

Story

Linton Kwesi Johnson

wance upon a time
jus like inna nursery rime
before piggy tun swine
mi did wear
mi fear
pan mi face
like a shiel
like a mawsk
an evrybody tink mi cool an deadlynottn yu coulda seh
woulda mek mi tek it awf
an if yu get mi nervos
ah voulda jus lawf it awf
an evrybody tink mi cool an deadlybut not soh long ago
ins like inna pitcha show
whey di hero get a blow
mi spirit get vex
an mi get soh resless
dat mi get careless
an goh bare mi mawgah chessmi newah indah tink seh
dat it mek outa glaas
dat di whole wide worl coulda si
rite dung to di vien inna mi awt
ow dem twis-up
ow dem tie-up
ow dem tite-up
o mi awt
ow it cut-up
ow it craw-up
ow it scar-up(it is a aad awt fi mawstah yu noe
dis smilin an skinin yu teet
wen yu awt sweel-up soh till yu feel it a goh bus
wen yu cyaan fine di rime fi fit di beat
wen yu cyan fine di ansah fi di puzzle complete)soh mi tek awf mi mawsk
an staat fi wear daak glaas
but eery so awftin
mi haffi tek it awf
an evry nowanden
mi fine mi laas
oonu evah

si mi trial

si mi crawsiz ?-----With LKJ, it's a lot of work to decipher the lyrics. Here's the best I can

make out so far. Once upon a time

just like in a nursery rhyme

before piggy turn swine

me did wear

for my fear

on my face

like a shield

like a mask

an everybody think me cool and deadly Nothing you could have said

would have make me take it off

and if you get me nervous

I woulda just laughed it off

an everybody think me cool and deadly But not so long ago

just like in a picture show

where the hero gets a blow

me spirit gets vexed

an me get so restless

that me get careless

and go bare me skinny chest Me never even think

that things are make outta glass

that the whole wide world coulda see

right down to the feeling in my heart

how them twist-up

how them tie-up

how them tight-up

oh my heart

how it cut-up

how it crawl-up

how it scar-up It's a hard act to master you know

this smiling and skinning your teeth

when your heart swell up so till you feel it gonna bust

when you can't find the rhyme to fit the beat

when you can't find the answer for the puzzle complete. So me take off me mask

and start for wear dark glass

but every so often

me have to take it off

and every now and then

me find me last

you ever

see me trial

see me crosses?

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