

"WHISKEY IN THE JAR"

October 14, 2019 (Version 3)

By Madeleine Kaylor Mason

CAST

SAM- an American tourist, so excited to be in Dublin

CASEY- an American tourist, notices something is off in Irish drinking songs

SINGER- lead singer of Late Bloomers, an Irish band

PUB PATRONS

BAND (4 other people)

SAM and CASEY sit in a pub.

SAM

That James Joyce tour was awesome!

CASEY

I know, right? The tour guide was so knowledgeable. I felt like an actual Dubliner!

SAM

I'm so glad we decided to go to Ireland!

CASEY

Me too! (CASEY notices the band setting up in the corner) Oh my god! There's a legit Irish band in here! Do you think they'll play drinking songs?

SAM

I don't know! I've never heard one before.

CASEY

They're so awesome! They're so much fun! I saw one perform during the St. Patrick's Day parade. They're all about alcohol, and they're so catchy.

SAM

Dude, this is going to be so great.

The SINGER steps up to a microphone.

SINGER

We are the Late Bloomers. Here are some songs for you. Enjoy. Sing along if you like.

The band begins to play.

SINGER

When ol' pa left, and ma was sad
She put brandy in 'er coffee
I watched her drink a cup and some
And she shared it with little ol' me.

Now I start me mornin,
With two whiskey in my cup
Add some cream and sugar
And then I'll fill 'er up!

SAM

What?

SINGER

Drink it down the hatch!
Drink it down the hatch!
My only friend's a bottle,
Sitting by me bed!
One gulp every mornin,
And three every night.
She helps me go to bed,
And start the mornin' right.

SAM

This song is so sad!

CASEY

What are you talking about? It's so awesome!

SINGER

I met a gal in Galway,
Who liked to sing in bars.
She came home with me one night
An' showed me all her scars.
She'll die of typhoid soon,
But that don' matter now.
We'll raise one up to the Lord,

And drink it down the hatch!

SAM

Typhoid? That's awful!

CASEY

Loosen up, Sam! This is such a good song!

SINGER

You know the words. Sing along with us!

The PATRONS, WAITRESS, and CASEY sing along.

SINGER

Drink it down the hatch!
Drink it down the hatch!
My only friend's a bottle,
Sitting by me bed!
One gulp every mornin,
And three every night.
She helps me go to bed,
And start the mornin' right.

EVERYONE applauds.

SAM

And they applaud? They're applauding the most depressing song I've ever heard!

CASEY

It was so good! I can't believe we got to hear an authentic Irish band play in a pub in Dublin!

SAM

Weren't you listening to any of the lyrics?

CASEY

Yeah. So well-written.

SAM

I can't believe you. (to the SINGER) Excuse me, are you aware how depressing these songs are?

SINGER

Yeah.

SAM

Why not sing about happy things? This music needs to be about happy things, like blue skies or happy people-

• SINGER

You're in Ireland. You can't find any of those here. Don't you know anything about Ireland?

SAM

No.

SINGER

Well, then. (to the BAND) We're doing "My Home". We need to educate this young man.

The BAND plays.

SINGER

This one is for our friend over there!

SAM

Jesus, it's about to get real depressing in here.

SINGER

This country here is more than meets the eyes, you see.
We've had our struggles every century.
We've had a lot of shite
But we don't have any spite.
Let's raise a glass to Ireland's history!

After Saint Patty left,
All the vikings came.
They ruined our little lives,
Nothing was the same!

Then the Normans tried to control us,
But we rose up again!
Until Henry the Eighth, that big ol' puss,
Put us under his reign.

This is my home!

I love it with all my soul!
This is my home!
Nothing will pull me away!

Cromwell called us savages,
And wanted us all dead!
It was common to see an Englishman
Steal a lass' maidenhead!

It took until eighteen oh three
For us to join Mother England.
We still took shite from George number three,
Ireland was his wasteland!

SAM

Jesus Christ.

SINGER

We're not even at the civil war yet!

SAM

I get it now!

The BAND stops.

SINGER

You do?

SAM

YES! I FINALLY GET IT NOW! All of this, it's a coping mechanism. It helps with the pain of life. I get it. LIFE IS PAINFUL, BUT LET'S DRINK ANYWAYS!

EVERYONE cheers. They sing the refrain.

ALL

This is my home!
I love it with all my soul!
This is my home!
Nothing will pull me away!