

# Live Oak

Jason Isbell

There's a man who walks beside me  
    â€”It is who I used to be  
    â€”And I wonder if she sees him  
    â€”and confuses him with me  
    â€”And I wonder who she's pinin' for  
    â€”on nights I'm not around  
    â€”Could it be the man who did the things  
    â€”I'm living now ?  
    â€”I was rougher than a timber  
    â€”shippin' out of Fond du Lac  
    â€”When I headed south at 17  
    â€”ol' sheriff on my back  
    â€”I never held a lover in my arms or in my gaze  
    â€”So I found another victim every couple days  
    â€”But the night I fell in love with her  
    â€”I made my weakness known  
â€”Through the fires and the farmers diggin' dusty fields alone  
    â€”The jealous innuendos of the lonely hearted men  
    â€”Let me know what kind of country I was sleeping in  
    â€”Well you couldn't stay a loner  
    â€”on the plains before the war  
    â€”My neighbors had been slightin' me  
    â€”I had to ask what for  
    â€”Rumors of my wickedness had reached our little town  
    â€”Soon she'd heard about the boys I used to hang around  
    â€”We'd robbed a Great Lakes freighter,  
    â€”killed a couple men or more  
â€”And I told her her eyes flickered like the sharp steel of a sword  
    â€”All the things that she'd suspected  
    â€”I'd expected her to fear  
    â€”Was the truth that drew her to me when I landed here  
    â€”There's a man who walks beside me  
    â€”he is who I used to be  
â€”And I wonder if she sees him and confuses him with me  
    â€”And I wonder who she's pinin' for  
    â€”on nights I'm not around  
    â€”Could it be the man who did the things  
    â€”I'm living down ?  
    â€”Well I carved a cross from live oak

â€”and a box from shortleaf pine  
â€”Buried her so deep  
â€”she touched the water table line  
â€”I picked up what I needed  
â€”and I headed south again  
â€”To myself I wondered  
â€”would I find another friend  
â€”There's a man who walks beside her,  
â€”it is who I used to be  
â€”And I wonder if she sees him and confuses him with me.

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