

# Harry Chapin, I Wanna Learn A Love Song

I come fresh from the street,  
fast on my feet, kind a lean and lazy;  
not much meat on my bones, and a whole lot alone,  
and more than a little bit crazy.  
The old six string was all I had  
to keep my belly still,  
and for each full hour lesson I gave  
I got a crisp ten dollar bill.  
She was married for seven years  
to a concrete castle king.  
She said she wanted to learn to play the guitar  
and to hear her children sing.  
So I'd show up about once a week  
in my faded tight-legged jeans  
with a backlog full of hobo stories  
and dilapidated dreams.  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song; won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song before you go away."  
So I tried to teach her a couple of chords  
and an easy melody;  
but it always turned out she'd rather listen  
to my guitar and me.  
I could hear her old man laughing in the den,  
playing stud poker with the boys  
while I sang so soft in the living room,  
to scared to make much noise.  
I came one week and the den was dark  
and she met me at the door.  
And we sat on the couch and we sang and talked  
till I could not sing no more.  
The silence kept on building,  
her eyes grew much too wide;  
and I could hear both of our heartbeats,  
but there was no place to hide.  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song; won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song before you go away."

Well, I guess you know what happened,  
God, I never been so clean.  
Yes, I feel like I'm working in a Hollywood movie  
or living out a good bad dream.  
And all them pinup girls in that tinsel world  
never touched me like she can;  
it took another man's wife in the real world life  
to make this boy a man.  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song full of happy things."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song; won't you let me hear you sing?"  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song, I wanna hear you play."  
She said, "I wanna learn a love song before you go away."  
I guess you know I stayed.