"First day in the lab"
Lyrics: Uri Alon and Michael Elowitz
Music: Leonard Cohen

Mike takes you down
to a place by the centrifuges
it's your first day in the lab
and you don't know what a centrifuge is
and he hands you precious flasks
and you drop them... and they shatter
and you look at him quite meekly
but he says it doesn't matter
they were only the controls.

and he gives you of his buffers
and he gives you of his strains
and you wish you had his genome
or at least you had his brains.

I came to him one morning
an idea had been forming
my transformants weren't transforming
and my swarmers weren't not swarming
I said Mike I'm a failure
I'm going to work at Happy Burger
I think I'm quitting science
but he says now don't be hasty
you see, science like the cafeteria
is sometimes nasty sometimes tasty.

and he soothes you so discreetly
and you trust in him completely
and you mind it has been freed
and you know that something,
somewhere will succeed.

Now Mike is packing
his papers in a folder
there's a knapsack on his shoulder
his pipette is in it's holder
and as he leaves the floor
the shakers all stop shaking
the columns all runs dry
and the autoclave stops baking
it will never be the same.

and you know that you must keep him
or at least that you must clone him
and you know that you will miss him
and you know that you will phone him
all the time.

Mike takes you down ...