

Chapin Harry

"I Wanna Learn A Love Song"

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I come fresh from the street,
fast on my feet, kind a 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 lessson 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 wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play."

She said, "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 wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play."

She said, "I wanna learn a love song before you go away."

Well, I guess you know what happened,

God, 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 wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you
play."

She said, "I wanna learn a love song before you go
away."

I guess you know I stayed

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