

Nick Cave "The Carny"

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And no-one saw the Carny go
And the weeks flew by
Until they moved on the show
Leaving his caravan behind
It was parked out on the south east ridge
And as the company crossed the bridge
With the first rain filling the bone-dry river bed
It shone, just so, upon the edge
away, away we're sad to say

Dog-boy, Atlas, Man-drake, the geeks, the hired hands
There was not one among them that did not cast an
eye behind
In the hope that the Carny would return to his own kind

The Carny left behind a horse so skin and bone that
he'd named Sorrow
And it was a shallow unmarked grave
That that old nag was laid
In the then parched meadow

And it was the dwarves that were given the task of
digging the ditch
And laying the nag's carcass in the ground
while boss Bellini, waved his smoking pistol 'round
Saying "The nag was dead meat"
"We can't afford to carry dead weight"
The whole company standing about
Not making a sound
And turning to the dwarves on the enclosed gate
the boss says "bury this lump of crow bait"

And the rain came hammering down
Everybody running for their wagons
Tying all the canvas flaps down
The mangy cats growling in their cages
The bird-girl flapping and squawkening around
The whole valley reeking of wet beast
Wet beast and rotten, sodden hay
Freak and brute creation all packed up and on their way

The three dwarves peering through their wagon's hind

Moses says to Noah "We shoulda dugga deepa one"
Their grissom faces like dying moons
Still dirty from the digging done

And Charlie the Atlas to the three said
"I guess the Carny ain't gonna show"
And they were silent for a spell
wishing they'd done a better job at burrying Sorrow

And the company'd passed from the valley into higher
ground
The rain beat on the ridge and on the meadow and on
the mound
Until nothing was left, nothing left at all
Except the body of Sorrow that rose in time
To float upon the surface of the eaten soil

And a murder of crows did circle 'round
First one, then the others flapping blackly down

And the Carny's van still sat upon the edge
Tilting slowly as the firm ground turned to sludge

And the rain it hammered down
And the rain it hammered down
And the rain it hammered down
And the rain it hammered down

And no-one saw the Carny go
And no-one saw the Carny go
And no-one saw the Carny go
I say its funny how things go

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