

## Clarence Carter "Patches"

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I was born and raised down in Alabama  
On a farm way back up in the woods  
I was so raggedy, folks used call me, "Patches"  
Papa used to tease me 'bout it  
Of course deep down inside he was hurt  
'Cause he'd done all he could

My papa was a great ol' man  
I can see him with a shovel in his hand  
See, education he never had  
But he did wonders when the time got bad  
The little money from the crops he raised  
Barely paid the bills we made

Oh, life it kicked him down to the ground  
When he tried to get up, life would kick him back down  
One day papa called me to his dyin' bed  
Put his hands on my shoulders and in tears he said

He said, "Patches  
I'm dependin' on you, son  
To pull the family through  
My son, it's all left up to you"

Two days later papa passed away  
And I became a man that day  
So I told mama I was gonna quit school  
But she said that was daddy's strictest rule

So every morning 'fore I went to school  
I fed the chickens and I chopped wood too

Sometimes I felt that I couldn't go on  
I wanted to leave, just run away from home  
But I would remember what my daddy said  
With tears in his eyes on his dyin' bed  
He said, "Patches  
I'm dependin' on you, son  
I tried to do my best  
It's up to you to do the rest"

But then one day a strong rain came

And washed all the crops away  
And at the age of 13  
I thought I was carryin' the weight of the whole world  
on my shoulders  
And you know mama knew what I was going through

'Cause every day I had to work the fields  
'Cause that's the only way we got our meals  
You see, I was the oldest of the family  
And everybody else depended on me  
Every night I heard my mama pray  
Lord, give him strength to face another day

4 years have passed and all the kids have grown  
The angels took mama to a brand new home  
God knows people, I she'd tears  
But my daddy's voice kept me through the years

Sayin', "Patches  
I'm dependin' on you, son  
To pull the family through  
My son, it's all left up to you"

I can still hear papa when he said, "Patches  
I'm dependin' on you, son  
I tried to do my best  
It's up to you to do the rest"

I can still hear papa when he said, "Patches  
I'm dependin' on you, son  
To pull the family through

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