

# A Father's Love (The Only Way He Knew How)

## Bucky Covington

For the longest time, I guess I thought  
He didn't give a damn  
Hard to read, hard to please  
Yeah, that was my old man On the day I left for college  
It was nothing new  
We never had that heart-to-heart  
He had too much to do He checked the air in my tires  
The belts and all the spark plug wires  
Said, "When the hell's the last time  
You had this oil changed?" And as I pulled out the drive  
He said, "Be sure and call your mom sometime"  
And I didn't hear it then but I hear it now  
He was saying, "I love you"  
The only way he knew how 120, 000 miles  
Six years down the road  
A brand new life and a brand new wife  
We'd just bought our first home When he finally came to visit  
I thought he'd be so proud  
He never said he liked the place  
He just got his tool belt out And put new locks on the doors  
Went back and forth to the hardware store  
Said, "Come and hold this flashlight"  
As he crawled beneath the sink And these old wires ain't up to code  
And that circuit box is gonna overload  
And I didn't hear it then but I hear it now  
He was saying, "I love you"  
The only way he knew how Last Sunday, we all gathered  
For his 65th birthday  
And I knew he'd stiffen up  
But I hugged him anyway When it was finally time to say goodbye  
I knew what was next  
Just like he always does  
Right before we left He checked the air in my tires  
The belts and all the spark plug wires  
Said, "When the hell's the last time  
You had this oil changed?" And as I pulled out the drive  
He said, "Be sure and call your mom sometime"  
And I didn't hear it then but I hear it now  
He was saying, "I love you"

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The only way he knew how

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