

Those Were the Days

Mary Hopkin 1968

Am Dm
Once upon a time there was a tavern, where we used to raise a glass or two.
Am
Remember how we laughed away the hours,
B7 E
and dreamed of all the great things we would do?

Refrain:

Am Dm
Those were the days, my friend, we thought they'd never end,
G G7 C
we'd sing and dance for ever and a day;
DmAm
We'd live the life we choose, we'd fight and never loose,
E Am
For we were young, and sure to have our way.
Dm
La lalalalalalalalalala
E Am
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days.

Then the busy years went rushing by us. We lost our starry notions on the way.
If by chance I'd see you in the tavern, we'd smiled at one another, and we'd say:

[Refrain]

Just tonight I stood before the tavern. Nothing seemed the way it used to be.
In the glass I saw a strange reflection, was that lonely woman really me?

[Refrain]

Through the door there came familiar laughter.
I saw your face and heard you call my name.
Oh, my friend, we're older, but no wiser. For in our hearts the dreams are still the same.

[Refrain]

This song is credited to Gene Raskin, who put a new English lyric to the Russian romance song. The debut single of "Those Were the Days," which was produced by Paul McCartney of the Beatles, became a number one hit on the UK Singles Chart. The song also reached number two on the Billboard Hot 100, behind "Hey Jude" by the Beatles.