



Magnolia Electric Co.

"Hold On Magnolia"

*The Magnolia Electric Co.*

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Secretly Canadian

# Elegy for Jason Molina

Andrew Jones

*You might be holding the last light I see*

—Magnolia Electric Co.

You unfolded those old gas-station maps  
in basement bars, carried me over highways,  
& past lies waiting to trip me up. Songs lifted the moon  
like a lantern & passed it over our secrets  
giving shape to the tenuous fibers of recognition.  
You charted a course of fallen stars toward home.

You hinted at leaving: silence in the songs  
like deep valleys vanquishing the North Star.  
Yet departure, like the moment beyond a flash  
of lightning, only deepened the darkness & rocked  
the whippoorwills from their night branches.  
Who would walk the midnight bridges with me now?

My guilt: wanting to keep you for myself.  
I'd forgotten others navigate your catalogue  
of verses. But this summer, between thunder & rain,  
another voice lifted one of your melodies from a stage  
in a barn. I remembered to hold on to the ghosts  
I know, and look for the ghosts who know we'll be coming.