Nields "Ash Wednesday"

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Daddy's on the back porch playing with a blow torch standing by the front door Avon Ladies For the Poor Meanwhile Mama smiles, "Get your lover down the aisle before he's gone"

Lisa says, "Don't cry;
I'll bring you flowers when you die
I'll go to school in only black
or maybe in a gunni sack
I'll get your friends to stand around
and dance upon buried ground
on our front lawn

But don't you worry; I'm sure she's sorry and doesn't mean that stuff about the aisle."

Ring around the rosy a pocket full of posy ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

The test came back on Tuesday last right before our pseudo fast;
Lisa said "it's heaven sent-you can't give ice cream up for lent
Mama said I wouldn't last forty days,
but maybe two

So I spent the day avoiding mother reading Dr. Joyce Brothers, reading Where the Wild Things Are and some of Plath's Bell Jar Reading Daddy's tax forms to see if it would be born on Christmas Day

And I'm not weeping; I think I'm keeping a baby who will soon be half my age. Ring around the rosy a pocket full of posy ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

Quitting smoking is a must, ashes ashes dust to dust try to turn a new leaf, giving up pork and beef Lisa says she'll buy me bras and maybe I should join a spa or take Lamaze

It's funny how you never know exactly when you're asked to grow, exactly when you take the load or head up on your own road Exactly which the day will be-maybe Ash Wednesday or Mardi Gras.

So I will change, 'cause I have changed--time to put these combat boots away.

Ring around the rosy a pocket full of posy ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

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