

## **Pete Townshend**

# **"How Can You Do It Alone?"**

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Saw a man about fifty or so  
He looked lonely but his eyes were bright  
I was walking up Holland Park Road  
And I stopped him to ask for a light  
He practically froze when I spoke  
But eased when he saw my cigarette  
Then I saw as he lit up my smoke  
Beneath his coat he was naked and wet

Who can you blame he knew that I knew  
In the sound of his breath was a moan  
I said "I know there's no name  
For what you go through  
But how can you do it alone".

I crossed the street to the local news store  
Flicked through some cheap magazines  
Beside me some school kid I saw  
Push some girlie mag down into his jeans  
The shop girl was watching amazed  
Asked me to call for the police  
She screamed at his blushing young face  
But he escaped into the streets

With eyes full of shame  
For he knew that I knew  
He slumped to the wall with a moan  
I said "I know there's no name  
For what you go through  
But how can you do it alone".

Do it alone, how can you do it alone.  
I need your help, so I can do it by myself.  
Do it alone, don't have to breathe down the phone  
I ain't got a clue, 'bout the things that you do  
But how...can you do it alone.

How can you do it... [etc]

Back at the flat my girl sat in the shower  
And wasn't too keen on me sharing  
She came out well after an hour

And by that time I was past caring  
Some women it seems have the knack  
Of attaining that stars in their dreams  
They simply relax and lay back  
While people like us scratch our jeans.

With eyes full of shame  
And I know it must show  
I slump and I fall and I groan  
Will somebody explain  
What I need to know  
How, can you do it alone.

How can you do it alone... [etc]

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