

Devil's Right Hand

Steve Earle

About the time that Daddy left to fight the big war
I saw my first pistol in the general store
In the general store when I was thirteen
Thought it was the finest thing I ever had seen

I asked if I could have one someday when I grew up
Mama dropped a dozen eggs, she really blew up
Really blew up, I didn't understand
Mama said, "The pistol is the devil's right hand"

The devil's right hand
The devil's right hand
Mama said, "The pistol
Is the devil's right hand"

My very first pistol was a cap and ball Colt
Shoot as fast as lightnin' but it loads a mite slow
Loads a mite slow and soon I found out
It can get you into trouble but it can't get you out

So then I went and bought myself a Colt 45
Called a Peacemaker but I never knew why
Never knew why, I didn't understand
Mama said, "The pistol is the devil's right hand"

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Well I get into a card game in a company town
Caught a miner cheating, I shot the dog down
Shot the dog down, I watched the man fall
Never touched his holster, never had a chance to draw

The trial was in the morning and they ... me out of bed
Asked me how I pleaded, "Not guilty" I said
"Not guilty", I said, you've got the wrong man
Nothing touched the trigger but the devil's right hand

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Mama said, "The pistol
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The devil's right hand
The devil's right hand
Nothing touched the trigger
But the devil's right hand

My Mama said, "The pistol
Is the devil's right hand"