

A close-up photograph of a person's hands playing an acoustic guitar. The person is wearing a black and white horizontally striped shirt. The guitar has a dark wood body and a dark fretboard with white dot inlays. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

A
horror
song
cycle
by
K Brian
Neel

The
Luring
Well

Costume: Rowan Ellis Neel
Guard: Jennifer Neel
Set: Betsy Nesbit
Sound: Burke Napoli
Lights: Chih-Hung Shao
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SONGS

Prelude
Take Me Back
Names in Snow
Hand in a Pocket (No Reason Other Than)
The Luring Well
Cat's Sad Tale of Woe
Rabid Dog Skies
Bully Bully
Teacher Preacher / Pray to Smirksour
Fair Headed Waltz
The Rain the Park and Other Things
(by The Cowsills)
Ebon Serenade
Nothin' To Loose
All Gone Away
Ponderance / Epitaph / Postscript

CHARACTERS

Gus & Errol
The Feral Cat
The Rabid Dog
The Bully
The Headmaster Smirksour
Iris the Albino
Lady Penshin

PRELUDE

INSTRUMENTAL

TAKE ME BACK

Take me back to the well

...

I gotta get under your spell

Cold depths of the well

Coal black sickly smell

Gotta get back to the well

Maybe then I can break the spell

Cold bars, no stars, three by five, don't want to be alive

I'll never smell salt seaweed shores or hear

The city engine roar, my penance

Is served time

Pushing them the well

Was judgement, death, farewell

An urge we couldn't quell

Thus we were compelled

A trundle gurney please just put a noose around my neck

I call to much attention when

Fathoming the grandness of

Life and death

A fall into the well

Prepense heaven or hell

Bid the evil farewell

Never heard a single death knell

In this cell I contemplate the verisimilitude

My perverse satisfaction misconstrued

My death will be a whisper

At this unctuous world

We were just two blokes, two friends, in 1932

Our small town starving in depression

I think back before we slid

Gus and Errol, one undid

By the other's hand guided

I say God help me all!

NAMES IN SNOW

I'm Errol, I live near the willow
My dad's dead, he was killed my a hippo
On safari far away
I never saw his face
But it's not like I'm an emotional wreck
not sure why I mentioned it anyway

My name's Gus, I've a pet... sparrow
My mom also died from cancer, bone marrow
I didn't know her too
She never said adieu
But I have a suitcase with some of her stuff:
a red kazoo and sticks for kung fu

I've seen you milking the cows
And I've seen you feeding the sows
We seem a perfect match,
or maybe opposite
Let's throw rocks in Lake Coppertas
and climb Town Hall's clock mast

Let's make angels in the snow
And write our names with our pee behind the barn
But I don't have to micturate
To the fountain post haste
We'll drink so much we'll simply explode
the snow will look like tomato paste

Time has passed and we're still best friends
No one seems to be able to tell
The difference between us two
We're our own retinue
Sometimes I think I can read your mind
Let's get matching tattoos

Do you think this world's a calliope
And we're just spinning out like a spiral
I often think that's so
It's out of control
Wars, neglect, abuse, regret
it's all idiots and yahoos

HAND IN A POCKET

(No Reason Other Than)

Past the
Jjimpson weeds and locust trees
We climbed the fruitless cherry tree
Surveying light of tallow dip
Above the placid town

We began
Humming useless melodies
As townsfolk milled sententiously
Onward we sauntered cecity
To our destiny

At the cross
Road we paused feckless and weak
from taking turns kicking a stick
Like caught in some mystic oblique
Pondering course and ground

To the right a
Sleepy grazing widow's farm
The Lady Penshin's good luck charm,
We sometimes worked to shore the yarn
For a cottonwood dime

To the left
Stickley's penny holler grim
With barking dogs and woeful hymn
Phantoms we'd sneak to shim a scrim
Dodging satyric eyes

Yet that day
Off the pathway
We meandered
Askew

Cricket's tremolo
Under hanging boughs
To a meadow
Verdigris

Thought it was a dream
Bright sun daylight's gleam
Onto a circular
Fabrication

Rocks concentric bands
Surround a wide chasm
Jet obsidian
And pure

We gathered
Rocks and sticks and pocket lint
And boulders big as adult fists
Anything that we could lift
Down the hole it went.

THE LURING WELL

Silence

As if the depth of the well were sucking
Everything to

Darkness

Like heaven trembled and shrunk from
This hole

Suspended

Expect a splash or a thud Instead our ears
Are left with

Luring

An unconscionable heave that renders our souls
Taught and strained

HAND IN A POCKET (repr.)

At our feet

A poisonous Copperheaded snake
Threatened to snap, it's instinct slaked
We pinned it down with a stake
And threw it down the well

Silence...

What goes down well doesn't come back

Doesn't really end

It just goes away
And there are things in this world that should

Go

Away

CAT'S SAD TAIL OF WOE

Listen to my tail of woe
It's certainly sad, I want everyone to know
I'm just a pussycat, long-haired and ratty,
I hide out in tall grasses and claw at who passes

Lady Penshin feeds me tuna
I think it's made me a little loona
I prefer chickens, they run like the dickens
Feeling my teeth, I'm hissin', they're kickin'

So don't you
kitty kitty, kitty kitty, kitty cat me
I'll show you superiority

I may be
Itty-bitty, itty-bitty, itty-bitty
That explains my cantacerosity

But if you
Snu-goo goo-goo, squee-jee gee-gee, cutie pie me.
I'll will scratch your bleedin' eyes out!

Zoe-dee-doh....

Gus and Errol come to shore the yarn
Up in the arbor, at their faces I claw
Settin' their coats down on the hay
Marking territory, on them I urinate

So they trap me in a wicker basket
Soon to realize it'd be my casket
Frayed light goes dark, I become weightless
Everything cold, they'd done something heinous

They didn't
Kitty kitty, kitty kitty, kitty cat me
They showed me superiority

I may be
Itty-bitty, itty-bitty, itty-bitty
I paid for my cantacerosity

I wish they'd
Snu-goo goo-goo, squee-jee gee-gee, cutie pie me.
Instead they threw me down a bloody well!

Silence...

RABID DOG SKIES

I am a rabid dog
I don't have much to say
In the holler I barked
and bite and salivate

Angry I see red skies
Those boys drag me to die
They threw me down a well
That's all I have to say

Silence...

BULLY BULLY

Bully Bully, yeah, that's me
I got a tight grip
To fuck your day
And make it
A pile of shit

I start my day in alleys
Plunderin' school kids
Lunch money
Smash their face
If they refuse me

When I enter the playground
At the recess
Kids run and scream
Or bow down
And kiss my ass

In the hallway the teacher
His sphincter clench tight
Lets me horseplay
Make a sign
Of the cross

~

Bully Bully, yeah, that's me
I'm wild and wooly
Pushing the gay
in the ditch
and bramble bushes

Seein' the tears, bloody smears
I grin with brine
Into your coke
I lace it
With turpentine

I throw a rock at the clock
On the main street
I miss the mark
And instead
A window breaks

No need to run, there ain't none
Who'd dare accuse me
Besides it's day
I'm playin'
A playin' hooky

~

CONTUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Strolling down on main street

I see those two chums

Gus and Errol,

Two runt kids

I often torment

Then they see me and they wave

They raise a-their hands

Middle fingers!

A fingers!

Sayin' a fuck me!

That a-does it, I am raised

to an a-fury!

I'm gonna end

A-end them

Hook, line... no jury

I start a chase, I chase them

Out of the town

To the crossroads

They go strait

Like stupid clowns

~

Through the crickets tremolo

Under hanging

Hanging boughs

To a meadow

Verdigris

I see Errol goading me

Across a big pit

He just stands there

Smilin'

Like an a-nit wit

I walk to him, and look in

To this a-abyss

What the fuck is?...

Who the shit?...

A-I don't get this

Then I feel a-a-tingle

On my shoulder

Suddenly

I'm reeling

A-fallin' forward

It a-was Gus behind me

He pushed me into

This endless well

And I fell

And thus was ended

It's all because I wasn't loved

It's all because I lived in the holler

I never knew my mother or father

It's all because I wasn't loved

It's all because I couldn't afford shoes

Bully money for uncle John's booze

And now I'm dead down the plunge

I see it now, this I deserved

The price I pay, fairly incurred

It's all because I'm not loved

THE LURING WELL (repr.)

Silence

As if the depth of the well were sucking
Everything to

Darkness

Like heaven trembled and shrunk from
This hole

Suspended

By an unscrupulous inveiglement
We did it anyway

TEACHER PREACHER / PRAY TO SMIRKSOUR

Pray to the music
Pray to the sound
Pray to be delivered
Because
I'm the liberator
Your souls surround

I am the teacher of fresh minds
I peel your ignorant young rinds
Reveal the core of truth indulged
Salvation's bulge aptly divulged

I was preacher in another life,
The church disparaging of my
Sacrosanct ways to open eyes
Thus in this schoolroom all will...

Pray to be learned
Pray you're not drowned
Pray for education
Because
Ignorance is tempting
And we're unbound

I ring the bell, pupil's descend
Either snow white ready to bend
To feel my saintly hand command
Angelically wash o'er them

Or, like fallen leaves, wet and grimed
rancid as eaves, I rake the mound
I firmly embrace their vile heads
to tingle flaccid teacher...

...ray to the teacher
Pray to be found
Pray to Smirksour
Because
Everyone's a sinner
When I'm around

*Grading arithmetic proofs
I glance up and peer through god's glass
of the schoolroom window to see
Errol and Gus streaking nude
across the schoolyard green*

*Naked in the sun's glisten
bare, barely sproutin' god's hair
Dancing little white pills
inviting eyes as drooping tongues
to swallow their foul medicine*

*Upon myself the task, I seize
my shackles and paddle
and fly out of the schoolhouse
emboldened by the holy spirit
itself engorging me with righteous*

*The raw wretches see me
and bolt into the woods
straight between Stickley's Holler
and Lady Penshin's Farm*

*Goose bumps hackle
their rumps, feet bloody
tramping jagged stumps
both giggling sagaciously*

*Dense underbrush and
tall canopy open up
to a meadow verdigris
unknown previous to me*

*In the field's center
a stone-encircled blackness
round as a clock ticking
the infinite absence a time*

*One of the unclad boys
suddenly derelict
rushes behind with a
grimace and a clutched log*

*He swings. It purchases
my shoulder blade, upending
my right foot, twisting
my torso into an unnatural swirl*

*And into the black clock I tumble
grasping at whiffs as the tunnel
light shrinks like heaven damned
sealing high above me*

*Two bare boys heads
on either side, gazing
with blank justice eyes
rocks in a still blue pond*

*And thus the light
becomes a prick
in the fold
and then
blinks out*

*Pray to the music
Pray I hit ground
Pray for forgiveness
Because
Earth resides the Devil
It's a battleground*

*Get on your knees
Get on your knees
...*

*Pray
Because
Smirksour
Will stomp ground*

Silence...

THE FAIR HEADED WALTZ

cow's warm milk
cauliflower
cleaning bleach
am I (am I, am I)

transparent skin
pasty complexion
ashen hair
so white (so white, so white)

albino mice
and alligators
are inbred for
white (like i, like i)

none dance with me
the fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz

the baker's son
the Smithy's daughter
shy away
at my (red eyes, red eyes)

my cloche hat
my high neck blouse
protect me from
sunlight (outside, outside)

but cannot shield
my carapace from
stones and shoves
i die (inside, inside)

none dance with me
the fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz

i'm not a mouse
to loathe and fear
to poke out my
red eyes

i am paper
cursive write
stories lavish
alive

immaculate
and pure we two
if you see past
my white

please dance with me
the fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz

please dance with me
the fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz
fair-headed waltz

THE RAIN, THE PARK, AND OTHER THINGS

by The Cowsills. (Albino Mix)

I saw her sitting in the rain
Raindrops falling on her
She didn't seem to care
She sat there and smiled at me

Then I knew (I knew... I knew... I knew... I knew)
She could make me happy (happy... happy)
The white of her hair
White everywhere

(I love albino girl)
Oh her big red eyes; she simply caught my eye
(I love albino girl)
She seemed so sweet and kind; she crept into my mind

I knew I had to say hello
She smiled up at me
And she took my hand and we walked through the park alone

CHORUS

Suddenly, the sun broke through
I turned around she was gone
And all I had left was a little white flower in my hand

But I knew (I knew... I knew... I knew... I knew)
She could make me happy (happy... happy)
The white of her hair, oh
White everywhere

(I love albino girl)
Was she reality or just a dream to me?
(I love albino girl)
Her love showed me the way to find a sunny day
(Sunny day... sunny day... sunny day)

(I love albino girl)
Was she reality or just a dream to me? . . .

EBON SERENADE

Luring her to the well
Like a needle pulling thread
One of us despising her
Oneliest sui generis

“Assuredly with friends,” she blest
Smiling, jubilant arms spread
We yoke to round the black bed
Clutching each of our lying hands

Sagacious smiles mask the vile

At the meadow, her smile fades
Through the grass she wades
Up to rock edge barricade
Eyes wide ... ear-heart beating

To the ebon serenade

la da da die, la da da die dum

My other, my brother, my friend
Dares a look that portends
And yanks her hand deracinating
... She buckles and bends

Twisting, spinning overend
Let go her hand, watch her end

Yet this was not curtain
As she falls her fingers bend
To the heels of my friend
Smash his skull on brick broken
Down the hole he went
Blood baptism condemned

Fingers tingle, surge of anger
Clutching, clawing, wet with temper
I Peel her fingers from brick anchor
And cast her down the rend

Into the pit she descends

Down the well into the chasm
A white raven soaring grande
Brilliant white phosphorescent
Sun's diminishing end

My tears follow with my heart

la da da die, la da da die dum

NOTHIN' TO LOOSE

Time you find you're standing there
With nothin' in the world
A gaping black hole starrin' back
There's issues to unfurl

Well howdy there stranger, let me introduce
A lowly boy with nothin' to loose

Around me is the bright green light
A sunny Summer day
Yet my soul's twisted a knot that
says it's not okay

Fate is requesting to pay up all of my dues
My pockets pulled got nothin' to loose

Turn away, don't look back
There's nothing for me here
Feet a walkin' back to where
I think I've never been
Yet it's so familiar
This place I often roam
This bitter shiver whisper
Called Home

I find myself a starrin' back
Reflection in the mirror
Years have passed peerin' at glass
Still nothin' is clear

If you were to say to me "drown it all in booze"
well, cheers buddy, I've nothin' to loose

Or tie a rope around my neck tightly in a noose
A short sharp shock, there's nothin' to loose

ALL GONE AWAY

I went down to Lady Penshin's Barn
Hung a rope from the King Post arm
Just as I'm a swingin' there, Lady P walks in
Pail of swill intended for the pigs

She rushed o'er and clutched my legs so tight
Tears a streamin from both our eyes
Released the taught until we fell into the musty hay
Mortified my death belayed

I removed that rope around my neck and cinched it to hers
Her bright eyes a weepin' like the dew off a flower
Soon she stoped a breathin' an' all her lights went out
The darkest somb no doubt

She's gone away, She's gone away,
Away, she's gone away.

Folks they stared a gapin' as the sherif took me in
That's the last I'd ever see of any one of them
And though I never paid for the remainder of my crimes
For this one, I do time

They put me away, put me away
I've gone away, I've gone away

I'm a cat battering a wicked dark flame
I know fear from the truth, I'm not ashamed
A dark needle pulls my thread sewing swart content
I've joined you in the infinite descent

Together we're away, All gone away
Away, we've gone away

PONDERANCE

INSTRUMENTAL

EPITAPH

Ending
Hearts succumb to judgement apart from
Earthly

Clement
A hero is a coward who deals justice
Unjustly,

A dubious
Solution to the problem of
Evil

I did it anyway.
I yielded anyway.
Do I regret it here today?

POSTSCRIPT

Doing things I knew were wrong
The urge, that pull, was very strong
Though I knew it wasn't right
The act denied me second sight

Urge induced, a breath inhaled
Diminuate. Suffocate.

FINI