

## The Fatima Mansions

### "Bertie's brochures"

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August the 20th: Yes, folks, it's another cold, clammy day in England. A large crowd has gathered around the police station. Everybody--EVERYBODY--wishes to have contact with a certain little Irish writer within. Not to discuss his works, though the works are known to them; they've been published in the tabloid papers by the police under the heading "Barbaric Butcher's Brochures". No, they want to tear his very head from his body, for what it is alleged he did in the way of mortal damage to two soldiers in a nearby public lavatory. The night draws in. Nobody would say a word about him, except a fool like me [(and his skin)].

In rainy Ireland in the 50's  
There outside a pink farmhouse door

A small Bertie, playing at digging trenches,  
asks, "Daddy, what's the blowtorch for?"  
He said, "The torch will cut the cars to turn them into  
sculpture  
so I can express what I feel. The college men may  
laugh,  
the farmers persecute me, but I do for myself. So  
should you."

Come look at Bertie's brochures  
You'll be enchanted, I am sure  
The whole world's in Bertie's brochures:  
All the wisdom, the smiles of dear friends

Through freakshow Britain, through the Eighties  
Bertie works in labs, though his father's aims still  
endure  
though only at night does he do his real work  
Learning, writing his brochures...

for he still believes that everyone's a poet  
and that all he has to do is to set it down  
and so transform the milkman,  
the waitress and the gunman into immortal ART!!

Now they're laughing at Bertie's brochures  
Detectives with crowbars and skewers  
They see things in Bertie's brochures:  
Their own hatred of all other races and their fear

Don't laugh at Bertie's brochures  
He would not if they were yours  
So what if your enemy is there?  
Bertie's an artist, so why should he care?  
It's the north European peasant experience

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