

The Liberty Of Norton Folgate

Madness

This is the story of the Liberty of Norton Folgate
Old Jack Norris, the musical shrimp and the cadging ramble
A little bit of this, would you like a bit of that?
But in weather like this, you should wear a coat, a nice warm hat
A needle and thread, the hand stitches of time
The cattling Lavinski versus Jackie Burke
Bobbing and weaving an invisible line
So step for step and both light on our feet
We'll travel many a long, dim, silent street
Would you like a bit of this or a little bit of that, missus?
A little bit of what you like does you no harm, you know that
The perpetual steady echo of the passing beat
A continual dark river of people
In their transience and in its permanence
But when the streetlamp fills the gutter with gold
So many priceless items bought and sold
So step for step and both light on our feet
We'll travel many a long, dim, silent street together
Once 'round Arnold Circus, up through Petticoat Lane
Past The Well of Shadows and once back round again
Arm in arm with an abstracted air
To where the people stared at the upstairs windows
Because we are living like kings and these days will last forever
'Cause sailors from Africa, China and the Archipelago of Malay
Jump ship ragged and penniless into Shadwell's Tiger Bay
The Welsh and Irish Wagtails, mothers of midnight
The music hall carousal is spilling out into bonfire light
Sending half crazed shadows, giants dancing up the brick wall
Of Mr.Truman's beer factory waving bottles ten feet tall
Whether one calls it Spitalfields, Whitechapel
Tower Hamlets or Bangle Town
We're all dancing in the moonlight
We're all on borrowed ground
Oh, I'm just walking down to, I'm just floating down through
Won't you come with me to the Liberty of Norton Folgate?
But wait, what's that?
Dan Leno and a Limehouse Golem
Purposefully walking nowhere
Oh, I'm happy just floating about, have a banana

On a Sunday afternoon
The stall holders all call and shout to no-one in particular
 Avoiding people you know
 You're just basking in your own company
 The Technicolor worlds going by
 But you're the lead in your own movie
'Cause in the Liberty of Norton Folgate walking wild and free
 In your second hand coat, happy just to float
 In this little taste of liberty
 A part of everything you see
 They're coming left or right
 Trying to flog you stuff you don't need or want
 And a smiling chap takes your hand
 And drags you in his uncle's restaurant
There's a Chinese man trying hard to flog you moody DVDs
 You know you've seen the film
 It's black and white, it's got no sound
And a man's head pops up and down right across you wide screen TV
 Only a fiver
 Alright two for eight quid
'Cause in the Liberty of Norton Folgate walking wild and free
 In your second hand coat, happy just to float
 In this little piece of liberty
 You're a part of everything you see
 'Cause it's steady old fellows, pickpockets
 Dandies, extortioners and night wanderers
 The feeble, the ghastly
 Upon whom death had placed a very sure hand
 Some in shreds and patches
Reeling inarticulate full of noisy and inordinate vivacity
 Which jars discordantly upon the ear
And it gives an aching sensation to both pair of eyeballs
 In the beginning I'd the fear of the immigrant
 In the beginning was the fear of the immigrant
 He's made his way down to the dark riverside
 In the beginning was the fear of the immigrant
 In the beginning was the fear of the immigrant
 He made his home there by the dark riverside
 He made his home there down by the riverside
 They made their homes there down by the riverside
 The city sprang from the dark river Thames
 They made their home there down by the riverside
 They made their homes there down by the riverside
 The city sprang up from the dark mud of the Thames
 I say it again

'Cause in the Liberty of Norton Folgate walking wild and free

And in your second hand coat, happy just to float

In this little taste of liberty

'Cause you're a part of everything you see

Yes, you're a part of everything you see

With a little bit of this and a little bit of that

A little bit of what you like does you no harm and you know that

Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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