

## Back to the Wall

Steve Earle

Well sometimes in the evenings I start to get that feeling  
Like I'm empty inside  
I know I'm doin' good now but tonight I'm headed downtown  
Down by the riverside

I sit underneath the freeway with an old friend from the old da  
ys  
And a bottle of wine  
Well he used to call me "big time", and he knew someday that I'  
d shine  
Said he'd seen all the signs  
He said . .

"keep yourself to yourself  
Keep your bedroll dry  
And boy you never can tell  
What the shadows hide  
Keep ene eve on the ground  
Pick up whatever you find  
'cause you've got no place to fall  
When your back's to the wall"

He's gettin' old and it's showin' when I asked him how it's goi  
n'  
He said "i've seen better I guess  
I've been rained on, I've been frozen, but this here's the life  
I've chosen  
If it just wasn't for the loneliness"

Now this river suits me to a t. but if you're trying to raise a  
family  
It ain't no place to be  
There's a kid down by the dump there, ought to be in grade scho  
ol somewhere  
Now he hangs out with me  
And I told him . . ."

Well we finished off the bottle and I told him, "joe I think I o  
ught to  
Be headed uptown"  
Well it was late, and I'd been drinkin', drivin' home I got to  
thinkin'  
'bout what's been going down

Cause they're nervous down on wall street, but they're trying t  
o keep it upbeat  
Or maybe they just don't care  
But down at the river eyes are burnin' cause they feel the tabl

es turnin'

So if you wind up down there . . .