

Winter 2012

Small Town

Yang Jian

Ye Chun

Gillian Parrish

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jian, Yang; Ye Chun; and Gillian Parrish. "Small Town." *The Iowa Review* 42.3 (2012): 54 Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.7215>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

SMALL TOWN

From the cabin radio, the song "River Water,"
the glittering silt-like pain
no longer there in the voice,
instead, the dejection after desire's failure.
In a teahouse called Three or Five Dou,
three or four peasants,
like dried corpses,
sit by a table of cards,
looking at one another,
evading each other's eyes,
looking again, evading again.
There's nothing left here.
The silence here is not silence
but weariness after blackmail.
In the deep alleys,
a man kept running by a dog leash
never knows he is a man kept running by a dog leash.
This is a small town submerged in water,
and few want to run away.