

*chris hall*

balladz f bedlam

## **doggon skitsee**

littl bitter sparkl: Twinklín-Í!  
littl sharp spectacuLAH: Sir Prize!  
hergest harden howlin Houndv Hell!  
a-whalen atme Fragmenten Disguise:

inmeVaughstate, upper pon th ridj  
th canine cri qui-quikkenin inme breast  
me-Dreamcom! nd th dark distinctif Whine  
YOWLS t dewpond, wherri lies at rest.

downin hamlets, on th Borderline  
the LIAR nd th LAFFINstock n Priest  
cohort tgether cross th oaken floor  
t bring me fetter'd t th Hallowed Feast;

nd there upon th Tabl they will set  
th Lovincup, th Lixir v me youth:  
nd from me SHATTERD SOUL bi Three Degrees  
extract from me the essents v me Truth.

from thence t Funnifarn thell bear me up  
wi Thump o Tabor, nd with CLANG v Bell;  
nd thus will smiler Soothe nd Scythe nd Steal:  
n pricken sesame will make me Well.

bt Here-Within-th-Dark will I remain;  
immune t Faith, t Flippantfate, or Fear:  
nd hurtlincross th starface nd Vast Voids  
th Dewpond Voice will speak...AND I WILL HEAR!

**requiem f old Gowan (*who died in th Asylum, surroundid by Nurses*)**

Gowan gon t hitherto nd thence:  
gon t blayziz whilst th city slept;  
goncross veilen portal v pretence;  
gon where Phaeton rein'd n raged nd wept.

b'times strange seas he's traipst fr'm pole t pole,  
v which th craz'd nd Ancient Sailor talk'd:  
where Ahab sails t harpoon his soul;  
nd meaner streets than seekinmarlow walkt.

Them there be, those gangsters on the make,  
Who pay th likes v Gowan littl heed:  
Who operate f price nd power's sake;  
Nd value profit more than Gowan's need.

Mourn not old Gowan: keep y sudden tears  
f them that made a nonsense v his birth;  
whose righteous nostrums sufficate y fears,  
nd denigrate th once nd lovli Earth  
t trade th dreams v Gowan's yet unborn  
f gold n greed nd arrogant disgust  
whilst old n rigid men b'tray th dawn;  
nd fadencowboys pave th way t dust.

we who nurtured him these latter years  
and trace the paltry contours of our lives:  
tis we who co-conspire with their ways  
to graft and gruel and murder all that thrives.

and Gown's visage, innocent in death,  
gives neither truck nor credence to your pain;  
we knew, ere he took his final breath,  
that loss was ours: this be the Gowangain.

no longer woebegun his waking fate:  
nor stricken solitude the bitter fruit;  
no toxin fetters chain his soaring state;  
no straining jacket be his birthday-suit.

if phantom'd spectres rise, and roar, and ride  
beyond the caverns whence the Lethe flows;  
and reveries not guess'd at skylines glide  
across the retina where Gowan goes

## isobel gowdie

*(who was tried and tortured from April 13th to May 27th 1662. Word has it that before she was burned alive and her ashes scattered, she named many of her Calvinist persecutors as fellow witches. As a result of her confessions, they themselves subsequently met a similar fate.)*

o isobel; o isobel; th peopl com t see y  
o isobel; o isobel; th peopl com t free y  
they com wi ears t hear y  
express th Why they fear y

o isobel; o isobel; th Preacher coms t bare y  
he claims he stryves t Save y  
his henchmen long t stave y  
o isobel; o isobel; they bear th tools t snare y

*" nd i will be taunted  
nd i will be flaunted  
nd i will be treated unjust"*

o isobel; o isobel; the Preacher wants t take y;  
nd henchmen yearn t Stake y  
o isobel; o isobel: theyl do their best t make y  
theyl do their worst t Break y

*" nd i will be ravaged  
nd i will be savaged  
afor they reduce me t Dust"*

o isobel; o isobel; y neighbours will defame y  
nd Men v God will maim y  
theyl beat, nd Beast, nd Blame y  
t counterfeit their lust

*"then will i surely tell  
who durst conspire wi me  
wi Wicca, Wand n Spell  
nd theyl perspire wi me!"*

o isobel: o isobel: profess th Daemon in y!  
denounce th Horned One!  
the Devil's Semen in y!  
o isobel: o isobel: confess th deed y'v done!

*" if i've don ought t Charm y  
then i've don nought t harm y:  
Witches! Ay! i'll name y  
bifor th Set v Sun!"*

o isobel: o isobel: th pressenthrong surround y!  
wi Knot nd Thong theyv wound y!  
in Shawl n Shroud theyv Gown'd y!  
th Purging has begun!

*" Them who conspire  
t kindl th Fire  
wherein my Poor Body  
will presentli burn;  
who summon their Saviour  
t Shield their Behaviour  
tis theirs whose Deceits y should learn!*

*And yours be th Shame  
as i burst into flame  
yet uttering That Which is True:  
for when I am gon  
theyl Disfigger mi Song  
nd turn their attention to you..."*

o isobel! o isobel! th peopl came t see y:  
o isobel! o isobel! they came wi ears t hear y:  
they came wi tears t free y:  
they Would that they could Be y  
that is why they fear



## musicl box

chyld  
grafickli drawn  
hands touching  
hands runnin  
cross th wood  
carefli avoidin  
th dancing figga  
                  th one wi th dash v paint remaining  
                  from th years v usidj  
tryn t catch  
gist a reminiscence  
n eterniti      as metl leaves metl  
                  with mereli a sound

on seeing a griffin in hyde park quite late at night

R YOUR VIOLENCIA V PAXORCISM  
GRIFFINUM:

R YOUR TRIAD  
SPANDWINGD  
TRINITI TRIUMVIRATE:

ND BEAKON EYDOLD  
FLAMEYBOUYANT  
MYTHICONUNDRUM  
BEATITUDINOUS

OMENISCIENT  
OMENIFEROUS  
DEVENJING DACTYL;

ND ME BDAZZLD  
ND ME BWYLDID  
ND

STRAINJ AX V VISIONIN

BDAMND!

## a short request v a forgotten composer

giv me  
outv th scepter'd end  
outv th sad days unleash'd onli  
by shriekt rcurrent memories            tidings v wellbeing  
dead trumpitmajors  
citadels  
a mutterd optymism            nursery-rhymed laendlers  
headstone timbres  
night            o not so  
quite so fragment v  
stonefire            night:

giv me  
th fur v y skin  
giv me  
just a rubbing t indicate  
th texture v th wood  
and that  
your keen ear  
has not been deafnd  
by th silence

## round filigri fountin

filigri fountin's sinna few times  
walio Whali (no th descendance)  
wemminin blowziz n  
oldmen wi trouziz  
filigri viligri: owalio

giv us alight f filigri fountin  
handus a puffa that pieceful olpipe;  
gimme th vision o wailiowaili  
lettinta th secrets v them  
wierdo rhymes

eh! seddi suddenli  
caught on th offchants  
show us y songbelt  
nd throw down y sword  
tuff on th unawares  
nuff v y machocrap

(boastiface  
bonniface)

pledj us y word

then handid his weaponri  
over t yesterwas;  
left imself naykid  
t earthwindnfyre:  
seen t be open  
t walio walio  
standstarken vulnerstate  
facin th quire

straynj goinzon down bi filigri fountin:  
jeerin at reepa nd tollin v chimes;  
lov o th Whirl-Go-Round  
Chant v th Seasonsound;  
crack o th eggshell:  
th Flight v th Bird

(com down  
somtime  
avva laff  
bit o banta  
cupla jarz  
damngood chinwag  
enna few late nights:

**jonni-b**

these three fellahs, see;  
these three damkwirchaps  
meandr in Outer  
outv the twilandlight  
outta the SUNSCUTTLE  
bankinon tryin it:  
(som would say triuphan -  
som would say Fortunat)  
cartin connivance  
Solemnvow (massacr)  
jonni b y'ungamman  
Jon: yerra Dedman (JONNI-b: deddenman)

nd These Three See KWIRFELLAHS  
these three three Rkityps  
givvim the one-two thrice  
givvim the Sunderin  
leavvim t kittyhawk  
leaf f th RaggltagThen

RAINCOMDOWN!

(unearth underearth  
whatta Pallarva!  
fallabaht LAFFINat  
fallapart Festrin)

nd that jonni-B see  
thatbugga Jonni B he  
pokes it out sneakilike  
(solemnvow? NUN'V IT!)  
ere y kin ketchim

uppuPPigrows Therri goes!  
springstep b'Fuddlz y  
maze:maize: AMAYZIN y  
standthere till suppatime  
STAND-RITE-THERE Midsummer  
madness nd pallorwan  
Close: no-shave; beardigro  
(so? sow: th so-n-so)  
sow:sew; nd so so so AND SO BECAME A MAN

falltime - th Cuttascum  
sheer: Scythen: brishinhook  
kneebrichen cuttiscut  
rangl, roll, wrappenwrack  
pitchFork nd pykenstaff  
Loda - n worstenat!  
(serv'd Him most Barbrousli) -  
boundim t Cart...





OH! Oh th Firmament !  
(that's what th Ferment meant)  
yeast: east: th torment ceas'd  
pour'd in th Pewterjug  
Lovli in Lushousness:  
Thisbe th pentecost  
Praise be t jonni B!  
Here's to y, Good John B,  
Issue v Barley corn!  
Plenish th Glass!

(y could say  
spied immin th alehouse

nutbrown  
deepdown      LAFFINlast

havina giggl                      at y'r expense

## **v th man bitten by th poisonous snake nd refusing treatment**

hiwill  
stay here on th headland  
chanting and  
watchin th calls  
th hamlets in shoutindistance  
leave th wound unsuckt  
wait and harbouring venom  
ignore th ruff passage t th lights  
th dim sounds

yell o th cosmos  
watch th swelling  
open out:

they  
will not hear him  
bellow  
recede  
attempt no draggin stumbl or shudda

onli wait  
as th flow ceases  
th night stiffnin over  
foretokens a dawn v grasses  
silent loves  
carcasses

## an harvest

fellen  
callme fellen  
if yiwill  
(tho i go  
stryve ffreedom  
in mitime)

fellen  
mebe fellen then  
(an will:  
ffightin  
crass-conundrums  
inta crime)

leftover  
daydreams  
blieve me  
blieve me  
leftover daydreams  
be leavin me now:

n i'll be on  
i'll be on  
sidewalkn  
sidestreet  
waitinon  
waitinon  
plowmanan plow

ssplenda  
sez th wreck  
(nd that in peacetime)  
splenda sez he  
t the vacant air:

n notta man  
    bside  
    backside  
be for him  
took once o notice  
th insighted stare

"drab all drabbie;  
bitsa brains bemused:  
cant tell nothin doin  
what i heard...

n no o crazi:  
no go overstatin;  
split no way nor bothways,  
notta word..."

up t browise  
raise the triggafinger  
cross th furrow  
wipe th beads v sweat;  
(y may be lost miboy  
in flame o Fury:  
lost mebbe  
bt never beaten yet!)

so waitinon  
waitinon  
gunmanan  
shootinstick  
waitinon  
waitinon  
pacyfist thyme:

heavnscent  
neverno  
hope inner  
breathakin  
stench in th  
air nd th  
creepin o slime;

that set  
score-centri  
come t th four-quarter:  
spirit-loss wit  
body hearten nerve  
y dreams gon vapour'd  
at th hand v mundane  
whyl silent slaves th suttla  
masters serve        "n newsprint scream  
                             nd imij o the daemon  
                             nor godhead  
                             lyin downan out:  
  
                             go get y sroryline  
                             y gangrene finger...  
                             y heavihandlin  
                             faild t make me shout!"

n so th glass-eye  
empti on th tabl;  
n so th mock o voices dronin on...  
nd himmin sittin  
hymnenlack v choices  
becomin fewen fewer  
withis song:

n'ill be fellen  
fellen if yiwill  
tho i go stryve ffreedom in mitime;  
ay fellen be  
against y totems still  
sing me me whyltime  
a littl rhym:

leftover  
daydreams  
believe me  
believe me:  
leftover daydreams  
believin me now

n albion  
albion  
sidewalkn  
sidestreet

waitinon

plowman  
nd plow

awatinin

## snowman

betwixt  
eterniti oblivion  
when first I came  
came t this place  
sittinat tabl  
sittinat tabcloth  
you: yeh you n all  
(yeh truli you n all)  
givin all that t me  
givin me all v that  
all that  
nowin o yourn  
withal that  
nowin o yourn  
  
n you there saynt me  
(me speakin back t y)  
ay speakin back t y  
didn y say t me  
things like  
terribl  
things like  
terribl things  
happenin nowadays  
  
these darken  
darknindays;



n never no askin  
askin the spark v me  
(dark in the spark o me)

never no askin  
darkdays or gravelwounds  
justice or otherwise:

n me: ay me risin  
bloodi: nd risin  
risin from tablcloth

takin th hulk o me  
wound n all hulkv me  
lookin out after  
lookinat afterwards

n you there saynt me  
(me speakin back t y)  
ay speakin back t y  
things like  
terribl  
things like

terribl things  
happenin nowadays  
all v it justice;

mebbe they found me  
out on th hillytop  
wind n all winter  
out on th mountinscape

nd mebbe they found me  
starin at holocaust  
freezin t multitude  
all that  
    nowin o yourn  
withal that  
    nowin o yourn:

what became: tell me  
all that heart v yourn  
here in this ice o mine  
here in th furnace-face

n what became: tell me  
bloodi n risin  
(me mebbe thinkin)  
ay mebbe thinkin  
(terribl terribl)

you still unlikeli  
unlikeli betrayin me

lettin it ride

## **morf**

manwho(mantakes)  
th lastwalk from th train  
pillerpastpillbox  
turnpike: th signlpost  
piecemeal t play it  
pax(ploy) th pride v place  
place o th piper  
pipe o th price v pain

come y t seeim  
yeo th blatant eye  
(sower then) be y  
reaper or th slain;  
come y rin vengeance  
(wherefor th way began)  
com y rin victri  
                    vanquisht or  
(elfin)vain;

somewho: would say so  
(heresay)th heartv now  
lyre;loss;laudenm  
hidden(th haul t hard)  
laughta there wuncwere  
onceover(staytv grace)  
tell(tailin)finiti  
edj o th endless rain:

if y(red)sinnim  
(passim)thisway bfor  
passage(plight:paradox)  
haunch o th dreaminhill  
thisbe th armistice  
(nihil)th halfv it  
watershed:wildiness  
grist f th wanton grain

*may!may!celebrate!*  
*celebrate th artichoke!*  
*tor nd twig nd dragonsmouth:*  
*th eyes v blazinblake!*  
*swayth n switch n synonym;*  
*birdn: flaim; nd erthenwerk*  
*faerifeller: masterstroke!*  
*th creechers v th wake*

manwho(man takes)  
th final ax t grind  
staunch in th setv sight  
th stryd o time:  
thisbe n end f rit  
lay(lie)low  
edj v th aftermath  
WALK in th endless rain

WIDDASHINS!