

# Circle of Steel

## Gordon Lightfoot

Rows of lights in a circle of steel  
Where you place your bets on a great big wheel  
High windows flickerin' down through the snow  
A time you knowSights and sounds of the people goin' round  
Everybody's in step with the seasonA child is born to a welfare case  
Where the rats run around like they own the place  
The room is chilly, the building is old  
That's how it goesThe doctors found on his welfare rounds  
And he comes and he leaves on the double"Deck the Halls" was the song they played  
In the flat next door where they shout all day  
She tips her gin bottle back till its gone  
The child is strongA week, a day, they will take it away  
For they know about all her bad habitsChristmas dawns and the snow lets up  
And the sun hits the handle of her heirloom cup  
She hides her face in her hands for a while  
Says, "Look here child""Your fathers pride was his means to provide  
And he's servin' three years for that reason"Rows of lights in a circle of steel  
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Everybody's in step with the season

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