

Nobody's Home Right Now

by [Geoffrey Clarfield](#) (August 2019)



Stairway, Edward Hopper, 1949

Nobody's home right now

So why don't you

Go into the dining room . . .

Sit down, have a drink . . .

Just don't use the sink

If you do,

We can't make the place look like new

Again . . .

You knew that, didn't you?

Hold that!

No, do not throw that

Put it down, down, where there is no sound

No sound, nor sun

Down now,

Put it on the eider down

There's a good boy

And you were a good boy,
Weren't you?
Please stop singing,
No, not that song
"Gee up little pony
Take me around the town."

You were behaving like a clown
A red nose with a frown
Big feet
Wrapped in a big sheet
A circus clown who just can't climb down
Instead, you have all been going
Round and round
Was there really any one around?
I can't hear a sound

He once walked into to a hat-maker's shop
There was nobody home
Not even a mouse
All was quiet, Ah hah!
It was not the quite the right house

Was there anything left there or right?

I mean around the house . . .

It all seemed once so nice . . .

Like sweet and sour pork with rice . . .

Hey kid, "You ordered number 27 or was it 42?"

No, I said, "Give me 38 and something new."

Does that come with a coke?

It does not, and for your information

Here you cannot smoke

But If there's fire there is smoke

And who said anything about hope

The heart is always filled with hope

Hope is where the heart was

His heart just could not cope

He is not home right now

And by the way, kid . . .

You can't go home now

Not even somehow . . .

Nobody's home right now

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Geoffrey Clarfield is an anthropologist at large. For twenty years he lived in, worked among and explored the cultures and societies of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. As a development anthropologist he has worked for the following clients: the UN, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Norwegian, Canadian, Italian, Swiss and Kenyan governments as well international NGOs. His essays largely focus on the translation of cultures.

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