

## Beautiful Despair (For James)

Rodney Crowell

Beautiful despair is hearing Dylan  
When you're drunk at 3 a.m.  
Knowing that the chances are  
No matter what you'll never write like him

Oh, brother

Beautiful despair is why you lean  
Into this world without restraint  
'Cause somewhere out before you  
Lies the masterpiece you'd sell your soul to paint

Oh, brother  
What do we laugh or cry

Beautiful despair  
Beautiful despair

Beautiful despair is slouching forward  
Toward a past you might regret  
All to suck the marrow out  
Of every magic moment that you get

Beautiful despair is playing safe  
When you were once a rebel child  
Knowing that tomorrow comes  
And all you've done is last another mile

Oh, brother  
Oh, dear brother  
Oh, my brother  
What shall we drink or dry?