

David Allan Coe

"Daddy Was A God Fearin' Man"

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By David Allan Coe

SPOKEN

USED TO GO WITH MY GRANDPA UP TO THE TOWN
SQUARE, SET HIM DOWN UP THERE ON A PICNIC BENCH
AND HE USED TO PLAY CHECKERS WITH THEM OTHER
OLD MEN UP THERE. THEY USED TO TELL STORIES BOUT
WHEN THEY WERE KIDS. GRANDPA SAYS HE SHOT THE
CHIEF OF POLICE WHEN HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD. N' I
BELIEVE HIM, CAUSE THEY TELL ME THAT HAZARD,
KENTUCKY'S THE BALDEST PLACE IN THE WORLD. WHY,
THEY SAY THEY USED TO SIT OUT THERE ON THERE
FRONT PORCH, SHOOT THEN REVENUERS WHEN THEY'D
COME DOWN THE HOLLOW. SAID THEY WAS SO YOUNG,
TOOK TWO O' THEM BOYS TO HOLD THE RIFLE AND ONE
TO PULL THE TRIGGER, HYMN! WELL, GRANDPA , HE'D
LIE A LITTLE BIT, BUT I'LL TELL YOU, THERE'S A LOT OF
STORIES IN HARLAN COUNTY.
YEA, FOLKS IN HARLAN COUNTY, LORD, THEY KNEW
THAT WE WERE POOR

THEY ALWAYS CALLED MY DADDY PREACHER DAN

BUT DADDY WEREN'T NO PREACHER, LEAST WAYS I
DON'T RECOLLECT

NEVER HEAR OF POPPA TALK OF NOTHING' BUT THE
LAND
AND DADDY WAS A GOD FEARING' FARMER YES HE WAS

COULD NOT READ NOR WRITE, LORD, HE COULD BARLEY
SPELL HIS NAME

DADDY WAS A GOD FEARING' FARMER ALL HIS LIFE

SOMEDAY WHEN IM GROWN ILL BE THE SAME.
WELL HE ALWAYS GREW TOBACCO THOUGH HE DID
NOT SMOKE HIMSELF
HE HAD THE BEST TOBACCO CROP AROUND

AND HE NEVER TOUCHED A DROP OF LIQUOR THAT I

CAN RECALL

PAPA MADE HIS LIVING ' ON THE GROUND.
YES SUNDAY-GO-TO-MEETING ' CALLED FOR MORE THAN
HE COULD STAND

I GUESS HE FELT AT HOME IN HIS OLD CLOTHES

BUT HE NEVER MISSED A SUNDAY TAKING MOMMA TO
THE CHURCH

MAYBE IT WAS HABIT, LORDS, BUT HEAVEN ONLY
KNOWS

YEA, FOLKS IN HARLAN COUNTY, LORD, THEY KNEW
THAT WE WERE POOR

THEY ALWAYS CALLED MY DADDY PREACHER DAN

BUT DADDY WEREN'T NO PREACHER, LEAST WAYS I
DON'T RECOLLECT

NEVER HEAR OF GRANDPA TALK OF NOTHING ' BUT THE
LAND

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