

## Iris Van Straten

### "The River"

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I come from down in the valley  
where mister when you're young  
They bring you up to do like your daddy done  
Me and Mary we met in high school  
when she was just seventeen  
We'd ride out of that valley down to where the fields  
were green

We'd go down to the river  
And into the river we'd dive  
Oh down to the river we'd ride

Then I got Mary pregnant  
and man that was all she wrote  
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a  
wedding coat  
We went down to the courthouse  
and the judge put it all to rest  
No wedding day smiles no walk down the aisle  
No flowers no wedding dress

That night we went down to the river  
And into the river we'd dive  
Oh down to the river we did ride

I got a job working construction for the Johnstown  
Company  
But lately there ain't been much work on account of the  
economy  
Now all them things that seemed so important  
Well mister they vanished right into the air  
Now I just act like I don't remember  
Mary acts like she don't care

But I remember us riding in my brother's car  
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir  
At night on them banks I'd lie awake  
And pull her close just to feel each breath she'd take  
Now those memories come back to haunt me  
they haunt me like a curse  
Is a dream a lie if it don't come true

Or is it something worse  
that sends me down to the river  
though I know the river is dry  
That sends me down to the river tonight  
Down to the river  
my baby and I  
Oh down to the river we ride

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