

The Forward Eagle

News, Reviews & Elisions
Of Mutual Interest
Compiled Weekly by Tim Forward
for
The Riverdale Senior Services Center
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Current events

Briefly Noted

On December 25, 2024 Searchlight Pictures released a film entitled “A Complete Unknown” directed by James Mangold. The movie’s storyline is based on a book “Dylan Goes Electric!” written by Elijah Wald in 2015.

Ballad of a Thin Man

Sung & written by Bob Dylan (1965)

You walk into the room with your pencil
in your hand
You see somebody naked and you say,
"Who is that man?"
You try so hard but you don't understand
Just what you will say when you get home
Because something is happening here but
you don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

You raise up your head and you ask, "Is
this where it is?"
And somebody points to you and says, "It's
his"
And you say, "What's mine?" and
somebody else says, "Well, what is?"
And you say, "Oh my God, am I here all
alone?"
But something is happening and you don't
know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

You hand in your ticket and you go watch
the geek
Who immediately walks up to you when
he hears you speak
And says, "How does it feel to be such a
freak?"
And you say, "Impossible!" as he hands
you a bone
And something is happening here but you
don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

You have many contacts among the
lumberjacks
To get you facts when someone attacks
your imagination
But nobody has any respect, anyway they
already expect you to all give a check
To tax-deductible charity organizations

Ah, you've been with the professors and
they've all liked your looks
With great lawyers you have discussed
lepers and crooks
You've been through all of F. Scott
Fitzgerald's books
You're very well-read, it's well-known
But something is happening here and you
don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

Well, the sword swallower, he comes up to
you and then he kneels
He crosses himself and then he clicks his
high heels
And without further notice, he asks you



Joan Baez and Bob Dylan (circa 1965)

how it feels
And he says, "Here is your throat back,
thanks for the loan"
And you know something is happening but
you don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

Now, you see this one-eyed midget
shouting the word "Now"
And you say, "For what reason?" and he
says, "How"
And you say, "What does this mean?" and
he screams back, "You're a cow!
Give me some milk or else go home"
And you know something's happening but
you don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

Well, you walk into the room like a camel,
and then you frown
You put your eyes in your pocket and your
nose on the ground
There ought to be a law against you comin'
around
You should be made to wear earphones
'Cause something is happening and you
don't know what it is
Do you, Mr. Jones?

Ballad of a Thin Man lyrics © 1965 Universal
Music Publishing Group

Listen to Ballad or a Thin Man

There But For Fortune

Written by Phil Ochs (1963)
Sung by Joan Baez (1964)

Show me the prison,
show me the jail
Show me the prisoner,
Whose life has gone stale
And I'll show you, young man,
With so many reasons why
There but for fortune,
go you or I,
mh mh

Show me the alley,
show me the train
Show me the hobo,
who sleeps out in the rain
And I'll show you, young man,
With so many reasons why
There but for fortune,
go you or I,
mh mh

Show me the whiskey stains on the floor
Show me the drunkard,
as he stumbles out the door
And I'll show you, young man,
With so many reasons why
There but for fortune, go you or I,
mh mh

Show me the country,
where the bombs had to fall
Show me the ruins of the buildings,
once so tall
And I'll show you, young land,
With so many reasons why
There but for fortune,
go you and I,
you and I

Listen to There But For Fortune

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This paper is offered as a review of recent topics
taken up by the current events discussion group at
Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living,
2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463 each
Monday at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon for
Current Events with Tim.