

Achilles AKA Mack the Knife*

Oh, the shark, has
But this Achilles
pretty teeth, dear,
...slaughters Hector,
and it shows them,
...rips away the
pearly white.
...prince's life
Just a jackknife has
then lashes him
MacHeath, dear,
to his chariot,
And he keeps it
drags him round his
out of sight.
...comrade's tomb.

When that shark bites
..why, I ask you?
with his teeth, dear,
What good will it do him?
scarlet billows
What honor will he gain?
start to spread.
Let that man beware,
Fancy gloves though,
or great and glorious as he is,
wears MacHeath, dear,
we mighty gods will
so there's not a
wheel on him...
trace of red.
-Look, he outrages

Sunday mornin'
the senseless clay
lies a body,
in all his fury!
oozin' life.
Rage, Goddess, sing
Someone's sneakin'
the rage of...Achilles,
'round a corner.
murderous, doomed, that
Is that someone
cost the Achaeans
Mack the Knife?
countless losses

From a tugboat
hurling down to
by the river,
the House of Death
a cement bag's
so many sturdy souls,
drooppin' down.
...fighter's souls, but
The cement's just
made their bodies
for the weight, dear.
carrion feasts for...
Bet you Mack, he's
dogs and birds
back in town.
and the will of Zeus was

moving towards its end.
Louie Miller
sharp pain came
disappeared, dear,
bursting in on
after drawin'
Atrides' strength, spear
out his cash,
-sharp as...labor...
and MacHeath spends
...pierce a woman,
like a sailor.
Agonies brought on by
Did our boy do
...harsh birthing spirits,
somethin' rash?

Sukey Tawdry,
Hera's daughters...
Jenny Diver,
hold the stab...of birth
Lotte Lenya,
...sharp the throes that
Lucy Brown...
burst on Atrides' strength.
Oh, the line forms
Surely his body
now that Mack, he's
...pierced by bronze,
back in town.

* All quotes in Times New Roman font are from Marc Blitzstein's 1954 translation of Eugen Berthold Brecht and Kurt Weill's song from *The Threepenny Opera* (1928), here adapted from Louis Armstrong's version; and all quotes in Arial font are from Homer's *The Iliad*, Book 24, lines 58-65; and Book 1, lines 1-6; and Book 11, lines 313-317; and Book 21, lines 654-656. © /cual (January 2015)