

Cave Nick

"When I First Came To Town"

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(l,m) Nick Cave

(Inspired by the traditional song 'Katie Cruel')

(p) Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

< Nick Cave: vocals, harmonica; Mick Harvey: rhythm guitar;

Blixa Bargeld: guitar; Conway Savage: piano, other vocals;

Martyn Casey: bass; Thomas Wydler: drums;

The Bad Seeds: backing vocals;

Mick Harvey & David Blumberg: string arrangements;

Dennis Karmazyn: cello; Bruce Dukov, Barbara Porter: violins >

(Henry's Dream [Mute, 1992])

When I first came to town

All the people gathered round

They bought me drinks

Lord, how they quickly changed their tune

When I first came to town

People took me round from end to end

Like someone may take round a friend

O how quickly they changed their tune

Suspicion and dark murmurs surround me

Everywhere I go they confound me

As though the blood on my hands

Is there for every citizen to see

O sweet Jesus

There is no turning back

There is always one more town

A little further down the track

And from my window, across the tracks

I watch the juicers burn their fires

And in that light

Their faces leer at me

How I wish they'd just let me be

When I first came to town

Their favours were for free

Now even the doors of the whores of this town

Are closed to me

I search the mirror

And I try to see

Why the people of this town
Have washed their hands of me
O sweet Jesus
There is no turning back
There is always one more town
A little further down the track
O lord, every god-damn turn I take
I fear the noose, I fear the stake
For there is no bone
They did not break
In all the towns I've been before
Well those that sin against me are snuffed out
I know from every day that I live
God-damn the day that I was born
The night that forced me from the womb
And god-damn this town
For I am leaving now
But one day I will return
And the people of this town will surely see
Just how quickly the tables turn
O sweet Jesus
This really is the end
There is always one more town
A little further round the end

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