

Kris Kristofferson

"Casey's Stand"

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"Casey joins the hollow sound of silent people walkin'
down
The stairway to the subway, in the shadows down
below.
Following their footsteps through the neon darkened
corridors
Of silent desperation never speaking to a soul.
The poison that he's breathing has the dirty smell of
dying
Because it's never seen the sunshine and it's never
felt the rain,
But Casey minds the arrows and ignores the fatal
echoes
Of the clicking of the turnstiles, and the rattle of its
chains.

'Oh,' she said, 'Casey, it's been so long since
I've seen you.'
'Here,' she said, 'Just a kiss to make a body
smile.'
'See,' she said, 'I put on new stockings just to
please you.'
'Lord,' she said, 'Casey, can you only stay a
while?'

Casey leaves the underground and stops inside the
Golden Crown
For something wet to wipe away the chill that's on his
bones.
Seeing his reflection in the lives of all the lonely men
Who reach for anything they can to keep from going
home.
Standing in the corner Casey drinks his final bitter
Never glancing in the mirror at the people passing by,
Then he stumbles as he's leaving and he wonders if
the reason
Is the beer that's in his belly or the tear that's in his
eye.

'Oh,' she said, 'I s'pose you seldom think about
me,'
'Now,' she said, 'Now that you've a family of your

own.Â'
Â'Still,Â' she said, Â'ItÂ's so blessed good to feel your
body.Â'
Â'Lord,Â' she said, Â'Casey, itÂ's a shame to be
alone.Â'
"

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