

## **Billy Bragg**

# **"The Home Front"**

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Father mows the lawn and Mother peels potatoes  
Grandma lays the table alone  
And adjusts a photograph of the unknown soldier  
In this Holy of Holies the Home

And from the TV an unwatched voice  
Suggests the answer is to plant more trees  
The scrawl on the wall says what about the workers  
And the voice of the people says more salt please

Mother shakes her head and reads aloud from the  
newspaper  
And Father puts another lock on the door  
And reflects upon the violent times that we are living in  
While chatting to the wife beater next door

If paradise to you is cheap beer and overtime  
Home truths are easily missed  
Something that every football fan knows  
It only takes five fingers to form a fist

And when it rains here, it rains so hard  
But never hard enough to wash away the sorrow  
I'll trade my love today for a greater love tomorrow  
The lonely child looks out and dreams of  
independence  
From this family life sentence

Mother sees but does not read the peeling posters  
And can't believe that there's a world to be won  
But in the public schools and in the public houses  
The Battle of Britian goes on

The constant promise of jam tomorrow  
Is the New Breeds litany and verse  
If it takes another war to fill the churches of England  
Then the world the meek inherit, what will it be worth

Mother fights the tears and father, his sense of  
outrage  
And attempts to justify the sacrifice  
To pass their creed down to another generation

Anything for the quite life

In the Land of a Thousand Doses  
Where nostalgia is the opium of the age  
Our place in history is as clock watchers  
Old timers, window shoppers

Father mows the lawn and Mother peels potatoes  
[Incomprehensible]  
And where's that photograph of the unknown soldier  
In this Holy of Holies the Home

Father mows the lawn and Mother peels potatoes  
Grandma [Incomprehensible]  
And where's that photograph of the unknown soldier  
In this Holy

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