I saw your pharaoh coming, handsome gypsy lad  
With his memory still wet from all the fun he had  
Funny how your ceiling is somebody else's floor  
Feeling for Idonia beside a market store, boys  
Who won't be back no more

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