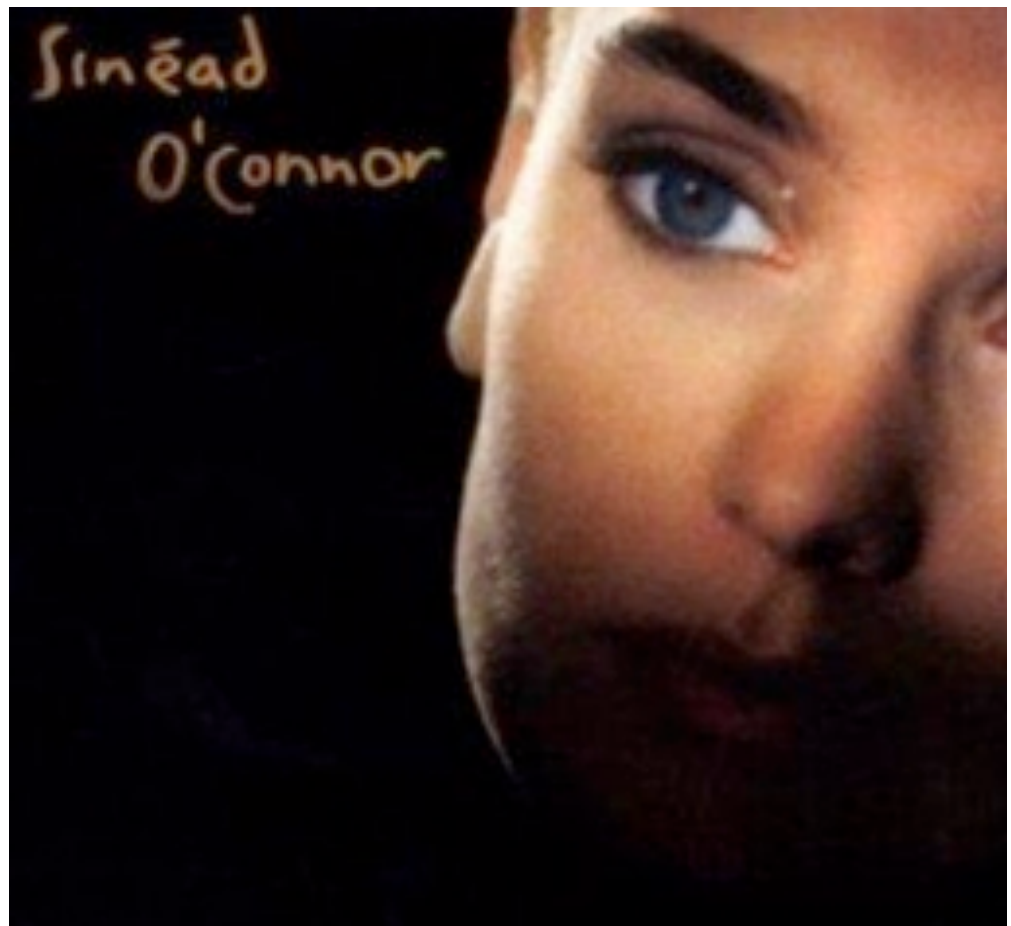


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Black Boys on Mopeds

by Sinead O'Connor



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Margaret Thatcher on TV
Shocked by the deaths that took place in
Beijing
It seems strange that she should be
offended
The same orders are given by her

I've said this before now
You said I was childish and you'll say it
now
"Remember what I told you
If they hated me they will hate you"

England's not the mythical land of
Madame George and roses
It's the home of police who kill black boys
on mopeds
And I love my boy and that's why I'm
leaving
I don't want him to be aware that there's
Any such thing as grieving

Young mother down at Smithfield
5 am, looking for food for her kids
In her arms she holds three cold babies
And the first word that they learned was
"please"

These are dangerous days
To say what you feel is to dig your own
grave
"Remember what I told you
If you were of the world they would love
you"

England's not the mythical land of
Madame George and roses
It's the home of police who kill blacks
boys on mopeds
And I love my boy and that's why I'm
leaving
I don't want him to be aware that there's
Any such thing as grieving.

So what's it all about?

This is a very political and hard hitting song that was on the *I Don't Want What I Haven't Got* album in 1990. The song is about the pain that many people in Britain went through during factory closures and recession and the depths to which she felt Britain had fallen to at the time.

In the 1980s there was massive unemployment and deprivation in the north of England. These conditions led to crime, domestic abuse, civil unrest, drug and alcohol addiction and great hardship for millions of people as the area had to be reorganised.

The Prime Minister of the time was Margaret Thatcher many blamed her for the state of the country.

The black boy on the moped was Nicholas Bramble who was a young black man who was killed when police chased him thinking he had stolen the bike. In the end

Bramble crashed and was killed. Although it was an accident it was used as an example of growing police force, brutality and the fear that was being used to 'keep the peace,' in areas of unrest in the UK. The event gave O'Connor an opportunity to examine and criticise Britain and to make some sharp political statements.

The song rejects the 'pretty' images of the UK and points the listener to 'ugly truths' about the country. It refers to people living in poverty going around the markets with their 'cold children' hoping to get something cheap or free to eat.

The song refers to the fact that children growing up in poverty in England have to learn to ask for charity before they do anything else.

The song is one of desparation and one where the main character just wants to leave.