

TOM TRAINOR

1968



A REFLECTION ON AN ERA

thewaryeye.com/press 2003

St Mark's Place / A gypsy space
Lots of loose cats hangin round
Stray mates
Playin safe
With loads of drugs goin down

68

Save the date
Earthquake
Shots fired round the globe / Signal the
Outbreak of a brand new brand of
Revolution

Vietnam's still crankin up / Up
Gettin washed and ready for sup-
Purr- purrrr- purrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
On TV
There / Where / The whole world can see
Mom / Dad / Big brother Dave
Little sis / Sittin on the sofa
Watchin a whole family
Take it in the face / *But hey!*
That's some other place
Simply say grace
Father in heaven / Right up above
Tell the rest of the world
They can shove
It
Over there / Over there
Let's declare
Keep it there / Over where
They ain't got a prayer

Listen to me / Attentively
Want you to eat
Sleep
Don't make a peep
Other people's problems are theirs to keep

Martin Luther King
Gunned down
From a roof top in
Memphis town
But hey!
That's Tennessee
Where they wiped out the Cherokee
We're secure / Tucked states away
In a cozy heartland suburb / Where

Fifty feet of grass
Keeps us safe from enemy attack

Kiddies under cover
Can't sleep
Got to take a peek
OK / Alright
Tonight
Facts of life / See
Everybody's got rights
So long as they're whites
Besides
Those in the know know
Black folks were created to hand out
Towels / Though
They're man enough to fight
Every boy / Even white
Stripped to his skivvies joins
The Army
Better enlist / Before you get drafted
Resist / You're gonna get shafted

Boot camp
Stamp! Stamp!
Teach these smart-ass brats
A lesson in civics
No recess / Until after
The President's address
Salute / The Commander-In-Chief
Squirmin in his seat
I will not seek / *Hell No!*
Nor will I accept
We won't go!
My party's nomination for
58,128 of our boys dead
And more / Spent
One hundred fifty billion
For a dirty little war
He cannot win

From the halls of Montezu-U-ma
To the shores of TRIP-o-li
We will fight our country's ba-A-tles
Mired in the mud
Hup! Hup!
Hut to hut / Except for Tet
From high in the skies / B-52s will
Bomb these slanty-eyed gooks into
Oblivion

Pop! Pop!
RFK just got shot!
With TV hot on the spot so
All of us can watch
Fascination / With
Assassination
The Kennedy tragedies
Violence on the air as the children
Stare
Don't gulp / You'll choke
Break fast for a commercial
Gleem / Listerine
At least twice a day / Brush those
Nasty germs away
While our affiliate in LA joins the fray

68

No time to waste
Psychedelic's passé
Moody Blues / Pink Floyd
Popped in Monterey
Beatles too
Sgt Pepper can't compete with
Troops on the streets
Doesn't phase Jim Morrison / Though
Boy wanders the stage / In a daze
Flash of cock sends the country into
Shock
And his dad's an admiral!

Even Dylan's deserted / Converted to
Jesus
Heavy metal's in
Led Zep / Steppenwolf
Born to be wi-i-ild
While Mick quick switches to a
Street fightin man
Got to livin up the
Act / As
A civil rights rally suddenly goes
Bloody
In Belfast
Troubles begin / And last and last
Riots in Paris / Students bring down
DeGaulle
Who's who?
The last living legend of World War Two
Then there's Prague
Workers / Students / Tanks
Take to the streets

But what's the beef?
That's some commie country's business
Beyond our reach
Still
Crack! Crack!
Did you hear that?
Barefoot on the stairs and
Terrified
Hurry back to bed / Scouts
Lay awake while you do a head count
That's a one / A two / A three
Lightning strike's at least an ocean away
While we're home safe
So why are you staring up at me?
Can't you see / I'm too busy
Fending off ants in the grass to
Intervene

Chicago
The Democrats convene
LBJ *won't go*
Nor will I seek / *Hell no!*
Outside the walls of the
Convention hall
Tear gas / Our boys in uniform
Marchin in time behind
Halftracks / Armed and ready to
Resist
A domestic insurrection
Civil War
Brother pitched against another
Innocent / Or with intent
Tanks on city streets
First time ever in America
Kids the cops are bashing
Could be yours / If not mine
Our own sons and daughters
On the line
Shame Shame
Shake your finger in the face of
Democracy
While
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING!
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING
Along with history

Nixon / He's the one
Law and order from
Border to border
With the wider war to come

Laos / Cambodia
Million more innocents / For the
Warlords to slaughter

Hey! Hey!
Ain't that Jackie K
Shipping off in a two-piece
With some old tycoon
On her very own Aegean
Honeymoon?
What a hoax
Even Camelot's a joke

68

Wide awake / Truth or fake
At stake
An entire generation / After
All we've worked so long / so hard
To attain
Prosperity / Propriety / Posterity
Authority / Conformity
Backed up by our unassailable
Military superiority
Only thanks we get is
A headache
Of migrane proportions /
Quick! Quick!
Take two / Speed relief / Or at least
Click! Click!
Switch the channel / Although
Woodstock's not due til
Summer of 69
Jimi Hendrix headlines
Ho ho say can you see
Squeak! Squeak!
Neil Armstrong's walkin on the moon
So what's in store / Beyond more
Of this not so cold
Cold War?

Plenty / And not very pretty
Plague / Fire / Famine / Pestilence or
The Bomb!
Fate's worse than worse / So
Better brace yourself

Stash the kiddies in gramp's abandoned
Air-raid shelter
Because
The USA's been targeted for an all-out

As in a far out
Cultural revolution

Stray cats /
Meteoric brats / Out on a
First date in the
Universe
Little Adam / Little Eve
Unsupervised
Teaming up in the back seat at the
Drive-in / Hold tight
Don't let go
Next feature's The Big Burst in
Cinemascope and stereo
Burnt stars /
Birth of a brand spankin new
Baby Galaxy!
Damp grass under the thick cover of
Darkness
My goodness / Ain't it but
Beautiful to behold!
Mass / Energy / Timed right for a nuclear
Attraction / That's
Lights! Camera! Action!
Instead of God's finger in the mix
There's this heavenly
Flash!
Asteroid attack!
Bright streaks in the night sky with mutual
Combustion / On
Impact
Planet's about to blast off into a
New age of ready-to-aim-to-
Please / Mama / Papa's home grown recipe for a
Fresh baked / Hot chunk of
Rock 'n' roll!

East Village
New York City

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