Ranches and Rivers

Joe Ely

In the cool of the evening she calls me to dance
My back's about broken from choppin' the plants
My soul is so thirsty I can't sleep at night
She walks in my dreams, brings me delightI was born to the workers to toil and to strife
My father before me he worked all his life
He took nothing for granted, he said, "Son never bend"
This heart that's been broken only her love can mendSome men could give you ranches and rivers
With fences of barbed wire to keep out the cold
But me, I got nothin', no titles to nothin'
Just a love and a fire more precious than goldYour daddy works me in the ground, he knows something's goin' down
Would you pack your things and run with me?
Tomorrow at sunrise with the dew on the cotton
They'll cut loose the watchdogs when they see that we're gone
The smile of my sweet one asleep on the car seat
Ten miles to the border where we will be free

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