

## The Penny

David Allan Coe

Well the old man looked down and this grandson  
And he whispered this Penny's for good luck  
And then he opened his hand and showed him the coin  
And the date on The Penny was 1911  
And he said when you get older boy maybe you'll understand  
You see this Penny don't shine anymore like it used to  
And this Penny's been lost and this Penny's been found  
This Penny's been hid in the jar in the attic  
And this Penny's been buried in a car in the ground  
This Penny's seen wars and this Penny's has seen the sunshine  
This Penny's felt teardrops and this Penny's seen rain  
And this Penny's been with me since I was a young man  
In fact this Penny's is all of my life that remains.

And the old man seemed sad as he tried to remember  
The stories he told of the life that he led  
Why there was the one about the time the old Penny rolled down  
in the gutter  
And he said why I can't count the times that I took that old Penny  
to bed  
Then he told how he lost everything that once mattered  
Lost his wife, his money, his job, and then finally his health  
He always held on to that old luck Penny  
Lord was he proud of himself.

Well the boy took The Penny and wrapped it in a piece of cloth  
And he placed it in his pocket  
And he said thanks grandad and the old man just nodded  
Then he walked to his bedroom and he laid down this head  
They found him there the next mornin' he was layin' there dead  
Then the boy reached into his pocket  
And took out The Penny that his grandpa had givin' him  
Slowly opened the old man's hand and placed The Penny inside  
Then he closed the old man's fingers around the old coin  
And let his hand lay on the old man's chest  
Grandpa he said there's one place this old Penny hasn't been  
So you better take it with you now  
And besides there's not much you can buy with a Penny these days  
And by the way grandpa, I love you.