

## Lisa Brokop

### "Pearl"

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She was born on a Tuesday afternoon in West Memphis  
In the dog days of summer to a drunk man and his wife  
It was all they could do to feed her brothers and her  
sisters  
So they never even tried to give this one a better life  
But she'd have dreams just like the next one  
And they would come at a great price  
She would be nobody's savior, but she would be the  
sacrifice

They'd say Pearl go get your boots on, we've got a field  
to plow  
Girl put down that book you aint got no time to read  
right now  
Mama she don't know the kind of visions that I see  
But my ticket to the world is the soul inside of me

She'd go barefoot down to Beale street, she had no  
fancy shoes  
She's tell them she was 21 and got paid to sing the  
blues  
She'd crawl back into her window every night at 2:00  
am  
And pray her daddy didn't come to steal her innocence  
again  
But finally she had her bus fare  
They never found out where she'd gone  
She left a note that said I'm goin' someplace  
To make this life a better home

They'd say Pearl go get your boots on, we've got a field  
to plow  
Girl put down that book you aint got no time to read  
right now  
Mama she don't know the kind of visions that I see  
But my ticket to the world is the soul inside of me

I met her in a lonely church one cloudy afternoon  
She was singin' softly to the Lord and fillin' up the room  
I said I've seen you on the big stage, lights and glory  
all around

Pearl what brings you to this place, she said it's my  
hometown  
And I need just like the next one to remember who I  
was  
So I've come back to find forgiveness  
To see my past through eyes of love

They'd say Pearl go get your boots on, we've got a field  
to plow  
Girl put down that book you aint got time to read right  
now  
Mama she don't know the kind of visions that I see  
But my ticket to the world is the soul inside of me  
( Soul inside of me, Soul inside of me, Soul inside of  
me )  
Pearl, Soul inside of me

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