## **Fleashine**

## **Kelly Joe Phelps**

Fleashine, shoeshine, man of fifteen
Brings the house in with a smile
All twelve teeth tell myriad stories
One upon one and oneThe breath in his hand waving
Drives the gypsy woman mad, oh
She loves him anyway
Has told him so a thousand times or moreShe refuses to believe that
At forty two years old
She's not still a butterfly

Ready, ready for the netBobby the fifteen is turning strong and soft As can be seen by his patience with the animals

He used to hate 'em

Now lays down beside themTo keep all from feeling sad

As animals sometimes do

He dreams of being old enough

To marry the girl with two heads Their name is Gladys

And they don't yet know

Of the young man's fascination

They're too busy drawing circles in their armsA fleashine, shoeshine, man of fifteen

Floating into the next town

Puts a straw in a Jim Beam bottle

And lays his head downHe puts a straw in a Jim Beam bottle

And lays his head down

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