

## Laura Veirs "Up The River"

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Billy was a young man gone astray  
Bottle at his lips all night  
And day mama said they're gonna  
Send you up the river someday

Whiskey ate big holes in Billy's head  
Summer's day he shot spud Murphy dead  
He said I'm headed up the river  
As he watched the blood pour red

Mama asked Lord Jesus what to do  
At the door came knocking boys in blue  
We're gonna send him up the river  
And make him pay his dues ma'am

And so she watched him round that river bend  
Go billy felt a chill pass 'cross him  
Cold they sent him up the river  
To turn a young man old

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