

## Readin', Rightin', Rt. 23

Dwight Yoakam

They learned readin', rightin', Route 23  
To the jobs that lay waiting in those cities' factories  
They didn't know that old highway  
Could lead them to a world of misery

Have you ever been down Kentucky-way  
Say south of Prestonburg  
Have you ever been up in a holler  
Have you ever heard  
A mountain man cough his life away  
From diggin' that black coal in those dark mines, those dark mines  
If you had you might just understand  
The reason that they left is all behind

They learned readin', rightin', Route 23  
To the jobs that lay waiting in those cities' factories  
They learned readin', rightin', roads to the north  
To the luxury and comfort a coal line can't afford  
They thought readin', rightin', Route 23  
Would take them to the good life that they had never seen  
They didn't know that old highway  
Could lead them to a world of misery

Have you ever seen 'em put the kids in the car after work on Friday night  
Pull up in a holler about 2 a.m. and see a light still shinin' bright  
Those mountain folks sat up that late  
Just to hold those little grandkids in their arms, in their arms  
And I'm proud to say that I've been blessed  
And touched by their sweet hillbilly charm

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Could lead them to a world of misery  
Yeah, it turns out that that old highway, leads you to a world of misery