

Nick Cave, Song Of Joy

Have mercy on me, sir
Allow me to impose on you
I have no place to stay and my bones are cold right through
I will tell you a story of a man and his family
And I swear that it is true

Ten years ago I met a girl named Joy
She was a sweet and happy thing
Her eyes were bright blue jewels
And we were married in the spring
I had no idea what happiness a little love could bring
Or what life had in store
But all things move toward their end
All things move toward their end
On that you can be sure

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Then one morning I awoke to find her weeping
And for many days to follow
She grew so sad and lonely
Became Joy in name only
Within her breast there launched an unnamed sorrow
And a dark and grim force set sail
"Farewell happy fields
Where joy forever dwells
Hail horrors hail"

Was it an act of contrition or some awful premonition?
As if she saw into of her final blood-soaked night
Those lunatic eyes
That hungry kitchen knife
Ah, I see, sir, that I have your attention!
Well, could it be?
How often I've asked that question
Well, then in quick succession we had babies, one, two, three

We called them Hilda, Hattie and Holly
They were their mother's children
Their eyes were bright blue jewels and they were quiet as a mouse
There was no laughter in the house
No, not from Hilda, Hattie or Holly
"No wonder", people said, "poor mother Joy's so melancholy"
Well, one night, there came a visitor to our little home
I was visiting a sick friend
I was a doctor then
Joy and the girls were on their own

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Joy had been bound with electrical tape
In her mouth a gag
She'd been stabbed repeatedly and stuffed into a sleeping bag
In their very cots my girls were robbed of their lives
Method of murder much the same way as my wife's
Method of murder much the same way as my wife's
It was midnight when I arrived home
Said to the police on the telephone
Someone's taken four innocent lives

They never caught the man
He's still on the loose

It seems he has done many, many more
Quotes John Milton on the walls in the victim's blood
The police are investigating at tremendous cost
In my house he wrote, "his red right hand"
That, I'm told is from Paradise Lost
The wind round here gets wicked cold
But my story is nearly told
I fear the morning will bring quite a frost

And so I've left my home
I drift from land to land
I am upon your step and you are a family man
Outside, the vultures wheel
The wolves howl
The serpents hiss
And to extend this small favour, friend, would be the sum of earthly bliss
Do you reckon me a friend?
"The sun to me is dark and silent as the moon"
Do you, sir, have a room?
Are you beckoning me in?

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