

## Empire Falls

Chris Thile

I envy the quiet lives that for all I know don't exist  
Outside of a lazy book that won a Pulitzer Prize  
I picked up 'cause you said it opened up your eyes.

I'm wired now and will be 'til I find a person who could eat at  
the Empire Grill  
Who's seen a black mercedes at the textile mill  
and spreads the word to all the folks expression hasn't killed.

I'll follow that car down to Boston, and ask what it wanted in  
Maine.  
Coffee at least for my trouble, and I'll be a hero if I came back  
with something to say . . .

Too late, they wouldn't like me there  
and though they might not mind my inquisitive stare,  
every single one of them is too polite to care  
why I'm enchanted by a way of life in disrepair,  
but I'm not taking apple pie eating, Jack and Coke drinking, hopeful  
lie telling, anywhere,  
America, through camera eyes, On a Hollywood body that could make  
you all cry.

Maybe I'll go to the movies (a comedy would be ideal.  
Something that probably won't happen) 'cause this made up town  
is much too real.