

Red Dirt Girl

Emmylou Harris

Me and my best friend Lillian
And her blue tick hound dog Gideon
Sittin' on the front porch coolin' in the shade
Singin' every song the radio played Waitin' for the Alabama sun to go down
Two red dirt girls in a red dirt town
Me and Lillian Just across the line
And a little southeast of Meridian She loved her brother I remember back when
He was fixin' up a '49 Indian
He told her, Little sister, gonna ride the wind
Up around the moon and back again "He never got farther than Vietnam
I was standin' there with her
When the telegram come for Lillian Now he's lyin' somewhere
About a million miles from Meridian She said, There's not much hope for a red dirt girl
Somewhere out there is a great big world
That's where I'm bound "And the stars might fall on Alabama
But one of these days I'm gonna swing
My hammer down "Away from this red dirt town
I'm gonna make a joyful sound She grew up tall and she grew up thin
Buried that old dog Gideon
By a crepe myrtle bush in the back of the yard
Her daddy turned mean and her mama leaned hard Got in trouble with a boy from town
Figured that she might as well settle down
So she dug right in Across a red dirt line
Just a little south east of Meridian Yes, she tried hard to love him
But it never did take
Just another way for the heart to break
So she learned to bend One thing they don't tell you about the blues
When you got 'em
You keep on fallin' 'cause there ain't no bottom
An' there ain't no end, least not for Lillian Nobody knows when she started her skid
She was only 27 and she had five kids
Could-a been the whiskey, could-a been the pills
Could-a been the dream she was tryin' to kill But there won't be a mention in the news of the world
About the life and the death of a red dirt girl
Named Lillian Who never got any farther
Across the line than Meridian Now the stars still fall on Alabama
Tonight she finally laid
That hammer down without a sound
In the red dirt ground

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