

## Stars & Rats

Hamilton Leithauser

Well, that crooked voice came creaking out  
Through the frosted glass of a cocktail lounge  
Well, I love your voice, full of salt and oil

Stars are burning behind the clouds  
Rats are running the sidewalks down  
Well, your pitch is loose, and your words are sour

But they pick me up, and they get me going  
From the windy streets to the dusty dawn  
To the 79th Street bus going home tonight

I was told you had a choice  
And your blood was burning again  
So I stared past the new dawn  
And I did what everyone did

Ice in your throat with the radio hissing  
As you burn all the breath in your lungs

Now the bells will ring and the sun will rise  
And the room goes red in my haloed eyes  
I'm farther away now, but your star is bright

I was told you had a choice  
And your blood was burning again  
So I stared past the star-filled morning  
And I did what everyone did

But you're stronger than that now  
You won't need our hearts again  
You can stare down the road you came  
Goodnight, that's all that there is