

XXIII

buncha hardboil guys frum duh A.C. fulla
 hooch kiddin eachudder bout duh clap an
 talkin big how dey could kill
 sixereight cops—"I sidesteps im an draws
 back huly jeezus"—an—"my
 specialty is takin fellers' goils away
 frum dem"—"somebody hung uh gun on
 Marcus"—"duh Swede rolls down tree flights an Sam
 begins boxin im on duh
 koib"—you
 know
 alotta sweet bull like dat

...suddenly
 i feels so lonely fer duh good ole days we
 spent in '18 kickin duh guts outa dem
 doity frog eaters an humpin duh
 swell janes on
 duh boolleverages an wid tears
 streamin down my face i hauls
 out uh flask an offers it tuh duh whole gang accrost
 duh table—"fellers
 have some
 on
 me"—dey was petrified.

De room swung roun an crawled up into
 itself,
 an awful big light squoits down my spine like
 i was dead er sumpn:next i

knows me(er
 somebody is sittin in uh green
 field watchin four crows drop into
 sunset,playin uh busted harmonica