

## Liquid Dreams

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### Heat

Here in the electric dusk your naked lover  
tips the glass high and the ice cubes fall against her teeth.  
It's beautiful Susan, her hair sticky with gin,  
Our Lady of Wet Glass-Rings on the Album Cover,  
streaming with hatred in the heat  
as the record falls and the snake-band chords begin  
to break like terrible news from the Rolling Stones,  
and such a last light—full of spheres and zones.  
August,  
    you're just an erotic hallucination,  
just so much feverishly produced kazoo music,  
are you serious?—this large oven impersonating night,  
this exhaustion mutilated to resemble passion,  
the bogus moon of tenderness and magic  
you hold out to each prisoner like a cup of light?

Denis Johnson  
1995

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Source: Denis Johnson, *The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium General Assembly* (HarperCollins Publishers, 1995)