

June Tabor, The King Of Rome

(David Sudbury)

In the West End of Derby lives a working man
He says "I can't fly but me pigeons can
And when I set them free
It's just like part of me
Gets lifted up on shining wings";
Charlie Edson's pigeon loft was down the yard
Of a rented house in Brook Street where life was hard
But Charlie had a dream
And in 1913
Charlie bred a pigeon that made his dream come true
There was gonna be a champions' race from Italy
"Look at the maps, all that land and sea
Charlie, you'll lose that bird";
But Charlie never heard
He put it in a basket and sent it off to Rome
On the day o' the big race a storm blew in
A thousand birds were swept away and never seen again
"Charlie we told you so
Surely by now you know
When you're living in the West End there ain't many dreams come true";
"Yeah, I know, but I had to try
A man can crawl around or he can learn to fly
And if you live 'round here
The ground seems awful near
Sometimes I need a lift from victory";
I was off with me mates for a pint or two
When I saw a wing flash up in the blue
"Charlie, it's the King of Rome
Come back to his West End home
Come outside quick, he's perched up on your roof";
"Come on down, Your Majesty
I knew you'd make it back to me
Come on down, you lovely one
You made me dream come true";
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