

You were thrown into a tin can  
And you learned how to beg and borrow  
And you grew into a thin man  
In the land of success, sin and sorrow  
Now you're sleeping in a suitcase  
With a pill bottle for a pillow  
When you're hanging by a shoelace  
It can get to be hard to swallow

When you're spinning on the subway  
Naked lights sent in on the river  
No you're never gonna leave her  
Though you think someday that you might forgive her  
Slipping into a slow dive  
Cold black water makes you follow  
Swimming into a spiral  
Still you're singing

Shine, electric city, shine  
In the cool of your emptiness  
Around the curve of your spine  
Come on and shine, electric city, shine  
Like six thousand wings in the sky  
Over the scene of the crime

When you come to an ending  
Never reaching no conclusion  
And you're sick of bending  
In us and every fresh contusion  
When you're lying in the soft arms  
Of a silent ambulance that's speeding  
And you're trying to tell the doctor that it's only a broken heart

You don't have to be a soldier to fight  
But you'd better have a killer in you  
You don't have to be a poet to die  
It's the little things that kill you  
Everybody gets a bad break  
A little hit of pain and sorrow  
Just forget about tomorrow  
Keep on singing

Shine, electric city, shine  
From the back of the cold beyond  
Out to the end of the line  
Come on and shine, electric city, shine  
Like the sun in a hurricane's eye  
Diamonds drowning in brine

Come on and shine  
Shine  
Shine  
Shine