

Mattie

Johnny Mulhearn

G
Mattie walked out on a frozen night
C G
He was heading for the pub but he had no delight
C
He headed down the railway track
D G
And his old cow Delia sat a lowin' him back

G
He met with a dark and staggering man
C G
As he passed him by he shouted back at him
C
Mattie cant you see whats happening to me
D G
I cannot feel the fight

The very last house that I have left
Half impressed with with my rhymes is now dead to me
All I've got left is the beat of the stagger
Heading down the Curragh line

But Mattie passed on as quick as he could
He couldn't stand a drunken man sober
All he wanted was the lights in the bar
At the Nightingale and the Wild Rover

[1st chorus]

G
When he came in they said "Ah you're back
C
Did Delia drive you out with your spoutin' and your swearin'
C
We don't want to hear about Bunker Hayden
C D G
Later you can give us the 'Girls of Kinkane'"

G
The *fear an tí* eyed him warily
C G
As he handed him his first jug of porter
G
He says "You must seen the bishop's ghost tonight
D G
To put the dry look back in your eye"

But Mattie would not be taken in
By their jibin' and their regalin'
He found himself a freshly blown crew
And fell in with their sportin' and their bailin'

But as he was going home in the very same spot
Where he met his dark familiar
He seen him coming back down the line
And he was bright and strange and fine

As he passed him by Mattie threw out his arms
Trying to grab hold of his likeness
In the morning all they found was a frozen corpse
At the butt of the Curragh line

[2nd chorus]

G
And at the wake they were lashing down
C
The drops of brandy, the old fashioned habit in the church
C
They were lashing down pounds and fivers
C D G
So Mattie would be fine in the old by and by

[repeat verses 1 & 2 followed by 2nd chorus]