Little Red Shoes

Loretta Lynn

I was 11 months old, I was just startin' to walk
And daddy always kept, a big stick behind the door
Just in case somebody was to come in
That was drunk on moonshine
You know and daddy had to do something about it
Anyway, this woman, we called her old Aunt Boyd
She come in and she was telling mommy about her
Uh, husband, she thinks is going out with this woman in Paintsville
So she reared back with that big stick
Showing mommy how she was going
To hit this woman in the head with it
And when she went back with it, she hit me in the head
And Mommy said, I cried for 5 days
And she said I, that fifth night
I had a great big knot that show up
Right in the middle of my forehead
And, you know, the only thing I remember
I don?t remember no pain, but I just remember mommy
And daddy carrying me in this old quilt
That Mommy had made out of overhalls
The knots kept getting bigger and bigger
And she took me to the doctor
And that stuff called mesitor, something like that
Mommy said it made both ears
Flat to my face and I ain?t got very big ears
And them, told Mommy
That I would that I was going to die
And that happened like four times
So I didn?t walk till I was almost 5
It was, it was kind of a mess
Oh, I forgot about the shoes
Well, shoot, I hadn?t, I?d never had a pair of shoes
And Mommy had went, took me to the hospital
You know, to see what that was
If they couldn?t do something, but they wouldn?t keep me
Because Mommy and Daddy didn?t have no money
They just tell ?em to take me home and let me die, you know
Because there wasn?t nothing they could do about

That kind of disease, I guess

And, um, mommy told daddy, says, ?Ted, you take her
Down the street, you carry her down the street"
And said, ?Let me try this store here?
And Mommy went in and told them the story that I was dying
That she had to carry me twelve miles to town
And twelve miles back and that I had no shoes
That place, I think it was Murphy?s 5 and 10
And they?re still there in Paintsville, Kentucky
And I think that they told Mommy
That they wasn?t in business to give shoes away
Mommy told daddy, says, ?Carry Loretta on down a little farther?
Said, ?And let me stop in another store"
And Mommy went right back to the same store
When the guy?s back was turned she stole these little red shoes
And I remember on the big?old bridge that went across the river
It went way up high and was
I?ve always been scared of that bridge
That took me across the big Sandy River
Mommy pulled them out from under
That yellow jacket that she was wearing
And she was putting them red shoes on me
And I thought them was the prettiest things I ever saw in my life
And daddy started crying and I wondered why
And he said, ?Clerie, we?re not going to make it home?
And mommy put the shoes on me and daddy took off running
And run all the way ahead t?Butcher Holler with me
And Mommy never had a chance to carry me any farther
And that?s almost twelve miles that daddy run with me
But daddy knew that the cops was going to get us
He left Mommy standing and he took off in a dead run
I remember him running but I didn?t know what for
And I remember asking mommy, ?Mommy, why is Daddy running??
I remember her hollering, ?To put your little red shoes away
Honey, when you get home? Can you believe that?
So I wrote a song called ?Put My Little Red Shoes Away?
You know, they?re my little red shoes
And I don?t want ?em to get to be dirty

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