

# Harry's Circumcision

Lou Reed

Looking in the mirror  
Harry didn't like what he saw  
The cheeks of his mother, the eyes of his father  
As each day crashed around him  
The future stood revealed  
He was turning into his parents  
The final disappointment

Stepping out of the shower  
Harry stared at himself  
His hairline receding, the slight overbite  
He picked up the razor to begin his shaving and thought  
"Oh, I wish I was different.

I wish I was stronger  
I wish I was thinner  
I wish I didn't have this nose  
These ears that stick out remind me of my father  
And I don't want to be reminded at all."  
The final disappointment

Harry looked in the mirror thinking of Vincent Van Gogh  
And with a quick swipe lopped off his nose  
And happy with that he made a slice where his chin was  
He'd always wanted a dimple  
The end of all illusion  
Then peering down straight between his legs  
Harry thought of the range of possibilities  
A new face, a new life, no memories of the past  
And slit his throat from ear to ear

Harry woke up with a cough  
The stitches made him wince  
A doctor smiled at him from  
Somewhere across the room

"Son, we saved your life  
But you'll never look the same."  
And when he heard that, Harry had to laugh  
And when he heard that, Harry had to laugh  
Although it hurt, Harry had to laugh  
The final disappointment