

MY PEARL FOR JANIS JOPLIN

prey & feral off a growl
tongue/ strangers/ clap
to the bricks in your throat/
we just want your pulse
on a gilded poster/ songs
burst/ from bloody twanged
lips as the texas/ gut
punches still haunt
from the jungle gym/ days/
always the twirl/ of burnt
embers licking port author's
blank plain/ little white/ girl
with the big city voice/ vibrates
in juke joints as etta sings
your breaking pain/ backwards/
but all those pin/ pricks
numb/ spirituals that once shook/
so I will just whisper secrets/
it will mean more /
I saw a picture of you/
you were swigging/ whiskey

like a bad day/ I wanted to kiss you/ then