

## Soap Opera

Rupert Holmes

There was a time when I saw myself a flood-lit figure on the stage  
The Metropolitan Opera, the Daily Critic's latest rage  
But my voice went through a change about the same time as my skin  
Now the opera is gone and what is left is getting awfully thin

There was a time when I saw myself a superstar upon the stage  
In someone's rock and roll opera, but then my throat began to age  
And I wound up working nights with afternoons when I'm awake  
So I watch the daily dramas as my life becomes a coffee break

Here's the story up to date:  
Shirley's found another mate  
Though she'll wind up with her husband in the end  
But her husband's got no life  
He can't make it with his wife  
Though his secretary's more than just his friend  
It's a day-to-day routine and I watch the TV screen  
Letting Bob and Shirley live my life for me  
It's an opera made of soap using other people's hope  
And tomorrow's show ain't soon enough for me

There was a time when I saw myself a clean-cut cowboy on the screen  
A spurs-and-saddle horse opera, but that's a long-forgotten dream  
So I watch Let's Make a Deal and win the jackpot in my brain  
Then it's time to watch the show that's got my cerebellum half insane

Here's the story down to earth:  
Shirley's finally given birth  
She's been carrying the baby for a year  
Though it don't belong to Bob  
Who's been fired from his job as a surgeon  
'Cause he's got this sudden fear  
He can't stand the sight of blood  
Meanwhile Shirley's mining Judd  
Who's the father of the kid but he won't give  
And tomorrow's show will say what they left out yesterday  
And that gives me one good reason I should live

Here's the story in a shell:  
Bobby's mind is shot to hell  
'Cause he can't recall his name or how he feels  
He's a lost amnesiac  
While his wife is in the back of her station wagon notching up her heels  
Meanwhile Bob's assistant nurse has some poison in her purse  
And she's gonna slip into Shirley's soup  
Good old Judd thought up the scheme  
Good old Judd is Shirley's dream  
But old Judd don't want to share her chicken coop  
And the nurse would like to keep Shirley's body six feet deep in her grave  
And chase him to the Baltic Sea  
For she sees herself his wife to poor Bob  
Who's found a life as a farmer since he lost his memory  
So to give a resume:  
Bobby's bailing up the hay  
While his wife is in the straw with Bill and Fred  
But she don't feel great inside  
It's that dose of cyanide that the nurse and Judd will feed her til she's de

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There's a baby who just grew fifteen years in only two  
And she has her eyes on Judd who is her dad  
But of course she can't know that  
She just knows just where it's at  
As her mother says, "It's good to be so glad."