

I don't even know

Ted Egan

Court Scene - Old Baily (1785)

A group of 8-10 children stand, forlorn, in the Court of the Chief Justice. The rich and powerful, now the Jury, look on disdainfully.

The Chief Justice looks to the Jury. They all turn thumbs down, indicate 'Guilty' and the Chief Justice repeats the body movements in affirmation.

There is no dialogue. The children sing their song.

I ne-ver e-ver knew my fa- ther_ I don't e-ven know why I'm here, in Gaol.

My Dad was killed in the war in France, my moth-er ne-ver had half a chance._ She

died when I was eight, I was sent to the Work-house, and I can re late._ That

when we tried to run a- way,_ we were sent in chains to Bo-ta-ny Bay._

Chorus

Sent in chains to Bo-ta-ny Bay,_ sent in chains to Bo-ta-ny Bay._ I

has ten to say,_ not a sing-le day, goes by with-out curs-ing Bo-ta-ny Bay._

I am from a quite large family
I, too, do not know why I'm here, in gaol
I've never been to school at all
I've been mistreated since I was small
I stole a loaf of bread
To feed my poor family, my parents were dead.
From Newgate Prison, I was dragged that day
I was sent in chains to Botany Bay.

We are the unlucky children
We don't even know why we're here, in gaol
No-one to love us, no-one cares
God doesn't seem to answer our prayers
It all seems so unfair
All this suffering we can hardly bear
We are the children, taken away
We were sent in chains to Botany Bay.