



Tom's Diner

Written and performed by Suzanne Vega

I am sitting in the morning
At the **diner** on the corner
I am waiting at the counter
For the man to pour the coffee
And he fills it only halfway
And before I even argue
He is looking out the window
At somebody coming in

"It is always nice to see you"
Says the man behind the counter
To the woman who has come in
She is shaking her **umbrella**
And I look the other way
As they are kissing their hellos
I'm pretending not to see them
Instead I pour the milk

I open up the paper
There's a story of an actor
Who had died while he was drinking
It was no one I had heard of
And I'm turning to the **horoscope**
And looking for the **funnies**
When I'm feeling someone watching me
And so I raise my head

There's a woman on the outside
Looking inside does she see me?
No she does not really see me
Cause she sees her own **reflection**
And I'm trying not to notice
That she's hitching up her skirt
And while she's straightening her **stockings**
Her hair has gotten wet

Oh, this rain it will continue
Through the morning as I'm listening
To the bells of the **cathedral**
I am thinking of your voice...
And of the midnight **picnic** once upon a time
Before the rain began...
I finish up my coffee
It's time to catch the train

Grammar Questions

- 1) Listen to the song and fill in the missing verbs
- 2) What tense are the missing verbs in?
- 3) Why are they in this tense?
- 4) Circle the verbs in Present Simple.
- 5) Why are these verbs in Present Simple?

Comprehension

- 1) What is the weather like?
- 2) Where is she?
- 3) What does she do?
- 4) What problem does she have with her coffee?
- 5) Why does "the man behind the counter" greet "the woman who has come in"?
- 6) "I am thinking of your voice..." Who is the 'you'?
- 7) Why do you think she wrote this song?
- 8) Do you like it?

Fun Fact: This song was used by the woman who invented the MP3 format to test the quality of MP3s. Why do you think she chose this song?