

# The River

Kyla La Grange

When I was 10 years old I always needed to be told  
That I should not be frightened by the fact that we grow old  
But as the days slipped by I felt the pressing need to cry  
And I quickly understood exactly why they'd had to lie

In the daylight I could cope, because the sun seemed full of hope  
I laughed enough for two grown men and learnt I could tell jokes  
But sadness has a subtle face and then it came to gloat  
We heard about the girl and boy hung by their skipping rope

Isn't it too hard to conceive  
Doesn't it bring you to your knees?  
And all I want to do  
is to float with the river so free.

Now, fear is not a gentle thing although it has no fists  
It crawls down from your thoughts and ties you by your skinny wrists  
Death will take your lips from you so that you cannot kiss  
But fear will leave you screaming out for all the love you'll miss

And I had a friend who thought he knew exactly where he stood  
A place in heaven's safe for him as long as he did good  
But life and love ran through his veins and opened up his mind  
Now he's got his gun but a new terror sings at night

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And Larkin is the master in this poetry of fear  
But he could never capture what cried darkly in his ears  
And he would understand that though I wrote these words to sing  
These petty verses cannot hope to tell you anything

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So everyday I'll stop these thoughts before they'll take a hold  
Lying in my bed pretending that I won't grow old  
And maybe when I'm 84 I'll sit and sing this song  
Just hope tht if I do then this fear is dead and gone

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