

## Joan Baez

# "Lily, Rosemary And The Jack Of Hearts"

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The festival was over and the boys were all planning  
for a fall  
The cabaret was quiet except for the drilling in the wall  
The curfew had been lifted and the gambling wheel  
shut down  
Anyone with any sense had already left town  
He was standing in the doorway lookin' like the Jack of  
Hearts

He moved across the mirrored room, "Set 'em up for  
everyone", he said  
Then everyone commenced to do what  
They've been doin' before he moved their heads  
He walked up to a stranger and he asked him with a  
grin  
"Would you kindly tell me, Mister, what time the show  
begins?"  
He moved into the corner, face down like the Jack of  
Hearts

Backstage the girls were playin' five-card stud by the  
stairs  
Lily had two queens and she was hopin' for a third to  
match her pair  
Outside the streets were fillin' up and the window was  
open wide  
The gentle breeze was blowin', you could feel it from  
inside  
Lily called another bet and drew up the Jack of Hearts

Big Jim was no one's fool, he owned the town's only  
diamond mine  
He made his usual entrance lookin' oh, so dandy and  
so fine  
With his bodyguards and his silver cane and every hair  
in place  
He took whatever he wanted to and he laid it all to  
waste  
But his bodyguards and his silver cane  
They were no match for the Jack of Hearts

Rosemary combed her hair and took a carriage into

town  
She slipped in through the side door lookin' like a  
queen without a crown  
She fluttered her false eyelashes and whispered in his  
ear  
"I'm sorry, darlin', that I'm late", but he didn't seem to  
hear  
He was staring into space over at the Jack of Hearts

Well, I know I've seen that face somewhere  
Big Jim was thinkin' to himself  
Maybe down in Mexico or a picture up on somebody's  
shelf  
But then the crowd began to stamp their feet  
And the house lights did dim  
And in the darkness of the room there was only Jim and  
him  
Starin' at the butterfly who just drew up the Jack of  
Hearts

Lily was a princess, she was fair-skinned and precious  
as a child  
She had that certain something  
It was a kind of a flash every time she smiled  
She'd come away from a broken home, had lots of  
strange affairs  
With men in every walk of life who took her everywhere  
But she'd never met anyone quite like the Jack of  
Hearts

The hangin' judge came in unnoticed and was being  
wined and dined  
The drilling in the wall kept up but no one seemed to  
pay it any mind  
It was known all around that Lily had Jim's ring  
And nothin' could ever come between Lily and the king  
No, nothing ever could except maybe the Jack of Hearts

Rosemary started drinkin' hard and seein' her  
reflection in the knife  
She was tired of the attention, tired of playin' the role  
of Big Jim's wife  
She'd done a lot of bad things, even once tried suicide  
Was lookin' to do just one good deed before she died  
She was gazin' to the future, riding on the Jack of  
Hearts

Lily took her dress off, buried it away  
"Has your luck run out", she laughed at him  
"I guess you must've known it would someday  
Be careful not to touch the wall, there's a brand-new

coat of paint  
I'm glad to see you're still alive and you're lookin' like a saint"  
Down the hallway footsteps were comin' for the Jack of Hearts

The backstage manager was pacing all around by his chair  
"There's something funny goin' on, I know, I can just feel it in the air"  
He went to get the hangin' judge but the hangin' judge was drunk  
And the leading actor hurried by in the costume of a monk  
But there was no actor anywhere better than the Jack of Hearts

Lily had her arms around the man that she dearly loved to touch  
She forgot all about the man she hated, who hounded her so much  
"I've missed you so", she said to him and he thought she was sincere  
But in the hallway he felt jealousy and fear  
Just another night in the life of the Jack of Hearts

Well, no one knew the circumstance  
But they say it happened pretty quick  
The door to the dressing room burst open and a cold revolver clicked  
And Big Jim was standin' there, you couldn't say surprised  
Rosemary right beside him, steady in her eyes  
She was with Big Jim but she was leanin' to the Jack of Hearts

Two doors down and the boys finally made it through the wall  
Cleaned out the bank safe, it's said that they got off with quite a haul  
And in the darkness of the riverbed, they waited on the ground  
For one more member who had business back in town  
But they couldn't go no further without the Jack of Hearts

Well, the next day was hangin' day  
And the sky was overcast and black  
Big Jim lay covered up, killed by a penknife in the back  
And Rosemary on the gallows, boy, she didn't even blink

And the hangin' judge was sober, Lord, he hadn't had  
a drink  
And the only person on the scene missing was the Jack  
of Hearts

Well, the cabaret was quiet now and a sign said,  
'Closed for repair'  
Lily had already taken all of the dye out of her hair  
She was thinkin' 'bout her father whom she very rarely  
saw  
Thinkin' about Rosemary and thinkin' about the law  
But most of all she was thinkin' about the Jack of Hearts

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