

# Nick Cave, As I Sat Sadly By Her Side

As I sat sadly by her side  
At the window, through the glass  
She stroked a kitten in her lap  
And we watched the world as it fell past  
Softly she spoke these words to me  
And with brand new eyes, open wide  
We pressed our faces to the glass  
As I sat sadly by her side

She said, "Father, mother, sister, brother,  
Uncle, aunt, nephew, niece,  
Soldier, sailor, physician, labourer,  
Actor, scientist, mechanic, priest  
Earth and moon and sun and stars  
Planets and comets with tails blazing  
All are there forever falling  
Falling lovely and amazing"

Then she smiled and turned to me  
And waited for me to reply  
Her hair was falling down her shoulders  
As I sat sadly by her side

As I sat sadly by her side  
The kitten she did gently pass  
Over to me and again we pressed  
Our indifferent faces to the glass  
"That may be very well", I said  
"But watch the one falling in the street  
See him gesture to his neighbours  
See him trampled beneath their feet  
All outward motion connects to nothing  
For each is concerned with their immediate need  
Witness the man reaching up from the gutter  
See the other one stumbling on who can not see"

With trembling hand I turned toward her  
And pushed the hair out of her eyes  
The kitten jumped back to her lap  
As I sat sadly by her side

Then she drew the curtains down  
And said, "When will you ever learn  
That what happens there beyond the glass  
Is simply none of your concern?  
God has given you but one heart  
You are not a home for the hearts of your brothers

And God don't care for your benevolence  
Any more than he cares for the lack of it in others  
Nor does he care for you to sit  
At windows in judgement of the world He created  
While sorrows pile up around you  
Ugly, useless and over-inflated"

At which she turned her head away  
Great tears leaping from her eyes  
I could not wipe the smile from my face  
As I sat sadly by her side