

Preston Miller

Tracy Grammer

He was born in Miller's mansion when the mistress was asleep

 The secret son of the chambermaid and master

 And they sent him into hidin' for his schoolin' and his keep

With the Carlysles and the other lucky bastardsNow his toady tutors fawn and praise the man that he's become

 Though he's taken to the laudenum and faro

He walks the streets like velvet death with his daddy's money on his breath

 And a shame he cannot shake down in his marrow

CHORUS: When day fades to black you must not listen to the killer

 Pretty voices keep you beautiful and bound

 Cause the simple, sorry fact of your existence, Preston Miller

Is enough to bring this house of evil downOne night upon some drunken dare he writes his absent sire

 Sayin' father I would fain come home to meet thee

 And though his worthless friends guffaw this sudden show of fire

Another round of bourbon and it's easyAnd this letter finds his father in his tower far away

 And the hoary claw that holds it shakes and trembles

 Is it grief over a life misspent, or love or greed or mere contempt

Or something darker stirring in his temples

CHORUS: USA week gone by, he's wakened by a knockin' at his door

 And he drags himself half-wasted to the threshold

 It's a message in his father's quill sayin' meet me scion, if you will,

At the very stroke of midnight in the meadowNow he has combed his laggard locks and hired a comely roan

 And he's met his comrade fops around the fountain

 And he's bidden each a grand goodbye and he's cantered off alone

To meet his aged father in the mountains

CHORUS: Oh father dear come out come out I honor thee tonight

 He shouts as he goes weavin' in the saddle

 And he sees the stars go blinkin' by like the twinkle in a trollop's eye

And six riders riding madly in the shadowsThis mornin' sailed a ship of fools across a sea of gin

 With a blind and grinning reaper at the tiller

 And it drove an aging Jacob to his lone and bitter end

 And a bullet through the brain of Preston Miller

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