

JOCK THE CAN

ALAN REID

NOW THE WIND IS HOWLING ALONG THE SHORE
AND THERE'S AN OLD MAN THAT SHUFFLES ALONG
JOCK THE CAN, HIM THAT KNOCKS ON THE AULD WIVES' DOORS
AND HE TELLS THEM HE'LL GIE THEM A SONG
NOO JOCK WAS A FINE YOUNG LAD AFORE HE WENT TAE THE WAR
BUT WHEN HE CAME BACK FAE THE FIGHTIN' HE WISNAE THE SAME LAD
NOW HE'S JIST AN AULD MAN THAT'S WANDERT AND GONE
AYE HE CARRIES THE CAN AND HE'S WANDERT AND GONE

JOCK THE CAN WOULD SING YE AN AULD SONG
AND WHEN HE'D DONE HE WOULD GIE YE HIS CAN
HE WOULD STAND JUST WAITIN' FOR SOMETHIN'
LIKE A DRINK OR A COPPER OR TWO IN HIS HAND
THERE'S THEM THAT IGNORED OLD JOHN
AND OTHER YINS CHASED HIM TAE HELL
AND SOME TOOK HIM IN FOR A BIT O' A MEAL
'SIT DOON BY THE FIRE, JOHN
FOR YOUR JIST AN AULD MAN THAT'S WANDERT AND GONE
AYE YE CARRY THE CAN AND YER WANDERT AND GONE'

NOW THE CHILDREN THEY A' LAUGHED AT JOHN
FOR THEY THOCHT HIM A SILLY AULD MAN
AND THEY KNEW HE WAS DIFFERENT FAE OTHER FOLK
HE'D NOTHIN' AT A' EXCEPT FOR HIS CAN
SOMETIMES HE'D A DRINK IN HIM
AND HE STAGGERED ABOOT IN THE RAIN
AND PEOPLE WID SAY WHAT A HELLUVA SHAME
HE'S NAEBDY TAE HELP HIM
FUR HE'S JIST AN AULD MAN THAT'S WANDERT AND GONE
AYE HE CARRIES THE CAN AND HE'S WANDERT AND GONE

IN THE PARISH THERE'S STILL A FEW AULD YINS
CAN REMEMBER JOCK THE CAN
AND THEY SMILE WHEN THEY TALK O' THE AULD DAYS
AND THAT DAFT AULD SHELL O' A MAN
BUT THEY SAY IT'S A' DIFFERENT NOW
EVERYBODY'S THE SAME
AND THEY TELL YE THEY THINK IT'S A HELLUVA SHAME
THERE'S NAEBODY LIKE HIM NOW
HIM THAT CARRIED THE CAN, HE'S DEAD AND HE'S GONE
AULD JOCK THE CAN, HIM AND HIS KIND THEY ARE GONE