

Dark Swift and Bright Swallow (Martin Simpson)

1. April sun on Slapton Leigh,
Between the lagoon and the haunted sea
I was thinking of war and cruelty
When spring's first swallow split the sky
And I was lifted above all care
As the swallow swung through the salted air
Come from savannah and desert and sea
To mark another year for me.

2. The sailor's tattoo like a prayer on my arm
To bring me home and safe from harm
Though rocks may melt and seas may burn
Dark swift and bright swallow shall always return
Bright swallow, sweet spirit of stockyard and barn
You lighten our day with all of your charms
Bring hope to the sailor upon the wide sea
And mark another year for me.

3. Swift scythe and scream through city dust
Late to come and first to leave
But come they do and leave they must
Hot August nights their absence grieve
And how we miss their impudent glee
This devil's bitch, this mystery
This sprite that sleeps upon the breeze
Flies and feeds behind the store

4. April sun on Slapton Leigh,
Between the lagoon and the haunted sea
I was thinking of war and cruelty
When spring's first swallow split the sky
And I was lifted above all care
As the swallow swung through the salted air
Come from savannah and desert and sea
To mark another year for me
For you, my love and eternity.