

The English Collection



Dirty Old Town (Ewan MacColl)

Dirty Old Town

1. I found my love by the gasworks croft,
Dreamed a dream by the old canal;
Kissed my girl by the factory wall,
Dirty old town, dirty old town.
2. Clouds a-drifting across the moon,
Cats a-prowling on their beat;
Spring's a girl on the street at night,
Dirty old town, dirty old town.
3. Heard a siren from the docks,
Saw a train set the night on fire;
Smelled the spring on the smoky wind,
Dirty old town, dirty old town.
4. I'm going to make a good sharp axe,
Shining steel tempered in the fire;
We'll chop you down like an old dead tree,
Dirty old town, dirty old town.



This song was written by Ewan MacColl in 1951 for a play set in Salford, Lancashire, which is where MacColl grew up.



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