

Sniper (Intro)

Harry Chapin

[Incomprehensible]

She said not now, she said not now
She said not now, she said not now It is an early Monday morning
The sun is becoming bright on the land
No one is watching as he comes a walking
Two bulky suitcases hang from his hands He heads towards the tower that stands in the campus
He goes through the door, he starts up the stairs
The sound of his footsteps, the sound of his breathing
The sound of the silence when no one was there I didn't really know him
He was kind of strange
Always sort of sat there
He never seemed to change He reached the catwalk, he put down his burden
The four sided clock began to chime
7 a.m., the day is beginning
So much to do and so little time He looks at the city where no one had known him
He looks at the sky where no one looks down
He looks at his life and what it has shown him
He looks for his shadow, it cannot be found He was such a moody child
Very hard to touch
Even as a baby he never smiled too much
No, no, no, no You bug me, she said
Your ugly, she said
Please hug me, I said
But she just sat there With the same flat stare
That she saves for me alone
When I'm home, when I'm home
Take me home He laid out the rifles, he loaded the shotgun
He stacked up the cartridges along the wall
He knew he would need them for his conversation
If it went as it he planned, then he might use them all He said, "Listen you people I've got a question
You won't pay attention but I'll ask anyhow
I found a way that will get me an answer
Been waiting to ask you 'till now, right now" Am I? I am a lover whose never been kissed
Am I? I am a fighter whose not made a fist
Am I? If I'm alive then there's so much I've missed
How do I know I exist? Are you listening to me?
Are you listening to me?
Am I? The first words he spoke took the town by surprise
One got Mrs. Gibbons above her right eye

It blew her through the window, wedged her against the door
 Reality poured from her face, staining the floor
 He was kind of creepy, sort of a dunce
 I met him at the corner bar
 I only dated the poor boy once
 That's all, just once, that was all
 Bill Whedon was questioned as he stepped from his car
 Tom Scott ran across the street but he never got that far
 The police were there in minutes, they set up barricades
 He spoke right on over them in a half-mile circle
 In a dumb struck city his pointed questions were sprayed
 He knocked over Danny Tyson as he ran towards the
 noise
 Just about then the answers started coming, sweet, sweet joy
 Thudding in the clock face, whining off the walls
 Reaching up to where he sat there, answering calls
 Thirty-seven people got his message so far
 Yes, he was reaching them right where they are
 [Incomprehensible]
 She said not now, she said not now
 She said not now, she said not now
 They set up an assault team, they asked for volunteers
 They had to go and get him, that much was clear
 And the word spread about him on the radios and TV's
 In appropriately sober tones they asked, "Who can it be?"
 He was a very dull boy, very taciturn
 Not much of a joiner
 He did not want to learn
 No, no, no, no
 They're coming to get me, they don't want to let me
 Stay in the bright light too long
 It's getting on noon now, it's goin' to be soon now
 But oh, what a wonderful sound
 Mama, won't you nurse me?
 Rain me down the sweet milk of your kindness
 Mama, it's getting worse for me
 Won't you please make me warm and mindless?
 Mama, yes, you have cursed me
 I never will forgive you
 For your blindness
 I hate you
 The wires are all humming for me
 And I can hear them coming for me
 Soon they'll be here but there's nothing to fear
 Not any more though they've blasted the door
 She said not now, she said not now
 As the copter dropped the gas he shouted, "Who cares?"
 They could hear him laughing as they started up the stairs
 They stormed out on the catwalk, blinking at the sun
 With their final fusillade his answer had come
 Am I? There is no way that you can hide me
 Am I? Though you have put your fire inside me
 Am I? You've given me my answer, can't you see?
 I was, I am and now I will be, I will be

Songwriters

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