**ALMA**

Back Home With The Family

For God Knows How Long

Time Passes, Dow n South, In A Mostly Non Linear Way

Nearing Thirty, Nearing Broke

Just Trying To Stay Strong

And Mostly Just Trying To Remind My Gay Self I’m Still Gay

There’s a Gay Bar In Alma, Arkansas

It’s The Saddest

Gay Bar That Anyone Ever Saw

It’s So Bad, It’s

Barely The Size of A Closet

And Yes I See The Irony There

Just Warm White Wine

And A Patient Line

For The One Stray Folding Chair

Yeah, There’s A Gay Bar In Alma, Arkansas

The Bathroom’s Sinking.

The Talent Is Inhumane and Raw;

Two Squirrels Lip Synching

The Only Gay Bar In Alma

For The State’s Six or Seven Gay Men

The Only Gay Bar For Miles Around

A Blink And You’ll Miss It Burial Ground

Like Stepping Into Rise Bar’s Lost And Found

I Wish That I Was Back In Hell’s Kitchen Again

The People Here Don’t Know Culture

Their Taste In Music Makes Me Groan

It’s Just The Cha Cha Slide and the Cotton Eyed Joe—

No, Not Even Worth a Stonewall Brick Thrown

But As I Stand In The Corner

I Watch Some Twink On The Dance Floor

Simply Living, Simply Giving All He’s Got

I Take Another Shot And See A

Pair of Old Queens By The Coat Check

Groovin Like They’re Still 24

It’s Their Kingdom, It’s Their Favorite Social Spot

So, Maybe One More Shot,

And Then The Bartender Starts Belting

At A Karaoke Machine

Giving Choices—Serving Britney, In Her Prime

Am I Crazy or Am I Having A Wonderful Time?

Here in this Gay Bar in Alma, Arkansas

Or is this Stockholm

Syndrome, like Patty Hearst once saw

I’m Quick to Knock Home

And All Its Southern Discomfort

And Lack of Sights To Be Seen

But Each Arkansan Queer

They Don’t Worry Round Here

If Their Grindr Is An Empty Screen

They’ve Got Their Gay Bar In Alma, Arkansas

I Keep Returning

Maybe, It’s Not Without A Flaw

But I Keep Learning

The Only Gay Bar In Alma

Is Still A Place To Feel Free

Sure The Place Could Use A Little More Upkeep

But Joy Can Still Be Found Within A Garbage Heap

Cus Sometimes Home Is Simply Where The Drinks Are Cheap

I’m here for now and

There’s Nowhere Else I’d Rather Be

Then In This Gay Bar In Alma