

# Emmylou Harris, Red Dirt Girl

(Emmylou Harris)

Me and my best friend Lillian  
And her blue tick hound dog Gideon,  
Sittin on the front porch cooling in the shade  
Singin every song the radio played  
Waitin for the Alabama sun to go down  
Two red dirt girls in a red dirt town  
Me and Lillian  
Just across the line and a little southeast of Meridian.

She loved her brother I remember back when  
He was fixin up a '49 Indian  
He told her 'Little sister, gonna ride the wind  
Up around the moon and back again'  
He never got farther than Vietnam,  
I was standin there with her when the telegram come  
For Lillian.  
Now he's lyin somewhere about a million miles from Meridian.

She said there's not much hope for a red dirt girl  
Somewhere out there is a great big world  
Thats where I'm bound  
And the stars might fall on Alabama  
But one of these days I'm gonna swing  
My hammer down  
Away from this red dirt town  
I'm gonna make a joyful sound

She grew up tall and she grew up thin  
Buried that old dog Gideon  
By a crepe myrtle bush in the back of the yard,  
Her daddy turned mean and her mama leaned hard  
Got in trouble with a boy from town  
Figured that she might as well settle down  
So she dug right in  
Across a red dirt line just a little south east from Meridian

She tried hard to love him but it never did take  
It was just another way for the heart to break  
So she dug right in.  
But one thing they don't tell you about the blues  
When you got em  
You keep on falling cause there ain't no bottom  
There ain't know end.  
At least not for Lillian

Nobody knows when she started her skid,  
She was only 27 and she had five kids.  
Coulda' been the whiskey,  
Coulda been the pills,  
Coulda been the dream she was trying to kill.  
But there won't be a mention in the news of the world  
About the life and the death of a red dirt girl  
Names Lillian  
Who never got any farther across the line than Meridian.

Now the stars still fall on Alabama  
Tonight she finally laid  
That hammer down  
Without a sound  
In the red dirt ground