

# Time, As a Symptom

Joanna Newsom

Time passed hard  
And the task was the hardest thing she'd ever do  
But she forgot  
The moment she saw you

So it would seem to be true:  
When cruel birth debases, we forget  
When cruel death debases  
We believe it erases all the rest  
That precedes

But stand brave, life-liver  
Bleeding out your days  
In the river of time  
Stand brave:  
Time moves both ways

In the nullifying, defeating, negating, repeating  
Joy of life  
The nullifying, defeating, negating, repeating  
Joy of life

The moment of your greatest joy sustains:  
Not axe nor hammer  
Tumor, tremor  
Can take it away, and it remains  
It remains

And it pains me to say, I was wrong  
Love is not a symptom of time  
Time is just a symptom of love

And the nullifying, defeating, negating, repeating  
Joy of life  
The nullifying, defeating, negating, repeating  
Joy of life

Hardly seen, hardly felt -  
Deep down where your fight is waiting  
Down 'till the light in your eyes is fading:  
Joy of life  
Where I know that you can yield, when it comes down to it  
Bow like the field when the wind combs through it:  
Joy of life  
And every little gust that chances through  
Will dance in the dust of me and you  
With joy-of-life  
And in our perfect secret-keeping:  
One ear of corn  
In silent, reaping  
Joy of life

Joy! Again, around - a pause, a sound - a song:  
A way a lone a last a loved a long  
A cave, a grave, a day: arise, ascend  
(Areion, Rharian, go free and graze. Amen.)

A shore, a tide, unmoored - a sight, abroad:  
A dawn, unmarked, undone, undarked (a god)  
No time. No flock. No chime, no clock. No end  
White star, white ship - Nightjar, transmit: transcend!

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