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This songbook
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THE SMITHS

SMITHS BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES...

Contrived by Johnny Marr in Manchester, The Smiths evolved when Marr unearthed Morrissey and insisted upon a collaboration. The idea was to produce songs which were essentially instantaneouse and listenable whilst also provoking deep thought; to mesh Morrissey's words with Marr's music in a sound which, above all, would stand apart without being inaccessible or esoteric. The guitar-based songs would blend melody without havoc, as the words — born out of absolute physical necessity — would tug at the straps of cultural straightjackets.

Christened 'The Smiths' as an antidote to a prevalent idea that modern groups need only a pretentious multi-syllabic name to validate their artistry, the band was completed with Andy Rourke (the bass guitar) and Mike Joyce (the drums). Joyce had previously served time with a cluster of healthily depraved groups, whilst the other three members were without any previous serious musical involvement.

The Smiths first surfaced in September '82 — their live appearances were sporadic — they were determined that all their moves be surefooted and worthwhile. At their seventh gig ever, the University of London Union, a clutch of Rough Trade Records staff and John Peel Show producer John Walters were convinced that this unpretentiously charming band were something special.

Rough Trade, amidst six-figure competition from four major labels, signed The Smiths as its first serious long-term commitment to any band. Producer Walters booked them for what would be the first of five Radio One sessions (three for John Peel and two for David Jensen) that, at last count, have been broadcast sixteen times since July '83.

The first Smiths single, recorded and produced by the band themselves, was "Hand In Glove" b/w "Handsome Devil", released in May '83. Extensive recording ensued for a follow-up 45 and an album, with ex-Teardrop Explodes/Fashion member Troy Tate producing, but halfway through those sessions The Smiths met former Roxy Music bass player/producer John Porter when the two parties were thrown together for a Radio One David Jensen session.

The Smiths were so impressed with Porter's grasp of their sound and songs that the Tate-produced tracks were shelved, and the entire repertoire was re-recorded with John Porter in charge. From those sessions came the second single, "This Charming Man", b/w "Jeane" (the only Tate-produced track to be released), in October '83.

Extensive gigging, massive Radio One exposure, a big Rough Trade push, and the intrinsic magic of the Morrissey and Marr composition made "This Charming Man" a big surprise hit of 1983. With their national reputation established, and their first Top Of The Pops under their belts, the single peaked at number 25 in the charts. In the space of six months, The Smiths had become a household name.

The first half of 1984 was well mapped-out for The Smiths. A comprehensive six-week sell-out tour (marred only by Morrissey's bout with bronchitis) finished on March 20th, during which time their debut LP, "The Smiths", entered the U.K. Gallup chart at number two, and the band have since received "gold records" for it.
April 1984 saw the release of another milestone record, a collaboration of mutual admiration between veteran superstar Sandie Shaw and The Smiths which was a rockin' version of “Hand In Glove” b/w “I Don't Owe You Anything” featuring Johnny, Mike and Andy playing with Sandy belting out Morrissey's lyrics. Sandie's “Hand In Glove” rose into the top thirty whilst adding a new dimension of respect for the potent and prolific pens of the Morrissey and Marr songwriting team.

Two other Smiths' singles since “This Charming Man” have bolstered the Smiths' advance towards their eventual rightful position at the very top of the charts. “What Difference Does It Make?”, released just prior to the album, reached number twelve and “Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now” (May '84) ended up in the top ten thanks to the ever burgeoning ranks of Smiths’ supporters.

At the time of this writing (August '84) The Smiths are fully committed to writing new material for their second album which they realise must be twice as good as their first. “William, It Was Really Nothing” is released 24 August. — the first of two singles planned for the rest of '84, the second will be “Nowhere Fast”. With only half of the next LP composed, The Smiths will avoid serious touring in the U.K. until the beginning of 1985 when they can present an entirely new and different kind of show. This does not mean you will be seeing less of The Smiths, though, television appearances alone will ensure that. . . . just don’t expect to see any 'promo videos'.

Stay tuned.

(August 1984)

**THE SMITHS DISCOGRAPHY (UK RELEASES ONLY)**

| RT131 | Hand in Glove/Handsome Devil | 7" | May '83 |
| RT136 | This Charming Man/Jeane | 7" | October '83 |
| RTT136 | This Charming Man/Wonderful Woman/Accept Yourself | 12" | October '83 |
| RT146 | What Difference Does It Make?/Back To The Old House | 7" | January '84 |
| RTT146 | What Difference Does It Make?/Back To The Old House/These Things Take Time | 12" | January '84 |
| ROUGH 61 | The Smiths | LP | February '84 |
| RT130 | *Hand In Glove/I Don't Owe You Anything | 7" | April '84 |
| RTT130 | *Hand In Glove//I Don't Owe You Anything/Jeane | 12" | April '84 |
| RT156 | Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now/Suffer Little Children | 7" | May '84 |
| RTT156 | Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now//Girl Afraid/Suffer Little Children | 12" | May '84 |
| RT166 | William, It Was Really Nothing/Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want | 7" | August '84 |
| RTT166 | William, It Was Really Nothing//How Soon Is Now?/Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want | 12" | August '84 |

* With Sandie Shaw

Folio produced by: Ron Fr -
Photo credits:
Photo page 4: Andy Cattin. 
Photos pages 5 & 7: Paul Slattery .
Photo page 6: Angie Brown.
It's time the tale were told
of how you took a child

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and you made him old
you make him old.

CHORUS
Gmaj7
F#m
Bm
Gmaj7

Reel around the fountain
slap me on the patio
I'll take it now.

F#m
E

oh.
(MIDDLE)

Fifteen minutes with you
well I wouldn't say no oh people

people said that you were virtually dead
and they were so wrong.

Fifteen minutes with you Oh I
VERSE 1 + CHORUS: (Repeat)

MIDDLE: Fifteen minutes with you
Oh I wouldn't say no
People see no worth in you
Oh but I do

CHORUS: Meet me at the fountain
Shove me on the patio
I'll take it slowly.

VERSE 2: I dreamt about you last night
And I fell out of bed twice
You can pin and mount me like a butterfly
But take me to the haven of your bed
Was something that you never said
Two lumps, please
You're the bee's knees
But so am I.
YOU’VE GOT EVERYTHING NOW

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

1. As merry as the days were long
   I was right and you were wrong

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Back at the old grey school
I would win and you would lose

but
(CHORUS)

C#m7 A G#m F#m7

you've got ev-ery-thing now,

C#m7 A G#m F#m7

you've got ev-ery-thing now and what a

C#m7 Emaj7 F#m7

ter-ra-ble mess I've made of my life

C#m7 A G#m F#m7
oh what a mess I've made of my life

No I've never had a job because I've never wanted one

I've seen you smile but I've never really heard you
MIDDLE:  So who is rich and who is poor?
(cont.)  I cannot say,

You are your mother's only son
And you're a desperate one

But I don't want a lover
I just want to be seen
In the back of your car
(C#m7)

VERSE 2:  A friendship sadly lost?
Well, this is true... and yet, it's false

Did I ever tell you, by the way
I never did like your face

CHORUS:  (Repeat)

MIDDLE:  No, I've never had a job
Because I'm too shy
I've seen you smile
But I've never really heard you laugh
So who is rich and who is poor?
I cannot say
You are your mother's only son
And you're a desperate one
But I don't want a lover
I just want to be tied
To the back of your car.
(fade on E / D / A / C / D)
MISERABLE LIE

Words by MORRISSE
Music by JOHNNY MA

1. So good-by
please stay with your own kin

and I'll stay with
there's something against us, it's not time

it's not time, so goodbye

goodbye, goodbye, goodbye

I know
2. I need hardly say how much I love your casual way.

please put your tongue away a little
higher and we're well away, the dark
nights are drawing in, and your
humour is as black as them, I look at
VERSE 2:
(Cont.) You have destroyed my flower-like life
I need advice, I need advice
Not once – but twice
Because nobody ever looks at me twice
You have corrupt my innocent mind
I'm just a country-mile behind
Not once – but twice
The world
I know the wind-swept mystical air
I'm just a country-mile behind
It means: I'd like to see your underwear
The whole world
I recognise that mystical air
So take me when you go.
It means: I'd like to seize your underwear
What do we get for our trouble and pain?
Into the depths of the criminal world
Just a rented room in Whalley Range
I followed her . . .
PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

1. Upon the sand — upon the bay

"There is a quick and easy way," you say, before you illustrate. I'd rather

I'm not the man you think I
am I'm not the man you think I am

sorrow's native son he will not smile for anyone

and pretty girls make graves.
**VERSE 2:** End of the pier, end of the bay
You tug my arm and say: “Give in to lust,
Give up to lust, oh heaven knows we’ll
Soon be dust…”

“I’m not the man you think I am
I’m not the man you think I am.”

And Sorrow’s native son
He will not rise for anyone

*And pretty girls make graves.*

**BRIDGE:** (Repeat)

**VERSE 3:** I could have been wild and I could have been free
But Nature played this trick on me
She wants it Now
And she will not wait
But she’s too rough
And I’m too delicate

Then, on the sand
Another man, he takes her hand
A smile lights up her stupid face
(And well, it would)

I lost my faith in Womanhood
I lost my faith in Womanhood
I lost my faith

**BRIDGE:** (Repeat) + Ad Lib Vox on F#7
(fade: F#m | D
F#)
play tricks on your sacred mind to tease, torment and tantalise
waving shadows loom a piano plays in an empty room there'll be
blood on the cleaver tonight and when darkness lifts and the room is bright I'll
still be by your side for you are all that matters and I'll

love you till the day I die there never need be longing in your eyes
VERSE 2: Ceiling shadows shimmy by
And when the wardrobe towers like a beast
of prey
There's sadness in your beautiful eyes
Your untouched, unsold, wonderous eyes
My life down I shall lie
Should restless spirits try
To play tricks on your sacred mind
I once had a child, it saved my life.
But whom I never gave a name
I just looked into his wonderous eyes
And said, "Never, never, never again."
All too soon I did return
Just like a moth to a flame
(cont.)

So rattle my bones all over the stones
Because I'm only a beggar-man whom nobody owns
See how words as old as sin
Fit me like a glove
I'm here and here I'll stay
Together we lie, together we pray
There never need be longing in your eyes
As long as the hand that rocks the cradle
is mine.

+ Climb upon my knee sonny boy
Although you're only three sonny boy
(etc Ad Lib Vox to fade)
STILL ILL

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

I decrree today that life is simply taking and not giving.

England is mine it owes me a living.

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but ask me why and I'll spit in your eye,

oh ask me why and I'll spit in your eye.

But we
VERSE 2: Does the body rule the mind
Or does the mind rule the body?
I dunno...

Under the iron bridge we kissed
And although I ended up with sore lips
It just wasn't like the old days anymore
No, it wasn't like those days
Am I still ill?

VERSE 3: Does the body rule the mind
Or does the mind rule the body?
I dunno...

Ask me why, and I'll die
Ask me why, and I'll die
And if you must go to work tomorrow
Well, if I were you I wouldn't bother.

VERSE 4: For there are brighter sides to life
And I should know because I've seen them
But not very often...

Under the iron bridge we kissed
And although I ended up with sore lips
It just wasn't like the old days anymore
No, it wasn't like those days
Am I still ill?

BRIDGE: E / A / B / G#m / E / A / B
+ Oh am I still ill?

INTRO: (Repeat) – END on C#m7
HAND IN GLOVE

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARE

1. Hand in glove
the sun shines out of our behinds,
no it's not like any other love
VERSE 2: Hand in glove
We can go wherever we please
And everything depends upon
How near you stand to me

VERSE 3: And if the people stare
Then the people stare
I really don’t know and I really don’t care

INTRO: (Repeat)

VERSE 4: Hand in glove
The Good People laugh
Yes, we may be hidden by rags
But we have something they’ll never have

VERSE 5: Hand in glove
The sun shines out of our behinds
Yes we may be hidden by rags
But we’ve something they’ll never have

VERSE 3 + INTRO: (Repeat)

VERSE 6: So, hand in glove I stake my claim
I’ll fight to the last breath
If they dare touch a hair on your head
I’ll fight to the last breath

VERSE 7: The Good Life is out there, somewhere
So stay on my arm, you little charmer
But I know my luck too well
And I’ll probably never see you again.

INTRO: (Repeat) to END on Gm7(sus4)
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

I. All men have secrets and here is mine.

so let it be known for we have been through hell

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and high tide I think I can rely on you.

And yet you start to recoil heavy words are so lightly thrown.

but still I'd leap in front of a
(CHORUS)

fly - ing bul - let for you

So what dif - ference does it make?

It makes none

but now you have gone
VERSE 2: The devil will find work for idle hands to do  
I stole and I lied, and why? Because you asked me to  
Now you make me feel so ashamed because I've only got two hands  
Well I'm still fond of you.

CHORUS: So what difference does it make?  
So what difference does it make?  
It makes none  
But you have gone  
And your prejudice won't keep you warm tonight.

VERSE 3: The devil will find work... me to  
But now you know the truth about me  
You won't see me anymore  
Well I'm still fond of you, oh, oh, oh.

CHORUS: But no more apologies  
No, no more apologies  
I'm too tired  
I'm so sick and tired  
And I'm feeling very sick and ill today

But I'm still fond of you, oh, oh.
I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

Carm 4th fret

Dmaj7

Emaj7

1. Bought on stolen wine

nod was the first step you knew very well what

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B    Emaj7

was com-ing next.

(CHORUS)

Amaj7    B

Did I real-ly walk all this way

Emaj7

Ebmaj7    Dmaj7

just to
B    Emaj7
hear you say "Oh I don't_

Amaj7    B    Emaj7
want to go out tonight."

Ebmaj7    Dmaj7    B
"Oh I don't want to go out tonight."
Oh but you will for you must.

I don't owe you anything no.
but you owe me something, repay me

Dmaj7

now, (2, you should never)

VERSE 2: You should never go to them
Let them come to you
Just like I do
You should not go to them
Let them come to you
Just like I do

CHORUS: (Repeat)

VERSE 3: Too freely on your lips
Words prematurely sad
Oh but I know what will make you smile tonight.

Life is never kind
Life is never kind
Oh but I know what will make you smile tonight.

END: Emaj7 / E7maj7 / Dmaj7 / B / Emaj7
SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNY MARR

1. Over the moors —— take me to the moors ——
Dmaj7   Amaj7 (+6)  Bm7  Dmaj7  C#m7

dig a shallow grave and I'll lay me down

Bm7   E  G#m7  G

Lesley Anne and your pretty white beads oh

A  Bm7  D  E

John you'll never be a man and you'll never see your
**VERSE 2:** Edward, see those alluring lights?
Tonight will be your very last night.
A woman said, "I know my son is dead
I'll never rest my hands on his sacred head."
Hindley wakes and Hindley says:
"Wherever he has gone, I have gone."

**VERSE 3:** But fresh lilaced moorland fields
Cannot hide the stolid stench of death
Hindley wakes and Hindley says:
"Whatever he has done, I have done."

**VERSE 4:** But this is no easy ride
For a child cries:
"Oh find me... find me, nothing more
We're on a sullen misty moor
We may be dead and we may be gone
But we will be right by your side
Until the day you die
This is no easy ride."

**VERSE 5:** We will haunt you when you laugh
Yes, you could say we're a team
You might sleep
BUT YOU WILL NEVER DREAM!

**VERSE 6:** Oh Manchester, so much to answer for
Oh Manchester, so much to answer for
Over the moor, I'm on the moor
The child is on the moor.

(etc + Ad lib Vox + Gtr Solo) – Fade
VERSE 2: I would go out tonight
As it was But I haven't got a shirt to wear
This man said "It's gruesome That someone so handsome should care."
A jumped-up pantry boy

never knew his place,

turn the ring

he knows so much
VERSE 3: (Repeat) + This charming man...

MIDDLE: (Repeat) + Instr.