

## **Fish**

# **"Fortunes Of War"**

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Rose beds scattered across the lawn  
Like the squares at Waterloo  
With bayonets of thorns repelling small children  
In search of lost tennis balls

Imaginary cannonballs that were fired  
At the legs of galloping cavalry  
Resting their dreams in the shade of the apple trees  
Toy soldiers drunk on warm lemonade

And the children dream of glory and fortunes of war  
They're safe in bed with stories  
And fortunes of war, fortunes of war

As the sun sets low on these playing fields  
An army returns with its swords and shields  
Dustbin lids and raspberry canes  
They'll live to fight another day

Warrior's medals, milk bottle tops  
Battle flags fashioned  
From Mother's old table cloths  
Bright colors run in the summer rain

'Cause sometimes when they fall  
They will pretend  
That the hankie is a bandage  
To stop the bleeding

And imagine city streets  
And desert storms and foreign fields  
And bullets flying  
These are the fortunes of war  
I heard a wheelchair whisper  
Across a stale, stagnant gymnasium  
Trailing an ivy league jacket like a matador  
Through the jitterbug steps of the night before

And I followed him down to the church parade  
Where he makes his peace every armistice day  
I watched him fade away  
And melt in the autumn rain

'Cause sometimes when they fall  
They can't pretend  
That the hankie is a bandage  
They can't stop the bleeding

They're out in city streets  
And desert storms in foreign fields  
Oh, there's bullets flying  
These are the fortunes of war

While the children dream of glory  
And fortunes of war  
They're safe in bed with stories  
And fortunes of war

The uniforms and glory  
The fortunes of war, fortunes of war  
The fortunes of war, fortunes of war  
Fortunes of war, these are the fortunes of war

Of war, of war, of war, of war, of war  
These are the fortunes, these are the fortunes  
Fortunes of war, these are the fortunes, fortunes of war  
These are the fortunes, fortunes of war

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