

Marianne Faithfull – The Ballad of Lucy Jordan, 1979 (from the album “Broken English”)

Born in London in 1946, Marianne Faithfull began her career in 1964 after attending a Rolling Stones party, where she was discovered by Andrew Loog Oldham. Her debut album “Marianne Faithfull” (1965) was a commercial success. From 1966 to 1970, she had a highly publicised romantic relationship with Mick Jagger. Her popularity was further enhanced by some film roles, such as in “I’ll Never Forget What’s’isname” (1967), “The Girl on a Motorcycle” (1968), and “Hamlet” (1969). However, her popularity was overshadowed by personal problems in the 1970s. During that time she became anorexic, homeless, and a heroin addict.

While homeless, her voice became affected by severe laryngitis and persistent drug abuse. Her voice was permanently altered and became raspy, cracked and deep.

After a long commercial absence, she made a comeback with the 1979 album “Broken English”. It was a commercial success and marked a resurgence of her musical career. The new sound of her voice was praised by some critics and it was described as “capturing the raw emotions” expressed in her music.

The song “The Ballad of Lucy Jordan” was originally recorded by Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show in 1974. It describes the disillusionment and mental deterioration of a suburban housewife. It was recorded by Marianne Faithfull in 1979 and became one of her biggest hits.

The morning sun touched lightly on
The eyes of Lucy Jordan
In a white suburban bedroom
In a white suburban town
As she lay there 'neath the covers
Dreaming of a thousand lovers
'Till the world turned to orange
And the room went spinning round.

At the age of thirty-seven
She realised she'd never Ride
through Paris in a sports car
With the warm wind in her hair.
So she let the phone keep ringing
And she sat there softly singing
Little nursery rhymes she'd memorised
In her daddy's easy chair.



Her husband, he's off to work
And the kids are off to school
And there were, oh, so many ways
For her to spend the day
She could clean the house for hours
Or rearrange the flowers
Or run naked through the shady street
Screaming all the way.

At the age of thirty-seven
She realised she'd never Ride
through Paris in a sports car
With the warm wind in her hair.
So she let the phone keep ringing
As she sat there softly singing
Pretty nursery rhymes she'd memorised
In her daddy's easy chair.

The evening sun touched gently on
The eyes of Lucy Jordan
On the roof top where she climbed
When all the laughter grew too loud.
And she bowed and curtsied to the man
Who reached and offered her his hand
And he led her down to the long white car
That waited past the crowd.

At the age of thirty-seven
She knew she'd found forever
As she rode along through Paris
With the warm wind in her hair

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YANUIa_bHoU

Dr Hook & The Medicine Show (1974):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDS2hSmokQ0>