Idonia

Robyn Hitchcock

When I saw you on the market, standing by the phone With your hair as dark as this, how could you be alone All the ghosts in love with you, they craned their sorry necks Like a Viennese machine that's just discovered sex When I saw you on the bridge, you had to look away If I thought to follow you, I'd just get in the way Reaching for eternity, reaching for a chair Reaching for the woman who is never even there, boys Never even there When I saw your fingers folded round your albatross Staring through the kitchen wall at everything you've lost Losing comes so easily when you acquire the taste Life is long and life is lost and life is such a waste, boys Life is just a waste See the wrinkles in my hand, I am the lizard's son Waiting for the alchemist to touch me with the sun When I saw your photograph, I knew we'd never meet You were called Idonia, and I stayed in the street, boys I stayed in the street When I saw your eyes were closed, that was the best thing yet Then you drove a caravan across this flimsy set Crushed beneath your wheels still, my heart goes beating on Beating for Idonia and everything she's done, boy Everything she's done When I saw your pharaoh coming, handsome gypsy lad With his memory still wet from all the fun he had Funny how your ceiling is somebody else's floor Feeling for Idonia beside a market store, boys Who won't be back no more