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# **Dallas Wayne** "Raelene Wheeler"

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# V.1

Raeleen wheeler was the first girl I loved Through the last year of high school, we were thicker than blood

Holed up in mississippi, and starvin' for fun We made love and dreamed up places to run I was burnin' that summer with the big dreams I had And the songs I'd written, well, the world needed bad But a pretty girl needs more comfort and gold Than a beat-up black notebook is likely to hold

### Ch.1

Hey, raelene, it's a wide world between pearl river and the bright I.a. lights And if I'd done it all without dreamin' I'd still be in jackson tonight

# V.2

Hollywood hopefuls ain't an endangered breed But luck is like lightnin', and it sure struck me The hit songs, the women, the standing-room halls And twenty years of hard labor, holdin' on to it all Louisiana i-20 headed east from monroe A bus bound for jackson and a homecoming show Staring through the dark glass at the flat miles beyond Tryin' not to look at a face that is gone

### Ch.2

Hey, raelene, a wife at 19, but I heard you made out all right

And every now and again, I wonder are you somewhere in jackson tonight

# V.3

Well, we killed 'em, we crushed 'em, burned the place to the ground

And in the dressing room quiet, I was still coming down When in the doorway appeared an old flame, full-

Looking pretty as ever, and entirely alone She said the divorce nearly broke her, she was learning to stand

And as she talked it came clearer that she wanted a hand

So I drew her close to me, and I kissed my sweet rae And the miles and the memories just melted away

# V.4

Then I glanced in the mirror, and in a split second's time

Just before recognizing that old face as mine
I saw a strange, sad man in a cheap rhinestone shirt
And a woman he held onto like his last hope on earth
He was worn and trod down as the road he'd been on
And his eyes were half-dead, lookin' too hard, too long
His life measured in nights that flashed and grew dim
Leaving no one really happy, least of all him

# V.5

Then the loading gate slammed, and I let my arms fall We traded numbers, small talk, promised to call And as she faded from me, and the night closed around

I picked up a black notebook and I let it spill down

# Ch.3

Hey, raelene, it's a long way between the wantin' and the makin' it right

And if I was the one that you needed I'd never leave jackson tonight

(Tag) yeah, if I had it all to do over I'd still be in jackson tonight

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