**INTRODUCTION: assembly point**

*Tony or Glynis:*

7 ghost stories on a ghost page

Placed in a ghost bottle & thrown to the waves

from the Land of Green Ginger to the shores of East Hull

Searching for midnight in the 7th Alley portal

7 heavens 7 seas 7 for the harmonies

...7 souls to ride the carriage

Set the course for 7 Alleys

Follow where the stone path runs, don’t stray from the light

Follow horse & carriage on the road towards midnight

**INTRO show arena**

***Glynis or Tony:***

7 ghost stories from a ghost age

Written in a ghost book torn from a ghost page

Thrown to the ghost winds drifting over phantom days

& blowing down the alleys where the spirit kids play

7 alleys you must run, 7 tasks to overcome

To find the magic portal & a land beyond the sun

7 for the harmonies & 7 for the planets

7 souls who guard the pathways of the 7 alleys

7 gateways, 7 dares, face the ghosts & face your fears

The 7th alley reappears once every 7 years

**First Alley dare rhyme**

***Glynis:***

First alley, first dare,

Steal fire from the dragon’s lair

Break into the blacksmiths yard

Heat the iron & hammer sparks

Fire to guard you on your journey

Stolen from the dragon’s foundry

Fall in the fire you fail the task

& burn forever in the furnace blast

Pass the test you carry the flame

& run the torch to the 2nd game

This is your patch, this is your gang,

this is your town, now burn it down

**First Alley Part 2: Making fire**

***Tony:***

All tooled up to tough it out

Armed with sparks from the foundry forge

Fire in our bellies & jack-knives hard as quartz

We’re off out larkin’ down the alleys

Twaggin’ & scraggin’ & bags to go foggy

Chuddin’ & spittin’ & doin’ a croggy

Mates for life on the tip of a knife

Lads & lasses, this is our night

Grim riders ploughing the cinder-road

Kings & queens of the smoking slagheap

Carving our names in the orphan stone

We’ll never walk these lanes alone

where ghostland gangs & gangland ghosts

tangle & trade off phantom turf

From the swinging shadow at hanged man’s bridge

To the baby farm at furthest outpost

This is our time, this is our gang

We’ll plant our flag in these phantom Badlands

topdogs, bigshots, our tag stands

from Paraffin Creek in the Western reek

to the dregs of Red ‘Ell in the rising East

They’ll breathe our names in every 10-foot

Shy from their patch when we turn up

Bawl like bains in Poorhouse Lane

Our names will blaze on every freight train

We are rumbling, we are blazing,

Scourge of the wreck’eads, ready to front up

pumped up jumped up target set

t8o run the fire to the second alley gauntlet

**Second Alley Part 1: Spirits**

***Glynis or Tony:***

Where ghost train meets the blue bridge

Meets the prison & the cemetery path

Where silence meets the dockland screech

Where clock hand meets the midnight lamp

where rain meets flame down the cracked coal lanes

& scattershot lightning meets the dark

Settle in the echo of the railroad track

& call to the spirits ‘til the spirits call back

**Second Alley dare rhyme**

***Tony or Glynis:***

Second alley, second dare,

Step into the rising mist

eclipsing land & eclipsing air

where stray souls of the living vanish

8

A mist that hovers on the weightless cries

of the ones who lost themselves to the skies

Lose the flame, you’ll disappear

in the rising mist for 7 years

Hold your fire to the crackle of the air

Where only the bravest souls will dare

**3rd Alley dare rhyme**

Glynis:

One two three for the Third alley dare –

Shimmy up the line to the ghost ship’s peak

Summon up a storm to crash the vessel

Wreck it on the rocks & sink it to the deep

Beware the wrath of the hanging smuggler

Leave him to the sea of his fevered sleep

With cut-throat eyes & treasure-lust

He catches you your life is lost

**3rd Alley Part 2: Storm**

Tony:

Three storm smugglers from the sea

Sail the Humber estuary

Carry contraband up river –

cargo from Land of Green Ginger

Lightning strike & thunder hit

Cracks the aft, the ship is split

Three storm smugglers crash the dock

Cling to the lifeline & swing for the lock

Lightning strike & thunder rain

The ship careens up midnight drain

Crash goes ship into the land

Breaking up on storm-burst bank

Lightning strike & thunder blast

Three smugglers take their final gasp

Two shipmates thrown from the hull

crying mercy where the wild waves pull

One storm smuggler hangs from the mast

Thrown to the sky by storm-force blast

Cargo sinking in the drain

& seventy years it will remain

**FINAL SMUGGLER IMAGE**

Glynis or Tony:

One storm smuggler from the 7 seas

swaying on the salt of the Third Alley breeze

Seeking signs of his sunken cargo

Searching for his shipwrecked soul

Cut-throat eyes & treasure-lust

He catches you your life is lost

**4th Alley dare rhyme**

Glynis:

1 step 2 step 3 step 4 / 1 step 2 to the 3 to the four

3 alleys done & 4 alleys more

Sail down the darkness of Holderness drain

‘til you reach the tracks of the phantom train

Sign to the signalman ‘til it goes dark

Capsize the vessel & jump for the mark

Hold your nerve as the steam screams past

Howling down the tunnel ‘til the very last blast

**4th Alley Part 2**

**Tony:**

As we sally down alleys with victory flag

We knock up rough palettes & rags for a raft

We launch to the water with ripcord lasso

Drinkin’ the downpour of renegade moon

Kickin’ up grit as we set sail for magic

we push for the land of the 4th alley spirit

sailin’ & swervin’ down Holderness Drain

chasin’ the vapours of runaway freight train

Splittin’ the heavens with hurricane laughter

Scattering slingshot & skimming disaster

sinkin’ a depth charge to blast up the fishes

dredging up silt of the sailors last wishes

Trawlin’ the penny-poor treasures of Hull

fishin’ out black pearls to dowse ’em in petrol

Moorin’ to burn up what salvage we find

We capsize our vessel arse-up on the bankside

**Fifth Alley dare rhyme**

**Glynis:**

Fifth dare, fifth alley

Climb into Hedon Road cemetery

Find the statue of the child

Sing lullabies to his weather-worn tomb

Bubblegum boy will come alive

& move in the light of the blind man’s moon

His eyes will flicker & shed red tears

One drop for each of his short years

Look to his shadow, never look him in the eye

or a curse will burst in the big black sky

Look twice & the curse will multiply

& hunt you down wherever you hide

**BUBBLE BOY SECOND SECTION**

Tony or Glynis:

Alley 1 Alley 2 Alley 3 Alley 4

Undo the curse with a lullaby verse

Or lose the bubble for eternity

Take a deep breath, count to seven

follow the bubble and hope for heaven

**Alley 6 dare rhyme**

**Glynis or Tony:**

6th Alley, 6th dare

Where dark angel flies the air

circling over the prison towers

danger for a thousand hours

Jump & climb the prison wall

Play dead when the sirens call

If dark angel sees you move

A bomb will fall & kill us all

**Alley 6 Part 2: Explosions**

**Tony:**

A thousand hours of darkness drift

in shadow of dark angel

A thousand silent footsteps fall

in shadow of dark angel

Seeking songs of siren warning

feeling for the light of morning

All East Hull is dust-cloud falling

shadow of dark angel

We freeze in the echo of a great demolition

Bulldozers wreckin’ the breeze-blocks we live in

Ten thousand memories thrown to the skies

as the mortar spills & the ash-clouds rise

See smoke-filled air through the bombed-out walls

A new world billows as the old world falls

A new-build ghost town founded to last

as more boarded houses wait for the blast

The detonating dream of Preston Road

Lifted on high as the skyline explodes

Our ancestors rise with the dust migration

Drifting east with each ghost detonation

Teetering on top of our pile of rubble

as a crane arm rises like the dark angel’s wings

we’re utopia’s cast-offs litterin’ the alleys

playin’ in this world of broken things

Shattered doors & window-shards

abandoned shoes & scorched bed-springs

Burnt mattresses & bombed-out trolleys

Blown far from home to clatter up the alleys

Some folk leave & some folk stay,

some are evicted, some drift away

But our gang, we’re staying ‘til it’s finished & done

Waiting for the glory of the great demolition

**7th Alley dare rhyme**

**Glynis or Tony:**

1 alley 2 alley 3 4 5

6 to the 7 and then you arrive

Wait for the toll of the midnight bell

unleashing the spirit of the final spell

follow in the wake of the pathway it makes

& find yourself standing at the 7th gate

7 heavens, 7 seas, 7 for the harmonies

7 is the magic key

To midnight in the 7th Alley

**7th Alley Part 2**

**Glynis:**

Ashen wields a book of life

Every bookpage made of ice

When Ashen flies the Heavens open,

From the skies her pages floating

Each snowdrop one word of a story

Ashen claws to catch them falling

pages & words fly from her hands

prophesies & legends from distant lands

Reach to the sky to capture them all

Catch each fragment heaven-sent

Grasp all words before they fall

before they melt, before the story ends

**7th Alley Part 3**

**Tony:**

7 tasks done, 7 alleys passed,

At last we land at the midnight gate

We cast our stories telling tales of

firefly nights & each flood warning

twilight transformed & transforming

bubble boy & baby farm

& phantom ship in 3rd alley mist

& dragon’s lair & ghost freight train

& smugglers, dark angels & storms

& every song that sails the Drain

& each wonder yet to be born

& seven ghost stories from a ghost age

Written in a ghost book torn from a ghost page

& 7 friends who find the key

to midnight in the 7th Alley