

# Minimum Wage

## Lila Downs

Traveled seven hundred miles  
Crossed the border to the States  
With a plastic bottle running  
Cross the desert in a shake  
Come to English only country  
Hidin' from the minutemen  
Come to make this place my home  
Run a long, long way from then  
Story of a lifetime  
For the minimum wage  
Well, they chased me through the desert  
Then the agents strapped me down  
Then they ask me why in Spanish  
Why you keep on comin' back?  
When I left my dad in Jersey  
And my sister in Des Moines  
They've been workin' in this country  
Pickin' lettuce, washing floors  
Story of a lifetime  
For the minimum wage  
Well, they raised me to eight dollars  
'Cause I washed the dishes fast  
Well, the boss, he got me workin'  
On the porch and in the back  
Then I wash the dish and rinse it  
Then I go home late and sleep  
Well, I need to be awake now  
'Cause I walk out in my sleep  
When I see that black van comin'  
Then I know I'm sure to run  
Goddamn them agents caught me  
Cuffed me on the spot  
For the minimum wage  
No one forced the boss to hire me  
But it's nearly been fifteen  
When I left my baby cryin'  
With a promise in my skin  
On the outskirts of L.A.  
I recite a native poem  
Million hands, ten thousand years  
It's the season for the crop  
It's my people doin' the pickin'  
In the valley of the dolls  
It's a decent job to work at  
Any day I'll take this job  
Ethiopian, Colombian, Pakistani, Cantonese  
Every man that I run into  
All the kitchens on the strip  
And they're pluggin' in them hours  
Smilin' in their dreams  
They're a long, long way from home now  
But they lookin' to be free  
California, Alabama and Missouri, Oregon

They been workin' like their fathers were  
A long, long time agoFor the minimum wage  
For the minimum wage  
For the minimum wage  
For, for, for, for the minimum wageIt's a bumpy road to ride in  
But I'll take it anytime  
It's a bumpy road to take  
But I'll take it dayIt's a bumpy road to take  
But I'll take it anytime  
For the minimum wage

Songwriters

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