

# Red Dirt Girl

Emmylou Harris

Me and my best friend Lillian  
And her blue tick hound dog Gideon  
Sittin' on the front porch coolin' in the shade  
Singin' every song the radio played

Waitin' for the Alabama sun to go down  
Two red dirt girls in a red dirt town  
Me and Lillian

Just across the line  
And a little southeast of Meridian

She loved her brother I remember back when  
He was fixin' up a '49 Indian  
He told her, "Little sister, gonna ride the wind  
Up around the moon and back again"

He never got farther than Vietnam  
I was standin' there with her  
When the telegram come for Lillian

Now he's lyin' somewhere  
About a million miles from Meridian

She said, "There's not much hope for a red dirt girl  
Somewhere out there is a great big world  
That's where I'm bound"

"And the stars might fall on Alabama  
But one of these days I'm gonna swing  
My hammer down"

Away from this red dirt town  
I'm gonna make a joyful sound

She grew up tall and she grew up thin  
Buried that old dog Gideon  
By a crepe myrtle bush in the back of the yard  
Her daddy turned mean and her mama leaned hard

Got in trouble with a boy from town  
Figured that she might as well settle down  
So she dug right in

Across a red dirt line  
Just a little south east of Meridian

Yes, she tried hard to love him  
But it never did take  
Just another way for the heart to break  
So she learned ...

One thing they don't tell you about the blues  
When you got 'em  
You keep on fallin' 'cause there ain't no bottom  
There ain't no end at least not for Lillian

Nobody knows when she started her skid  
She was only 27 and she had five kids  
Could-a been the whiskey, could-a been the pills  
Could-a been the dream she was tryin' to kill

But there won't be a mention in the new little world  
About the life and the death of a red dirt girl  
Named Lillian

Who never got any farther  
Across the line than Meridian

Now the stars still fall on Alabama  
Tonight she finally laid  
That hammer down without a sound  
In the red dirt ground