

## Tombstone Blues

Bob Dylan

**E** **A** **E**  
The sweet pretty things are in bed now of course  
**E** **A** **E**  
The city fathers they re trying to endorse  
**E** **A** **E**  
The reincarnation of Paul Revere s horse  
**E** **A** **E**  
But the town has no need to be nervous  
The ghost of Belle Starr she hands down her wits  
To Jezebel the nun she violently knits  
A bald wig for Jack the Ripper who sits  
At the head of the chamber of commerce  
**A**  
Mama s in the fact ry  
**E**  
She ain t got no shoes  
**A**  
Daddy s in the alley  
**E**  
He s lookin for food  
**A**  
I m in the kitchen \*)  
**E**  
With the tombstone blues  
The hysterical bride in the penny arcade  
Screaming she moans, I ve just been made  
Then sends out for the doctor who pulls down the shade  
Says, My advice is to not let the boys in  
Now the medicine man comes and he shuffles inside  
He walks with a swagger and he says to the bride  
Stop all this weeping, swallow your pride  
You will not die, it s not poison  
  
Mama s in the fact ry  
She ain t got no shoes  
Daddy s in the alley  
He s lookin for food  
I m in the kitchen  
With the tombstone blues  
  
Well, John the Baptist after torturing a thief  
Looks up at his hero the Commander-in-Chief  
Saying, Tell me great hero, but please make it brief  
Is there a hole for me to get sick in?  
The Commander-in-Chief answers him while chasing a fly  
Saying, Death to all those who would whimper and cry  
And dropping a bar bell he points to the sky

Saying, The sun s not yellow it s chicken

Mama s in the fact ry  
She ain t got no shoes  
Daddy s in the alley  
He s lookin for food  
I m in the kitchen  
With the tombstone blues

The king of the Philistines his soldiers to save  
Puts jawbones on their tombstones and flatters their graves  
Puts the pied pipers in prison and fattens the slaves  
Then sends them out to the jungle  
Gypsy Davey with a blowtorch he burns out their camps  
With his faithful slave Pedro behind him he tramps  
With a fantastic collection of stamps  
To win friends and influence his uncle

Mama s in the fact ry  
She ain t got no shoes  
Daddy s in the alley  
He s lookin for food  
I m in trouble  
With the tombstone blues

The geometry of innocent flesh on the bone  
Causes Galileo s math book to get thrown  
At Delilah who s sitting worthlessly alone  
But the tears on her cheeks are from laughter  
Now I wish I could give Brother Bill his great thrill  
I would set him in chains at the top of the hill  
Then send out for some pillars and Cecil B. DeMille  
He could die happily ever after

Mama s in the fact ry  
She ain t got no shoes  
Daddy s in the alley  
He s lookin for food  
I m in the kitchen  
With the tombstone blues

Where Ma Raney and Beethoven once unwrapped their bed roll  
Tuba players now rehearse around the flagpole  
And the National Bank at a profit sells road maps for the soul  
To the old folks home and the college  
Now I wish I could write you a melody so plain  
That could hold you dear lady from going insane  
That could ease you and cool you and cease the pain  
Of your useless and pointless knowledge

Mama s in the fact ry  
She ain t got no shoes  
Daddy s in the alley

He s lookin for the fuse  
I m in the streets  
With the tombstone blues