

Daddy Was a God Fearin' Man

David Allan Coe

By David Allan Coe

SPOKEN

USED TO GO WITH MY GRANDPA UP TO THE TOWN SQUARE, SET HIM DOWN UP THERE ON A
PICNIC BENCH AND HE USED TO PLAY CHECKERS WITH THEM OTHER OLD MEN UP THERE.
THEY USED TO TELL STORIES BOUT WHEN THEY WERE KIDS. GRANDPA SAYS HE SHOT THE
CHIEF OF POLICE WHEN HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD. N' I BELIEVE HIM, CAUSE THEY TELL ME
THAT HAZARD, KENTUCKY'S THE BALDEST PLACE IN THE WORLD. WHY, THEY SAY THEY
USED TO SIT OUT THERE ON THERE FRONT PORCH, SHOOT THEN REVENUERS WHEN THEY'D
COME DOWN THE HOLLOW. SAID THEY WAS SO YOUNG, TOOK TWO O' THEM BOYS TO HOLD
THE RIFLE AND ONE TO PULL THE TRIGGER, HYMN! WELL, GRANDPA , HE'D LIE A LITTLE BIT,
BUT I'LL TELL YOU, THERE'S A LOT OF STORIES IN HARLAN COUNTY.YEA, FOLKS IN HARLAN
COUNTY, LORD, THEY KNEW THAT WE WERE POOR
THEY ALWAYS CALLED MY DADDY PREACHER DAN
BUT DADDY WEREN'T NO PREACHER, LEAST WAYS I DON'T RECOLLECT
NEVER HEAR OF POPPA TALK OF NOTHING' BUT THE LANDAND DADDY WAS A GOD FEARING'
FARMER YES HE WAS
COULD NOT READ NOR WRITE, LORD, HE COULD BARLEY SPELL HIS NAME
DADDY WAS A GOD FEARING' FARMER ALL HIS LIFE
SOMEDAY WHEN IM GROWN ILL BE THE SAME.WELL HE ALWAYS GREW TOBACCO THOUGH
HE DID NOT SMOKE HIMSELF
HE HAD THE BEST TOBACCO CROP AROUND
AND HE NEVER TOUCHED A DROP OF LIQUOR THAT I CAN RECALL
PAPA MADE HIS LIVING' ON THE GROUND.YES SUNDAY-GO-TO-MEETING' CALLED FOR MORE
THAN HE COULD STAND
I GUESS HE FELT AT HOME IN HIS OLD CLOTHES
BUT HE NEVER MISSED A SUNDAY TAKING MOMMA TO THE CHURCH
MAYBE IT WAS HABIT, LORDS, BUT HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS
YEA, FOLKS IN HARLAN COUNTY, LORD, THEY KNEW THAT WE WERE POOR
THEY ALWAYS CALLED MY DADDY PREACHER DAN
BUT DADDY WEREN'T NO PREACHER, LEAST WAYS I DON'T RECOLLECT
NEVER HEAR OF GRANDPA TALK OF NOTHING' BUT THE LAND

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