

# Blackpool Illuminations

Yard Act

Yeah... so, it must've been 1996?  
And we, ehm...  
We did often go to Blackpool  
Was about once a year  
To see the illuminations  
But, ehm, usually we just went for the day  
'Cause we didn't live that far away  
But for some reason, this year we'd...  
We'd gone for two nights  
Ehm, and we were staying in a bed-and-breakfast on the front  
And I was acting reckless  
Ehh, like most six year olds  
Bouncing on the bed and pissing about  
And, yeah, I was like most kids, I was curious  
Yeah, I was often, ehh, exploring things I shouldn't be and  
You know, putting myself in, ehh, danger  
Much to the dismay of me mum and dad  
And I remember that the plan was  
We were gonna go, ehm, to the other end of the strip for some tea  
And we were gonna drive down and take in the illuminations on the way  
And my mum was getting ready in the toilet  
And my dad had just gone down to the bar to get some drinks and that, I think, and...  
Yeah, I was  
I was excited to be there  
I was excited to not be at school  
And I think at that age you, ehm, you feel most in love...  
With your parents  
I think they're your best friends and they're your whole world  
And they keep you safe and you know them better than anyone else  
And when they're happy together with you...  
The fact that you never want life to change  
Would you say that's your biggest fear?  
Would I say what's my biggest fear?  
Change  
Ehm, no, I'd probably say being drowned and buried at the bottom of a lake is my biggest fear  
Okay  
Sorry  
And do you wanna tell me any more about that?  
Not right now, no, sorry  
I, ehm, I wouldn't mind getting to the bottom of this Blackpool illumination story if that's okay  
By all means  
Cheers, thanks  
Sorry  
So, anyway, ehh, where was I?  
Yeah... ehm, so I wanted to see out of the window, but I wasn't tall enough  
And the only way I could gain the leverage to do so was by climbing on to the radiator pipe  
Which was following the skirting board 'round the edge of the room  
Yeah  
So I did  
And can you, ehm, tell me what happened next?  
Ehm, using the strength of my chin I could hold on to the windowsill with that  
And with my, ehh, fingers also sort of gripping

Gripping the rim as well  
And I was kinda doomed from the start, I think  
Because instantly my foot slipped, bit into the brick  
And I split the skin and bust both lips  
I screeched  
You know the way sand inevitably fucks your chips up when you eat them on the beach?  
That's the way the rust rubbed into my gums  
The blood was gushing and I screamed  
It was a gale force ushered from a paltry gust  
My ears were ringing, my face was stinging from ear to ear  
Like I'd been kissing all the dead jellyfish that kept washing up on the beaches round here  
Yeah  
So, mum, she had to run to get the Calpol from the chemist  
While dad pacified me with a pack of crisps  
And I remember this bit specifically  
'Cause for some reason  
The ones he gave to me were packaged differently  
Typically these don't come in a blue bag  
They call 'em "ready salted"  
A self-explanatory tag  
But I was stopped in my tracks as the new premise was flagged  
That colour coding wasn't gospel at all  
It was just a bonus gag  
And maybe the flavour "ready" meant "we're already doomed"  
And what if "salted" meant salted like the salt rubbed in the wound of  
Every injury I'd accumulated trying to leave the room  
'Cause in a future still unwritten  
Punishment is waiting for a moment you don't get to choose  
The crying soon subsided when the Calpol worked its magic  
So we bundled in the car to see the golden mile looking absolutely tragic  
The fizzy fish I was sucking on fell and flopped under the seat  
And got caked in dead skin and crisp crumbs, impossible to eat  
So instead I stared out across the pitch-black Irish Sea  
And wondered what other pleasures were still left out there waiting for me  
The illuminations no longer of appeal  
For I'd seen through the illusion when I bit the brick  
And now I knew what was really real  
And what was just the punchline for this joke-shop magic trick  
And I just stopped staring  
Six years old, and I stopped caring  
Eventually I stopped staring directly at anything  
Head down, just keep moving  
Chasing girls, and listening to music  
Convinced I'd never amount to anything  
Convinced I was of no use to no one  
That trajectory was so soothing  
Nothing to prove, nothing to lose  
Accept days on end, stoned in a daze  
Waking up in a haze again  
The world started illuminating itself to me in new ways  
So here I was again  
On a grey mid-May day  
In line for the big one  
When 'A Beautiful Day' suddenly blared out over the PA  
So loud I leapt out of my skin all over again  
The pill Connor gave me kicked in  
And I couldn't believe what I was hearing  
This is the hour of letting pain go  
It was so comforting to know that I still had it within me to feel things  
Because for a time I never thought I would again  
And that's terrifying

That's terrifying at any age  
Perhaps we could reach utopia after all  
Are you making this up?  
Ehh, some of it, yeah, why?  
Well, what are you doing that for?  
I just didn't want to burden anyone with the truth  
The truth?  
Because I know now I'm never gonna get my utopia  
But if I can show you how to cope  
And give you scope to grow beyond the moment of each new low  
Then I know I don't need utopia  
'Cause the unknown is the only true hope for a brighter future  
And if you know that  
Then beyond the food, warmth and shelter  
Beyond the bedtime stories I always swore to you were true  
I've given everything I could ever give to you  
You won't remember, but we took you to Blackpool too  
And I watched you like a hawk as you explored beneath the boardwalk  
In those big clumsy shoes your grandma bought for you  
And I drove us home as the sun set  
We were listening to the latest bounces by the band  
You'd fallen asleep, and I squeezed your mother's hand  
Finally I'd made it  
And for the first time I felt truly free  
With my beautiful family and my dream job no longer a dream  
Still now it baffles me  
I attained perfection with you  
I attained perfection  
So why the fuck was I wondering what wankers would think of album two?