

Dr. Hook "99 And Me"

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Ninty-Nine & Me

Spoken :

Alright now, I'd like to tell you all a story about me and my brother Billy T.

You see , now when we were just little boys , we use to go visit my grandma and grandpa for two weeks out of every summer. My grandpa's name was Henry Toliver Sawyer and he was a guard at the Atmore state prison farm. Going up there for two weeks out of every summer we got to know some of them convicts pretty good. They didn't give 'em no name up at Atmore . No, they just give 'em a number. So I'm going to tell you all about a couple of friends of mine now. Tell you about old Fifty. Look out Fifty - take off runnin' now !

Fifty run into the sun
He know he can't get away
Henry brought him down with his double barrel shotgun
Sent him to a better place
Mississippi winds keep calling
Fourteen years since I seen you all
The boss man's heavy hand keeps fallin'
God I'd rather be dead

Spoken :

You know we got to be just a little bit older, they used to let us train them old bad dogs. They'd say now, now you boys take off out through that cornfield, get up across that creek up into the woods and find yourself a tall tree cause I'm going to turn them dogs loose. Sometimes we'd be out there in them hills, I'd hear those old dogs coming. Make me think I was a convict. Look out brother Bill, here they come!

Sound of hound dogs close behind closing in on me
I can't run no more it's done come my time one shot
and I'll be free
Mississippi winds keep calling
Fourteen years since I seen you all
The boss man's heavy hand keeps fallin'

God I'd rather be dead

Spoken :

Alright, then about that time my life began to pick up, just a little bit. Cos I met my old friend Ninty-Nine. They called him Ninty for short. Now you know Ninty can't read nor write, but they gotta give him a job on the line. So they make him the official postman. Now old Ninty he'd take the mail from the front gate. He'd walk it up to the first house on the line. Now that was the Warden's house...so be careful Ninty-Nine. He'd hand the mail to Mrs. Warden. She'd take what was hers and give it to Ninty and he'd go on down the line. But I remember it was real hot one Sunday. Me and my grandpa was sittin' out on the front porch, and we heard word down the line that Atmore was on fire. And it was a bad fire. It was so bad, they had to send some of the prisoners from Atmore up to Kilby to finish their term. And sure enough they wanted to send my friend Ninty-Nine. But he don't want to go...

Late on a rainy July Sunday, Atmore started to burn
They had to send old Ninty against his will to Kilby to
finish his term
We heard there was a break from Kilby, somebody we
all know
They found old Ninty-Nine knocking on the front door
trying to get back into Atmore...
Mississippi winds keep calling
Fourteen years since I seen you all
The boss man's hand keeps fallin'
God, I'd rather be dead

Words & Music by Ray Sawyer
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