

THE RICCARTON TOLLMAN'S DAUGHTER

ALAN REID

AS I WAS A WALKIN' THROUGH AULD KILLIE TOON  
IT WAS AT THE BACK END O' NOVEMBER  
MY GAZE WAS DRAWN TAE A GETHERIN' O' FOLK  
A' ASSEMBLED BY THE KILMARNOCK WATER  
IN THE DRIECH WINTER'S MORN A GAME WAS WEEL BEGUN  
AND THE CURLIN' STANES SLID BACK AND FORWARDS  
AND THE BREATHS LIKE CLOUDS DRIFTED UPWARDS TAE THE SKIES  
WI' THE WHOOPS AND CRIES O' THE TEAMS O' CURLERS

MY ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TAE A YOUNG, BONNY LASS  
AS SHE STOOD AND WATCHED AS A CLOSE OBSERVER  
MY EYES WERE CONSUMED AS SHE FOLLOWED ALL THE PLAY  
AND SHE CHEERED ON HER FAITHER AND HER BROTHER  
AH GA'ED AND AH SPOKE AND I TELLT HER MA NAME  
SHE SAID SHE WAS CRIED JEAN ALEXANDER  
SHE LIVED WI' HER FOLK AT THE RICCARTON TOLL  
AND SHE WAS THE TOLLMAN'S ONLY DOCHTER

AT THE END O' THE GAME HER FAITHER CAME ACROSS  
AND HE SHOOK MA HAND AND HE LOOKED ME OVER  
AND HE SAYS 'YOUNG MAN, COME AND JINE US ON THE ROAD'  
THEN HE TOOK HER AIRM AND WE WALKED THEGITHER  
AND WHEN WE HAD WON TAE THE RICCARTON TOLL  
I WAS ASKED INSIDE FOR A DRINK AND A BLETHER  
AND THAT WAS THE START O' THE WINNIN' O' MA HEART  
AND THE COORTIN'O' THE TOLLMAN'S DOCHTER

HERE'S A HEALTH TAE THE GUID FOLK O' AULD KILLIE TOON,  
THE ENGINEERS AND THE CARPET WORKERS  
THE WABSTERS, THE COOPERS, THE DISTILLERS O' THE DRAM  
THEIR WEEMINFOLK AND THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
AND HERE'S TAE THE WINTER THAT BROUGHT US A' THE SNAW  
AND THE ICE THAT FROZE KILMARNOCK WATER  
AND HERE'S TAE THE CURLERS THAT BROUGHT ME TAE MA LOVE  
THE RICCARTON TOLLMAN'S ONLY DOCHTER