

## **Johnny Clegg & Savuka "Orphans Of The Empire"**

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In ships, they came from Europe, across the salt sea  
Come for the build and raise a colony  
And in the jungle, green, their citadels did gleam  
In tribute and homage to the old country  
And soon their children grew and promised to be true  
Orphans of an empire, their destiny

Hold me close, Africa, fill my soul, Africa  
Let me grow old, Africa, let me in  
Fill my soul, Africa, don't let me go, Africa  
Let me grow old, Africa, and remember me

Imperial gentleman, he built mighty walls  
And in the jungle afternoon, he plays polo when he's  
bored  
He sips a gin and tonic and tells you confidentially  
He wishes he understood the [Unverified]  
But the shadows, they are lengthening and the sun, it  
must set  
Bewildered and confused, he scurries home to his bed

Hold me close, Africa, fill my soul, Africa  
Let me grow old, Africa, let me in  
Fill my soul, Africa, don't let me go, Africa  
Let me grow old, Africa, and remember me

He cannot understand the soldiers, all at hand  
For with guns you cannot fight a foe that dwells within  
But the battle had begun and a soldier he's become  
Who can sing his litany?  
It's a beggarman's prayer or a string on the wind  
Will that be all that lingers on the memory?

And who will remember that African December?  
When he knelt before the colors and swore to do or  
die?  
And he kissed his frightened lover, beneath the  
glowing embers  
Of that dark, strange heaven, that ancient sky  
Now he's gone to dust, just like all good soldiers must  
But the mournful mutter of the battlefield still lingers in  
the air

So it's farewell sweet Caroline, farewell Elizabeth  
Goodbye gentle ladies of the old order  
And farewell to your islands carved upon this continent  
Some England, some France and some Germany  
Soon you will return to that dream across the sea  
'Cause here is no more honey left for tea

Hold me close, Africa, fill my soul, Africa  
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Let me grow old, Africa, and remember me

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