

## **Billy Boy Arnold**

### **"The Short Answer"**

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Between marx and marzipan in the dictionary there  
was mary  
Between the deep blue sea and the devil that was me  
If ever anyone could help me with my obsession with  
The young suzannah york  
It was mary

In my pink pyjamas she asked me for something  
I gave her the short answer  
She read our stars out loud  
And I knew then that we should have gone sailing  
But we stayed home instead  
Fighting on the waterbed  
Like the honeymoon couple on drugs  
Me and mary

What happened in the past  
Remained a mystery of natural history  
She should have been the last  
But she was just the latest  
If she wanted to be a farmer's wife  
I would endure that muddy life  
I would dig for victory

And the sound of happy couples  
Coupling happily in the dark  
While you and I sat down to tea  
I remember you said to me  
That no amount of poetry  
Would mend this broken heart  
But you can put the hoover round  
If you want to make a start

All my friends from school  
Introduce me to their spouses  
While I'm left standing here  
With my hands down the front of my trousers  
I just don't know what's to be done  
I wonder sometimes how did dad meet mum  
And how did they conceive of me  
Tell my mary

The boys who came to the shop  
Always made her laugh much more than I did  
When I told her this must stop  
She didn't bat an eyelid  
She said you know honey it's such a shame  
You'll never be any good at this game  
You bruise too easily  
So said mary

Her two brothers took me out  
Of circulation for the duration  
So we went our separate ways but does she still love  
me  
She still has my door key  
Like a bully boy in a benetton shop  
You're never happy with what you've got  
Till what you've got is gone  
Sorry mary

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