

# These Old Bones

Dolly Parton

These old bones will tell your story  
These old bones will never lie  
These old bones will tell you surely  
What you can't see with your eye  
These old bones, I shake and rattle  
These old bones, I toss and roll  
And it's all in where they scatter  
Tells you what the future holds

Oh, she lived up on the mountain  
Eleven miles or so from town  
With a one-eyed cat named Wink,  
A billy goat and a blue tick hound  
Her graying hair was braided  
And wrapped around her head  
And her dress was long and faded  
And her home a rusty shed

In a little pouch of burlap  
Tied with a piece of twine  
There were bones all shapes and sizes  
Gathered through the course of time  
She'd throw them out before you  
She swore that she could see  
The present, past and future  
She could ready your destiny

Everybody knew about her  
Came to get their fortune read  
Concerning health and wealth and power  
Who to love and when to wed  
Well, I just like helpin' people  
I'm just glad that I could help  
Why, I know everybody's secrets  
But I keep it to myself

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Some called her witchy woman  
Some said she was insane  
Some said she was a prophet  
Still everybody came  
Just because a body's different  
Well, that don't make 'em mad  
Well, they've crucified a many  
For the special gifts they've had

I had often heard about her,  
Dreamed about her now and then  
For I, too, was clairvoyant,

Came about when I was ten  
I was fascinated with her  
And the things I'd heard about  
And I knew some day I'd meet her,  
And one day it came about

Well, I know'd that you 'uz a'comin'  
I could feel it in my bones  
These old bones have also told me  
That I won't be here for long  
Did you know that you 'uz adopted?  
Did you know you once't was mine?  
But the county took you from me,  
Said I wasn't right in mind

But I just know'd I had to see you  
'Fore these bones was laid to rest  
So I conjured up a message  
It must'a worked, I guess  
This gift runs in the family  
I know you also know  
And I passed this gift on to you  
These old bones, they're just for show

These old bones will tell your story  
These old bones will never lie  
These old bones will tell you surely  
How to live and when you'll die  
These old bones, I shake and rattle  
These old bones, I toss and roll  
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I held her hand while she was dyin'  
And with the funeral through  
I headed on back up the mountain  
For Billy, Wink and Blue  
And that little pouch of burlap  
With those bones so worn and old  
She give me somethin' special  
Now every time I throw

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Now I can't tell you what you want to hear  
I just tell you what I see  
It's these old bones a'talkin'  
Blame it on them