## The Night I Learned How Not To Pray

## **Iris DeMent**

I was laying on my belly on the middle of the living room floor I was watching Howdy Doody so Im guessin it was right around four When I saw my baby brother tumblin from the top of the stairs He was lying limp and silent and the blood was tricklin through his shiny hair When my mom saw little brother, she said Hon, youd better run and get your dad. Her voice was high and she was shaking so I knew that this was bad We stood out by the mailbox watchin her and dad and brother drive away And I didnt waste no time, I got down on my knees right there, and I began to pray I prayed into the evening never even took the time to have a bite I was sure if I prayed hard enough that God would make it right We were at the kitchen table long past bedtime when we finally got that call And I knew that it was over when my sister slammed that phone against the wall That was the night I learned how not to pray Cause God does what he wants to anyway I never did tell my mother and I kept it from my sisters and all my brothers But that was the night I learned how not to pray It was forty-one years later when I took my brothers picture out of a box I hung it on the wall, sat across from him and I began to talk When the evening started, I didnt know what I was going say But before the night was over Id told him all about how Id learned not to pray

Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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