

EMPTY BOTTLES

LYRICS — paste into Suno

[Verse 1]

There was a little store down the road,
Some nights at home there wasn't much at all.
Mom would say, "Bobby, see what you can find,"
Bread on the shelf and supper on my mind.

I'd gather the empties and carry them down,
A few little nickels could turn things around.
Other people saw bottles stacked by the door,
I saw bread on the table and maybe something more.

[Chorus]

Empty bottles, five cents at a time,
A kid learns early when he hasn't got a dime.
People saw glass, I saw something to eat,
Carrying tomorrow down a St-Eustache street.

Empty bottles, I remember them still,
You do what you know when you're hungry and little.
I'm not proud of everything that I did,
But I still remember that hungry kid.

[Verse 2]

Then came the night three boys had a plan,
Mike, Bobby Kibbe and me, empty-handed again.
The Gyro had cases stacked away,
And we made a choice I still remember today.

We didn't want the beer,
We wanted what the bottles could buy.
Twenty-one cases,
And every bottle poured dry.

We carried those empties,
Turned the glass into cash.
Food mattered more
Than anything we had.

[Chorus]

Empty bottles, five cents at a time,
A kid learns early when he hasn't got a dime.
People saw glass, I saw something to eat,

Carrying tomorrow down a St-Eustache street.

Empty bottles, I remember them still,
You do what you know when you're hungry and little.
I'm not proud of everything that I did,
But I still remember that hungry kid.

[Bridge]

Years later I had more than I ever dreamed,
But I never forgot what an empty bottle meant.

Not beer.
Not trouble.
Not fun.

Groceries.

[Final Chorus]

Empty bottles, five cents at a time,
Funny what stays in an old man's mind.
I've had good years, I've had plenty since then,
But sometimes I'm Bobby on that street again.

Empty bottles, one memory remains,
A little boy doing what he could each day.
Other people saw glass—

I saw food on the table.

[Outro]

Five cents at a time...
That's what an empty bottle meant to me.