

## Red Sovine

### "Billy's Christmas Wish"

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The fat man sat on the busy street corner  
His white beard and red suit in line  
His Ho, Ho brought joy to the children  
For again it was Christmas time.

His belly would shake as he merrily laughed spreading  
his Christmas joy  
I'm Santa come sit on my knee, he'd say  
To each little girl and boy

But standing apart from the merry crowd  
Stood a lad at about 7 years old  
With no coat to cover his bony frame  
He was shaky and weak from the cold

He had no shoes to warm his feet  
He looked hungry, just skin and bone  
But with a look of peace on his humble little face  
He just stood there all alone

When Santa saw the boy a sympathy grew  
And he said come here to me  
He covered the trembling frame with his robe  
As he placed the child on his knee

The boy looked up to Santa's eyes with worship for the  
bearded man  
He said my names Billy and I love you sir  
Why you're the grandest in all the land  
And I didn't mean to be no trouble Santa

He went on trying hard to smile  
But I heard you laughing  
And I saw the kids and I thought I would just watch for a  
while  
I won't bother you with wanting nothing sir

Cause I already know I been bad  
Santa looked down at the poor little ragged boy  
And he said son where is your mother and dad  
Well my daddy lives in prison Santa

That's what momma says anyhow  
They say he shot momma's boyfriend  
He's been there a long time now  
And me and momma we live with Mr. Brown now

Mom works at the bar every day  
Mr. Brown just drinks beer and cusses a lot  
Whenever I get in his way  
I've been gone agout 4 days now Santa

I've been sleeping in cars that I find  
And I know that makes me a bad boy  
But you sure been treating me kind  
I've been praying for you since I've been big enough  
Santa

Every Christmas Eve night  
And then the next day the kids have all the toys  
And I know that you made it alright  
And I'm so glad to see them so happy as I go walking  
along

But my stocking is always empty that's how I know I  
done wrong  
Mr. Brown told me all about it  
He said I just ain't no good  
And I know he's right cos you never came sir  
And I know if I wasn't bad then you would

It's ok son Santa muttered  
Such faith he'd not seen in a while  
Though a tear was straining to fill his eyes  
He looked down at the lad with a smile

Just tell Santa what you'd like son  
Anything that you might have in mind  
I didn't know where you lived before Billy  
But I promise I won't miss you next time

Little Billy's face quickly grew brighter  
Such luck he would never have guessed  
After thinking a while he finally said  
Well sir I might just have one request

Have you ever been to Heaven Santa?  
Why I bet you know God as good as you are  
Could I just ride up to Jesus' house sir?  
If it's not too awful far

He might just let me live there a while

Daddy says he likes little boys  
And I wouldn't take too much room sir  
I'd just sit in the back with the toys

And I promise not to be bad Santa  
And I could help God do his chores  
And he might even let me see Daddy  
And I wouldn't be hungry no more

I'm so tired and sleepy now Santa  
Said the child as he looked toward the skies  
With a sigh he relaxed against Santa's chest  
And peacefully closed his eyes

Santa quickly felt for the little boys pulse  
Someone please get a doctor he said  
But when the ambulance took little Billy away  
Everyone know he was dead

The children had grown more solemn  
As they listened to the little boy  
They were no longer happy and laughing  
His story had stolen their joy

They looked to Santa for comfort  
He fought for the right words to say  
He said now kids don't be sad for Billy  
Cos he just went to Heaven today

He wanted to go and live with God  
So now everything's alright  
Let thoughts of Billy make your hearts be kind  
And I'll see you all Christmas Eve night

Merry Christmas everybody

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