

## **The Shins**

# **"One By One All Day"**

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"Howdy, lem," my grandfather said with his eyes  
closed  
Wiping the eastbound dust from his sunburned brow  
A life before doubt.

I smell the engine grease and mint the wind is blending  
Under the moan of rotting elm in the silo floor.

Down a hill of pine tree quills we made our way  
To the bottom and the ferns where thick moss grows  
Beside a stream.

Under the rocks are snails and we can fill our pockets  
And let them go one by one all day in a brand new  
place.

You were no ordinary drain on her defenses  
And she was no ordinary girl  
Oh, Inverted World  
If every moment of our lives  
Were cradled softly in the hands of some strange and  
gentle child  
I'd not roll my eyes so.

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