

# The Broadways

## "Ragtime-The Night That Goldman Spoke At Union Squa"

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EMMA GOLDMAN

I have just arrived from Lawrence, Massachusetts  
where,  
eight weeks ago, the workers there went on strike. They  
are  
starving, their children are dying but they are holding  
firm  
and we must support them.

YOUNGER BROTHER

It was winter in New York  
As the snow began to fall.  
And the workmen's hall had not a seat to spare.  
When a young man stepped inside,  
Just to warm himself, was all,  
The night that Goldman spoke at Union Square.

EMMA

What is happening in Lawrence is happening  
everywhere.  
Let us at last make this the land of opportunity for  
all people, not just the owners. The land of opportunity  
for Tateh and his little girl. We cannot rest!

YOUNGER BROTHER

She was speaking loud and fast  
Through a haze of noise and heat  
And the smell of sweat and anger in the air.  
The police were standing by  
But the crowd was on it's feet  
The night that Goldman spoke at Union Square.

EMMA

You!

YOUNGER BROTHER

He thought he heard her say...

EMMA

What brings you here today?

EMMA, RALLYERS  
Poor young rich boy!

EMMA  
Masturbates for a Vaudeville tart!  
What a waste of a fiery heart,  
Dear!

YOUNGER BROTHER  
He thought she said...

EMMA, RALLYERS  
Poor young bourgeois!

EMMA  
There are things that you've never thought.  
Come to Emma and you'll be taught  
Here!

YOUNGER BROTHER  
His head was spinning!

EMMA, RALLYERS  
People feathered and tarred, my friend.  
Unions broken and why for?  
Children laboring, women still enslaved!  
Leave you little backyard my friend.  
There are causes to die for!

RALLYERS  
Strike!

YOUNGER BROTHER  
In the gutters of the city  
I have tried to find some meaning.

RALLYERS  
Strike!

YOUNGER BROTHER  
In the arms of fallen women.  
In the thought of suicide.

RALLYERS  
Strike!

YOUNGER BROTHER EMMA  
Like a firework unexploded,  
Wanting life but never  
knowing how...  
My brother,

Life had meaning  
RALLYERS  
Strike!  
I'll show you how!  
YOUNGER BROTHER  
Till now!  
My brother, you are  
With us now!  
He was calling out her name,  
Shouting what, he did not know  
And he found that he was standing on a chair  
With a heart as clean and new  
As the frshly fallen snow,  
The night that Goldman spoke...

EMMA  
I've been waiting for you.

YOUNGER BROTHER  
At Union Square.

WORKERS  
Strike! Strike! Strike! Strike!

ORGANIZER  
Put the children on the train! Get them out of here!

TATEH  
I hate you, goddamned America!

LITTLE GIRL  
Tateh! Tateh!

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