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## Jimmy Cozier "I. O. U"

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You know most people look through Their wallets or their pocketbooks And way down at the bottom Past the credit cards Baby pictures and so on You usually find a little old Piece of dog eared poetry

I's cleaning out my wallet the other day And I ran across a whole bunch of I.O.U.'s Some of them thirty-five years overdue

And you know the funny thing
All these I.O.U.'s are owed to one person
And I kinda felt like that maybe now
Would be a pretty good time
For an accounting

Mom, I sure hope you're listening

Sweet lady, I owe you for so many things A lot of services Like night watchman for instance Lying awake nights listening for coughs And cries and creaking floorboards Ha ha, and me coming in too late

Boy, you had the eye of an eagle And the roar of a lion but you always Had a heart as big as a house

I owe you for services like
Uh, short order cook, chef, baker
For making sirloin out of hamburger
And turkey out of tuna fish and
Big old strapping boys out of leftovers

I owe you for cleaning services The daily scrubbing of face and ears All work done by hand And for the frequent dusting
Of a small boys pants to try to
Make sure that he led a spotless life

And for washing and ironing
That no laundry could ever do
For drying the tears of childhood and
Ironing out the problems of growing up

I owe you for services as a bodyguard For protecting me from the terrors Of thunderstorms and nightmares Heh, and too many green apples

And Lord knows I owe you For medical attention For nursing me through measles, mumps Bruises, bumps, splinters and spring fever

Oh, oh, let's not forget medical advise Important things like if you keep on Scratching that, it'll never get well Or if you cross your eyes They're gonna stick like that

And probably the most Important advice of em all Boy, you be sure you Got on clean underwear In case you're in an accident

And I owe you for veterinarian services For feeding every lost dog that I Dragged home at the end of the rope And for healing the pains of puppy love

And I owe you for entertainment Entertainment that kept the household Going during some pretty tough times

And for wonderful productions at Christmas, 4th of July, birthdays And for making make believe come true And you did it all on such a limited budget

I owe you for construction work For building kites and confidence Hopes and dreams and somehow You made em all touch the sky

And for cementing together a family

So it would stand the worst kinds
Of shocks and blows and for laying down
A good strong foundation to build a life on

I owe you for carrying charges For carrying me on your books For the necessities of life That a growing boy somehow They just gotta have

Things like, ha ha
A pair of high top boots with a
Little pocket on the side
For a jackknife

And one thing, Mom, I'll never forget
When there were two pieces of pie
And three hungry people
You were always the one who decided
Well, I'm not really that hungry anyhow

These are just a few of the things
For which payment is long overdue
The person that I owe em to
Worked very, very cheap
She managed by simply doing without
A whole lotta things that she needed herself

My I.O.U.'s add up to more
Than I could ever hope to repay
But you know the nicest thing about it all
That I know that she'd mark
The entire bill paid in full
For just one kiss and four little words

Mom, I love you

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