

# I Wanna Learn A Love Song

Harry Chapin

I come fresh from the street  
Fast on my feet, kinda lean and lazy  
Not much meat on my bones, and a whole lot alone  
And more than a little bit crazy  
The old six string was all I had  
To keep my belly still  
And for each full hour lesson I gave  
I got a crisp ten dollar bill  
She was married for seven years  
To a concrete castle king  
She said she wanted to learn to play the guitar  
And to hear her children sing  
So I'd show up about once a week  
In my faded tight-legged jeans  
With a backlog full of hobo stories  
And dilapidated dreams  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play"  
She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song before you go away"  
So I tried to teach her a couple of chords  
And an easy melody  
But it always turned out she'd rather listen  
To my guitar and me  
I could hear her old man laughing in the den  
Playing stud poker with the boys  
While I sang so soft in the living room  
Too scared to make much noise  
I came one week and the den was dark  
And she met me at the door  
And we sat on the couch and we sang and talked  
Till I could not sing no more  
The silence kept on building  
Her eyes grew much too wide  
And I could hear both of our heartbeats  
But there was no place to hide  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play"

She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song before you go away"  
Well, I guess you know what happened  
God, I, I never been so clean  
Yes, I feel like I'm working in a Hollywood movie  
Or living out a good bad dream  
And all them pinup girls in that tinsel world  
Never touched me like she can  
It took another man's wife in the real world life  
To make this boy a man  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play"  
She said, "I, I wanna learn a love song before you go away"  
I guess you know I stayed

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