

Old wooden escalator rattles upwards, icy air howling in our faces as we clutch the handrail tightly and hold our bags close to us.

Camden Town.
Rush hour.
Wet roads.
Dark.
Sainsbury's.
The railway bridge

(the North London Line that'll take us home later, if we run).

Dreary North London in dreary winter drizzle.

People choose to live here, can you imagine -

It's cold inside, absolutely freezing.

There's a wood-fire and clean sawdust freshly laid on the floor,

and we huddle inside our jackets, pints held close.

(When I'm rich and famous I'll own this place

and there'll be tea and coffee

and hot buttered scones -

but for now it's pints and peanuts, and I'm cold and I'm hungry and -

and I would brave cleaning my teeth

in the not-so wonderful toilets,

only I find I've forgotten the toothpaste, and -)

"Hello."

You speak my name and we both smile.

You're dressed in the same clothes,

or so it seems to me.

And here we are again.

This place again.

Here, where we first met.

me and you and your perfect smile,

and I fell in love, or tried to.

Wanted to - because it helps take my mind off things.

Because I needed to, and

you - you don't mind,

what does it matter to you,

you and your smile,

which I think of as false,

but which really is just indiscriminate.

(But - Jesus, why should you reserve it for me;

we only met the once.

Just, I wish you would.)

"A drink?"

"Oh, no thanks, I have one,"

gesturing to my pint on the table.

We smile again.

(We don't have anything to say to each other;

we don't know each other at all.

In a moment you'll amble off and speak to someone else.

APRIL 1991 (3) - THE SEA URCHINS: Pristine Christine EP - THE ORCHIDS: I've Got A Hobbit EP *SARAH 2 * - SOLD OUT *SARAH 3 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: Anorak City CF + - COMING SOON *SARAH 4 - FANZINE *SARAH 5 - 14 ICED BEARS: Come Get Me EP *SARAH 6 - THE POPPYHEADS: Cremation Town EP - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: I'm In Love With A Girl Who Doesn't *SARAH 7 - THE SEA URCHINS: Shoelace *SARAH 8 Know I Exist EP *SARAH 9 - THE GOLDEN DAWN: My Secret World EP *SARAH 10 - THE SPRINGFIELDS: Some Flour EP SARAH 11 - THE ORCHIDS: Underneath The Window, Underneath The Sink EP SARAH 12 - THE FIELD MICE: Emma's House EP *SARAH 13 - CHRISTINE'S CAT: Your Love Is... CF *SARAH 14 - FANZINES: Cold/Lemonade SARAH 15 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: You Deserve More Than A Maybe EP SARAH 16 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: What's Happened? EP SARAH 17 - THE GOLDEN DAWN: George Hamilton's Dead EP SARAH 18 - THE FIELD MICE: Sensitive SARAH 19 - BRIGHTER: Around The World In Eighty Days EP SARAH 20 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: All Of A Tremble EP SARAH 21 - THE WAKE: Crush The Flowers SARAH 22 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: You Should All Be Murdered EP SARAH 23 - THE ORCHIDS: What Will We Do Next? EP SARAH 24 - THE FIELD MICE: The Autumn Store Part 1 SARAH 25 - THE FIELD MICE: The Autumn Store Part 2 EP SARAH 26 - GENTLE DESPITE: Darkest Blue EP SARAH 27 - BRIGHTER: Noah's Ark EP SARAH 28 - ACTION PAINTING! These Things Happen SARAH 29 - THE ORCHIDS: Something For The Longing EP SARAH 30 - HEAVENLY: I Fell In Love Last Night - ETERNAL: Breathe EP - MINI TENPENNY FANZINE: Sunstroke SARAH 31 *SARAH 32 - THE SEA URCHINS: A Morning Odyssey SARAH 34 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Antoinette SARAH 35 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: Rio SARAH 36 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: If I Could Shine SARAH 37 - EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Nothing Ever Happens EP SARAH 38 - THE FIELD MICE: So Said Kay 10"EP (5 songs) SARAH 39 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: Tell Me How It Feels SARAH 40 - THE SPRINGFIELDS: Wonder SARAH 41 - HEAVENLY: Our Love Is Heavenly SARAH 42 - THE ORCHIDS: Penetration 12"EP (5 songs) SARAH 43 - TRAMWAY: Maritime City EP SARAH 44 - THE FIELD MICE: September's Not So Far Away SARAH 45 - GENTLE DESPITE: Torment To Me EP SARAH 46 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Say Yes To Everything - THE SWEETEST ACHE: Sickening SARAH 47 +SARAH 48 - THE WAKE: Major John +SARAH 49 - EVEN AS WE SPEAK: One Step Forward EP +SARAH 50 - a secret +SARAH 51 - HEAVENLY: So Little Deserve +SARAH 52 - TRAMWAY: Technical College +SARAH 53 - SECRET SHINE: After Years EP SARAH 401 - THE ORCHIDS: Lyceum 10" Mini-LP SARAH 402 - THE FIELD MICE: Snowball 10" Mini-LP SARAH 403 - ST.CHRISTOPHER: Bacharach 10" Mini-LP SARAH 404 - BRIGHTER: Laurel 10" Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE SARAH 601 - THE FIELD MICE: Skywriting Mini-LP SARAH 602 - THE WAKE: Make It Loud Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE SARAH 603 - HEAVENLY: Heavenly Vs. Satan Mini-LP/CD/CASSETTE SARAH 604 - TALULAH GOSH: Radio 1 Sessions Mini-LP SARAH 605 - THE ORCHIDS: Unholy Soul LP/CD/CASSETTE SARAH 587 - SHADOW FACTORY: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHS 1-12) SARAH 376 - TEMPLE CLOUD: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHS 15-28) +SARAH 501 - GLASS ARCADE: 16 song compilation LP (SARAHS 29-40) SARAH 545 - AIR BALLOON ROAD: 23 song compilation CD (SARAHS 1-28) SARAH 701 - FIELD MICE (green leaf) SARAH 702 - HEAVENLY (butterfly-coloured butterflies) SARAH 703 - THE ORCHIDS (fascinating red/black design) SARAH 704 - ST.CHRISTOPHER (blue Antoinette shapes) SARAH 705 - SARAH RECORDS (cherry-red cherries)

Ah yes, price rises. These are due to: (A) the last lot of postage increases; (B) other things going up; (C) there goes one now, wheeee! BANG! (D) wow... (E) increased VAT from 1/4/91 to subsidise the Poll Tax, keep inflation down and encourage small businesses and people in general to have dainty, child-like feet; 'F) untrammelled greed. I guess we're a sore disappointment to you. But then, you're so often a sore disappointment to us it seems only reasonable - you see, you're not ust a faceless mass, seething, impersonal - no, we thirr of you almost as PEOPLE; I personally think of you as a rather nice young PE teacher named Barbara living or the Chandag Estate in Keynsham. And Barbara - YOU have especially disappointed me. Maybe my hopes flew too high; but oh you weren't <u>like</u> all the rest, with their Northside beermats and James hymn-books no, you had a BRAIN, you had eyes that sparkled and shone, you EXCITED me with your endless possibilities, "you are like putty," I said, and you hit me, I bled all over your Inspiral Carpets dish-mop and yet still I clung like a limpet with hiccups for I saw in you all of the things I'd ever wanted, bar a laser-printer and a sandwich-toaster, or preferably some combination of the two - someone whold smile, and succour me softly when that was what I crove, a gentle Gretel to tend my woes should I stub my toe on Life's great trail of crumbs or snag my nose-ring on the trampoline springs - actually, what I $\frac{\text{really}}{\text{once}}$ always wanted was a guinea-pig - I mean, I had one once, but it died really young; I don't mind talking about it; I'm not one of those men who's afraid of honest emotion - the sort who's shamed by a few discrete tears wiped away on the back of his hand if, with head sunk in palms in some sad hazy bar on the ring-road of some lonely town, he should recall - a fate-laden late June afternoon, deep in the Surrey hills... and the sky above us where we play drained away to the colour of uncooked scones and Hammy -I mean Guinny - suddenly takes a nasty thick edge from an awkward bounce, sails miserably up over backward short leg, and crashes through the summer-house roof - it WASN!TMY FAULT. Babs, honey, listen: they even made me PAY for that broken pane - from my pocket-money. Ah, WELL may you crumble helplessly, pull me to your bosom and soothe me with gently whispered kisses and strident demands that I remove the bulk of your clothing forthwith but - oh go on then, you are sweet, it may help a little.

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