

## Norbert Leo Butz "The Schmeul Song"

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JAMIE:

Spoken: "First, a story. A little Christmas Story.  
I call it 'The Story of Schmueel, Tailor of Klimovich' "

Schmueel would work till half-past ten at his tailor shop  
in Klimovich  
Get up at dawn and start again with the hems and pins  
and twist  
Forty-one years had come and gone at his tailor shop  
in Klimovich  
Watching the winters soldier on, there was one thing  
Schmueel missed

"If I only had time," old Schmueel said  
"I would build the dress that's in my head  
A dress to fire  
The mad desire  
Of girls from here to Minsk  
But I have no more hours left to sew"  
When the clock upon the wall began to glow...

And the clock said:  
"Na na na na, na na na  
Oh Schmueel, you'll get to be happy!  
Na na na na, na na na  
I give you unlimited time!  
Na na na na, na na na  
So Schmueel, go sew and be happy!"  
But Schmueel said  
"No, no, it's not my lot  
I've gotta make do with the time I've got"

Schmueel was done at half-past ten and he said "Good  
night, old Klimovich"  
Put on his coat to go, but then the clock cried, "Wait!  
Not yet!  
Even though you're not wise or rich  
You're the finest man in Klimovich.  
Listen up, Schmueel,  
Make just one stitch and you'll see what you can get"

But Schmueel said

"Clock, it's much too late  
I'm at peace with life  
I accept my fate..."  
But the clock said "Schmuel!  
One stitch and you'll  
Unlock the dreams you've lost!"

So Schmuel, with reluctance, took his thread  
He pulled a bolt of velvet and said  
"I should take out my teeth and go to bed  
I'm sitting here with talking clocks instead!"

And the clock said:  
"Na na na na, na na na  
Oh Schmuel, you'll get to be happy!  
Na na na na, na na na,  
I give you unlimited time  
Na na na na, na na na  
Just do it and you can be happy!"

So Schmuel put the thread through the needle's eye  
And the moon stared down from a starless sky  
And he pushed the thread through the velvet black  
And he looked, and the clock was turning... back

So he grabbed his shears and he cut some lace  
As the hands moved left on the old clock's face  
And his fingers flew and the fabric swirled  
It was nine-fifteen all around the world

Every cut and stitch was a perfect fit  
As if God Himself were controlling it!  
And Schmuel cried through a rush of tears  
"Take me back! Take me back all forty-one years!"

And on it went down that silent street  
Till Schmuel's dress was at last complete  
And he stretched his arms  
And he closed his eyes  
And the morning sun finally started to rise

And the dress he made on that endless night  
Was a dress that would make any soul take flight  
Not a swatch, not a skein had gone to waste  
Every ribbon and button ideally placed  
And sewn into the seams were forty-one seasons of  
dreams  
Dreams that you could feel  
Coming real

And that very dress, so the papers swore

Was the dress a girl in Odessa wore  
On the day she promised forevermore  
To love a young man named Schmuel  
Who only one day before  
Had knocked at her kitchen door

(To Cathy)

Plenty have hoped and dreamed and prayed  
But they can't get out of Klimovich  
If Schmuel had been a cute goyishe maid  
He'd've looked a lot like you  
Maybe it's just that you're afraid to go out on to a...  
limb-ovich  
Maybe your heart's completely swayed  
But your head can't follow through

But shouldn't I want the world to see  
The brilliant girl who inspires me?  
Don't you think that now's a good time to be  
The ambitious freak you are?  
Say goodbye to wiping ashtrays at the bar  
Say hello to Cathy Hiatt, big-time star!

'Cause I say:

Na na na na na na na na  
Cathy, you get to be happy!  
Na na na na na na na na  
I give you unlimited time!  
Na na na na na na na na  
Stop temping and go and be happy!

Here's a headshot guy and a new BackStage  
Where you're right for something on every page  
Take a breath  
Take a step  
Take a chance

(He gives her his gift: a lovely watch)  
Take your time...

Have I mentioned today  
How lucky I am  
To be in love with you!

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