

# Soldierstown

## Black Star Riders

There's a stranger on the road tonight  
On the way to Soldierstown  
A stranger with his coat pulled tight  
And his collar buttoned down  
A stranger every sinner knows  
A seasoned man of war  
Marching to the fires of hell  
Scarred by the cannon's roar

They know he's bound for Soldierstown  
It's written on the moon  
They're pulling all the shutters down  
Listening fearful of his tune  
He'll sing his song of sixpence  
Break his fist upon a door  
They know the score in Soldierstown  
He's journeyed here before

There is no choice, no compromise  
Give up one of your kin  
(Tar a thighearna tar a thi)  
To save the other children  
To save your bone and skin  
Tonight's the night, you must decide  
Which son will stay or go  
(Tar a thighearna tar a thi)  
The devil rides in Soldierstown  
His boots cut through the snow

A shadow falls on windows  
Praying that he'll pass  
Listening for the death knell  
Of his breath upon the glass  
You all must lose a finger  
If you wish to save a hand  
The stranger chants a mantra  
That the townsfolk understand

Now every son and daughter  
Has been taken in the night  
Condemned they say to slaughter  
If they dare to take the fight  
It's midnight out in Soldierstown  
There's a knock upon the door  
The youngest pushed out in the snow  
To save the other four

You can hear the screams in Belfast town  
Or so the story goes  
(Tar a thighearna tar a thi)  
You can trace the sets of footprints  
In the deepest winter snows  
There's nothing here in Soldierstown  
Save misery and poain  
(Tar a thighearna tar a thi)  
The crops all failed in Soldierstown  
They never grew again

The stranger though, misunderstood  
Had to come to save their young  
To steal them from their poverty  
Turn their faces to the sun  
To a place where law and love were taught  
And peace it overflowed  
One night a soulless father  
Met the stranger on the road

I'll fight until one of us dies  
He screamed into his face  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
I admire your noble notion  
Said the stranger, touched by grace  
But first please let me show you  
Where the young you gave me play  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
In meadows filled with laughter  
Growing wiser by the day

One day your son may save you all  
From the hell of Soldierstown  
But take him back the stranger cried  
His patience wearing down  
A stranger came to Soldierstown  
When twenty years had passed  
Looking for his father  
Breathing slowly on the glass...

There is no choice, no compromise  
Give up one of your kin  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
To save the other children  
To save your bone and skin  
Tonight's the night, you must decide  
Which son will stay or go  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
The devil rides in Soldierstown  
His boots cut through the snow

You can hear the screams in Belfast town  
Or so the story goes  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
You can trace the sets of footprints  
In the deepest winter snows  
There's nothing here in Soldierstown  
Save misery and pain  
(Tar a thighhearna tar a thi)  
The devil rides in Soldierstown  
He's smiling once again