

Tom T. Hall

"I Want to See The Parade"

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Hold me up, I want to see the parade

There was a demonstration in our town, quiet but very tense

I've always been a bit nosy, so I guess that's the reason I went

There were people carrying signs that said 'We want equality now'

And I thought to myself, boy, look at that will you, look what the law allows

A little girl and her mother were standing up next to the curb

The little girl said, "Mommy, I can't see the parade"

And it happened that I heard

The woman who was with the little girl was small

And when she turned and smiled

I thought I'd do them a favor, so I offered to hold the child

When I held the little girl in my arms, I was glad of the offer I'd made

She said, "Thank you, mister, for holding me up

I wanted to see the parade"

Then she asked me a question and it took me by surprise

She said, "Mister, why does my daddy hate all those people going by?"

I said, "Well, you know they're not the same, but listen to me"

And I noticed that the child was blind, so I looked around for an answer

It was pretty hard to find

So I set her down by her mama's side and I patted her on the head

And that night as I sat in my own little room, I thought of the words she said

And that night, I took a good look at myself and this is the prayer I prayed

I said, "Lord, I want you to hold me up, 'cause I want to

see the parade"

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