

## The Elms

# "Unless God Appears First"

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I was born beside the Erie in the summertime,  
And lived inside the rust buckle 'till the age of nine.  
I broke the rules of the preacher and his blessed little  
wife.

I turned the left side of truth into the center of life,  
I pulled the grey and the gold out of the black and the  
white.  
I've got a heart that's full of equal parts of fear and  
faith, and they say...  
Unless God appears first, I will die that way.

I sing sad songs.  
I get high some.  
I got nothin' to prove,  
Baby winnin' or lose I'm the same... and I say  
Unless God appears first, I will die this way.

I remember kissin' Julie on a Friday night  
I told her she was the one and then she let me inside.  
I stole the trust of a woman who was only ever kind.

I called her after a year, in a moment of need  
She didn't mention that night or ask no penance of me.  
I was convicted and forgiven in an instant on that day.  
And I say, unless God appears first, I got debts to pay.

I sing sad songs.  
I get high some.  
I got nothin' to prove,  
Baby winnin' or lose I'm the same... and I say  
Unless God appears first, I will die this way.

And if heaven comes, or I hear it calling  
From the mansions behind pearly gates...  
I'll go at night, or on horses of fire  
Through whirlwind and wire  
With a grin on my face.  
Unless God appears first, I will fly away.

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