The Bottomless Lake

John Prine

Here's the story of a man and his family
And a big trip that they took
Well, I heard all about in a restaurant
And I read it in a history bookThey rented a car at the Erie Canal
But the car didn't have no brake
Said ma to pa "My God this car
Is gonna fall into the bottomless lake"Well, mama turned to daddy with a pale face
Said "I've done something horribly wrong
Well, the waters still runnin' in the bathtub
And I think I left the kitchen light on"Then I heard a crash, the car when splash
The compass rolled around and around
Oh, for Heaven's sake! We fell in a lake
And I think we're all gonna drownWe are falling down
Down to the bottom of a hole in the ground
Smoke 'em if you got 'em
I'm so scared, I can hardly breathe
I may never see my sweetheart againThere was plenty of food in the backseat
And the windows were rolled up tight
So we all nibbled on a chicken leg
Told stories way thru the nightWell, pa told one that he told before
And the baby got a bellyache
Said ma to pa "My God this car's
Falling down a bottomless lake"We are falling down
Down to the bottom of a hole in the ground
Smoke 'em if you got 'em
I'm so scared, I can hardly breathe
I may never see my sweetheart againWell papa played the music on the radio
Mama rocked the baby to sleep
He said, he would've taken the other road
But he didn't think the lake was that deepWell, if the ferry had been there at the end of the pier
We'd be half way to Uncle Jake's
Instead of looking at fish out the window, I wish
We'd hit the bottom of the bottomless lake'Stead of looking at fish out the window, I wish
We'd hit the bottom of the bottomless lakeWe are falling down
Down to the bottom of a hole in the ground
Smoke 'em if you got 'em
I'm so scared, I can hardly breathe
I may never see my sweetheart againSo if you're ever goin' on a big trip
You better be careful out there

Start everything on your good foot
Wear clean underwearTake along a Bible in the backseat
Read of David and Solomon
For if you make a mistake in the bottomless lake
You may never see your sweetheart againIf you should make a mistake in the bottomless lake
You may never see your sweetheart again
If you should make a mistake in the bottomless lake
You may never see your sweetheart again, that's right

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