

# 10,000 Maniacs, Maddox Table

[ music: Natalie Merchant/lyric: Natalie Merchant ]

the legs of Maddox kitchen tables  
my whole life twisted on a lathe  
in a foreman's torrent  
my first English was  
"faster boy if you want your pay"  
barking commands  
loud and simple  
we could all obey

then I was forever pulling silvers  
rubbed the sawdust always  
deeper in my eye  
varnish vapor that could linger  
on my skin  
it held tight  
the whine of spinning blades  
still echoes to bother my sleep at night

see that ox  
stamped dead center  
on the letter head of the company mail  
four decades a spitting image  
of the animal I portrayed  
at Maddox Table a yoke was carved  
for my neck

sun through the window oil spattered  
and in mason jars  
tricked plenty seeds thrive  
the standing joke  
around the shop was  
with my green thumb  
anything'd grow  
my part was to laugh  
show and ornery jig had  
cut it at the knuckle bone

see that ox  
trade mark burned  
into every stick of furniture  
from horn to tail  
four decades a spitting image  
of the animal I portrayed  
at Maddox Table a yoke was carved  
for my neck

was tailor made

o my Dolly was a weak  
not a burdened girl  
treat her to a piece of vaudeville  
a Wintergarden moving picture show  
Bemus Point on July Sundays  
by trolley we'd go

to your benefit we's strike or bargain  
with the waving fist a union man  
not just for  
smokes spirits candy and cologne  
but for

automobile keys  
cash in the bank  
and the deed  
on a place called home