

## **Ferlin Husky "Little Tom"**

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Little Tom, what will be your fate?  
Little Tom, will you be someone great?  
Do you know right from wrong, are they teaching you at home?  
Or have they turned you loose to roam Little Tom?

I walked into a cafe and ordered myself something to eat  
When a little boy walked in with his shoes half off his feet  
He said, 'Buy a paper, Mister,' I said, 'How older are you son??'  
'Seven, sir and when my papers are sold, I'll be on my way home?'

'What's your name??'  
'Thomas but everybody calls me Little Tom'  
They named me after my daddy but they say, I look like my mom?  
'Why it's almost midnight son, you should be home asleep?'

'I know it but I wanted to get me a bicycle  
And I gotta help mommy buy somethin' to eat  
My daddy's pretty mean to us?'

'And he spends most of his money for wine  
And he don't hold a job like most other men  
'Cause well, he gets fired all the time?'

I said, 'Have somethin' to eat  
Aren't you hungry??'

He said, 'I guess a little bit'

I believe I have a hamburger and a glass of milk to go with it?

I said, 'Is that enough??'

He said, 'Make it two 'cause I ain't eat since noon?'

Where do you live son?

'On Main Street sir'

There's six of us livin' in one room?

There's me and my three brothers and my mommy and  
my dad

But someday, I'm gonna buy mommy a big house  
If I have to turn out bad?

My appetite left me  
As I sat there watchin' him  
And I thought, he's just one of thousands  
That's brought up in a home of sin

Where their parents abused their children  
And forget to make the all mankind  
And then wondered why there's juvenile delinquency  
When they are at fault most of the time

I bit my lip and fought back tears  
As I watched the little guy leave the cafe  
And I wondered, how many more children  
Would be brought up that way

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