

# I'm Not From Here

James McMurtry

I'm not from here  
I just live here  
grew up somewhere far away  
come here thinking I'd never stay long  
I'd be going back soon someday

it's been a few years  
since I got here  
seen 'em come and I've seen 'em go  
crowds assemble, they hang out awhile  
then they melt away like an early snow

onto some bright future somewhere  
down the road to points unknown  
sending postcards when they get there  
wherever it is they think they're goin'

I'm not from here  
I just live here  
can't see that it matters much  
I read the papers and I watch the nightly news  
who's to say I'm out of touch

nobody's from here  
most of us just live here  
locals long since moved away  
sold the played-out farms for parking lots  
went off looking for a better way

onto some bright future somewhere  
better times on down the road  
wonder if they ever got there  
wherever it was they thought they'd go

hit my home town  
a couple years back  
hard to say just how it felt  
but it looked like so many towns I might've been through  
on my way to somewhere else

I'm not from here  
but people tell me  
it's not like it used to be  
they say I should have been here  
back about ten years  
before it got ruined by folks like me

we can't help it  
we just keep moving  
it's been that way since long ago  
since the stone age, chasing the great herds  
we mostly go where we have to go

onto some bright future somewhere  
down the road to points unknown  
sending post cards when we get there  
wherever it is we think we'll go