

## Melanie Thornton

### "Wonderful Dreams"

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NO CHARGE

Melba Montgomery

Writer: HARLAN HOWARD

Recitation:

My little boy came into the kitchen this evenin'  
While I was fixin' supper  
And he handed me a piece of paper he'd been writin'  
on  
And after wipin' my hands on my apron  
I read it - and this is what it said:

For mowin' the yard - five dollars  
And for makin' my own bed this week - one dollar  
And for goin' to the store - fifty cents  
An' playin' with little brother, while you went shoppin' -  
twenty-five  
cents  
Takin' out the trash - one dollar  
Gettin' a good report card - five dollars  
And for rakin' the yard - two dollars  
Total owed - fourteen seventy-five.

Well, I looked at 'im standin' there expectantly  
And a thousand mem'ries flashed through my mind  
So I picked up the pen, turnin' the paper over,  
This is what I wrote:

For nine months I carried you  
Growin' inside me - NO CHARGE  
For the nights I've sat up with you,  
Doctored you, prayed for you - NO CHARGE  
For the time and the tears.  
And the cost through the years, there's NO CHARGE  
When you add it all up.  
The full cost of my love is NO CHARGE.

For the nights filled with dread  
And the worries ahead - NO CHARGE  
For advice and the knowledge

And the cost of your college - NO CHARGE  
For the toys, food and clothes and for wipin' your nose  
There's NO CHARGE, son  
When you add it all up,  
The full cost of my love, is - NO CHARGE.

Recitation:

Well, when he finished readin'  
He had great big old tears in his eyes  
And he looked up at me and he said,  
"Mama, I sure do love you."  
Then he took the pen,  
And in great big letters  
He wrote: "PAID IN FULL."

When you add it all up  
The cost of real love is - NO CHARGE.

From: "oldtimer"

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