

# Ten Degrees and Getting Colder

[Nanci Griffith](#)

(Gordon Lightfoot)He was standing by the highway  
With a sign that just said Mother  
When he heard a driver coming  
About a half a mile away  
So he held the sign up higher  
Where no decent soul could miss it  
It was ten degrees or colder  
Down by Boulder Dam that dayHe was raised up in Milwaukee  
Though he never was that famous  
He was just a road musician  
To the taverns he would go  
Singing songs about the ramblin'  
The lovin' girls and gamblin'  
How the world fell on his shoulders  
Back in Boulder I don't knowChorus  
And she told him she would take him  
For a ride in the morning sun  
Back in Boulder he had told her  
I don't know when, I've had a better friendIt was out in Arizona  
That he heard the lady listening  
To each word that he was saying  
To each line that he would write  
So he sat down at her table  
And they talked about the weather  
98.6 and rising down by Boulder Dam that nightChorusNow he's traded off his Martin  
Though his troubles ain't over  
His feet are almost frozen and the sun is sinking low  
Won't you listen to me brother, if you ever loved your mother  
Please pull off on the shoulder, if you're goin' Milwaukee way  
It's ten degrees and getting colder down by Boulder Dam today

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