

fade as **Linda** misses all three shots. **Mickey** and **Edward** turn on **Linda** in mock anger. They are stopped by the rifle range man throwing them a coconut which is used as a ball for a game of piggy-in-the-middle. When **Linda** is caught in the middle the game freezes.

And who'd dare tell the lambs in spring,
What fate the later seasons bring.
Who'd tell the girl in the middle of the pair
The price she'll pay for just being there.

Throughout the following we see Linda, Mickey and Edward sitting their action to the words — coming out of the chip shop, talking, lighting a cigarette by the lamp post.

But leave them alone, let them go and play
They care not for what's at the end of the day.
For what is to come, for what might have been,
Life has no ending when you're sweet sixteen
And your friends are with you to talk away the night,
Or until Mrs Wong switches off the chippy light.
Then there's always the corner and the street lamp's
glare
An' another hour to spend, with your friends, with her,
To share your last cigarette and your secret dream
At the midnight hour, at seventeen.

Throughout the following we see Linda, Mickey and Edward, as if at the beach, Linda taking a picture of Mickey and Edward, arms around each other camping it for the camera but eventually giving good and open smiles. Mickey taking a picture of Edward and Linda. Edward down on one knee and kissing her hand. Edward taking a picture of Mickey and Linda. Mickey pulling a distorted face, Linda waggling a finger at him. Mickey chastened. Linda raising her eyebrows and putting one of his arms round her. Linda moving forward and taking the camera. Linda waving the Narrator to snap them. He goes. Linda showing the Narrator how to operate the camera. Linda, Mickey and Edward, grouped together, arms around each other as the Narrator takes the picture. They get the camera and wave their thanks to the Narrator.

It's just another ferry boat, a trip to the beach

But everything is possible, the world's within your reach
An' you don't even notice broken bottles in the sand
The oil in the water and you can't understand
How living could be anything other than a dream
When you're young, free and innocent and just eighteen.

Linda, Mickey and Edward exit.

And only if the three of them could stay like that forever,
And only if we could predict no changes in the weather,
And only if we didn't live in life, as well as dreams
And only if we could stop and be forever, just eighteen.

We see Edward waiting by a street lamp. Linda approaches, sees him, and goes into a street walk.

Linda Well, hallo, sweetie pie; looking for a good time? Ten to seven (*She laughs*). Good time . . . ten to seven . . . it was a joke . . . I mean, I know it was a lousy joke but y' could at least go into hysterics!

Edward smiles.

That's hysterics?

Edward Where's Mickey?

Linda He must be workin' overtime.

Edward Oh.

Linda What's wrong with you, misery?

Edward (*after a pause*) I go away to university tomorrow.

Linda Tomorrow! You didn't say.

Edward I know. I think I've been pretending that if I didn't mention it the day would never come. I love it when we're together, the three of us, don't you?

Linda nods.

Can I write to you?

Linda Yeh . . . yeh, if you want.

Edward Would Mickey mind?

Linda Why should he?

Edward Come on . . . because you're his girl friend.

Linda No, I'm not.

Edward You are, Linda.

Linda I'm not, he hasn't asked me.

Edward (*laughing*) You mean he still hasn't?

Linda (*laughing*) No.

Edward But it's ridiculous.

Linda I know. I hope for his sake he never has to ask me to marry him. He'll be a pensioner before he gets around to it.

Edward (*after a pause*) He's mad. If I was Mickey I would have asked you years ago.

Linda I know you would. Cos y' soft you are.

Edward (*singing*) If I could stand inside his shoes I'd say,
How can I compare thee to a summer's day

Linda (*speaking*) Oh go away . . .

Edward I'd take a page in all the papers, I'd announce it on the news

If I was the guy, if I

Was in his shoes.

If I was him I'd bring you flowers

And ask you to dance

We'd while away the hours making future plans

For rainy days in country lanes

And trips to the sea.

I'd just tell you that I love you

If it was me.

But I'm not saying a word,

I'm not saying I care,

Though I would like you to know,

That I'm not saying a word,

I'm not saying I care,
Though I would like you to know.

If I was him I'd have to tell you,
What I've kept in my heart,

That even if we had to live
Some worlds apart

There would not be a day
In which I'd not think of you.

If I was him, if I was him.
That's what I'd do.

But I'm not saying a word

I'm not saying I care

Though I would like you to know

That I'm not saying a word,

I'm not saying I care,

Though I would like you to know.

Edward But I'm not.

Linda What?

Edward Mickey.

Mickey *enters*

Mickey!

Mickey Hi-ya, Ed. Lind.

Linda Where've y' been?

Mickey I had to do overtime. I hate that soddin' place.

Edward Mickey. I'm going away tomorrow . . . to University.

Mickey What? Y' didn't say.

Edward I know . . . but the thing is I won't be back until Christmas. Three months. Now you wouldn't want me to continue in suspense for all that time would you?

Linda What are you on about?

Eddie Will you talk to Linda.

Linda Oh Eddie . . .

Edward Go on . . . go on.

Mickey *turns and goes to her. Linda tries to keep a straight face.*

Mickey Erm . . . well, the er thing is . . . Linda, I've erm . . .
(*Quickly*) Linda for Christ's sake will you go out with me?

Linda (*just as quickly*) Yeh.

Mickey Oh . . . erm . . . Good. Well, I suppose I better . . .
well . . . er . . . come here . . . (*He quickly embraces and kisses*

Linda)

Linda (*fighting for air*) My God. Y' take y' time gettin' goin' but then there's no stoppin' y'!

Mickey I know . . . come here . . .

They kiss again. Edward turns and begins to leave.

Eddie . . . Eddie where y' goin'?' I thought we were all goin' the club. There's a dance.

Edward No . . . I've got to, erm, I've got to pack for tomorrow.

Mickey Are y' sure?

Edward *nods.*

See y' at Christmas then, Eddie? Listen, I'm gonna do loads of overtime between now and then, so the Christmas party's gonna be on me . . . right?

Edward Right. It's a deal, Mick. See you.

Linda *rushes across and kisses Edward lightly.*

Linda Thanks Eddie.

Mickey Yeh, Eddie . . . thanks.

Linda and Mickey, *arms around each other, watch him go.*

They turn and look at each other.

Mickey and Linda *exit.*

The lights crossfade to the Johnstone house.

Mickey *enters and prepares to go to work.*

Mrs Johnstone *enters with Mickey's lunch bag.*

The Narrator enters.

It was one day in October when the sun began to fade,
And winter broke the promise that summer had just
made,

It was one day in October when the rain came falling
down,

And someone said the bogey man was seen around the
town.

The Narrator exits.

Mrs Johnstone Y' gonna be late Mick. I don't want you
gettin' the sack an' spendin' your days idlin' round like our
Sammy. Come on.

Mickey, *instead of making an effort to go, stands looking at her.*

Mickey Mam!

Mrs Johnstone What?

Mickey What!

Mrs Johnstone Come on.

Mickey Mam. Linda's pregnant!

A moment.

Mrs Johnstone Do you love her?

Mickey Yeh!

Mrs Johnstone When's the weddin'?

Mickey We thought, about a month . . . before Christmas
anyway. Mam, could we live here for a bit?

She looks at him and nods.

Are you mad?

Mrs Johnstone At you? Some hypocrite I'd be. No... I'm not mad son. I'm just thinkin'... you've not had much of a life with me, have y'?

Mickey Don't be stupid, course I have. You're great, you are, Mam. (*He gives her a quick kiss.*) T'arra I'd better get a move on. They've started layin' people off in the other factory y' know. T'arra, Mam. Thanks.

Mickey exits.

Music.

Mrs Johnstone watches him go. As *Miss Jones*' begins she whips off her overall and a wedding suit is underneath. She acquires a hat.

A wedding party assembles. Mickey remains in his working clothes.

Linda is in white. Other guests are suitably attired. A Managing Director enters and sings as his secretary Miss Jones, takes notes.

Mr Lyons (*singing*) Take a letter, Miss Jones (*quote*)

I regret to inform you,
That owing to circumstances
Quite beyond our control.
It's a premature retirement
For those surplus to requirement,
I'm afraid it's a sign of the times,
Miss Jones,
An unfortunate sign of the times.

Throughout the next verse we see the wedding party wave goodbye to Mickey who goes to work, only to have his cards given to him when he gets there.

Take a letter, Miss Jones,
Due to the world situation
The shrinking pound, the global slump,
And the price of oil
I'm afraid we must fire you,
We no longer require you,
It's just another
Sign of the times,

Miss Jones,
A most miserable sign of the times.

The Guests at the wedding become a line of men looking for work. Mickey joins them as Linda watches. They are constantly met with shaking heads and by the end of the following verse have assembled in the dole office.

Take a letter Miss Jones, of course we'll
Let the workforce know when
Inflation's been defeated
And recession is no more.
And for the moment we suggest
You don't become too depressed
As it's only a sign
Of the times,
Miss Jones,
A peculiar sign of the times.
Take a letter Miss Jones:
My dear Miss Jones, we'd like to thank you
Many years of splendid service,
Excetarra blah blah blah
You've been a perfect poppet
Yes that's right Miss Jones, you've got it
It's just another sign
Of the times,
Miss Jones, it's
Just another sign of the times.

He shows her the door. Crying she approaches the dole queue but then hesitates. The men in the queue take up the song.

Dole-ites Dry your eyes, Miss Jones
It's not as bad as it seems (you)
Get used to being idle
In a year or two.
Unemployment's such a pleasure
These days, we call it leisure
It's just another sign
Of the times,

Miss Jones, it's
just another sign of the times.

Mickey leaves the group and stands apart. **Miss Jones** takes his place. *Behind Mickey* we can see **Linda** and his **Mother**.

There's a young man on the street, Miss Jones,
He's walkin' round in circles,

He's old before his time,
But still too young to know.

Don't look at him, don't cry though
This living on the Giro

Is only a sign of the times,
Miss Jones, it's

Just another sign of the times.

As they exit.

Miss Jones,

It's just another sign of the times . . .

Crowd exits.

Mickey is left alone, sitting dejected. *We hear Christmas bells.*

Edward enters in a duffle coat and college scarf, unseen by **Mickey**.

Edward creeps up behind **Mickey** and puts his hands over his eyes.

Edward Guess who?

Mickey Father Christmas.

Edward (*leaping out in front of them*) Mickey . . . (*Laughing.*)
Merry Christmas.

Mickey, unamused, looks at **Edward** and then looks away.

Come on then . . . I'm back, where's the action, the booze, the
Christmas parties, the music and the birds.

No reaction.

What's wrong, Mickey?

Mickey Nothin'. How's University?

Edward Mickey, it's fantastic. I haven't been to so many

parties in my life. And there's just so many tremendous
people, but you'll meet them Mick, some of them, Baz,
Ronnie and Clare and oh, lots of them. They're coming over
to stay for the New Year, for the party. Ooh it's just . . . it's
great, Mickey.

Mickey Good.

Edward Come on, what's wrong? It's nearly Christmas, we
were going to do everything. How's Linda?

Mickey She's OK.

Edward (*trying again to rally him*) Well, come on then, let's go
then . . . come on.

Mickey Come on where?

Edward Mickey, what's wrong?

Mickey You. You're a dick head!

Edward is slightly unsure but laughs anyway.

There are no parties arranged. There is no booze or music.
Christmas? I'm sick to the teeth of Christmas an' it isn't even
here yet. See, there's very little to celebrate, Eddie. Since you
left I've been walking around all day, every day, lookin' for a
job.

Edward What about the job you had?

Mickey It disappeared. (*Pause*) Y' know somethin', I
bleedin' hated that job, standin' there all day never doin'
nothin' but put cardboard boxes together. I used to get . . .
used to get terrified that I'd have to do it for the rest of me life.
But, but after three months of nothin', the same answer
everywhere, nothin', nothin' down for y', I'd crawl back to
that job for half the pay and double the hours. Just . . . just
makin' up boxes it was. But after bein' fucked off from
everywhere, it seems like it was paradise.

Pause.

Edward Why . . . why is a job so important? If I couldn't

get a job I'd just say, sod it and draw the dole, live like a bohemian, tilt my hat to the world and say 'screw you'. So you're not working. Why is it so important?

Mickey (*looking at him*) You don't understand anythin' do ye? I don't wear a hat that I could tilt at the world.

Edward Look . . . come on . . . I've got money, plenty of it. I'm back, let's forget about bloody jobs, let's go and get Linda and celebrate. Look, look, money, lots of it, have some . . . (*He tries to throw some notes into Mickey's hands.*)

Mickey No. I don't want your money, stuff it.

He throws the notes to the ground. Edward picks them up and stands looking at Mickey.

Eddie, just do me a favour an' piss off, will ye?

Edward I thought, I thought we always stuck together. I thought we were . . . were blood brothers.

Mickey That was kids' stuff, Eddie. Didn't anyone tell y' (*He looks at Edward.*) But I suppose you still are a kid, aren't ye?

Edward I'm exactly the same age as you, Mickey.

Mickey Yeh. But you're still a kid. An' I wish I could be as well Eddie, I wish I could still believe in all that blood brother stuff. But I can't, because while no one was looking I grew up. An' you didn't, because you didn't need to; an' I don't blame y' for it Eddie. In your shoes I'd be the same, I'd still be able to be a kid. But I'm not in your shoes, I'm in these, lookin' at you. An' you make me sick, right? That was all just kids' stuff, Eddie, an' I don't want to be reminded of it. Right? So just, just take yourself away. Go an' see your friends an' celebrate with them.

Pause.

Go on . . . beat it before I hit y'.

Edward looks at Mickey and then slowly backs away. Sammy approaches Mickey as, on the other side, we see Linda hurrying on

passing Edward who stops and calls.

Edward Linda!

Sammy Mickey.

Edward Linda.

Reluctantly she stops, goes back a few paces

Hello, Linda.

Linda Hello, Eddie.

Edward Why haven't you called to see me?

Linda I heard you had friends, I didn't like butting in.

Edward You'd never be butting in and you know it. It wouldn't matter if I never saw those friends again, if I could be with you.

Linda Eddie . . .

Sammy Look, I'm offerin' . . . all we need is someone to keep the eye for us. Look at y' Mickey. What have y' got? Nothin', like me Mam. Where y' takin' y' tart for New Year? Nowhere.

Edward You might as well know, if I'm not going to see you again. I've always loved you, you must have known that.

Sammy We don't *use* the shooters. They're just frighteners. Y' don't need to use them. Everyone behaves when they see a shooter. You won't even be where the action is. Just keep the eye out for us.

Edward I'm sorry.

Sammy Fifty quid Mickey. Fifty quid for an hour's work. Just think where y' could take Linda if you had cash like that.

Edward I'm sorry, Linda.

Linda It's all right. I suppose, I suppose I always . . . loved you, in a way.

Edward Then marry me.

Linda Didn't Mickey tell y'?' We got married two weeks before you came home and I'm expecting a baby.

Mickey Fifty notes?

Sammy nods.

All right.

Sammy Great.

Mickey nods.

Cheer up, will y'?' It's New Year.

Sammy exits.

Edward's friends (*variously; off*) Where's Lyo? Come on Lyons, you pillock, you're supposed to be helping us with the booze. Come on Lyonese. Edward, come on.

Linda I'll see y', Eddie. Happy New Year. (*She moves away.*)

Edward exits

Mickey Linda... Linda.

Linda Are you comin' in?

Mickey Look... I'll be back about eight o'clock. An' listen, get dressed up. I'm takin' y' out.

Linda What?

Mickey We're goin' dancin'. Right? Then we're goin' for a slap-up meal an' tomorrow you can go into town an' get some new clothes.

Linda Oh yeh? Where's the money comin' from?

Mickey I'm... doin' some work...

Linda What?

Mickey Look, stop arguin', will y'?' I'm doin' some work and then I'm takin' you out.

Sammy (*off*) Mickey!

Linda Is that your Sammy?

Mickey Now shut up, Linda. Right, right? Just make sure you're ready at eight... (*He starts to leave.*)

Linda (*as he goes*) Mickey... Mickey... No!

Linda exits.

Mickey moves away.

The Narrator enters.

Sammy enters.

Narrator There's a full moon shining and a joker in the pack,

The dealers dealt the cards, and he won't take them back,

There's a black cat stalking and a woman who's afraid,
That there's no getting off without the price being paid.

We see Mickey, nervously keeping look-out as behind him, as if inside a filling station office, we see Sammy, his back to us, talking to an offstage character.

Sammy Don't piss about with me, pal... I said give!
(*Pause*) Listen, it's not a toy y' know... We're not playin' games. Y' don't get up again if one of these hits y'... What are you doin'? I said listen to me, I... don't you fuckka' touch that... Listen.

An alarm bell is heard, followed by an explosion from the gun. Sammy reels backwards. He and Mickey run and enter their house.

Narrator There's a man lies bleeding on a garage floor,

Sammy Quick, get in the house an' bolt the fuckin' door.

Mickey stands unable to move, tears streaming down his face.

Narrator And maybe, if you counted ten and kept your fingers crossed

It would all be just a game and then no one would have
lost.

Mickey You shot him, you shot him.

Sammy I know I bloody did.

Mickey You shot him, you shot him.

Sammy Move, I've got to get this hid.

Linda (off) Mickey . . . Mickey, is that you?

Sammy Oh, fuck . . . (He quickly pulls back a mat, pulls up a floorboard and puts the gun beneath it.)

Linda enters.

Two Policemen arrive at the house.

Sammy splits out the back. **Mickey** remains silently crying.

Linda goes to him and puts her arms around him. As **Sammy** is being apprehended at the back, the other **Policeman** enters and gently removes **Linda** from **Mickey** and leads him out and into the police station.

Linda But I've ironed him a shirt.

Music.

Mickey, placed in a prison cell, stands quietly crying.

Mrs Johnstone enters.

Mrs Johnstone (singing) The jury found him guilty

Sent him down for seven years,

Though he acted like they gave him life,

He couldn't stop the tears.

And when we went to visit him,

He didn't want to know,

It seems like jail's sent him off the rails,

Just like Marilyn Monroe

His mind's gone dancing

Can't stop dancing

A Doctor enters the cell and examines **Mickey**.

They showed him to a doctor,

And after routine test,

A prescription note the doctor wrote,

For the chronically depressed.

And now the tears have stopped

He sits and counts the days to go

And treats his ills with daily pills

Just like Marilyn Monroe.

The Doctor exits.

They stop his mind from dancing

Stop it dancing.

A prison warder leads Linda into the cell. He indicates a seat opposite Mickey.

Linda What are y' doin'?

Mickey What? I'm takin' me tablet.

Linda Listen, Mickey. I've told y'. They're just junk. You'll be home soon, Mickey, and you should come off them.

Mickey Why? I need . . . I need to take them.

Linda Listen, Mickey, you've . . .

Mickey No! See, he says, the doctor, he said . . .

Linda What did he say?

Mickey He said, about me nerves. An' how I get depressed an' I need to take these cos they make me better . . .

Linda I get depressed but I don't take those. You don't need those, Mickey.

Mickey Leave me alone, will y'? I can't cope with this. I'm not well. The doctor said, didn't he, I'm not well . . . I can't do things . . . leave me alone . . .

The Warder escorts Linda from the cell.

Throughout the following verse Mickey leaves the prison and goes home.

Mrs Johnstone (singing) With grace for good behaviour
He got out before his time

The family and the neighbours told him
He was lookin' fine.

But he's feelin' fifteen years older

And his speech is rather slow

And the neighbours said

You'd think he was dead

Like Marilyn Monroe

No cause for dancing

No more dancing . . .

Linda approaches Mrs Johnstone. Linda is weighed down with shopping bags and is weary.

Mrs Johnstone Linda, where've y' been? We've gotta do somethin' about him. He's been out for months and he's still takin' those pills. Linda, he needs a job, you two need a place of your own an' . . .

Linda Mam . . . Mam that's why I'm late, I've been to see . . . We're movin' at the end of the month. We've got our own place an' I think I've got Mickey a job . . .

Mrs Johnstone Oh, Jesus, thank God. But how . . .

Linda It's all right . . . I . . . someone I know . . .

Mrs Johnstone But . . .

Linda It's all right Mam. Did y' get our Sarah from school?

Mrs Johnstone Yeh, she's in bed, but listen how did y' manage to . . .

Linda Never mind, Mam. Mam, isn't it great, if he's workin' an' we've got our own place he'll be able to get himself together an' stop takin' those friggin' things . . .

They start to leave.

Mrs Johnstone But, listen Linda, who . . .

Linda Oh just some . . . some feller I know. He's . . . he's on the housin' committee. You don't know him, Mam . . .

Mrs Johnstone exits.

Mickey and Linda are in their new house. In the lounge

Linda is preparing Mickey's working things.

(*Shouting*) Mickey, Mickey, come on, you'll be late . . .

Mickey enters his house.

Mickey Where's me . . .

Linda Here . . . here's y' bag. Y' sandwiches are in there.

He ignores the bag and begins looking through a cupboard drawer.

Mickey, what y' lookin' for?

Mickey Y' know what I'm lookin' for.

Linda Mickey, Mickey listen to me . . .

Mickey Where's me tablets gone, Linda?

Linda Mickey you don't need your tablets!

Mickey Linda!

Linda Mickey, You're workin' now, we're livin' on our own — you've got to start makin' an effort.

Mickey Give them to me, Linda.

Linda You promised.

Mickey I know I promised but I can't do without them. I tried. Last week I tried to do without them. By dinner time I was shakin' an' sweating so much I couldn't even work. I need them. That's all there is to it. Now give.

Pause.

Linda Is that it then? Are y' gonna stay on them forever?

Mickey Linda.

Linda Look . . . we've managed to sort ourselves out this far but what's the use if . . .

Mickey We sorted ourselves out? Do you think I'm really stupid?

Linda What?

Mickey I didn't sort anythin' out Linda. Not a job, not a house, nothin'. It used to be just sweets an' ciggies he gave me, because I had none of me own. Now it's a job and a house. I'm not stupid, Linda. You sorted it out. You an' Councillor Eddie Lyons.

Linda *doesn't deny it.*

Now give me the tablets . . . I need them.

Linda An' what about what I need? I need you. I love you. But, Mickey, not when you've got them inside you. When you take those things, Mickey, I can't even see you.

Mickey That's why I take them. So I can be invisible.
(Pause)

Now give me them.

Music. We see Linda hand Mickey her bag.

Mickey *quickly grabs the tablets.*

Mickey *exits.*

The Narrator enters.

The Narrator watches Linda. She moves to telephone, but hesitates.

Narrator There's a girl inside the woman
Who's waiting to get free
She's washed a million dishes
She's always making tea.

Linda *(speaking on the phone)* Could I talk to Councillor Lyons, please?

Narrator There's a girl inside the woman
And the mother she became
And a half remembered song
Comes to her lips again.

Linda *(on the phone)* Eddie, could I talk to you? Yeh, I remember.

Narrator The girl would sing the melody
But the woman stands in doubt
And wonders what the price would be
For letting the young girl out.

Mrs Johnstone *enters.*

Mrs Johnstone *(singing)* It's just a light romance,
It's nothing cruel,
They laid no plans,
How it came,
Who can explain?

Linda *approaches Edward who is waiting at the park fence.*

They just said 'hello',
And foolishly they gazed,
They should have gone
Their separate ways.

The music continues.

Edward Hey. *(He mines firing a gun.)*

Linda Missed.

Edward *laughs, grabbing Linda jokingly. Their smiles fade as they look at each other. Suddenly they kiss. They walk together, hand in hand. All this through the following verse.*

Mrs Johnstone *(singing)* It's just the same old song,
Nothing cruel,
Nothing wrong.
It's just two fools,
Who know the rules,
But break them all,
And grasp at half a chance
To play their part
In a light romance.

Throughout the following chorus we see Mickey at work. We see him go to take his pills. We see him make the effort of not taking them. We see the strain of this upon him but see that he is determined.

Living on the never never,
Constant as the changing weather,
Never sure
Who's at the door,
Or the price
You're gonna have to pay.

We see Linda and Edward kicking up the leaves before parting.

It's just a secret glance,
Across a room.
A touch of hands
That part too soon.
That same old tune
That always plays,
And lets them dance as friends,
Then stand apart,
As the music ends.

During the next chorus Edward and Linda wave goodbye, as Edward and Mickey once did.

Mrs Lyons enters and goes to Mickey.

She turns Mickey round and points out Edward and Linda to him. By the end of the chorus Mickey is hammering on his own door.

Living on the never never,
Constant as the changing weather,
Never sure
Who's at the door
Or the price you're gonna have to pay.

As the music abruptly segues Mickey is heard hammering on his door and calling for Linda, as he once did for his mother. The music pulsates and builds as he runs to his mother's house. He enters and flings back the floorboard to reveal the gun hidden by Sammy.

Mrs Johnstone enters just as Mickey disappears with the gun.

Mrs Johnstone (screaming) Mickey . . . Mickey . . .

We see Mickey comb the town, breaking through groups of people, looking, searching, desperate, not even knowing what he's looking for or

what he is going to do. His mother is frantically trying to catch him but not succeeding.

Narrator There's a man gone mad in the town tonight,
He's gonna shoot somebody down,
There's a man gone mad, lost his mind tonight,
There's a mad man
There's a mad man
There's a mad man running round and round.
Now you know the devil's got your number,
He's runnin' right beside you,
He's screamin' deep inside you,
And someone said he's callin' your number up today.

As Mrs Johnstone makes her way to Linda's house.

There's a mad man/There's a mad man/
There's a mad man.

Mrs Johnstone hammers on Linda's door, shouting her name. Linda, just returning home, comes up behind her.

Linda Mam . . . Mam . . . what's . . .

Mrs Johnstone (out of breath) He's . . . Mickey . . . Mickey's got gun . . .

Linda Mickey? . . . Eddie? . . . The Town Hall . . .

Mrs Johnstone What?

Linda (beginning to run) Eddie Lyon!

Narrator: There's a mad man running round and round
You know the devil's got your number
You know he's right beside you
He's screamin' deep inside you
And someone said he's callin' your number up today
Today
Today
TODAY!

On the last three words of the chorus Mrs Johnstone runs off.

On the last 'Today' the music stops abruptly.

We see Edward, standing behind a table, on a platform.

He is in the middle of addressing his audience. Two Councillors stand either side.

Edward And if, for once, I agree with Councillor Smith, you mustn't hold that against me. But in this particular instance, yes, I do agree with him. You're right, Bob, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Quite right. None of us would argue with you on that score. But what we would question is this, how many of us . . .

From his audience a commotion begins. He thinks he is being heckled and so tries to carry on. In fact his audience is reacting to the sight of Mickey appearing from the stalls, a gun held two-handed, to steady his shaking hands, and pointed directly at Edward. Edward turns and sees Mickey as someone on the platform next to him realizes the reality of the situation and screams.

Mickey Stay where you are!

Mickey stops a couple of yards from Edward. He's unsteady and breathing awkwardly.

Edward (eventually) Hello, Mickey.

Mickey I stopped takin' the pills.

Edward (pause) Oh.

Mickey (eventually) I began thinkin' again. Y' see. (To the Councillor.) Just get her out of here, mister, now!

The Councillors hurry off.

Edward and Mickey are now alone on the platform.

I had to start thinkin' again. Because there was one thing left in my life. (Pause.) Just one thing I had left, Eddie – Linda – an' I wanted to keep her. So, so I stopped takin' the pills. But it was too late. D' y' know who told me about . . . you . . . an' Linda . . . Your mother . . . she came to the factory and told me.

Edward Mickey, I don't know what she told you but Linda and I are just friends . . .

Mickey (shouting for the first time) Friends! I could kill you. We were friends weren't we? Blood brothers, wasn't it? Remember?

Edward Yes, Mickey, I remember.

Mickey Well, how come you got everything . . . an' I got nothin'? (Pause.) Friends. I've been thinkin' again, Eddie. You an' Linda were friends when she first got pregnant, weren't y'?

Edward Mickey!

Mickey Does my child belong to you as well as everythin' else? Does she, Eddie, does she?

Edward (shouting) No, for God's sake!

Pause.

From the back of the auditorium we hear a Policeman through a loudhailer.

Policeman Now listen, son, listen to me, I've got armed marksmen with me. But if you do exactly as I say we won't need to use them, will we? Now look, Michael, put down the gun, just put the gun down, son.

Mickey (dismissing their presence) What am I doin' here Eddie? I thought I was gonna shoot y'. But I can't even do that. I don't even know if the thing's loaded.

Mrs Johnstone slowly walks down the centre aisle towards the platform.

Policeman 2 What's that woman doin'?

Policeman 1 Get that woman away . . .

Policeman 2 Oh Christ.

Mrs Johnstone Mickey. Mickey. Don't shoot him, Mickey . . .

Mickey continues to hold the gun in position

Mickey Go away Mam . . . Mam you go away from here.

Mrs Johnstone No, son. *(She walks on to the platform.)*

Mickey *(shouting)* Mam!

Mrs Johnstone Mickey. Don't shoot Eddie. He's your brother. You had a twin brother. I couldn't afford to keep both of you. His mother couldn't have kids. I agreed to give one of you away!

Mickey *(something that begins deep down inside him)* You! *(Screaming.)* You! Why didn't you give me away! *(He stands glaring at her, almost uncontrollable with rage.)* I could have been . . . I could have been him!

On the word 'him' Mickey waves at Edward with his gun hand.

The gun explodes and blows Edward apart. Mickey turns to the Police screaming the word 'No'. They open fire and four guns explode, blowing Mickey away. Linda runs down the aisle.

The Police are heard through the loudhailer.

Police Nobody move, please. It's all right, it's all over, just stay where you are.

Music.

As the light on the scene begins to dim we see the Narrator watching.

Narrator And do we blame superstition for what came to pass?

Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?

Did you ever hear the story of the Johnstone twins,

As like each other as two new pins,

How one was kept and one given away,

How they were born, and they died, on the self same day?

Mrs Johnstone *(singing)* Tell me it's not true,

Say it's just a story.

Something on the news

Tell me it's not true.

Though it's here before me,
Say it's just a dream,
Say it's just a scene
From an old movie of years ago,
From an old movie of Marilyn Monroe.

Say it's just some clowns,
Two players in the limelight,
And bring the curtain down.

Say it's just two clowns,
Who couldn't get their lines right,
Say it's just a show

On the radio,
That we can turn over and start again,
That we can turn over; it's only a game.

Company Tell me it's not true,
Say I only dreamed it,
And morning will come soon,
Tell me it's not true,
Say you didn't mean it,
Say it's just pretend,
Say it's just the end
Of an old movie from years ago
Of an old movie with Marilyn Monroe.

Curtain