

## Reece Mastin

### "Fortis Green"

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Mum would shout and scream when dad would come  
home  
Drunk  
When she asked him where he'd been, he'd say "Up  
the  
Clissold Arms"  
Chatting up some huzzy, but he didn't mean no harm  
Sunday morning drives, just to get away  
Ramsgate or Southend, it would always be a laugh  
Paddling by the sea, trousers rolled up to the knees  
Walking by the sea, full of dreams, eating ice cream  
Grandma's burnt her cheeks getting brown, turn her  
over

Fortis Green, memories of days when I was young  
It can only be a memory. A time that now has gone

There's Uncle Frank tellin' stories from the war  
Frightening all the kids, yet we'd heard it all before  
While the bombs were droppin' round, there were  
parties  
Underground  
Aunt Lil's at the gin, while Mum's singing songs  
From the 40's when variety, Max Miller was going  
strong  
All the characters are gone, oh, what a blooming  
shame  
I wish that it could be like it was in the old days  
Sat on Auntie's knee, toasting bread in the fire-place

Fortis Green, memories of days when I was young  
It can only be a memory. A time that now has gone  
Memories of Fortis Green, when I was just a lad  
Collecting bottle tops, threepenny bits. Fishing with  
My Dad

Sister's in the doorway, snogging with her bloke  
Scared to put the cat out 'case I put him off his  
Stroke  
But she wouldn't be denied, I got a shilling as a bribe  
I used to do my courting on an old kitchen chair

The girls were all so sporting, but I only really cared  
For my little Katie-Sue  
There was nothing she wouldn't do  
Sunday after tea we would listen to the wireless  
Hancock's half-hour, Luxembourg. We'd sit for hours

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It can only be a memory. A time that now has gone  
Fortis Green, memories of days when I was young  
Collecting bottle tops, threepenny bits. Fishing with  
My Dad

That's it

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