

## The Actor

### The Incredible String Band

The actor leaves the stage with a rose in his hand  
He settles in the back seat his thoughts are like fine sand  
Driven through the rain swept streets casting a melancholy star  
e  
Upon two enraptured loves kissing without a care

The dreams of an actor spill slowly by  
Like the thoughts of a dreamer or the casting of a die  
Talking to gay fellows of the follies on which they perch  
He saw a lovely lady beneath the arches of a church

Cigarettes in the airless twenties  
An estate well filled with dust  
In the evening reading Swinburne  
Eating mightily with some false lust  
But a kiss was what we found  
On damp but friendly ground

The lady wore no makeup but she stood like a swan  
Thin body of a dancer her dress was quietly torn  
Her eyes searched his distant heart that lingered in the ram  
But his friends caught his iron gaze and carried it away again

Broken hearted in the loveless twenties  
Where a wink was like an embrace  
Making love on blue fridays  
From across some foggy space  
But a kiss was what we found  
On damp but friendly ground

Tea was like a mirror a reflection never there  
His thoughts upon that ring of love that burned upon her stare  
Her eyes her lips her chin her grace the rain upon her hair  
Thus it gripped his white gloved heart can anyone be so fair

Untied in the breezy twenties  
With a hand held in my arms  
Bearing my heart to the hallowed spires  
Of this quiet and ancient land  
For a kiss was what we found  
On damp but friendly ground