

Glad to Be Gay

Tom Robinson Band (1978)

“(Sing If You’re) Glad To Be Gay,” originally released as part of the debut EP of the group Tom Robinson Band is not only one of the most defining songs of the band, but is also considered a national gay anthem of Britain.

The British Police are the best in the world
I don't believe one of those stories I've heard
'Bout them raiding our pubs for no reason at all
Lining the customers up on the wall
Picking out people, knocking them down
Resisting arrest as they're kicked on the ground
Searching their houses, calling them queer
I don't believe that sort of thing happens here

Sing if you're glad to be gay

Sing if you're happy that way (Hey!)

Sing if you're glad to be gay

Sing if you're happy that way

Pictures of naked young women are fun
In Titbits and Playboy, page three of The Sun
There's no nudes in Gay News, our one magazine
But they still find excuses to call it obscene
Read how disgusting we are in the press
The Telegraph, People and Sunday Express
Molesters of children, corruptors of youth
It's there in the paper, it must be the truth

Refrain

Don't try to kid us that if you're discreet
You're perfectly safe as you walk down the street
You don't have to mince or make bitchy remarks
To get beaten unconscious and left in the dark
I had a friend who was gentle and short
He was lonely one evening and went for a walk
Queerbashers caught him, kicked in his teeth
He was only hospitalised for a week

Refrain

And sit back and watch as they close down our clubs
Arrest us for meeting and raid all our pubs
Make sure your boyfriend's at least 21
So only your friends and your brothers get done
Lie to your workmates, lie to your folks
Put down the queens, tell anti-queer jokes
Gay Lib's ridiculous, join their laughter
'The buggers are legal now, what more are they after?'
(Tell them!)

Refrain (x2)