

# It's Hard To Be A Saint In The City

Bruce Springsteen

I had skin like leather and the diamond-hard look of a cobra  
I was born blue and weathered but I burst just like a supernova  
I could walk like Brando right into the sun  
Then dance just like a Casanova  
With my blackjack and jacket and hair slicked sweet  
Silver star studs on my duds like a Harley in heat  
When I strut down the street I could hear its heartbeat  
The sisters fell back and said "Don't that man look pretty"  
The cripple on the corner cried out "Nickels for your pity"  
Them gasoline boys downtown sure talk gritty  
It's so hard to be a saint in the city

I was the king of the alley, mama, I could talk some trash  
I was the prince of the paupers crowned downtown at the beggar'  
s bash  
I was the pimp's main prophet I kept everything cool  
Just a backstreet gambler with the luck to lose  
And when the heat came down it was left on the ground  
The devil appeared like Jesus through the steam in the street  
Showin' me a hand I knew even the cops couldn't beat  
I felt his hot breath on my neck as I dove into the heat  
It's so hard to be a saint when you're just a boy out on the st  
reet

And the sages of the subway sit just like the living dead  
As the tracks clack out the rhythm their eyes fixed straight ah  
ead  
They ride the line of balance and hold on by just a thread  
But it's too hot in these tunnels you can get hit up by the hea  
t  
You get up to get out at your next stop but they push you back  
down in your seat  
Your heart starts beatin' faster as you struggle to your feet  
Then you're outa that hole and back up on the street

And them South Side sisters sure look pretty  
The cripple on the corner cries out "Nickels for your pity"  
And them downtown boys sure talk gritty