

Sweet James- An Elegy

I remember James
Listening
To my blues renditions
Of Sweet Jane
And When the Levee
Breaks
In a little joint called
Tippy's Cafe

West of the wild side
My guitar
And raw emotion
Inspired by
Personal tragedies
Expressed for an
Intrepid company
Who found a place
Named for
The owner's dog

Maddie May under age
Tending bar
In a New York
Long gone
Taking care of us
With Rolling Rock
And a smile
She lit the decadent dark
While a parade of sexy
Rebels
Took place nightly
Right outside

I remember James

As a man of quality
Caring deeply for
Craftsmen
And integrity

I remember James and
His intensity
How he could not
Tolerate
Mediocrity

I remember James
And his neon blue eyes
That saw only
What could be
When people focused
On perfection
And how that
Would set us free

I do remember James
And that fateful
Night
When he asked me to
Linger
But I declined

Siting some
Early work day
With such short sight
For how was I to know
I would be the last to see him
Before he took his life

Dear James,

I will never forget you
I will keep your spirit alive
Singing your song
To everyone
Deep into
The perfect night