

# 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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Nothing touched the trigger  
But the devil's right hand

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