

David Ball

"Riding With Private Malone"

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I was just out of the service thumbing through the
classifieds
When an ad that said, "Old Chevy" somehow caught
my eye
The lady didn't know the year or even if it ran
But I had that thousand dollars in my hand

It was way back in the corner of this old ramshackle
barn
With thirty years of dust and dirt on that green army
tarp
When I pulled the cover off, it took away my breath
What she called a Chevy was a sixty six Corvette

I felt a little guilty as I counted out the bills
What a thrill I got when I sat behind the wheel
I opened up the glove box and that's when I found the
note
The date was nineteen-sixty six and this is what it wrote

He said, "My name is Private Andrew Malone
And if you're reading this, then I didn't make it home
But for every dream that shattered, another one comes
true
This car was once a dream of mine, now it belongs to
you
And though you may take her and make her your own
You'll always be riding with Private Malone"

Well it didn't take me long at all, I had her running
good
I love to hear those horses thunder underneath her
hood
I had her shining like a diamond and I'd put the rag top
down
All the pretty girls would stop and stare as I drove her
through town

The buttons on the radio didn't seem to work quite
right
But it picked up that oldie show, especially late at night
I'd get the feeling sometimes, if I turned real quick I'd

see

A soldier riding shotgun in the seat right next to me

It was a young man named Private Andrew Malone
Who fought for his country and never made it home
But for every dream that's shattered, another one
comes true

This car was once a dream of his, back when it was new
He told me to take her and make her my own
And I was proud to be riding with Private Malone

One night it was raining hard, I took the curve too fast
I still don't remember much about that fiery crash
Someone said they thought they saw a soldier pull me
out

They didn't get his name, but I know without a doubt

It was a young man named Private Andrew Malone
Who fought for his country and never made it home
But for every dream that's shattered, another one
comes true

This car was once a dream of his, back when it was new
I know I wouldn't be here if he hadn't tagged along
Yeah that night I was riding with Private Malone
Oh, thank God, I was riding with Private Malone

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